

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *August 2020*



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC) maintained the collaboration with key education institutions. Following the development of Plan and protocols for reopening of schools for the academic year 2020/2021 by the Bureau for Development of Education, the representatives of project teams within MCEC provided feedback to the draft documents. These documents aim to provide models of instruction and guidelines for reopening the schools in 2020.

Public outreach

- ✓ Three (3) publications, including Civic Education research for secondary schools, e-booklet with good practices and the Concept for Civic Education in primary education were published on [MCEC website](#). The Concept for Civic Education will be published on BDE website, as well.
- ✓ The project is supporting education institution in designing and translating the Concept for distance education in primary and secondary education. Both activities are ongoing.
- ✓ The project's excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in media articles about the project activities in schools as well as in local communities.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information and news about the course of project activities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ The document with findings and recommendations for the schools that implement school subject clubs was finalized and translated in Albanian and Turkish. The document provides an overview of the students' expectations regarding the future activities within the school subject clubs and their experiences and perceptions of interethnic integration activities, according to the findings of the research conducted in May. Once finalized, the document in all three languages was shared with the teachers-implementers of the subject club activities.
- ✓ A summary of the findings related to the students' experiences with joint curricular classes was developed and translated in Albanian and Turkish. The document was shared with the teachers – implementers of joint curricular classes in order for them to analyze the results and accordingly plan the future joint activities. Providing an overview of the good practices and recommendations for improvement, the document should serve as a base for future planning.
- ✓ A brief questionnaire for collecting information from teachers who conduct joint classes was finalized, in order to analyze their needs for more successful implementation of activities in the school year 2020/21. The questionnaire is available in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish) and addresses teachers' challenges, good practices and the need for additional support in order to ensure higher quality of upcoming joint activities.
- ✓ The finalized report about teachers' and students' perceptions on CivEd curricula revisions is being translated in Albanian. The report consists of the results represented in the following categories: the experience of teachers and grade eight (8) and nine (9) students with the curriculum contents; the potential for achieving the required competences; the variety of teaching and learning methods; conceptualization, planning and implementation of the CivEd Open Days. Once available in both languages, the report will be shared with the relevant stakeholders.



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

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

- ✓ In coordination with the project team, the MoES CIIE analysed data gathered from their Performance Measurement Plan (PMP) questionnaire for the school year 2018/2019 and their feedback was incorporated into a document. The document contains relevant recommendations and suggestions in line with advancement of the IIE process, which will be finalized additionally with inputs from all members of the MoES CIIE in the forthcoming period. In addition to this, the project team together with two (2) members of the MoES CIIE was actively engaged in the coordination process related to the development of the ICE standards in the education system, which process is led and implemented in partnership the MCEC's Pestalozzi Project.

Municipal interethnic integration policies

- ✓ The project team in coordination with the mentors continuously provided mentorship to designated municipal officials in developing process of the municipal strategies for IIE and youth engagement. In some of the municipalities delays occurred, due to COVID-19. In municipality of Ohrid, the working

group/commission will resume work beginning of September, once all members return to duty following the period of isolation. In municipality of Kocani, a new municipal education official was appointed and thus, the process will continue as of September. Resen municipality organized five online coordination meetings, drafted the document and conveyed it to municipal council representatives for endorsement. The project included one more municipality in this process (municipality of Vinica), thus a working group was established and is working on drafting the strategy. Members of the working group together with the municipal education official in municipality of Saraj anticipate the finalization of the document by the end of September as well. The same situation applies to the remaining municipalities of Aerodrom, Tearce, Centar, Bosilovo, Cair, Gorce Petrov, Berovo and Staro Nagoricane, which were actively engaged in drafting the document and action plans. Completion of the process is expected in the upcoming period.

Engaging youth to lead by example

- ✓ In coordination with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) the project team completed the process in two (2) selected municipalities (Struga and Veles) and implemented activities with students that will lead to the final step of organizing Youth Actions. Late July and in August, the project team together with YEF team started this process in two (2) new municipalities: Gevgelija and Prilep. The process included coordination with municipalities (municipal education officials), selection of schools, coordination with directors and teachers, and similar. On August 11, a first online workshop with students from Gevgelija was held, following the dissemination of an online questionnaire to students in defining priorities that youth would like to convert to various actions in their communities. In coordination with the school management representatives and teachers from selected schools, the same process was initiated and coordinated with students from three (3) schools from Prilep. The first online workshop was held on August 31, 2020. After the workshop, the project team will disseminate the questionnaire to students, which will provide opportunities for youth to identify and define the youth priorities in this municipality.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ In coordination with City of Skopje, the project team discussed activities that may be feasible and could be implemented in the new school year 2020/2021. In that regard, City of Skopje will organize a coordination meeting with all directors and SIT coordinators from six (6) secondary schools to discuss conditions and plans of schools in implementation of joint curricular classes. Schools will prepare their annual plans and seek feasible conditions for continuation of implementation of joint curricular classes. In addition to this, the project team in partnership with City of Skopje will provide additional capacity building of teachers in improving their skills and knowledge on the use of digital tools, if the start of the school year 2020/2021 still requires online teaching and work from home. This activity is anticipated to be held at the beginning of September 2020.

Long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs

- ✓ The project team actively discussed and coordinated the process of exploring possibilities for increasing the implementation of extracurricular classes in subject clubs, including implementation of these activities among partnering schools.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Encouraging civic ethos in schools

- ✓ After the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) advisors provided suggestions for the civic ethos workshops at the end of July, the project team revised the workshops materials for online provision. The materials were shared with the BDE advisors who will conduct the training for Phase 1 schools for a final review. The project team also organized an online meeting with the BDE advisors where the timing and structure of the online workshops with Phase 1 schools were discussed. The advisors' feedback was implemented and the materials were finalized. Agreement for preparatory training of trainers meeting was made and a provisional plan with next steps, depending on the official start of the 2020/2021 school year and the official online platforms which will be approved by the MoES.

In-class observations of CivEd lessons

- ✓ The project team organized an online meeting with the BDE advisors responsible for in-class observations of CivEd lessons in the upcoming school year. During the meeting, three (3) options for in-class observations were agreed: real-time observation of an online lesson, observation of a recorded lesson and recording video-lessons for the Edulno Platform. All three are expected to take place during the months of October-December 2020.

Working Group for secondary school CivEd

- ✓ The first two modules (25 lesson plans in total) of the Teacher Manual for CivEd in vocational secondary school were finalized, approved by the BDE, proofread in Macedonian language and translated into Albanian language. The project team also reviewed the first draft of the graphic design for the two modules, which will be published at the beginning of September, in time for the new school year. The team is in the process of finalizing Modules 3-5, which will be sent for final approval by the BDE in September. During the process of finalizing contents, the project team collaborated with different organizations and individuals with expertise in specific issues (such as Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje, Macedonian Institute for Media and Health Education and Research Association - H.E.R.A.). In addition, a plan for developing the teacher training modules was outlined and shared with the members of the working group, who are expected to be

working on the modules throughout September.

Booklet with good practices of student initiatives

- ✓ Both versions of the document (in [Macedonian](#) and [Albanian](#) language) were finalized and the booklet was published on the MCEC website, as well as shared with the relevant stakeholders. The booklet will serve as a guideline for schools on the process of conducting effective student initiatives.

Engaging International Consultants for Civic Ethos

- ✓ In June 2020, international consultants from Finland were selected to develop a school civic ethos assessment methodology, as well as to conduct comprehensive training on school civic ethos with BDE advisors and school practitioners. Given the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the action plan was adjusted so that the training of counselors and practitioners, instead of December 2020, would take place during 2021.

Civic Education Concept

- ✓ Three (3) versions of the document (in [Macedonian](#), [Albanian](#) and [English](#)) were finalized and published on the MCEC website. Civic Education Concept was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science and relies on two main principles (1) engaging students to be active participants in the school and community life as a prerequisite for future meaningful democratic participation, and (2) implementing a whole-school approach to acquiring civic competences.

Research on CivEd in secondary schools

- ✓ The research was focused on assessing the experiences of students and teachers with the old CivEd curriculum and the revised modular curriculum which was prepared during 2019. 733 secondary school students and 106 CivEd teachers provided their opinions on topics such as CivEd curriculums, teaching methods and materials, participation in community activities and CivED training. Two (2) versions of the document (in [Macedonian](#) and [Albanian](#) language) were finalized and the document was published on the MCEC website, as well as shared with the relevant stakeholders.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ The project team organized field visit in three (3) schools: SS Gjorce Petrov in Municipality of Kavadarci, PS Johan Hajnrih Pestaloci in Municipality of Centar and PS Mirce Acev in Municipality of Gjorce Petrov. The priority projects for renovation of the schools from the technical aspect were discussed in details with representatives of School Renovation Teams, as well as specification of the materials and bill of quantity.
- ✓ Engineering reports for renovation of five (5) schools: PS Sv.Kiril I Metodij in Municipality of Bosilovo, PS Murat Labunishta in Municipality of Struga, SS Gjorce Petrov in Municipality of Kavadarci, PS Johan Hajnrih Pestaloci in Municipality of Centar and PS Mirce Acev in Municipality of Gjorce Petrov were prepared.
- ✓ Memorandums of Understanding for renovation of the six (6) schools from the third project year: PS Nikola Vapcarov - Municipality of Strumica, PS Sv.Kiril and Metodij - Municipality of Kocani, PS Josip Broz Tito - Municipality of Valandovo, Elpida Karamandi – Bitola Municipality, PS Sv.Kiril I Metodij - Municipality of Bosilovo and PS Murat Labunishta – Municipality of Struga were signed by the MCEC Executive Director, Project Chief of Party, Mayor of Municipality and the school director. The Memorandum of Understanding defines the responsibilities of Youth Ethnic Integration Project, municipality and school in terms of successful implementation of the school renovation projects.
- ✓ Tender documentations for six (6) school renovation projects: installation of new floors in PS “Nikola Vapcarov” from Strumica, installation of new floors in PS “Sv.Kiril I Metodij” from Kocani Municipality, installation of new heating system in satellite school in village Calakli in PS “Josip Broz Tito” from Valandovo, installation of new windows in PS Elpida Karamandi from Bitola, reconstruction of school building in satellite school in v.Radovo in PS Sv.Kiril I Metodij from Bosilovo and Installation of new floors in PS Murat Labunishta in v.Labunishta in Municipality of Struga were prepared.
- ✓ On August 10, 2020 public call for selection of construction companies for renovation of three (3) schools: PS Nikola Vapcarov – Strumica Municipality, PS Sv.Kiril and Metodij – Kocani Municipality, and PS Josip Broz Tito - Municipality of Valandovo were announced in two (2) daily newspapers, Nova Makedonija and Koha (in Macedonian and in Albanian language) and on the MCEC website. On August 24, 2020 tenders opening and evaluation of construction companies for renovation of three schools were organized.
- ✓ On August 21, 2020 public call for selection of construction companies for renovation of three (3) schools, i.e. Elpida Karamandi – Municipality Bitola, PS, Murat Labunishta – Municipality of Struga and PS Sv.Kiril I Metodij - Municipality of Bosilovo were announced in two daily newspapers, Nova Makedonija and Koha (in Macedonian and in Albanian language) and on the [MCEC website](#).