

## USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *November 2019*



### **Interconnected activities**

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#### Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Education institutions commenced the process of developing the by-laws stipulated in the Law for teachers and student support staff in primary and secondary schools, to support the functioning of the system for professional development and career advancement of education staff. This is an important process that assures quality in education that will be supported by UNICEF in partnership with Youth Ethnic Integration Project.

#### Public outreach

- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ Promotional videos for the Open Days for Civic Education in the primary schools “[Kiril i Metodij](#)” in Kocani, “[Panajot Ginovski](#)” in Butel and “[Vlado Tasevski](#)” in Skopje were developed and shared through online outreach channels.
- ✓ A project representative was interviewed as part of a [media article on TV Alsat](#) related to the joint curricular classes with students who study in different languages of instruction. The article will be aired on the “360 stepeni” program in the upcoming period.
- ✓ The project’s excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in around 20 media articles about the project activities in schools as well as in local communities.



### **Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities**

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

- ✓ In partnership with YEI project and OSCE, Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) organized two (2) orientation meetings with all primary and secondary schools directors. These meetings aimed to inform schools about the published MoES call for grant program that supports IIE activities at the school level. Members of the MoES CIIE provided guidance for implementation of proposed interethnic integration in education activities, shared the importance of engaging students in the planning of activities and improve the quality of activities. In addition, administrative and financial requirements and conditions of the public call were discussed and clarified.

#### Project support to State Education Inspectorate

- ✓ The State Education Inspectorate (SEI) working group pre-finalized and introduced changes in the Manual for Integral Evaluation of Schools and the School Performance Quality Indicators (SPQI) in all 7 (seven) areas: 1) Curricula and teaching programs; 2) Student’s achievements; 3) Teaching and learning; 4) Student’s support; 5) School climate; 6) Resources and 7) School management.
- ✓ These changes were presented to all state education inspectors in five (5) regional meetings that took place in following cities: Bitola, Ohrid, Skopje, Tetovo and Strumica in the period November 4-14, 2019. These regional meetings were organized in partnership with MoES CIIE, State Education Inspectorate, YEI project and OSCE to gather feedback and finalize the documents.
- ✓ This activity is of particular importance in the process of ensuring quality in the implementation of interethnic integration and civic activities in our education system. SEI monitors and evaluates the quality of implementation of education process in primary and secondary schools, as well as the application of laws and other regulations. The final document will be completed in December 2019, and at the beginning of year 2020, SEI will organize a public event to present the changes in the Manual for Integral Evaluation.

#### Municipal ethnic integration policies

- ✓ Mentoring visits and support continued to be provided to municipalities that haven’t yet completed the process of endorsement of Municipal Strategies and Policies. In this period, municipality of Prilep endorsed the strategy at their Council meeting. The remaining municipalities of Gostivar, Tetovo, Kavadarci and Sv. Nikole are in the final phase of concluding the process. The support to education municipal officials is provided in partnership with the MoES CIIE..

### Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ In partnership with City of Skopje, the project team jointly with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) continued the process of organizing and implementation of Youth Actions. The students from 4 (four) secondary schools SS “Brakja Miladinovci”, SS “Arseni Jovkov”, SS “Zdravko Cvetkovski” and SS “Boro Petrushevski” that implement joint curricular classes on the initiative of City of Skopje, gathered together in different activities. They discussed and identified problems as young individuals, discussed youth involvement, participated in argumentative speaking and were introduced to tools for raising funds for local youth initiatives.
  - The first Youth Action took place in [SS “Arseni Jovkov”](#) and gathered over 200 students from four (4) schools from Skopje. They simultaneously on multiple interesting activities. Some of them drew graffiti with motivational messages on the wall of the school, while others transfigured the sports ground – marked it with lines and placed goals with nets. The young people also placed benches for recreational purposes during the breaks, as well as garbage bins. In order to raise the environmental protection awareness, they did some landscaping at the schoolyard by planting trees and other plants. This action contributed for students from various ethnicities to become even closer to each other and to further enhance their mutual cooperation. The students succeeded in implementing their ideas, while emphasizing the importance of youth activism.
  - The next Youth Action took place and was organized in SS [“Zdravko Cvetkovski”](#), with participation of more than 120 students from four secondary schools from City of Skopje. Their youth engagement included various and several activities: by changing the interior and painting the walls they transformed a classroom into a Youth Center, where they can learn and socialize together; and in the school yard organized an eco-action to raise awareness for clean environment.
  - In partnership with City of Skopje, in December two more Youth Actions will be implemented that will take place in secondary schools Braka Miladinovci and Boro Petrusevski.
- ✓ YEI team together with Youth Educational Form and in partnership with municipality of Butel, engaged students from the primary schools “Aco Sopov”, “Liman Kaba” and “Panajot Ginovski” to discuss youth involvement and develop initiatives for local Youth Actions. Therefore, the yard of the kindergarten “11 Oktomvri” from Butel got a new appearance thanks to more than [150 students who jointly organized a voluntary action in the kindergarten](#). During the youth action, the young people took part in several activities for landscaping the kindergarten yard. They painted the fence in different colors and gave the concrete structures an interesting appearance. They planted pine trees in order to raise the awareness of the youngest children about the environmental protection.

### Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ In partnership with City of Skopje, the Vocational Education Training Center (VET Center) and Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) the project continued to provide mentoring support to selected secondary schools that implement joint curricular classes. A specific emphasis is also put on the new teachers and schools who joined this process as of this school year 2019/2020. In addition, YEI team in partnership with OSCE engaged in providing support to City of Skopje for the ceremonial event which will award teachers and collaborators who actively engage and support joint curricular classes. The event will take place on December 10, 2019 and an immense participation of directors, teachers, students and educational representatives is anticipated; as well as high representatives of USAID, OSCE, City of Skopje and MCEC.

### Long-term extracurricular activities in schools subject clubs

- ✓ During this month, the schools continue to implement activities with students from different language of instruction within school subject clubs. Field visits were conducted to provide support to schools.
  - In PS “Bratstvo Edinstvo”, Municipality of Ohrid students from Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language of instruction, members of art school club, conducted regular meetings, during which they worked jointly to improve the aesthetic design of the classrooms. With the support of their teachers, they made bulletin boards, which will be used for exhibition of the products from the implemented activities.
  - Regular meetings of students’ members of chemistry school club were also organized in PS “Goce Delchev” from Bitola. Students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction deepened their knowledge on chemical solutions and how to make a difference between acid, base and neutral solutions. In addition, they learned how to separate components from a mixture, how to present the results in tables, diagrams and graphs, learned what are the differences between simple substances, compounds and mixtures, etc.
  - In SS “Cvetan Dimov”, Municipality of Cair, students from Albanian and Turkish language of instruction, implemented activities within drama school club, which enabled them to learn and develop drama skills in order to share their interests and needs through theatre performance.

### Long-term extracurricular activities in partnership

- ✓ Activities in partnership continued to be implemented in the selected schools with students from different language of instruction.

- Students from primary school „Rametula Ameti” Municipality of Zhelino, implemented an activity in partnership with students from “Dimitar Makedonski” Municipality of Aerodrom. They participated in creative workshop and jointly marked the Albanian Alphabet Day.



## Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

### Encouraging Civic Ethos

- ✓ 71 Open CivEd days were organized during November, and were visited and monitored by BDE advisors, as well as YEI team. The activities range from: initiatives for improving the space in the school and around the school, environmental activities for cleaning up the school space and/or awareness raising on environmental issues, improving the traffic safety around the school, and workshops on different topics of interest for students: bullying, use of cell phones in school, wearing school uniforms; discussions with members of local governments aimed at presenting initiatives and advocacy for certain ideas, etc. In the vast number of schools there is engagement on behalf of the whole school and inclusion of the local community. The ideas for activities primarily come from the students, although the guidance and intervention, with regards to their implementation, on behalf of teachers and school management staff is visible.

### Capacity building of BDE advisors on School Civic Ethos

- ✓ The workshop on aspects of school civic ethos for BDE advisors was postponed for December 2-3, 2019. Hence, during the last week of November, final preparations for the workshops were made. Namely, presentations and worksheets were finalized, translated and printed.

### Baseline Report on the implementation of Civic Education in Secondary Schools

- ✓ Based on the main findings and recommendations from the analyses: Baseline assessment of the CivEd in secondary schools and Experiences with the CivEd subject in Grade 8, two policy briefs were prepared. They summarize the main findings of the analyses and the main recommendations. The documents were submitted for translation and design and are planned to be ready end of December, when they will be presented to stakeholders. The documents will announce further reforms in CivEd which will take place during the upcoming period.

### CivEd teaching and learning resources

- ✓ Topic 4 and topic 6 from the Teachers Manual for Grade 9 CivEd were completed and approved by BDE. The texts are submitted for translation in all local languages of instruction and will be sent for graphic design, after which they will be posted on BDEs web page.

### Supporting materials for 120 schools conducting activities for encouraging civic ethos

- ✓ The process of selection of technical materials and developing of supporting materials for CivEd teachers is ongoing. Namely, the posters and planers that will be distributed to teachers are printed, and the distribution to schools will be conducted in the upcoming period.



## Incentives to schools - Renovations

### School renovations

- ✓ Technical acceptance of the completed activities for renovations in SS “Josif Josifovski” from Municipality of Gevgelija; PS “Vancho Nikoleski” v.Leskoev, Municipality of Ohrid; PS “Goce Delchev” from Municipality of Konche; PS “Brakja Ramiz-Hamid” from Municipality of Shuto Orizari and PS “Blaze Konevski” from Municipality of Veles was organized by the project team.
- ✓ On November 05-06, 2019 project team representatives attended the Event for Industry: Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The event took place in Sofia, Bulgaria and covered the following topics: 1) USACE & Europe District Overview; 2) Doing Business with the US: Registrations and systems; 3) Doing Business with the US: Source Selection and Understanding the Solicitation; 4) U.S. Procurement Law & Overseas Contracting and 5) USACE Program.
- ✓ Furthermore, documentation for cost-share contribution of schools and municipalities in the renovation process (financial or in-kind) was completed/finalized for PS “Edinstvo-Bashkimi-Birlik”, Municipality of Gostivar selected for renovation in 2018 and for the following school selected for renovation in 2019: SS “Josif Josifovski”, Municipality of Gevgelija, PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Konche and PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Negotivno”.