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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

April 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 – Community Outreach

- **Conducting trainings on producing multimedia Internet contents in the context of interethnic integration in education.** These trainings were attended by two students and teachers of each of the secondary schools in Prilep, Kocani and Skopje. These trainings are designed to help teachers and students to develop skills for producing multimedia Internet contents for promoting the activities in their schools. These activities are conducted under the guidance and mentorship of editors and journalists involved in the project.
- **Organizing a Forum Theatre debate with the teachers.** In April, forum theaters were organized for teachers from secondary and primary schools in Skopje. The forum theatre is used as a tool for discussion in the context of inter-ethnic integration in education where the participants are invited to make suggestions for resolving specific situations through acting.
- **Conducting creative workshops** in April in the six selected schools in the municipalities of Kocani, Kavadarci, Gostivar, Prilep, Ohrid and the City of Skopje. These workshops are facilitated by the teachers under the mentorship of experts/artists for groups of 20-25 students, who are building capacities, expanding their knowledge and skills for interethnic cohesion by means of creative methods and approaches.
- **Attendance and documenting partnership activities.** In April, activities between the partner schools in Kumanovo (Vuk Karadzic and Ditura) and in Chucher Sandevo (Aleksandar Urdarevski and the regional school in Blace) were conducted, which were performed and documented in a form of stories and images, published on the IIEP website.
- **Two public debates within the debate clubs in the municipalities of Kicevo and Stip.** The students debaters, who were of mixed ethnicity, of both debate clubs were elaborating on the topic “Formal education shall (not) be the main pillar of interethnic integration”, sharing their views and opinions and demonstrating their debating skills. This activity is being conducted in cooperation with the partner organization Youth Education Forum.
- **Providing information on a regular basis to the institutions, municipalities and schools about the activities.** Some of the activities during April included regular updating of information and publishing news and stories about the course of the activities on the project website www.pmio.mk. In addition, the first issue of the IIEP Media Newsletter was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of the School Management and Teachers

- **Trainings for School Integration Teams from Phase 3.** Throughout this month the implementation of three-day trainings (2+1) with the school integration teams from 183 primary and secondary schools, included in Phase 3 was completed. The main objective of the training was to introduce the participants to the concept of interethnic integration in education, which promotes an education model that enables students to have joint curricular and extracurricular activities with ethnically/linguistically mixed groups of students.



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- **Third mentoring meeting for the schools of Phase 2.** The mentoring meetings started in order to support schools in the successful implementation and monitoring of interethnic integration activities. The mentors were prepared to provide feedback to the school integration teams regarding joint activities in relation to application of group work approaches for cooperation and interaction among students of different ethnic groups.
- **Mentoring meetings with representatives of professional services, school boards and the persons responsible for education in the municipalities of the pilot phase and phase 2.** We started with the mentoring meetings with representatives of the professional services, school boards and persons responsible for education in the municipalities in order to understand the functional structure between the persons involved in IIEP on municipal level; to get feedback on the status of realization of IIE activities; to define key activities for the target groups and to balance the mentoring approach.
- **Meetings with the deans of the teacher training faculties** in order to agree on the future IIEP activities with the teacher training faculties.
- **Participation in the Regional Conference on including the Education for Peace programs at the university level.** A working meeting was held with the representatives of the teaching staff of the teacher training faculties for the purpose of starting activities for preparation of a manual for interethnic integration in education and upgrading the programs with the concept of interethnic integration in education.

Component 3 – Demonstration schools

- **Support meetings.** Four support meetings were held until the end of the month. The goal was to initially plan the closing promotional events in the demonstration schools by giving instructions on how to prepare the products resulting from the project activities for presentation to the wider public.
- **Piloting language acquisition workshops.** Once a week, during this month, language acquisition workshops were conducted in the primary school Petar Zdravkovski PENKO. A total of eight workshops were held, four for each of the formed groups. The last workshops in both groups were recorded for the purpose of presenting the concept in different trainings.
- **Excursion to the demonstration schools.** The high school of economics from Gostivar organized a one-day excursion to Skopje. 12 teachers and 37 students of all languages participated in the excursion. During the excursion they visited historic buildings and cultural monuments, as well as the old crafts workshops located in the Old Bazaar.
- **Parent initiatives.** In the past month, a workshop was organized in the primary school Sande Shterjoski in Kichevo for preparation of various decorations and products related to the religious holiday Easter. After the holiday, an exhibition of the handmade products was organized in the school. In addition to the teachers and students, the parents of all ethnic groups were invited to participate in the event.
- **Activities of the school communities.** In April, the school community presidency of the secondary school Zdravko Cvetkovski from Skopje organized projection of the film “Freedom Writers”. The film was intended for distinguished students of the first and second year from both language groups. A total of 60 students participated in the film projection.
- **Working meeting with the SIT from the partner demonstration schools.** The SIT representatives from the partner demonstration schools held a working meeting in order to agree on the manner of implementing project activities. It was decided to continue with the organization of meetings in the central schools with increased precautionary measures for the arrival and departure of guests from the partner school.



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Component 4 – Providing Incentives to the Schools

- **Forming School Renovation Teams (SRTs).** Introductory meetings were held in three schools, two of phase 3 and 1 demonstration school, attended by the Component 4 Team. Second meetings were held in seven schools, at which the school renovation teams were created.
- **School maintenance trainings for the SRTs – Part One.** School maintenance trainings - Part One were conducted in the following nine schools of Phase 3:
 - Primary school Gjorche Petrov, Municipality of Gjroche Petrov;
 - Primary school Goce Delchev, Municipality of Ilinden;
 - Primary school Kuzamn Shapkarev, Municipality of Kisela Voda;
 - Primary school Chajla, Municipality of Gostivar;
 - Municipal High School Gostivar, Municipality of Gostivar;
 - Primary school Vrapchishte, Municipality of Vrapchishte;
 - Primary school Krume Volnaroski, Municipality of Prilep;
 - Primary school Jonche Smugreski, Municipality of Krivogashtani;
 - Municipal High School Naum Naumovski Borche, Municipality of Krushevo.

The focus of the training was to identify the needs of renovation, to define the priorities and to prepare a renovation application. These trainings were attended by 74 representatives of the school renovation teams.

- **Technical acceptance in the primary school Nikola Karev in the municipality of Kocani.** The technical acceptance was performed of the construction activities for the school building main entrance in the primary school Nikola Karev in the municipality of Kocani, financed by the MoES/DCI.
- **Environmental protection plan.** A common plan was prepared for environmental protection from the school renovation activities that might have a negative impact. This plan was submitted to and approved by USAID. The school renovation activities included in the works of Component 4 in 2014 will be performed in accordance with this environmental protection plan.
- **Participation of the municipalities and schools in the renovation process.** There is currently an ongoing process of documenting the participation of the municipalities and schools in the renovation activities, which must satisfy the required minimum of 10% participation. The participation of the Ministry of Education and Science in the renovation activities in 4 schools, included in the Component 4 Program has been documented.

Monitoring and evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** The activities monitoring and evaluation report of all pilot schools was presented. The monitoring of the activities in C2 schools (Phase 2) and the activities of the demonstration schools is still ongoing. Several activities implemented within the components were monitored.
- **Evaluation activities.** The selection of C2 schools (Phase 2 and 3) was finalized. Focus groups with participants of all involved schools (22 groups) were conducted.
- **Phase 2 of the electronic research.** The Macedonian version of the electronic application for electronic research has been finalized and prepared for testing.
- **Cooperation with the MoES.** A meeting was held with the representatives of higher education institutions in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the activities for integrated education within the MoES.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 – Community Outreach

- Trainings for teachers and students for production of multimedia Internet contents in Ohrid;
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony in the municipal high school Vancho Prke in Vinica and the primary school Gjorgji Sugarev in Bitola;
- Meeting of the team that will be working on the educational documentary film “7x7” in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media and the Macedonian Radio Television.
- Public debates in Skopje and Struga;
- Conducting informal meetings with editors and journalists;
- Regular updating of information and publication of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project website www.pmio.mk.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of the School Management and Teachers

- Continuing the realization of the third mentoring meeting with the schools of Phase 2;
- Visiting schools and monitoring the joint activities in the schools of Phase 2;
- Continuing the realization of mentoring meetings with representatives of competent authorities, school boards and persons responsible for education in the municipalities of the pilot phase and Phase 2;
- Continuing the activities for preparation of the manual for interethnic integration in education and upgrading programs with the concept of interethnic integration in education.

Component 3 – Demonstration schools

- Conducting monitoring / mentoring support meetings in each of the demonstration schools;
- Creating and piloting additional language acquisition workshops;
- Continued support in the implementation of the ongoing activities in the schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- Organizing trainings for the SRTs. Trainings will be held in four schools of Phase 3 for the purpose of determining the needs of renovation and preparation of an application and budget for the renovation;
- Renovation applications. After completing the first part of the trainings for the school renovation teams, the schools shall submit renovation applications;
- Organizing monthly meetings in 11 schools of Phase 2 for the purpose of monitoring the school maintenance works;
- Documenting the participation of municipalities and schools in the renovation activities.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components;
- Testing the electronic research application;
- Preparing questionnaires for evaluation of the project activities;
- Evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities in the schools involved in Phase 2 and 3.