

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *April 2019*



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Achieving a large-scale and sustainable impact is a goal of each development project. To learn about available frameworks and principles that help projects and their implementing partners carry out effective activities and improve the planned interventions, members of the project team participated on an inclusive system approach training organized by MCEC partner organization Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation. The training provided a strategic framework for development work that will be adopted based on project needs.
- ✓ Education reforms in the country continue. Macedonian Civic Education Cent members as part of the working group for revision of education laws contributed to introducing amendments to the draft Law for teachers and student support staff in schools and draft Law for primary education, thus ensuring self-reliance of processes in the system, which are tackled by projects implemented by the organization.
- ✓ Sharing schools' achievements and being part of their promotions is always a project priority. Therefore being part of the celebration of the school day in PS Braka Ramiz Hamid, seeing and hearing about schools achievements and presentation of best student performances was welcomed by the project members.

Public outreach

- ✓ Posters with tips and advices on standards and budgets for school buildings maintenance were developed by the project and will be disseminated to the 12 renovated schools from the first project year.
- ✓ Promotional video for the new Civic Education concept was developed by the project team and soon will be published on the project website and social media.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ With the support of the project, schools and municipalities continuously promoted project activities through traditional and social media.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ Field visits to project activities implemented by the components *Strengthening interethnic cohesion* and *Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors* for the purpose of ensuring quality in implementation were organized within this period.
- ✓ Activities supported by the project are implemented in subject clubs in 20 schools across the country. At the very end of activities for this semester school subject clubs will submit final reports to the project team. To aid the schools in this process and to receive reports containing all the necessary information the project developed a form containing certain questions that need to be addressed. The final report form was prepared and translated into Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language, and will be sent to the schools during next month.
- ✓ The project team also defined the questions that will be used to assess the joint curricular activities implemented in four (4) secondary schools from the City of Skopje. Following, the questionnaire will be finalized and sent to the implementing schools.



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

Project support to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Council for Interethnic Integration in Education

- ✓ In partnership with YEI project and OSCE, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Council for Interethnic Integration in Education organized the first orientation meeting with the first group of schools that were awarded MoES grant. It aimed to provide schools with guidance for implementation of proposed interethnic integration in education activities. One (1) more orientation meeting with the second group of schools that were awarded MoES grant will take place on May 3, 2019.
- ✓ The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Council for Interethnic Integration in Education in partnership with YEI organized the first working meeting with the established SEI working group. The director of SEI appointed five inspectors which will lead the process of review and upgrade of School Performance Quality Indicators. At this meeting the recommendations that resulted from the regional meetings with inspectors in the country organized in November-December 2018 were discussed and will serve to SEI working group as foundation in this process. By doing so, the State Education Inspectorate will be focused to evaluate the improvement of the quality of interethnic integration in education activities in schools, including the increase of youth civic engagement in their communities.

Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ Informative meetings took place with all five (5) municipalities (Gostivar, Kumanovo, Skopje, Strumica and Butel) that are actively engaged to support students from primary and secondary schools to implement student youth actions.
- ✓ Following that, the activities with students from schools from Gostivar and Kumanovo were organized. In Gostivar, students in an inclusive and interactive process in three phases discussed and identified priorities and

actions that they would like to take to improve the community. The ideas were presented to the Mayor of Gostivar, who welcomed the youth and jointly discussed about youth actions in Gostivar. On May 9, 2019, youth will organize their first youth actions supported by project and municipality. At the city quay, students will together mark a bike-trail and footpath, improve conditions of the benches and place trash bins along the city quay. During April, students in Kumanovo started the same process, discussing and identifying priorities, which will be shared with the Mayor/municipal representatives. The youth actions in this municipality will take place in May 2019.

Municipal Ethnic Integration Policies

- ✓ In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Council for Interethnic Integration in Education, YEI supported a workshop that gathered 30 municipal education officials from 15 selected municipalities: Kavadarci, Gostivar, City of Skopje, Sv. Nikole, Kumanovo, Struga, Gevgelija, Tetovo, Probistip, Butel, Vrapciste, Strumica, Prilep, Dolneni and Veles.
- ✓ It aimed to develop skills to municipal education officials to start the process of conceptualizing the municipal strategies for support of interethnic integration and youth civic engagement, by exchanging the experiences, good practices and challenges of six (6) out of fifteen (15) municipalities who have already developed and endorsed a Strategy for IIE. The six (6) municipalities have started the process of advancing and the remaining commenced developing these strategies, and their first draft will be discussed and shared at the follow-up working meeting in June 2019. It is expected that the finalization and endorsement of municipal strategies in all 15 municipalities to be concluded by September 2019.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ In partnership with the City of Skopje, four (4) secondary schools in Skopje (Boro Petrushevski, Zdravko Cvetkovski, Arseni Jovkov and Braka Miladinovci) continued to implement curricular activities in their respective schools. In April, teachers and students from these schools held 98 joint curricular classes in their selected respective subjects (i.e. vocational subjects, sport, English and German language, practical lessons and other curricular activities) that increased the collaboration among students from different languages of instruction. In addition, YEI in coordination with BDE and VET Center defined and structured the mentoring support that advisors will provide to the teachers to help them and provide continued advices for implementation of joint subject classes.

Long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs

- ✓ Activities with students from different languages of instruction within school subject clubs continued in: PS "Kiril and Metodij" v.Stajkovci, Gazi Baba, SS "Sports Academy", City of Skopje, PS "Vasil Glavinov", Veles, SS "Gostivar", Gostivar, SS "Cvetan Dimov", Chair, PS "Goce Delchev", Aerodrom, SS "Boro Petrushevski", City of Skopje and PS "Goce Delchev", Bitola. Field visits were conducted to provide support to schools.
 - In PS "Kiril and Metodij" v.Stajkovci, Gazi Baba, 20 students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction, members of art school subject club, conducted a regular meeting. At the beginning, each student was instructed to draw a drawing. Later, each student received empty drawing paper and was instructed to draw any element and to pass the drawing to the student on his right side, to add a new element on the drawings. In the last phase of this activity, the students merged the two drawings and narrated an imaginary story related to the drawing.
 - 15 students from Albanian and Turkish language of instruction from SS "Cvetan Dimov" located in Chair, members of drama school club, together with their teachers organized theatrical performance entitled "Rainbow". The audience had a chance to enjoy the excellent acting skills of students, who throughout this play depicted every day challenges they are facing as young people. This young "actors" worked jointly for several months and created the "Rainbow".
 - In SS "Sports Academy" from City of Skopje, 36 students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction, members of sports school club, were engaged in sports competition in football.
 - In SS "Gostivar" from Gostivar, 15 students from Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language of instruction members from drama school club implemented a regular meeting, during which they rehearsed the text for the play. This meeting was a great opportunity for these students to work together and to better prepare for the final presentation of the theater play, planed for end of May.
 - 20 students from SS "Boro Petrushevski", City of Skopje members of the traffic school club organized a presentation for the primary school students in "Jashar Bej Shkupi", Municipality of Chair. The students had a chance to learn why is so important to use protective helmets while driving their bicycles.
 - Regular meeting of students' members of chemistry subject club was organized in PS "Goce Delchev" from Bitola. 20 students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction deepened their knowledge on chemical solutions. They learned how to make a difference between acid, base and neutral solutions, now to use chemical indicators and PH scale.

Long-term extracurricular activities in partnership

- ✓ Activities in partnership continued to be implemented in the selected schools with students from different languages of instruction.
 - PS "Todor Janev" from Municipality of Chashka together with its partner school PS "Lirija" v.Gorno Jabolchishte, Chashka organized the first informative meeting with the students, teachers, both school's principals, parents and representatives from the Municipality of Caska. During this meeting detailed information regarding the planned activities were shared. The period of implementation of planned activities was also discussed.
 - SS "Kosho Racin" from Sveti Nikole implemented an activity in partnership with SS "Mosha Pijade" from Tetovo. This was the second meeting with 30 students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction from both schools. In order to raise the environmental awareness, these students together with their teachers, organized an eco-activity and cleaned the school yard in SS "Kocho Racin". Furthermore, the students jointly wrote eco messages in both languages of instruction, Macedonian and Albanian, sending a

- message that the planet earth is changing everyday right before our eyes and we don't have a spare planet.
- Another school that implemented an activity in partnership is SS "Mitko Pendzukliski" from Kratovo. Sixty (60) students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction from both partner schools were engaged in several activities. One group of students calculated the calorific value of the food, while the other group of students created drawings with short messages regarding the healthy life style. Third group of students jointly prepared healthy meals.
 - Activities in partnership were also implemented in PS "Bajram Shabani" v. Kondovo, Saraj. Students from Albanian language of instruction from this school implemented activities with students from PS "Tode Hadzi Tefov" from Kavadarci. One group of students was engaged on sports competition in football, while the other group of students participated on a workshop that enabled them to learn more about the humanitarianism. Divided in ethnically mixed groups they performed a research on world famous humanitarians and presented the gathered information.
 - PS Rametula Ameti from v.Chiflik, Municipality of Zhelino, implemented activities in partnership with PS Dimitar Makedonski from Aerodrom. Divided in ethnically mixed groups, 16 students from Macedonian and Albanian language from both schools had an opportunity to express themselves through art. Jointly, they created paintings on different themes. Another ethnically mixed group of students was engaged in sports and fun activities.

Creative workshops in schools

- ✓ The creative workshops in eight (8) selected secondary schools continued to be organized every week in each of the schools. In April, an increase in the number of the activities is marked, including preparations for their final presentations in their respective communities. Schools are offering and planning various youth initiatives, which will take place in the course of May and June.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

- ✓ The Civic Education Expert Group met on April 3, 2019 to discuss the process of: 1) finalizing the *Document on Civic Competences* and 2) beginning the process of developing a comprehensive civic education concept which would elaborate the different modes of gaining civic competences (curricular, extra-curricular, cross-curricular, etc.). The teams for developing the two documents were selected and started working.
- ✓ The process of developing modules for the grade nine (9) CivEd curriculum started by defining the structure of the trainings and selecting materials for the curriculum topics. Due to the short duration of the upcoming trainings (one day) which does not allow for appropriate elaboration of all curriculum contents, it was decided to prepare a *Guide for teachers* in which most of the contents will be presented through lesson-plans incorporating the teaching and learning methods, as well as some important theoretical aspects. On the basis of this, the working group for preparing the modules met for a two-day workshop on April 16 and 17, to design the training modules and the related working materials.
- ✓ The component team worked on defining the models of implementing the activities for encouraging civic ethos in schools and preparing guidelines for the initial processes. On April 24, 20 regional BDE advisors, which are going to coordinate the activities in 120 initially selected schools, were gathered for a working meeting in Skopje, where the new civic education concept was presented and the plan of activities for 2019 was shared and consulted.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ "Reconstruction of the school gym" in the PS "Edinstvo Baskimi Birlik" in the Municipality of Gostivar started and completing the foreseen works is in progress.
- ✓ A technical acceptance and donation contract for "Reconstruction of the school gym" in PS "Brakja Miladinovci" in the Municipality of Struga and "Adaptation of the open space into a classroom and installation of new pellet stoves in four (4) satellite schools" in PS "Nikola Karev" in the Municipality of Radovis were organized and signed.
- ✓ Selection of 12 new schools for renovation. A meeting with the component working group was held, in order to define the list of the school who will participate in the renovation activities in 2019. Members of the component working group who evaluated the applications and the representative from the Ministry of defence at the Embassy to the USA were present at the meeting. 195 applications were received and evaluated, and a list of 12 schools was defined. 12 schools are located in 12 municipalities which did not have renovation activities, 10 out of 12 schools are primary schools and two (2) are secondary schools, seven (7) schools are urban and five (5) rural, eight (8) schools have Macedonian as a language of instruction, one (1) Macedonian -Turkish, one (1) Albanian, two (2) Macedonian - Albanian. The list of the schools that are included in renovation activities for 2019 was published on the official MCEC website.
- ✓ On April 24, 2019 a workshop for sharing procedures and criteria for determining the needs and priorities for school renovation was held. The workshop was attended by representatives from 12 schools and municipalities involved in the component activities in 2019. The workshop gave deadlines in which school renovation teams need to implement further steps.
- ✓ The documentation for the cost share of the schools and the municipalities in the renovation project was completed for eight (8) schools and it accounts for 34.46% of the total investment.