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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

September 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Implementation of a one-day workshop for effective public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education for members of the School Integration Teams (SITs).** This workshop was attended by one member of the SIT-s of primary and secondary schools from the Debar, Ohrid and Gostivar regions. The purpose of these workshops is for the participants to acquire skills and techniques for informing of the public and the communities about the activities in the sphere of the interethnic integration and cooperation that are implemented in their schools.
- **Meetings held with the six selected schools included in the creative workshops in order to agree upon the final presentations of the students.** At these meetings, information was shared about the dates on which the final presentations will be made, the technical support for the presentation from the municipality, the venues and the last preparations. All six groups of 20-25 students from the secondary schools from Skopje, Kocani, Gostivar, Kavadarci, Prilep and Ohrid will exhibit the results of the creative workshops at these presentations.
- **Forum theatre debate held with students.** In the course of this month, a forum theatre debate was organized with the students from the secondary school "Cvetan Dimov" from Skopje at which the main goal was to resolve a given situation by inclusion of the students from the audience.
- **Final presentation of case studies was held.** In the course of September, a joint final presentation of case studies on the topic of "Career Development in a Multicultural Company" was organized; the case studies were prepared by students from the secondary schools "Zdravko Cvetkovski GUC", "Josip Broz Tito" and "Cvetan Dimov" from Skopje. At the presentation, students presented the findings they acquired from the visits and the interviews with the employees in the companies that were part of the research.
- **Ribbon –cutting ceremony in PS "Goce Delcev" from Ilinden.** On the occasion of the completion of the renovation process, the municipality of Ilinden and PS "Goce Delcev" hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Macedonia, Paul D. Wohlers, Major General Steven Cray, Adjutant General of the National Guard of Vermont, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia, Abdilaqim Ademi, representatives of the ARM of the Republic of Macedonia, representatives of USAID, the mayor of the municipality of Ilinden, Zika Stojanovski, directors of schools, parents, teachers and students.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about IIEP activities.** Part of the activities during the month of September covered regular updating of the information and publishing of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project's web site: www.pmio.mk.



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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Preparation of a module for advanced training for schools with two/three languages of instruction.** The draft contents of the module for advanced training for schools with two/three languages of instruction have been prepared. Based on the previous notions and the identified needs of the schools, the focus was put on the development of the competences of the teachers for implementing multicultural and joint student activities which are expected to result in extensive cooperation and friendship among the students and ensuring the sustainability of IIE.
- **Advanced training for multilingual schools from the pilot phase and Phase 2.** In the course of this month, the implementation of advanced trainings commenced with representatives of school integration teams from the schools included in the pilot phase and Phase 2. The main goal of the trainings is to deepen the knowledge and the skills of the participants for implementing activities for democratic participation of students and group decision making/solving of problems and implementation of joint activities with ethnically/linguistically mixed groups of students.
- **The preparation of a manual for the teacher training faculties** by a group of authors – professors from the included teacher training faculties is underway.
- **Evaluation, amendment and modification of the instruments (documents and questionnaires) for the preparatory phase and the phase of implementation of the integral evaluation.** The group of inspectors designated by the State Education Inspectorate, together with the state advisor to the minister, amended and modified the documents and the questionnaires with contents that pertain to the interethnic integration in education. The modifications have been entered into the Integral Evaluation Manual.
- **Joint sports and fun activities in mixed ethnic groups** was held with students from five primary schools with more than one language of instruction (“Nikola Karev” – Krusevo, “7 Marsi” – village of Celopek, “Josip Broz Tito” – village of Zirovnica, “Kiril Pejcinovic” – village of Tearce, “Vrapciste” – village of Vrapciste) at the Sports Centar Mavrovo, where approximately 150 students and 20 teachers participated.
- **Selection and organization of the participation of 15 schools from the pilot phase and Phase 2 in the first two-day long workshop from the training cycle for conflict resolution.** The professional associates from 15 schools from the pilot phase and Phase 2 were selected, invited and organized in terms of their participation in the training with one participant, together with participants from the demonstration schools.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Training for teachers for implementation of joint curricular activities with the students.** During the month, one-day training was held with teachers who teach physical and health education in the primary demonstration schools, i.e. teachers who teach sports and sport activities in the demonstration secondary schools. The purpose of the training was to develop a model for holding joint classes through the regular curriculum of the subject physical and health education/sports and sport activities.
- **Trainings for teachers for implementation of joint extra-curricular activities with students.** A training was held at the beginning of the month. Teachers from the two monolingual demonstration schools from Kumanovo were present. The training was intended for all teachers who are expected to organize joint school sections, as well as for those who are expected to organize and implement joint events/celebrations, as well as



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outings and excursions.

- **Training for civic education teachers for the methodology that is to be applied when teaching on awareness-raising about stereotypes and prejudices.** The civic education teachers from all demonstration schools attended a two-day training for more interactive approach towards the elaboration of the methodology that is to be applied when teaching on awareness-raising about stereotypes and prejudices.
- **Training for teachers for organizing workshops with first-grade students for the acquisition of the basic concepts in Albanian and Macedonian languages.** Four to six teachers from each primary demonstration school participated in the two-day training for organizing bilingual workshops with first-grade students. The training comprised of the following two parts: a) demonstration of bilingual workshops with discussion and presentation for the methodology of organization of bilingual workshops and b) simulation of workshops by the participants by giving feedback about the performances.
- **Training for constructive conflict resolution techniques for the professional services.** Towards the end of the month, the professional services from demonstration schools, alongside the representatives of the professional services from the schools included in Component 2 were trained for constructive conflict resolution. The participants were familiarized with the basic concepts in this sphere, followed by practical exercises aimed at the acquisition of skills for conflict resolution in the school environment. The same participants are planned to attend additional trainings which will round up the process of adoption of basic conflict resolution skills.
- **School event on the occasion of the start of the school year.** In order to welcome the first-grade students to the primary school "Bratstvo Edinstvo", on the 1st of September, in the presence of parents, students and teachers, a school event was organized which included an integrated performance of about 30 children from all languages of instruction, as well as multicultural performances with one act from each language community.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Tenders for selection of the most favourable bidders.** A tender was announced for the selection of the most favourable bidder for the additional activities for renovation of the MSSE "Gostivar" from Gostivar, followed by public opening of the bids.
- **Selection of the most favourable bidder.** Meetings for evaluation were organized for three tenders with the highest ranking contractors of projects, and the selection of the most favourable bidder was made. The list of selected companies - contractors for three projects in:
 - PS "Kuzman Sapkarev", Municipality of Kisela Voda;
 - PS "Sande Sterjoski", Municipality of Kicevo and
 - MSSE "Gostivar", Municipality of Gostivarhas been published on the IIEP web page <http://pmio.mk/category/tender-results/>.
- **Preconstruction meeting.** Preconstruction meetings were organized for the companies - contractors in the presence of the representatives of IIEP, the companies-contractors, the construction supervisors, the schools and the municipalities. Construction activities have started in three schools.
- **Technical acceptance.** The renovation activities that were an obligation of the IIEP were completed in six schools and a technical acceptance was organized.
- **Mentoring meetings.** After the completion of module 1 of the training for maintenance of the school buildings, mentoring meetings were organized in all 13 schools of Phase 3 in order to monitor the operations of the schools in terms of the preparation of the annual



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plans and budgets for maintenance.

- **Monthly meetings.** Meetings were organized in 11 schools from Phase 2, aimed at monitoring of the maintenance procedures and activities.
- **Equipment for maintenance of school buildings.** A tender was announced for selection of the most favourable bidder for procurement of tools for maintenance of the school buildings. Evaluation meetings were organized with the four bidding companies and the most favourable bidder was selected.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** The monitoring of the activities of the schools within Component 2 of Phase 2 continues. The summary report of the monitoring of Component 3 schools is being finalized.
- **Evaluation activities.** The report from the field research implemented by delivering a questionnaire for evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities with representatives of the SITs and the Parents Council, followed by focus groups with students in the schools from the selected sample, has been finalized.
- **Phase 2 of the electronic study.** The analysis and the processing of the data from the electronic study distributed in the schools from the pilot phase, from Phase 2 and in the demonstration schools, have been finalized.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony in the MSS "Naum Naumovski Borce" from Krusevo and in the PS "Vrapciste" from the Municipality of Vrapciste.
- Organizing two promotional events of the final products from the creative workshops implemented in the secondary schools "Orde Copela" from the Municipality of Prilep and "Dobri Daskalov" from the Municipality of Kavadarci.
- Conducting informal meetings with the editors and the journalists in order to inform them about the activities within the project and the future cooperation.
- Regular updating of the information and publishing of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project's web site: www.pmio.mk

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Continuation of the advanced trainings for multilingual schools from the pilot phase and Phase 2.
- Event for joint sports and fun activities of students in ethnically mixed groups, held with students from the second group of students from the five primary schools with more than one language of instruction at the Sports Center in Madzari, Skopje.
- Assessment of the draft version of the manual for the teacher-training faculties and meeting with the group of authors for preparation of the final version of the manual.
- Regional meetings with inspectors from the State Education Inspectorate for presentation of the modifications in the integral evaluation manual.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Trainings for students - representatives in the school communities from all demonstration schools for undertaking student initiatives.
- Training for representatives of the partner organizations and the advisors from the Bureau for Development of Education for realization of support meetings.
- Conducting support meetings in all demonstration schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Technical acceptance of the facilities where the construction activities will be completed.
- Organizing monthly meetings for monitoring the maintenance work in the schools from Phase 2.
- Organizing the storage, packaging and delivery of the equipment for maintenance of the school buildings and a manual for their usage in the schools renovated in Phase 3.
- Preparing the training for the technical personnel and secretaries in the schools from Phase 3.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring of the activities realized per component.
- Finalizing the report from the electronic survey.
- Finalizing the report from the monitoring of the activities of Component 3 and finalization of the monitoring of the activities of Component 2.