

Monthly report

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project (YEI)

April 2018

Interconnected activities

Youth initiatives and joint student activities program

- ✓ A total of 12 schools implemented activities with students, supported within the youth initiatives and joint student activities program. In order to help the school's representatives in planning and implementation of the activities the project team organized visits in the following schools: PS "Panajot Ginovski" in Butel, PS "Nikola Vapcarov" in Strumica and PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" in v.Debreshte, Dolneni.
- ✓ Most of the activities implemented were extracurricular activities and included: sport competitions, workshops on different themes, debates, eco activities, activities within drama clubs, concerts etc. About 120 students with different ethnic background were engaged in the activities that enable them to communicate, cooperate, learn and create products together.

Online outreach tools

- ✓ In order to increase the visibility of project activities, increase public awareness about the project's goals and increase community engagement, the project uses the following online outreach tools:
 - website (www.mcgo.org.mk)
 - Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/mcgo.mcec.mk)
 - Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/mcgo_mcec_mk/)
 - mobile application EduMobMK (Android - <https://goo.gl/9wPRjq>; iOS - <https://goo.gl/t6KC2B>)
 - YouTube Channel ([Macedonian Civic Education Center - MCEC](#))
- ✓ All online outreach platforms are regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials about the course of project activities.
- ✓ All submitted photographs for the photo contest for (1) interethnic integration in education and (2) civic and democratic values among youth were evaluated by a commission comprised of project representatives and external associates. Based on the commission evaluations as well as audience appeal, i.e. Facebook likes, three winners in each category were selected and announced.

Coordination and collaboration activities

- ✓ Upon announcing the Draft Law for Primary Education by the Ministry of Education and Science, the project team worked on developing recommendations related to specific articles in the Law and comments about the proposed changes. The proposed amendments address the requirements resulting from implementation of past and current projects implemented by Macedonian Civic Education Center. Hence, after reviewing all the articles in the Law, Macedonian Civic Education Center will forward the document with comments and recommendation to the Ministry of Education and Science.

The voice of YEI

- ✓ The events entitled "Youth Talks" continued to be implemented within the municipalities involved in the first project phase. The aim of these events is to involve and encourage young people and the wider community to take an active role in interethnic integration and civic responsibility activities. The purpose of these activities is to hear the voice of young people and to enable them to discuss topics related to the community and youth, enabling mutual cooperation, improved communication and awareness of community affiliation and civic responsibility.
- ✓ During the month of April, two events were held in the municipalities of Tetovo and Dolneni, while at the same time preparations were made for the events in Struga and Butel. As a result, more than 140 students actively participated in the discussions on various youth topics and presented what they would like to change in their communities. The remaining events in Struga, Butel and Bitola will follow during the month of May.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Providing support to schools in implementation of joint student activities supported by youth initiatives and joint student activities program.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Awarding the winners of the photo contest for promoting interethnic integration in education and civic and democratic values among youth.
- ➔ Meeting all the preparations, organizing and implementation of Youth Talks in the municipalities of Struga, Butel and Bitola.

Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

Working meetings with School Integration Teams from all school

- ✓ The working meetings with the School Integration Teams (SIT) from schools on the territory of Macedonia continued to be implemented. During April, 20 meetings were held that included about 10 (primary and secondary) schools per meeting. Thus, the role of School Integration Teams in schools and changes in their role at different levels were discussed. At the same time, the representatives of School Integration Teams shared their plans for curricular and extracurricular activities for joint student activities that are planned for this and the next school year in their schools. The working meetings are organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and key education institutions, whose representatives are involved in facilitating such meetings.

Mentoring of curricular and extracurricular joint student activities by YEI mentors

- ✓ The implementation of three (3) different curricular and extracurricular joint student activities supported by Youth Ethnic Integration (YEI) Project, were visited by the YEI mentors. The activity in the school "Nikola Vapcarov" in Strumica was organized during regular physics classes and the students worked on experimental determination of resistance (Ohm's Law). Whereas, in the school Vera Ciriviri Trena in the municipality of Dolneni, an extracurricular activity for making a school emblem was organized. On the other hand, the schools Panajot Ginovski from the municipality of Butel implemented sports activities as an extracurricular activity.

Coordination meeting with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education

- ✓ The MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education held a coordinative meeting with the support of Youth Ethnic Integration (YEI) Project and OSCE. On this meeting the structure of the Working Group was discussed. In addition, the obligations of its members, including Deputy Presidents that will support the President of the Working Group, was decided. Also, during the meeting a lot of information about the participation of schools in meetings and activities, support of the MoES grants, etc., were shared. At the same time, the organization of a workshop was agreed, where the findings from the meetings with SIT will be presented. The development of the Working Group annual work plan was also discussed, as their mandate is to support the process of interethnic integration in the education system. The implementation of the workshop is planned in June 2018.

Creative workshops in schools

- ✓ The processes of creative workshops and forum theater in the eight selected secondary schools continued, thus, teachers using different modules, carried out creative workshops with their groups of students. At these workshops, students built various skills, such as improving teamwork, building teams, developing communication and collaboration skills. During this period, as part of the workshops, students from each school together with their teachers are already preparing and developing the concepts for a joint product that will be presented at their final public presentations in their communities. The first public presentation will be held in the municipality of Dolneni on May 14, 2018.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing working meetings/workshops with School Integration Teams.
- ➔ Organizing visits and mentoring of curricular and extracurricular activities in schools.
- ➔ Supporting the implementation of creative workshops and public presentations in secondary schools.

Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

Revision of teaching plan and programs for Civic Education subject

- ✓ The Bureau for Development of Education is the institution responsible for revision and improvement of primary and general secondary school subjects teaching plan and programs. Therefore, the project team in coordination with key education institutions established the timeframe for revision of Civic Education subject. Hence, the focus of educational reforms was put on creating an atmosphere for building democratic culture and behaviors among youth.
- ✓ Furthermore, BDE launched a call for experts, which will be responsible for revision of teaching plan and programs for Civic Education subject for grade eight (8) and nine (9).

Development of the Document for student's civic competences

- ✓ Within this month, the project team was dedicated to improve the process of implementation of Civic Education through the Civic Education subject extra-curricular and cross-curricular activities.
- ✓ The sub-group responsible for development of the *Document for student's civic competences* had four (4) meetings. During these meeting the members of the working group analyzed different terminology and approaches in other countries with established civic competences in their education system. This was done because the development of a specific document for student's competences is developed for the first time in the Republic of Macedonia.
- ✓ The members of the sub-group for developing the *Document for student's civic competences* facilitated a meeting where the other representatives from the expert team for revising Civic Education were present. During this meeting, members of the working group gave their opinion, shared their attitude and suggestions regarding the document. Following, they were divided in two (2) groups and discussed different perspectives and offered concrete guidelines for improvement of the document. After the meeting, the suggestions were discussed in details and at the end of this period, the working version of the *Document for student's civic competences* was developed.
- ✓ The document consists of key civic knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviors and focuses on five aspects of civic education: Civic Identity - image of oneself as a citizen; Civic Connection; Citizen in a civil society; The citizen and the state; and The citizen and the world.

Youth civic initiative

- ✓ The project team worked on designing a methodology for youth mapping and youth engagement within the community. Through several meetings, the model for creating impact on school and community level was developed. Based on the experience and lessons learned from implementation of the initial activity, the process could be spilled over in the schools and municipalities in the future as a toolkit for stimulating engagement and putting youth needs first.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing a youth civic initiative and youth mapping on local level. Starting the process for revision and improvement of the teaching plan and programs for grade eight (8) and nine (9).
- ➔ Finalizing the working version of the *Document for student's civic competences*.
- ➔ Outlining the process for creation of a *Manual for students for Civic Education subject*.
- ➔ Initiating the process of conducting the *Baseline Research for the Civic Education Content in Secondary Schools*.

Incentives to schools / Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ A coordinative meeting with representatives from the primary music school "Lazo Micev Rale" from Kavadarci and the municipality of Kavadarci was organized, in order to initiate preparations for the success story that highlights the successful school renovation activities.
- ✓ On the initiative of a representative of the Municipality of Centar, a meeting with the president of the Municipality Council was organized, aiming to discuss possibilities for cooperation in the field of education and maintenance of school buildings.
- ✓ In addition, the component team provided support to workshops with School Integration Teams.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing field visits in schools selected for renovation.
- ➔ Establishing the School Renovation Teams in schools selected for renovation.
- ➔ Making the preparations for the training of School Renovation Teams.
- ➔ Providing support to schools in implementation of activities supported by youth initiatives and joint student activities program.