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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

Monthly Report

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

December 2013

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1- Community Outreach

- **Organizing three one-day workshops for effective interactive public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education for School Integration Teams (SIT).** These one-day workshops are a follow-up of the workshops which began being implemented in November in the eight regions – whereas they engage the representatives of the School Integration Teams. Members of all schools from the Skopje, Strumica and Kicevo regions participated in these workshops aimed to improve their presentation skills of the various activities, as well as advancing their public information skills on local level in terms of positive examples and good practices for interethnic cooperation and integration.
- **Organizing a promotional event of a final product as a result of the creative workshops implemented in “Nikola Karev” secondary school in the municipality of Karposh, Skopje.** During the month of December, students of “Nikola Karev” secondary school organized a final presentation of the products, which marked the successful completion of the creative workshops. The event was held at the Pedagogical Faculty in Skopje. Parents, teachers, peers and students from other secondary schools attended the presentation.
- **Organizing two Forum Theatre Debates.** The organizing of the Forum Theatre Debates continued in the month of December: the debates involved secondary school students from the municipalities of Tetovo and Karpos, Skopje. The students who participated in the event were very active and had the opportunity to express their opinions and solutions through a theatre performance.
- **Ribbon-cutting ceremony.** The completion of the renovation process of the “Josip Broz Tito” school, City of Skopje, was officially marked during the month of December. Senior representatives of the United States European Command, representatives of USAID, the Mayor of the City of Skopje Koce Trajanovski, the principal of the school, parents, teachers and students attended the ceremony.
- **The regular informing of the institutions, municipalities and schools about the activities.** During the month of December, the project’s website www.pmio.mk was regularly updated with information, and all the news and stories of the course of activities were published.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Dissemination of the trainings for interethnic integration in schools from the phase 2.** The implementation of the trainings for dissemination at a school level by the school integration team continued during this month. Schools that did not manage to implement



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the dissemination during the months of November and December will implement the trainings in January of 2014.

- **Joint student activities in a school of the pilot phase.** Independent joint student activities were implemented in the “Petar Zdravkovski Penko” primary school, from the pilot municipality Butel. The activities consisted of preparing and organizing a New Year’s performance with students from different ethnic communities who attend their education in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language.
- **Field visit to two/three lingual schools in the pilot phase.** Field visits were conducted in schools with two/three languages of instruction in the pilot phase – “Petar Zdravkovski Penko”, “Zhivko Brajkovski” and “Panajot Ginovski” in the municipality of Butel and “Liman Kaba” from v.Ljuboten, Butel. The aim of the field visits was to monitor the joint activities and to give expert advice to teachers on how to advance interethnic integration in education.
- **Implementing a second mentoring meeting with the school integration teams in the phase 2.** The second mentoring meeting was held with the school integration teams of 190 primary and secondary schools, divided into 36 groups on a regional level. The mentoring meetings reflected upon the activities held so far (trainings for dissemination, annual plans of the schools), in addition, the criteria for successful implementation of the monitoring of the joint student activities was discussed. Also, feedback was given on the implemented activities which are in line with the cooperation of the School Boards and the parents.
- **Preparing the forum on interethnic integration in education.** A meeting with the trainers/facilitators of the workshops for teacher training faculties was held on behalf of planning the Forum on Interethnic Integration in Education for Teacher Training Faculties in Macedonia. The Agenda of the Forum and the Call for submitting abstracts for the Forum were also prepared during this meeting.
- **Indicators for the quality of work of the schools.** A meeting with the representatives of the State Educational Inspectorate (Director and an inspector) was held with the aim of planning the activities for the month of January, 2014,
- **Planning joint sport and recreational activities.** A meeting with representatives of Open Fun Football Schools was held in order to evaluate the joint sport and recreational activities of 2013, as well as to plan the activities for the upcoming 2014.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Student Initiatives.** Activities initiated by the school community were implemented in almost all of the demonstration schools. For example, in the “Zdravko Cvetkovski” secondary school, students organized a sport tournament in soccer with eight teams consisting of students that attend different languages of instruction, as well as a New Year’s party. In “Bratstvo Edinstvo” primary school, in almost all grades, students organized the preparation of Christmas cards. The funds which were raised from selling the cards will be invested in the school. In “Sande Shterjoski” school, a New Year’s party was organized, whereas the partner demonstration schools from Kumanovo organized the collection of recyclable paper and plastic, which were later sold.
- **Involving parents.** During this month, several activities that involved the parents were implemented in the demonstration schools. In “Zdravko Cvetkovski” secondary school, parents along with the students participated in the decorating of the venue where later on students organized their New Year’s Party. Similar to this activity, parents from “Sande Shterjoski” school attended the workshop for preparing New Year’s ornaments.
- **Support meetings.** The five support meetings for December were held until the end of



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the month with all of the demonstration schools. Members of the school integration teams responsible for support and internal monitoring of the activities attended the meetings. During the meeting the so far implemented activities were reviewed, and suggestions were made as to what should be added within each category of activities.

- **Instruments for following the transformation of culture into multi-culture in the schools.** The team of IIEP developed a checklist for external monitoring which follow-up the changes in iconography, as well as the teaching methods in the demonstration schools.
- **Performances.** Three performances were organized in the primary schools. In the demonstration schools with three languages of instruction, a performance to mark the day of Turkish teachers was organized, whereas in the partner demonstration schools, a performance on behalf of New Year was organized. All of the performances were organized with the joint attendance of students who study different languages of instruction.
- **Memorandum of cooperation.** Memoranda of cooperation were signed with five demonstration schools and the corresponding municipalities during this month. The memorandum of cooperation with the demonstration school from Ohrid is anticipated to be signed during January 2014.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Activities for renovation.** The construction of the main entrance of the school building in “Nikola Karev” primary school in the municipality of Kocani is on-going.
- **Delivery of school maintenance toolbox.** A toolbox and equipment for maintenance of the “Nikola Karev” primary school in the municipality of Kochani have been delivered. Along with this set, a total of 22 sets to 22 renovated schools have been delivered in 2012 and 2013.
- **Mentoring sessions.** Following the workshops aimed at strengthening the capacities of the school technical staff and the maintenance workers in the schools, a total of 11 mentoring sessions were held in all of the schools renovated during 2013. On these mentoring sessions, experts in the field of construction and mechanical engineering assisted the technical staff of the schools on how to deal with problems related to the maintenance of the schools.
- **Participation of municipalities and schools in the process of renovation.** Collecting the evidence and the documenting of the participation of municipalities and schools in the activities of renovation, which should be at a minimum 10% share, are an on-going process.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring and evaluation activities.** The monitoring and evaluation of the implemented joint student activities in the pilot (48) and demonstration (4) schools was completed. From 58 pilot schools, 83% of schools implemented the joint student activities.
- **Baseline research.** A questionnaire for an electronic research that will be conducted at the end of the school year in all schools involved in interethnic integration in education activities was prepared.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1- Community Outreach

- Preparation and planning of activities for 2014.
- Preparatory phase for the production of the infotainment documentary “7x7” in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media.
- Initial preparatory meetings in the six new municipalities from the third phase regarding the training for trainers of the creative workshops that promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
- Preparations for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the renovated schools from second phase.
- Regularly updating information and publishing news and stories about the course of the activities in the project’s website: www.pmio.mk.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Continuation of the dissemination of trainings on interethnic integration in schools from the second phase.
- Continuation of the implementation of the second mentoring meeting with the rest of the schools in the second phase.
- Review of the abstracts submitted to determine the panelists at the Forum on Interethnic Integration in Education for Teacher Training Faculties in Macedonia.
- Organizing and executing the Forum on Interethnic Integration in Education for Teacher Training Faculties in Macedonia.
- Meeting with Open Fun Football Schools in order to plan in detail the joint sport and recreational activities for 2014.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Testing the students from the groups of multicultural workshops in one school.
- Training on transformation of culture and multi-culture in a demonstration school.
- Debriefing (consultation) meetings with the school integration teams in the demonstration schools.
- Organizing events for the promotion of the project activities in the demonstration schools.
- Training for School Boards.
- Signing a Memorandum for Cooperation with one school.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Completion of the activities of renovation in the “Nikola Karev” primary school in the municipality of Kocani.
- Announcement of a call for applications to 140 schools from 30 municipalities for involvement in the activities of Component 4 in 2014.
- Signing the documents for the participation of municipalities and schools in the activities of renovation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring of the activities implemented in each of the Project’s Components.
- Preparation of the monitoring and evaluation report of the joint student activities implemented in the pilot and demonstration schools.
- Preparations for adjustment of the program for electronic research.
- Preparations of the questionnaires for evaluation of the projects’ activities.