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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

December 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Ms. Christie Vilsack's visit to the elementary school "Panajot Ginovski" in the Municipality of Butel.** Ms. Christie Vilsack, a Senior Education Advisor in USAID, attended the joint student activities as part of the curricula and talked with the parents and the teachers from the elementary school "Panajot Ginovski".
- **Forum Theatre – a debate was held with the teachers from Kumanovo.** A forum theatre debate was organized with the teachers from Kumanovo where the main goal was to resolve a given situation in the context of the interethnic integration in education, and in which the teachers from the audience were involved by acting.
- **Meetings with editors and journalists.** The IIEP team organized meetings with editors and journalists for the purposes of sharing the achievements so far related to the project activities within the schools, and at the same time discussed and explored the possibilities for further regular coverage and sharing with the public the good practices in the context of the interethnic cooperation. The team had meetings with Marija Vasilevska from KOD Produkcija, the editor and journalist of Sloboden Pecat and the portal www.plusinfo.mk - Branko Geroski, Dzenis Sulimani from the daily newspaper LAJME and Zaklina Zafirova from the portal Inbox7.
- **Presentation of the monitoring and evaluation findings.** A public event was organized for presentation of the monitoring and evaluation findings in the elementary and secondary schools in the Republic of Macedonia, at which representatives were present from the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), Bureau for Development of Education, State Education Inspectorate, Vocational Education Training Center, State Examination Centre, USAID, OSCE, partner organizations, non-governmental organizations and other associates of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project.
- **Round table for integrated education.** Organized by MoES, a round table was held on the topic of integrated education in the Republic of Macedonia where representatives of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project were present and held presentation.
- **Participation in an informal socializing with the director of the USAID mission.** In the course of December, a non-formal socializing was organized with all public relations coordinators and assistants on USAID Projects, where the director of the USAID mission in Macedonia, journalists and editors also participated.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities in the month of December 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. Furthermore, the eighth edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia.



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Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Support visits to multilingual schools from pilot phase and Phase 2.** The support visits started in the multilingual schools, during which the joint activities are monitored by the master trainers and the representatives of the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal. The purpose is to provide support to the school integration team in the implementation of the joint activities and to the achievement of the goals for promotion of the interethnic integration. With participation in the implementation of a joint activity, the members of the SIT will be promoted as a support team for the purposes of development of the competencies of the teachers for interethnic integration in the whole school as part of the activities for professional development of the teachers.
- **Second mentoring meeting with school integration teams for Phase 3 schools.** The schools from Phase 3 received instructions for preparation of a second mentoring meeting at which the members of the SIT will exchange experiences and opinions for the implemented/planned activities in their schools and they will jointly discuss and analyse the aspects that contribute to the successful implementation of the IIE activities. For that purpose, instruments have been prepared with criteria for successful implementation and monitoring of the joint student activities and independent multicultural activities.
- **Submission of applications for small grants for implementation of joint student activities.** Support was provided to the schools during the process of the preparation of the applications for small grants for implementation of joint student activities. A total of 130 applications from schools from all phases, which until now have not used a grant for implementation of joint student activities, were submitted to the project.
- **Meetings held with the school integration teams from several elementary and secondary schools for the purposes of promoting future activities for interethnic integration in the schools.** The achievements made until now and the challenges faced in the course of the implementation of the interethnic integration in education activities were considered and adequate support was provided (in the elementary school "Mirce Acev" - village of Lisicani, Plasnica, "Mustafa Kemal Ataturk" – village of Kolicani, Studenicani, "Goce Delcev" – Centar, "Bratstvo Migjeni" – Tetovo, „A.S. Kjikis“ – Tetovo, "Kiril i Metodij" – Tetovo; in the secondary gymnasium school "Josip Broz Tito" – Centar, in the secondary school "Mosa Pijade" and "8 Septemvri" – Tetovo). In the visited schools, the engagements and the dedication of the teams and the teachers in the implementation of activities for interethnic integration in the schools was evident.
- **Final activities for preparation of the Manual for interethnic integration for the teacher-training faculties.** The authors of the Manual have submitted the texts, on the basis of which an expert audit was made and its first version was compiled.
- **Support visit to the elementary school "26 Juli" - Suto Orizari.** In the court of this month, a support visit was organized to the elementary school "26 Juli", Suto Orizari by the IIEP team. A meeting was held with the school integration team, at which a reflection was made about the previously implemented activities for interethnic integration and preparation for monitoring of the joint activities by a master trainer. A joint maths activity was visited in the lower grades and a meeting was held with all teachers for the purposes of clarifying and keeping an interethnic integration portfolio.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Democratic participation of students.** Different activities were implemented which were initiated by the school communities in all schools. In all elementary schools, New Year celebrations were organized, and in the secondary schools sports - basketball activities



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were organized. In Gostivar, the students joined a sport competition that was attended by all elementary schools from the town. Furthermore, the school community also participated in the preparation of paper New Year ornaments. In Skopje, the school community organized a sport tournament in basketball in which four teams participated with mixed composition in terms of gender and language of instruction.

- **School Performances.** A total of five school performances were organized in the course of the month. Two school (in Ohrid and Kicevo) organized multicultural performances on the occasion of the Turkish Day of Education. One school performance on the occasion of New Year was organized in the school “Brakja Miladinovci” from Kumanovo in which the school “Bajram Sabani” participated as a guest. The guest school performed one independent and two integrated acts. A school performance was also organized in Ohrid and it also comprised joint acts. The secondary construction school from Skopje organized a humanitarian party on the occasion of New Year under the title "Make Someone Happy". In the entertaining part there were also joint acts comprised of students from different languages of instructions.
- **Parents’ actions.** In the elementary school “Brakja Miladinovci” from Kumanovo, about 20 parents and 10 students from the two schools from Kumanovo held a joint workshop for preparation of New Year ornaments which were then exhibited in the halls of the schools. Twelve parents from the elementary school “Sande Sterjoski” from all communities organized a joint volleyball competition, whereas many parents participated in the preparation of New Year ornaments that were then sold at the New Year’s Bazaar. In the secondary school of economics from Gostivar, 19 parents from all communities with 12 students made a research about the traditional meals and then, at a special meeting, presented their findings and offered tasting of products such as baklava and boza. The parents from the secondary construction school from Skopje implemented a one-day outing through the old Skopje bazaar and visited: the Mustafa Pasha Mosque, the St. Spas Church (The Church of the Ascension of Jesus), the Museum of Macedonia, the Archaeological Museum of Macedonia and the Daut Pasha Hammam. In all visited places, the guides, but also the parents told stories about the specifics of the sites.
- **Outings.** In the course of the month, two outings were organized by the secondary demonstration schools. The secondary school “Zdravko Cvetkovski” on the 3rd of December organized an outing which was attended by 39 students who study in different languages of instruction and five teachers who teach in different languages of instruction. The tour of the center of the City together with the old bazaar, where the memorial house of Mother Theresa, the Stone Bridge, the puppet theatre of the nationalities and the Fortress were visited, where several fun and team games were organized, followed by a ride with the cable car to the Millennium Cross and panoramic sightseeing of Skopje from Vodno. The secondary school of economics from Gostivar organized a one day outing in Gostivar on the occasion of the day of the Cultural Heritage of the Municipality of Gostivar. On the trip, there were 30 students who visited the oldest buildings in the town, the Clock Tower and the House of the Bey.
- **Civic Education Projects.** In most of the schools, the civic education project activities were completed, which were implemented with a mixed group of students from all languages of instruction. The activities comprised five joint meetings for research on a given topic and in the end the products of the activities were presented.
- **Joint physical and health education classes (sport and sport activities).** In Ohrid, Kicevo and Skopje, joint classes were implemented within the regular teaching process. In Ohrid, a total of 5 classes with one pair of teachers, in Kicevo, a total of 3 classes with two pairs of teachers and in Skopje about 20 classes with five different pairs of teachers were organized.



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- **Meetings for support.** Five meetings were implemented by the IIEP team. At one of the meetings (in the elementary school Bratstvo Edinstvo), a school performance was also organized on the occasion of the Turkish Day of Education. At the meetings, as usual, discussions were also held with teachers – implementers of activities, as well as with representatives of the SITs, with reference to the activities that are being realized and their impressions from the progress in the implementation of the activities.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Technical acceptance.** The activities for renovation of the school building of the regional elementary school "Krume Volnarski" from the village of Berovci, municipality of Prilep have been completed, which were implemented in partnership with the Municipality of Prilep and a technical acceptance was organized.
- **Mentoring sessions.** After holding the training for strengthening of the capacities of the technical personnel and the secretaries for maintenance of the schools, 13 mentoring sessions were held in all schools renovated in the course of 2014. At these sessions, experts in the spheres of mechanical and civil engineering helped the secretaries and the technical personnel from the schools to better deal with the problems related to the maintenance of the schools.
- **Distribution of equipment for maintenance of the school buildings.** To all schools renovated in 2014, the equipment was delivered for maintenance of the school buildings, including manual for its usage.
- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the process of renovation.** There is an ongoing process of documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities, which participation should be at least 10%. This month, the documentation has been provided and the reports have been prepared for the municipalities and the schools from the four schools from phase 3 in terms of their participation in the covering of a part of the school renovation costs. The total documented participation of the four schools and municipalities is MKD 2,703,121 which constitutes 39.66% of the total invested funds for these four projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** The report from the monitoring of the activities of the schools within Component 2 of Phase 2 has been completed. The monitoring of ongoing activities has been realized.
- **Presentation of the results from the survey** – the IIEP team, in cooperation with the BDE and the VETC presented the comparative findings (2012 – 2014) of the process of monitoring and evaluation. The event was attended by representatives of all educational institutions, international donors, municipalities, schools, etc. For more information, visit the following link: <http://pmio.mk/category/monitoring-and-evaluation-materials/>



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Organizing a presentation of the final product from the creative workshops in STU "Gostivar".
- Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.
- 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

- Second mentoring meeting with school integration teams for Phase 3 schools.
- Continuation of the support visits to the multilingual schools from Phase 2 and monitoring of the joint activities.
- Evaluation of the applications for small grants for implementation of joint student activities and announcement of the results to the schools.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Holding five consultative meetings with the SITs and teachers-implementers of activities.
- Organization of Open Days – promotion of the activities in the demonstration schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Defining a list of schools and criteria under which a selection shall be made of the schools that shall be included in the activities of Component 4 in 2015.
- Documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Preparation of the check lists for monitoring of the Component 2 activities.