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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

May 2015

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Award ceremony for the secondary school competition for multi-media products “Multi-via-media: How do we coexist in schools”.** An award ceremony was organized in which besides the rich content prepared for the present guests, awards were given to the schools that applied. At the competition, 37 schools applied with a total of 57 different multimedia products aimed at promoting the interethnic integration in the education.
- **Preparation and organization of ribbon-cutting ceremonies on the occasion of the completion of the renovation in the elementary school “Cajla” from Cajle and the elementary school “Riste Risteski” from Dolno Kosovrasti, Debar.** These schools and municipalities being the hosts welcomed the senior representatives of EUCOM and USAID, as well as the parents, teachers and students. At the events, the joint student activities for interethnic integration were also presented.
- **Second module of the training for forum theatre methodology with selected teachers who lead the processes of the creative workshops.** The second module was held of the training for forum theatre methodology for the teachers from seven secondary schools that led the creative workshops. This tool will be used within the schools in the future as well, so that the teachers and the students will be able to jointly debate on a certain topic.
- **Preparations for the start of the integrated youth show at Radio MOF.** In partnership with MOF, the preparations started for an integrated radio show that will be broadcasted every Sunday on Radio MOF. The goal of this entertaining program is to promote the interethnic integration through various topics and discussions by young people.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities 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 twelfth edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia. The Chief of Party Nebojsa Mojsoski had a guest appearance at Radio Slobodna Makedonija where he had an opportunity to share information about the activities and the achievements of the IIEP made so far with the public.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Supervisor meeting with master trainers and members for support from LOJA and SUMNAL.** The main objective of the meeting was to make a brief overview of the activities implemented so far and a reflection from the visits for support and monitoring of the activities in multilingual schools in the pilot phase and Phase 2. At the meeting, the participants made a self-assessment of the monitoring made in the previous phases and gave suggestions for improvement of the effects during the monitoring of the joint activities from Phase 3. In the end, the participants were given instructions for the following activities which will take place in the period to come.
- **Support visits to multilingual schools from Phase 3.** Support visits to multilingual schools from Phase 3 started. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide support to the school integration team (SIT) in the implementation of the joint activities and the achievement of the



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goals for promotion of the interethnic integration. These activities are planned to cover 38 schools.

- **Meeting of the working group for work on the document for integration of IIE contents by schools subject.** The main purpose of this meeting was the harmonization of the terminology of the key elements of the examples and the definition of the structure of the entire document. At the meeting, the group members had a constructive discussion about the structure of the examples and about the further dynamics and work of the group.
- **Finalizing the Manual for the interethnic integration certification procedure.** This document describes the procedure for certification of the teachers, the principals and the professional associates who participated in the activities in the IIEP and it will be implemented in cooperation with the BDE and the VETC.
- **Preparation for holding mentoring meetings with the SIT from all 3 phases of schools.** The main goal of these mentoring meetings is to provide professional support to the SIT for successful implementation of the activities for interethnic integration in education. These mentoring meetings are planned to cover all the 420 schools divided into 50 groups.
- **Joint student sports and fun activities.** The trained teacher teams of trainers held events for dissemination of joint student sports and fun activities to the students and teachers in the following multilingual elementary schools: "Vasil Glavinov" - Veles, "Krste P. Misirkov" – v. Bistrica, Bitola, "Krste P. Misirkov" - Radovis and "Dimitar Vlahov" - v. Ljubojno, Resen. The teachers and the groups comprised of 45 students demonstrated techniques and principles of entertaining games through which the children from different languages of instruction and ethnicity have fun and spend time together within the curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- **Information and orientation meeting with the facilitators of the Forums for fundraising in the communities for support of the IIE activities.** In order for the facilitators of the forums to advance their skills, an informational and orientation meeting were held at which they were presented the following: the concepts, the methods, the opportunities in the schools, the local communities and the businesses for fundraising in accordance with the Law on Donations and Sponsorships in the Public Activities.
- **Finalizing of the Manual for interethnic integration in the curriculum of the teacher-training faculties.** The Manual for interethnic integration in the curriculum of the teacher-training faculties is intended for the education of the teachers from the teacher-training faculties in the country, as well as for the future teachers in the elementary schools.
- **Approval of small grant applications.** In line with the sent corrections to the small grant applications, a total of 2 schools received a grant approval in the course of this month. The total number of approved grants is 109.
- **Support provided to schools for preparation and implementation of activities supported with a small grant.** Support was provided to the schools for planning and implementation of the activities that are financially supported with the small grants, for the purposes of successful implementation of the activities in line with the IIE criteria.
- **Visit to schools for support of the planning and implementation of activities funded with a small grant.** The following schools were visited in order to provide support to the planning and the implementation of the joint student activities, supported by small grants: "Nuri Mazari", v. Delogozda, Struga; "Rade Kratovce", Kocani; "Lirija", Caska; "Todor Janev", Caska; "Emin Duraku", Bukovic, Saraj; "Kiril i Metodij", Kanatlarci; "Sv. Kiril i Metodij", Negotino.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **School Day.** The elementary School "Bratstvo Edinstvo" from Ohrid celebrated its 65th anniversary in the House of Culture "Grigor Prlicev". The rich program with integrated acts was joined by a parent who acted in a play with students from all languages present in the school.
- **Knowledge Olympic Games.** For the second year in a row, the English language school subject council from the elementary school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" from Ohrid organized Olympic



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Games for Knowledge of English which was attended by about 30 students from all languages of instruction.

- **National competitions.** At the national competitions in choral singing, the school choir from the school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" from Ohrid won the first place. This is the second consecutive year in which the school choir wins the first place at state level.
- **Promotional materials.** The footage of the IIEP activities that were organized in the demonstration schools was edited. The film covers all the categories of activities in which students, teachers and parents express their impressions from the implementation of the activities.
- **Support meetings.** All demonstration schools were visited and during the visits certain activities were monitored. In the secondary school "Zdravko Cvetkovski", a visit was made to the joint activities of the Environmental Club, as well as the Modelling Club. In the elementary school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" from Ohrid, a visit was made to a joint class of the Environmental Club, as well as the joint class of the first-grade language workshops. In the partner schools from Kumanovo, in Gostivar and in Kicevo the joint classes of the multicultural workshops programme were visited. In addition to the visits to the classes, at the meetings with the other implementers, the ongoing project activities were discussed.
- **Preparations for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the occasion of the renovation of the school Sande Sterjoski from Kicevo.** Through several meetings, the school prepared a one-act program involving a performance of a group of students with an integrated folk dance and a presentation of the activities of the clubs, the workshops for the first-grade students, as well as activities such as games without frontiers that are organized during the outings.
- **Ongoing activities.** In all demonstration schools there are regular long-term joint activities (school clubs and multicultural workshops, as well as language workshops for the first-grade students from the elementary schools).
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Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- **Field visit to the schools that have submitted an application for renovation.** Four schools from Phase 4 that submitted a renovation application were visited, and the representatives of component 4 made a technical evaluation of the requested renovation positions.
- **Memorandums of understanding.** Memorandums of understanding were signed with the mayors of the municipalities and the school principals for the renovation of the following three schools from Phase 4 under which all involved parties undertook activities in the process of renovation:
 - PS "Naim Fraseri", municipality of Studenicani;
 - PS "Dame Gruev", municipality of Sveti Nikole;
 - Secondary School "Mitko Pendzukliski", municipality of Kratovo.
- **Tenders for selection of most favourable contractors.** Public tenders were announced for the selection of the most favourable bidders for the performance of the activities for renovation of the three schools for which Memorandums of understanding were signed.
- **Environmental protection plan.** A joint environmental protection plan was prepared for the activities for renovation of the schools that could have a potential negative impact. This plan was submitted to the USAID for approval. The activities for renovation in the schools comprised in the work of component 4 in 2015 will be implemented in accordance with this environmental protection plan.
- **Mentoring sessions.** Mentoring sessions with the SRT members were held in 7 schools of Phase 4 for Module 1 - preparation of a plan and budget for maintenance of the schools.
- **Monthly meetings in 13 schools from Phase 3 for monitoring of the work for maintenance of the schools.** All 13 schools renovated in Phase 3 were visited by experts and were provided professional assistance in terms of the maintenance of the school buildings (construction positions, heating system, electrical installations, hygiene).
- **Manual for Maintenance of School Buildings.** A firm was selected for the design of the



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Manual for maintenance of the school buildings.

- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the process of renovation.** The activities were completed for the provision of the necessary documentation and preparation of reports for the municipalities and the schools from Phase 3 in terms of their participation in covering part of the school renovation costs. The total documented participation of the municipalities and the schools in the projects for renovation from Phase 3 amounts to 6,234,330 Denars, which represents 30.32% of the total invested assets for these thirteen projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** Monitoring was performed of joint student activities, trainings and meetings implemented within component 2 and 3. The Monitoring checklist and the electronic application for uploading data from the monitoring of the activities of the schools for implementation of activities by the masters were presented. Monitoring of activities was made in the schools included in the evaluation.
- **Evaluation activities.** Activities were implemented for evaluation of the schools from components 2 and 3: release of questionnaires for teachers and parents and focus groups with students.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Starting the integrated youth show at Radio MOF.
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony on the occasion of the completion of the renovation in the elementary school "Sande Sterjoski" from Kicevo.
- Third module of the training for forum theatre methodology with selected teachers who lead the processes of the creative workshops.
- Preparation of public debates in cooperation with the partner organization MOF.
- Preparation and providing support of the public event for presentation of the demonstration schools.
- Regular updating of the information and publishing of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project's web page: www.pmio.mk

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Holding a meeting with the working group for integration of the IIE contents by school subjects.
- Continuation of the visits for monitoring and support in the multilingual schools for implementation of joint activities.
- Holding mentoring meetings with the SIT from the schools of all phases.
- Provision of support in terms of the planning, preparation and implementation of joint student activities, supported with the small grants.
- Promotion of the joint student activities implemented by the schools and supported with the small school grants.
- Disseminations for joint student sports and fun activities in 6 elementary schools with more languages of instruction.
- Holding meetings in the 10 municipalities for deeper cooperation aimed at the promotion of the IIE activities.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Training with the SITs from the demonstration schools for planning and coordination of future activities in the next school year.
- Implementing a self-evaluation by each demonstration school with participation of parents, teachers and students.
- Holding a consultation meeting with the partner organizations and the advisors from the BDE who are responsible for the monitoring of the activities in the demonstration schools.
- Creation of good practices from the implementation of the IIEP activities in the demonstration schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- Signing Contracts for cooperation with the schools and the municipalities.
- Announcing public tenders for selection of most favourable contractors.
- Evaluation with the first-ranked companies for implementation of renovation projects.
- Signing contracts with the selected companies for construction and supervision of construction.
- Starting activities for renovation in the schools in which the process for selection of the most favourable contractor will be completed.
- Mentoring sessions with the SRTs in 13 schools of Phase 4 for Module 1 - preparation of a plan and budget for maintenance of the schools.
- Monthly meetings in 13 schools from Phase 3 for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities in the demonstration schools.
- Preparatory activities for the electronic survey.