

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - August 2019



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ On August 20, 2019 Mr. Mark Kamiya, E&E Bureau Environmental officer, jointly with the project representatives visited PS "Aco Shopov" from Butel and SS "Jane Sandanski" from Strumica, renovated in first project year, regarding climate risk assessment.
- ✓ Over 100 ethnically diverse young people learned about freedom of expression, debate and youth engagement during the Youth Academy organized on August 12 to 16, 2019 in cooperation with the City of Skopje and the European Union. The academy started with a joint celebration of the International Youth Day through youth games designed to promote cultural understanding and youth participation.

Public outreach

- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ The project's excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in around 20 media articles about the project activities related to the Youth Academy and the upcoming renovation activities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ A report from monitoring visits to school activities, i.e. school subject clubs and partnership activities conducted by advisors from the Bureau for Development of Education was finalized and shared with the project team. Furthermore, separate reports compiled from annual reports received from school upon implementation of activities in school subject clubs and school partnership were also compiled and shared with the project team. Thus, the findings from these reports will be used to raise the quality of implementation of activities in schools during the upcoming cycle.
- ✓ In preparation for the upcoming reflection meeting with the project team and the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education, a presentation outlining the findings from the reports from implementation of joint curricular classes, school subject clubs and school partnership activities was developed. The findings will assist the education institutions in upgrading existing practices and strategies to raise the quality of implementation of school activities.



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

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

- ✓ The Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) in partnership with YEI and OSCE undertook the necessary preparations for the upcoming working meeting due the first week of September 2019. The event will gather members of MoES CIIE to jointly review and discuss the progress of interethnic integration in education in schools and the challenges across the process. Furthermore, discuss the results from surveys and questionnaires from schools, teachers and students from the implementation of interethnic integration in education activities, engagement and accountability of municipalities, etc. In addition, the members will actively work on drafting and developing activities for the new Work Plan for the 2019/2020.

Project support to the State Education Inspectorate

- ✓ The Manual for Integral Evaluation was drafted by the State Education Inspectorate working group in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education. A three day working meeting was held to compile the draft document. As a next step, the working group will work on finalizing the Manual which assesses the quality of interethnic integration activities in schools, including the increase of youth civic engagement in their communities by the appointed State Education Inspectors. This Manual will be further discussed and shared with all State Education Inspectors at the regional meetings planned in September and October 2019. Furthermore, the endorsement and official use of the Manual for Integral Evaluation is expected in November/December 2019.

Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ YEI team in partnership with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) prepared a plan and framework for implementation of youth actions carried out in partnership with municipalities. Therefore, YEI organized three visits and held meetings with municipal officials and representatives from schools in the City of Skopje, Gostivar, and Strumica. Specifics related to implementation and final timeframe of activities are being developed and will be finalized in coordination with schools and municipalities in September 2019.

Municipal Ethnic Integration Policies

- ✓ Engaged mentors continued to support municipalities in their efforts to bring municipal strategies to the final stage of their development. The support to education municipal officials is provided in partnership between YEI team and the Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education. Six (6) mentoring visits were organized in August. In addition, the Mayor and the Council of Municipality of Vrapciste endorsed the Strategy within this period, whereas the remaining municipalities are in the process of finalization and endorsement of municipal strategies, expected to be concluded by end of September 2019.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ YEI team organized a coordination meeting with City of Skopje to outline the forthcoming activities and discuss the plans and the support that will continue to be provided to secondary schools in Skopje for implementation of joint curricular classes. As a result, the representatives from City of Skopje organized twelve (12) visits to six (6) secondary schools in August. The aim was to discuss and define the subjects that schools will include in their annual plans for joint classes, the teams of teachers that will be included in the process and to discuss activities that City of Skopje in partnership with YEI will organize to support further development of teachers' skills and know-how to carry out such a process. Schools will prepare the final plans and select subjects that will be included in their Annual Work Programs due to be delivered and endorsed by the City of Skopje end of

August, early September 2019.

Extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ YEI team and the partner organization Youth Educational Forum (YEF) organized a coordination meeting and developed a plan to support schools in implementation of activities in schools up to December 2019. These schools will continue to implement extracurricular long-term student activities that promote interethnic integration and youth engagement in the scope of their subject clubs and in partnership.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Educational Materials for Civic Education.

- ✓ The process of revising the first three topics of the Teachers Manual for grade nine (9) Civic Education was completed and all contents were finalized. The Manual is being translated into local languages of instruction and is undergoing a graphic design. This document will help teachers in building good civic environment and focusing on interactive teaching and learning techniques to stimulate critical thinking, creative problem solving, metacognition and etc. Furthermore, the Manual will provide tools for teachers to assist students in the process of engaging in school initiatives and active citizenship activities in their school and community.
- ✓ The first version of the animated video for civic education, on the topic – conducting effective student initiatives, is finalized. This video will inform students about different approaches of volunteerism and service-learning and ways of becoming active participants.
- ✓ The content and structure of the poster for implementation of successful initiatives was finalized and is submitted for a graphic design and translation into the local languages of instruction. This interactive poster will present the methodology for implementation and steps for student initiative and will guide teachers and students through the process of implementing successful initiatives. It will be part of the package of materials developed for 120 selected schools that will work on encouraging Civic Ethos in schools.
- ✓ The contents of the effective teachers' planner were finalized and the document is in the final phase of graphic design and translation. This user-friendly planner will support Civic Education subject teachers in implementing democratic teaching and learning practices and supporting the realization of effective teaching. The planner will also be part of the package of materials developed for 120 selected schools that will work on encouraging Civic Ethos in schools.

Policy documents

- ✓ The first versions of the Civic Education Concept chapters were received, combined into one document and the first draft is being revised by the project team. Following, these chapters will be sent to the members of the Civic Education Working Group. The document will elaborate the different forms of gaining civic competences (curricular, extracurricular, cross-curricular, etc.) and will serve as a basis for all future interventions in the area of civic education reform.
- ✓ The development of a baseline research report on implementation of Civic Education in secondary schools is ongoing. The first draft of the report on the implementation of Civic Education in secondary schools was finalized and is currently under a review by the BDE. The report provides recommendations on the successful implementation of civic education contents and developing civic behaviors through the secondary school curriculum.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ Memorandums of Understanding for renovation of PS "Goce Delcev" from Konce, PS "Kole Nedelkovski" from Centar and PS "Nikola Vapcarov" from Cair were signed by school directors, Mayors of Municipalities, the MCEC Executive Director and Project Chief of Party.
- ✓ Furthermore, Request for Offers for reconstruction of toilets in PS "Blaze Koneski" from Veles, PS "Vanco Nikoleski" from Ohrid, PS "Goce Delcev" from Konce and PS "Avram Pisevski" from Karposh, reconstruction of the school yard fence in SS "Kuzman Josifovski Pitu" from Kichevo, reconstruction of hallways and stairs in PS "Kole Nedelkovski" from Centar, installation of new doors in classrooms and renovation of walls in PS "Nikola Vapcarov" from Chair and installation of new doors in classrooms and refurbishment of walls in PS "Brakja Ramiz and Hamid" from Shuto Orizari were announced on two daily newspapers (Nova Makedonija and Koha) and on the MCEC website.
- ✓ In addition, opening of tenders for: installation of a new heating system for the PS "Sabedin Bajrami" from Bogovinje and SS "Brakja Miladinovci" from City of Skopje, installation of new aluminum entrance doors and portals in the hallways in PS "Goce Delcev" from Negotino, reconstruction of toilets in SS "Josif Josifovski" from Gevgelija, PS "Blaze Koneski" from Veles, PS "Vanco Nikoleski" from Ohrid, in PS "Goce Delcev" from Konce, and PS "Avram Pisevski" from Karposh, reconstruction of the school yard fence in PS "Kuzman Josifovski Pitu" from Kichevo, reconstruction of hallways and stairs in PS "Kole Nedelkovski" from Centar, installation of new doors in classrooms and renovation of walls in PS "Nikola Vapcarov" from Chair and installation of new doors in classrooms and refurbishment of walls in PS "Brakja Ramiz and Hamid" from Shuto Orizari was organized by the project team.
- ✓ Individual interviews with representatives from the best ranked companies for renovation projects in PS "Sabedin Bajrami" from Bogovinje, SS "Brakja Miladinovci" from City of Skopje, PS "Goce Delcev" from Negotino and SS "Josif Josifovski" from Gevgelija, PS "Vanco Nikolovski" from Ohrid, PS "Blaze Koneski" from Veles, PS "Avram Pisevski" from Karposh, PS "Goce Delcev" from Konce, PS "Kole Nedelkovski" from Centar and PS "Nikola Vapcarov" from Cair, PS "Brakja Ramiz Hamid" from Shuto Orizari were conducted by the project team. The project team prepared the necessary documentation for approval of selected companies for renovation projects in the previously mentioned schools and the prepared documentation was sent for approval to the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo.
- ✓ Upon approval, the list of selected construction companies was published on the MCEC website.
- ✓ Furthermore, the procedure for selection of supervising companies for renovation projects in all twelve (12) schools selected for renovation in the second project year was conducted by the project team.
- ✓ Preconstruction meetings with representatives of selected construction companies, supervising companies and representatives of school renovation teams in PS "Sabedin Bajrami" from Bogovinje, SS "Josif Josifovski" from Gevgelija, PS "Goce Delcev" from Negotino and SS "Brakja Miladinovci" from City of Skopje were conducted by the project team. During these meetings, representatives of selected construction companies and supervising companies were familiarized with the scope of work, the project documentation and other specifics regarding the renovation projects.
- ✓ Tools and equipment for maintenance of school building procured by YEI were delivered to twelve (12) schools renovated in the first project year.