

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



### Interconnected activities

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#### Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Members of Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC) participated at the international conference “Towards the concept of one society and interculturalism” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 3, 2019. During the conference, the *National strategy for development of the concept for a common (one) society and interculturalism* was present before the public.
- ✓ MCEC took part in the Civil Society Policy Forum organized by World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington DC on October 13-19, 2019. Thus, MCEC Executive Director had an opportunity to learn about and participate in the sessions that discussed the innovative practices in democracy and governance programming; barriers to change and opportunities for impact; digitalization, automation, and unemployment as the New Work Order and world’s youth capabilities in developing solutions to navigate this space; non-discrimination protections on the grounds of sexual orientation, sex characteristics, and gender identity; etc.
- ✓ Project representatives participated on a promotional event for the new TV Show “New Heroes” which aims at promoting values for interethnic integration, as part of the USAID Advancing Social Cohesion Project, implemented by Search for Common Ground.

#### Public outreach

- ✓ On October 24, 2019 the USAID North Macedonia Country Representative, [Erik Janowsky and representatives from the United States European Command jointly visited the primary schools](#) “Brakja Ramiz Hamid” in Suto Orizari and “Kiril i Metodij” in the village of Stajkovci, Gazi Baba.
  - In the PS “Brakja Ramiz Hamid”, they had an opportunity to engage in discussion with the Mayor of the Municipality of Suto Orizari and the school management, highlighting the importance of strengthening the partnership among all relevant stakeholders in the process of enhancing ethnic cohesion and democratic values among youth. In addition, they went on a walkthrough to see the ongoing renovation activities that are conducted under Component 3, in partnership with the schools, the Municipality of Suto Orizari and the private sector, as well as the school activities for interethnic integration.
  - In the PS “Kiril i Metodij”, they engaged in discussion with the Mayor of the Municipality of Gazi Baba and the school management, regarding the youth initiatives that took place in the school in the past period, as a result of the new concept for Civic Education. Furthermore, they went on a tour of the school and interacted with students and teachers. The representatives met with students engaged in a youth action for beautifying the school yard, organized with financial support from the Municipality of Gazi Baba. Additionally, they interacted with students during their cooking workshop “Young Entrepreneurs at School”, organized in collaboration with the Erasmus+ programme, which aimed at raising funds for socially disadvantaged families and saw the past renovation activities funded by EUCOM during the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project.
- ✓ In order to inform the public about the Civic Education reforms that encourage youth activism at school and community level, a [TV appearance](#) was organized on TV Telma for a project representative together with a representative from the Strengthening Multi-ethnic Cooperation in Municipalities project, funded by the Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation. During the interview, the animated educational video for civic participation related to Component 2 activities was broadcast. Project representatives also had an opportunity to emphasize the importance of partnering with municipalities and other institutions in order to ensure self-reliance of project activities.
- ✓ The project’s excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in around 40 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, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ The educational animated [video](#) related to the new Civic Education curricula for grade 8 was finalized in Albanian, Turkish and Serbian language. The video will serve to inform both teachers and students on different approaches of volunteerism, service-learning and ways of becoming active participants on school or local level.



### Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

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

- ✓ In partnership with YEI project and OSCE, Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) worked on preparations for publishing the annual Call for School Applications for Grants for joint student activities. Also, members of the MoES CIIE made the preparations

for the upcoming orientation meetings with all primary and secondary schools directors. These meetings aim to inform schools about the published MoES call for IIE activities and provide guidance for implementation of proposed interethnic integration in education activities, develop discussions about the quality of activities, and clarify administrative and financial requirements and conditions. The first orientation meeting took place on October 31, 2019 in Skopje, gathering directors from schools from North Macedonia. One (1) more orientation meeting with the second group of directors from schools will take place on November 01, 2019 at the same location.

#### Project support to State Education Inspectorate

- ✓ The State Education Inspectorate (SEI) working group conducted a two-day working meeting, to finalize the Manual for Integral Evaluation of schools. Over the past period, this working group 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.
- ✓ Taking into consideration that through the integral evaluation, 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, 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. Furthermore, the members of this working group commenced with the preparations for the upcoming regional meetings with the State Education Inspectors, which will be organized in following cities: Bitola, Ohrid, Skopje, Tetovo and Strumica in the period November 4-14, 2019. During these meetings, the revised and updated instruments of the "Manual for Integral Evaluation of Schools" and School Performance Quality Indicators (SPQI) will be presented to all State Education Inspectors.

#### Municipal ethnic integration policies

- ✓ Municipalities included in developing municipal strategies continued to work and were continuously supported by their respective designated mentors. In October, they continued to organize mentoring visits with municipal officials to bring municipal strategies to the final stage of their development. Mentoring visits and support was provided to municipality of Gostivar, Tetovo and Kavadarci. City of Skopje endorsed the Municipal Strategy at their Council meeting held in October. The support to education municipal officials is provided in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education.

#### Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ Initiated and with the support of City of Skopje, students from the secondary schools selected to implement joint curricular classes, i.e. "Brakja Miladinovci", "Arseni Jovkov", "Zdravko Cvetkovski" and "Boro Petrushevski" organized youth action. The event took place at the newly build [pump track polygon](#), located near the Olympic swimming pool "Centar", where more than 40 students from different ethnic background got together to ride bicycles. Through this event the students wanted to raise the awareness for environmental protection, to encourage motorists to give up their cars for a day and to highlight to citizens the numerous benefits of going car-free– including reduced air pollution. The event was attended by the Mayor of City of Skopje who expressed the municipality's commitment to provide opportunities for youth to come together and engage in the community.
- ✓ In partnership with Youth Educational Forum (YEF), the project team continued the process of organizing and implementation of youth actions. The students from 4 (four) secondary schools selected to implement joint curricular classes on the initiative of City of Skopje are working to organize additional youth actions in their schools and communities. The process commenced by organizing a [workshop](#) that was attended by 40 students from the following schools: SS "Brakja Miladinovci", SS "Arseni Jovkov", SS "Zdravko Cvetkovski" and SS "Boro Petrushevski". The students had an opportunity to meet each other, to discuss and identify problems as young individuals, discuss youth involvement, argumentative speaking and tools for raising funds for local youth initiatives. Following this, the project team and YEF team organized a joint meeting with directors from all four (4) secondary schools and representatives of City of Skopje to discuss and check if the priorities identified by youth during the workshop are feasible.
- ✓ Youth actions will be organized in Municipality of Butel as well. As a first step in this process, a workshop with selected schools from Municipality of Butel was organized on October 4, 2019. The workshop was attended by 30 students from the following schools: PS "Aco Sopov", PS "Liman Kaba" and PS "Panajot Ginovski". Led by YEF team, the students had an opportunity to exchange ideas, map issues and discuss innovative solutions for the challenges they face in their local communities. As a next step, these students will participate on a joint training sessions during which they will learn how to approach and partner with local institutions and the private sector to address the identified issues. The process continues and a meeting with the responsible municipal representatives to present the ideas for addressing the identified issues will be organized. All of this will result in the organization of a youth action to resolve the identified issue. The action will serve as positive example and an encouragement for other students and the wider community to take part in social activism and intercultural cooperation.
- ✓ On October 31, 2019, municipality of Gostivar in partnership with project team, gathered more than 130 students from schools from Gostivar and organized a youth action. Jointly the students decorated and dyed the newly designed city landmark, i.e. letters with the name Gostivar in their quay. The students also cleaned up the city park and the quay.

### Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ In partnership with City of Skopje, the project continued to provide support to selected secondary schools that implement joint curricular classes. Selected schools prepared and developed the plans and selected subjects and teachers that will continue this process. Given that some of the teachers are new to this process, YEI team in partnership with City of Skopje commenced with the preparation for the upcoming mini-training session and the introductory meeting for all teachers that will implement joint curricular classes in the school year 2019/2020. This workshop took place on October 22, 2019. It gathered new 35 teachers that are involved this year in the process. The workshop aimed at introducing the criteria for this process to the newly involved teachers, advance their skills and know-how related to interethnic integration in education process, and introduce the mentoring and supporting process provided by VET Center and BDE advisors. Prior to this, six (6) mentoring visits were organized by VET Center advisors to introduce the newly developed instruments for joint classes in these schools.

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

- ✓ The schools continue to implement activities with students from different languages of instruction within school subject clubs. Additionally, field visits were conducted to provide support.
  - 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 jointly and with help of the former students from this school, painted and beautified the school playground with amusing games. This activity brought students together, encouraging teamwork and social interaction. All students will benefit from this activity. Now they will have a place for mutual socialization and entertainment, both, during the holidays and during the physical education classes.
  - In PS "Goce Delchev" from Bitola, students from chemistry subject club implemented several activities, which enabled them to expend their knowledge on the periodic table elements, chemical indicators and pH scale. The students that were members of this school subject club last academic year, worked jointly with the new group of students, helping them to create models of atoms, using various materials such as: play-dough, tennis balls, wires.
  - In SS "Boro Petrushevski", City of Skopje, students from traffic school club", organized an event to present the booklet containing information on the challenges students with hearing impairment face in traffic. The present guests had an opportunity to hear more about how these students feel when they are involved in traffic and what do they think about the traffic safety in our country. This booklet was a result of the mutual cooperation between students from SS "Boro Petrushevski", City of Skopje and students from State Center for Education and Rehabilitation "Partenija Zografski" located in Municipality of Gazi Baba.

### Long-term extracurricular activities in partnership

- ✓ Activities in partnership continued to be implemented in the selected schools with students from different language of instruction.
  - Primary school "Dimitar Makedonski" from Aerodrom implemented an activity in partnership with primary school Rametula Ameti" from v.Chiflik, Zhelino. Students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction organized youth action for arranging and beautifying the school yard in PS "Dimitar Makedonski". This event brought together around 40 students from both schools, which jointly and with support of their teachers, painted the school yard fence.
  - Another school that implemented an activity in partnership was PS "Blazhe Koneski" from Veles. Students from this school together with the students from PS "Rajko Zhinzifov" from v.Dolno Orizari, Veles, organized a youth action for afforestation of the area near the lake "Mladost", devastated in the forest fire during August of this year, demonstrating environmental awareness. This action was supported by the Municipality of Veles.
  - Students and teachers from secondary school "Saraj" from Saraj organized a visit to its partner school, SS "Nikola Karev" from Strumica. Around 30 students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction from both schools were engaged in different types of activities such as: sports competition in volleyball and football, visit to the historical site Tsarevi Kuli, art workshop that enabled them get to spend time together, to learn more about each other, to cooperate and to develop a sports spirit.
  - Students from SS "Mitko Pendzukliski" Municipality of Kratovo, with the support of their teachers, organized an event on the occasion of the "World Tourism Day". This event was an opportunity for students from "Mitko Pendzukliski" to present the activities implemented in partnership with SS "Ismet Jashari" from Lipkovo, during the academic year 2018/2019, in front of the present guests (students and teachers from other schools from Kratovo, parents and municipal representatives). SS "Mitko Pendzukliski" from Kratovo and SS "Ismet Jasahri" from Lipkovo are partner schools and for several months, students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction from these two schools were engaged in different types of activities that enabled them to enhance their knowledge in terms of a healthy diet and its impact on the overall health of people, to raise the awareness about the importance of a healthy diet, to strengthen the team spirit, their mutual respect and cooperation.

### Creative workshops and forum theater activities in schools

- ✓ On October 16, 2019, students from [SS "Car Samoil" from Resen](#), who participated and implemented creative workshops, organized a humanitarian action to support socially deprived families in Resen. The event brought together more than 315 students from this school, which with the support of their teachers individually invested in buying food, hygiene articles and other elementary necessary groceries and they altogether packed goods for donation. As a result, 35 packages were prepared and donated to the 35

socially endangered families in Municipality of Resen. Additionally, on October 25, 2019 students from SS "Brakja Miladinovci" from City of Skopje organized a theatre performance, as a result of long-term process of working and collaborating through the creative workshops. The event was attended by their schoolmates, teachers, parents, municipal representatives and preschoolers from "Day Care Centre for Children in the Street" settled in Municipality of Kisela Voda.



## Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

### Capacity building of Bureau for Development of Education advisors on School Civic Ethos

- ✓ The project team started with the preparations for the upcoming two-day workshop for Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) advisors to strengthen their capacities to support schools in conducting activities for enhancing civic ethos. Coordination meeting with trainers/moderators was organized to define the content and structure of the sessions. It was agreed that the training should encompass sessions on 1) the new CivEd Concept, with a focus on the various modes of encouraging civic ethos; 2) indicators for measuring civic ethos – revised by State Education Inspectorate; 3) cooperation between schools and municipalities and the roles of each actor; 4) phases of conducting youth initiatives and 5) process of collecting good practices. The capacity building training will be held on November 23-24, 2019 in Skopje.

### Encouraging Civic Ethos

- ✓ Coordination with BDE advisors on the implementation of the Civic Ethos activities is ongoing. A shared calendar containing information about each school and/or region upcoming activities is prepared and shared between responsible BDE advisors, project staff and the partner organization Youth Education Forum to better coordinate school visits.
- ✓ BDE advisors have conducted preparatory meetings with each school to guide them in planning the activities and especially the [CivEd Open Day](#) events. In addition, some of advisors participated in the activities preceding the Open Day, such as: workshops for identifying local issues, conducting surveys, etc.
- ✓ By the end of October, 23 CivEd Open Days were organized by schools. BDE advisors regularly visited each activity and submitted reports on their content and quality (according to a pre-determined monitoring form). Project team representatives attended Civic Ethos activities organized in primary school "Lirija" v.Vrutok, Municipality of Gostivar, where students together marked and beautified the school playing field and placed recycling bins in the school yard. In PS "Kiril and Metodij" from Stajkovci, members of the student community, organized presentation of the student initiatives implemented over the past period. In PS "Metodi Mitevski Brico" from Lozovo, students organized the process of selection of student community members; held a debate with the Mayor of Lozovo; implemented humanitarian activity for collecting means for socially disadvantaged families and were engaged in workshops on different themes. In PS Zivko Brajkovski all teachers and students, during the first two classes, were engaged in interactive age-appropriate workshops on: rights and responsibilities, identifying local issues they would like to address, envisioning their ideal school or community, etc.
- ✓ In the activities conducted so far, schools have been successful in engaging the whole school in the activities, as well as receiving the support of the local community. However, they still need to empower students to be primary agents in identifying, planning and carrying out the activities.

### CivEd Concept

- ✓ The pre-final version of the CivEd Concept was completed and the document is prepared for a final revision and approval by the Civic Education Expert Group. Once approved, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science for adoption and will represent a guiding document for the schools and education institutions.

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

- ✓ The Baseline report on the implementation of Civic Education in Secondary Schools was finalized and approved by the BDE and the project team. The findings of the research will be presented to stakeholders and the recommendations will serve as a guide for the upcoming CivEd reforms in the secondary schools.



## Incentives to schools - Renovations

### School renovations

- ✓ On October 25, 2019, one-day capacity building workshop for School Renovation Team's representatives from the schools selected for renovation in the second project year was organized in Skopje. The aim was to train school staff on the procedures, methods and activities for maintenance of renovated schools. This activity provided capacity building for school maintenance of the school technical staff, school director and school secretaries. The trained school staff will disseminate the training/knowledge to other School Renovation Team members, i.e. teachers that will further disseminate the knowledge for school maintenance to students, so they could also be actively involved in school renovation and maintenance activities.
- ✓ Technical acceptance of the completed activities for reconstruction of toilets in PS "Avram Pisevski" in v.Bardovci, Municipality of Karposh was organized by the project team.
- ✓ Additionally, visits to schools that are under renovations were also organized.