

## Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project August 2018

### Interconnected activities

#### Youth initiatives and joint activities program

- ✓ During the phase two (2) of implementation, the project will continue to support schools to carry out long term extracurricular activities with students, both, on school and on community level. Therefore, within this period, the project team started the process of reviewing the criteria for selection of schools and the application form and update it as per the lessons learned and experience from the first implementation year. Changes include revision of the process of application that now will be conducted through the electronic tool Survey Monkey. Furthermore, this program will encourage and support implementation of long-term extracurricular activities organized as part of the subject (school) clubs. This will enable students to know each other better, to learn and work together towards a joint goal/product, while establishing and fostering interpersonal communication.
- ✓ For the upcoming cycle, an open call for applications will be announced in the period September-October 2018. Selected schools will be supported to implement activities with students that will enable them to know each other better, to learn and work together toward jointly based goal/product, while establishing and fostering their interpersonal communication, interethnic and civic values.

#### 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](http://www.mcgo.org.mk))
  - Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/mcgo.mcec.mk](http://www.facebook.com/mcgo.mcec.mk))
  - Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/mcgo\\_mcec\\_mk/](https://www.instagram.com/mcgo_mcec_mk/))
  - mobile application EduMobMK (Android - <https://goo.gl/9wPRjg>; iOS - <https://goo.gl/t6KC2B>)
  - YouTube Channel ([Macedonian Civic Education Center - MCEC](http://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.
- ✓ The development of the animated video for promoting interethnic integration is ongoing. In addition, a concept for making a video which depicts the activities for promoting civic education curriculum was created. Hence, the videos will be used to inform the general public about the Youth Ethnic Integration project supported changes in the education system.
- ✓ A project factsheet comprised of main project accomplishments during the first project year was developed. Furthermore, infographics related to the findings from the pre-assessment report for the first year of project implementation were developed. These products will be used to raise public awareness, thus will be promoted on project social media platforms and distributed during project events.
- ✓ A concept for a social media campaign for promoting the mobile application EduMobMK was developed. The campaign will be launched at the beginning of the new school year.

#### Cooperation with media outlets

- ✓ To share the project accomplishments in improving civic education curriculum that will result in advancing youth skills, behaviors and volunteering, the project representatives were guests at the morning program on MTV1.
- ✓ Furthermore, preparatory activities for the upcoming roundtable with journalists on the topic: *The role of the media and its impact on promoting interethnic integration and democratic values among youth*, were conducted by the project. The event will bring together journalists, educational institutions representatives and the project team, in order to further strengthen the mutual cooperation.

#### #YEIforPeaceDay

- ✓ The project conducted preparations for the upcoming public event entitled *#YEIforPeaceDay*. At the event more than 130 students and teachers from different ethnic communities will gather, to jointly celebrate the International Peace Day through joint student activities and initiatives on a community level. In addition, this event is an opportunity for students to engage in a civic initiative and further develop civic skills.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ Pre and post assessment questionnaires for students, teachers and parents participants at *Youth initiatives and joint activities program* were revised by the project team. As a result the post assessment questionnaires for phase one (1) schools contain additional items on frequency of activities and perceived impact of activities. Furthermore, the questionnaires to be used for phase 2 schools also include a social distance scale and more specific items on frequency of activities.
- ✓ Additionally, the project team defined the survey sample for the post assessment of phase 1 schools that implemented *Youth initiatives and joint activities program*. The sample contains the number of students, teachers and parents per school by language of instruction that will take part in the survey. The survey will measure participants' opinions, perceptions and behaviors with regard to interethnic integration and civic values and it will be implemented at the beginning of October.
- ✓ KoBo instruments for evaluation of field activities were revised based on the feedback received from previous implementation year. The new instrument contains more specific items that were further operationalized. The updated instruments for evaluation should reduce the possibility for different interpretation of questions by YEI mentors.
- ✓ E-questionnaire for surveying municipality representatives was developed. The aim of the questionnaire is to map municipality representatives' perceptions on the need for activities addressing interethnic integration and civic initiatives, as well as the support provided by the municipality for such activities.
- ✓ The data-collection instrument for the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education Project Measurement Plan was finalized. Following, on August 20, 2018 the instrument was sent to all schools by MoES. Thus, the process of data collection is ongoing.
- ✓ To have accurate and up-to-date information about schools, the project team compiled a database of all schools in the country. In addition, a database of Student Support Staff (i.e. pedagogues, psychologist, sociologist and etc.) members' attendance at the working meetings organized during phase one (1) was also put together.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Preparing and finalizing the application package for long term extracurricular activities.
- ➔ Announcing a call for application for all primary and secondary schools for long term extracurricular activities.
- ➔ Developing, finalizing and publishing a video for promoting interethnic integration and a video for civic education. Rolling out the social media campaign for promoting *EduMobMK*.
- ➔ Developing and sharing the media digest about recent project accomplishments and success stories with all media outlets.
- ➔ Organizing the roundtable about *The role of the media and its impact on promoting interethnic integration and democratic values among youth*.
- ➔ Organizing the public event #YEIforPeaceDay on September 21, 2018. Implementing the training for focus groups moderators and note-takers for the assessment of phase two (2) schools.
- ➔ Conducting e-survey to map municipality representatives' perceptions.
- ➔ Carrying out post-assessment e-survey with students, teachers and parents from 40 phase 1 schools.

## Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

### Working meeting of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education with the directors from the key educational institutions

- ✓ On August 23, 2018 MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education with the support of YEI and OSCE initiated and held a working meeting with the directors of the educational institutions. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the process of the interethnic integration in education system and inform the directors of institutions about the role of the MoES Working Group.
- ✓ In addition, during this working meeting the MoES Working Group plan of activities for 2018/2019 was presented. Furthermore, this Working Group will have the support of YEI and OSCE to implement activities in the above mentioned period. Directors and the members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education also discussed the active involvement and mentoring support that representatives from these institutions will provide for activities at the school and municipal level. In the near future, all education institutions' directors pledged to be more involved and active in implementation of activities that will help the process of interethnic integration in the education system.

## Working meetings with School Integration Teams (SITs)

- ✓ Five secondary schools from Prilep Municipality established and activated new members of School Integration Teams (SITs) during April and May 2018. For that purpose, YEI team in collaboration with the MoES, State Educational Inspectorate and Prilep Municipality, organized and held an introductory workshop for the members of the School Integration Teams. At this workshop, the criteria for interethnic integration in education system, the process of implementation of joint student activities, collaboration of teachers during planning and implementation of joint student activities, partnership of schools, the role of the SITs and municipalities in supporting the schools for IIE, and institutionalization of the activities for interethnic integration with the support of the MoES and educational institutions were presented. In the forthcoming period, YEI team and mentors will further provide support to SITs when designing, planning and implementing activities at the school level.

## Workshop for Strategic and Effective Communication

- ✓ The MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education plan of activities for 2018/2019 envisages and identifies the need for developing skills for better communication with all relevant stakeholders at the national and local level for its members. Thus, a workshop for strategic and effective communication was planned and took place in the period from August 29 to 31, 2018. The workshop aimed at developing skills and employing those when communicating with key stakeholders and institutions. In addition, the workshop offered various forms of simulations and exercises to help members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education develop short, concise and unified messages when communicating with the public, prepare press conferences, other public events, etc. These skills are expected to reinforce and promote the role of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education in public, taking into consideration the importance of the IIE process and how it is promoted at the national and institutional level.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Planning and designing of public presentations from creative workshops of secondary schools from project phase one (1).
- ➔ Planning and design of meetings with municipal officials from all municipalities in Macedonia.
- ➔ Coordination and working meetings with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education.
- ➔ Supporting SITs from newly established schools in Macedonia.
- ➔ Organizing information and working meeting with YEI mentors.

## Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

### Revision of teaching plan and programs for Civic Education subject

- ✓ Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE), VET Center, university professors, civil society representatives and practitioners worked on upgrading and advancing the Civic Education curriculum for grade eight (8) and nine (9) of primary school and first (1) year of secondary schools. As a result, the established working groups developed essential documents that will advance the process of implementation of Civic Education subject in the schools.
- ✓ Following the adoption of Civic Education subject curricula for grade eight (8) by the Minister of Education and Science, MoES and the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) announced the Civic Education reform on the BDE official webpage and sent an official information letter to every primary school in the country. Hence, the schools were informed about the upcoming activities such as: the development of the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8); training of all primary school teachers and introducing them to the regarding changes in the Civic Education curricula, and the development of a new concept for teaching and learning Civic Education. For more detailed information, please visit the following links: [http://bro.gov.mk/docs/aktuelno/lzvestuvanje-Gragjansko\\_obrazovanie.PDF](http://bro.gov.mk/docs/aktuelno/lzvestuvanje-Gragjansko_obrazovanie.PDF) and [http://bro.gov.mk/docs/osnovno-obrazovanie/nastavni\\_programi/VIII-IX/Nastavna\\_programa -Gragjansko\\_obrazovanie-VIII.pdf](http://bro.gov.mk/docs/osnovno-obrazovanie/nastavni_programi/VIII-IX/Nastavna_programa -Gragjansko_obrazovanie-VIII.pdf).
- ✓ Over this period, the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) established working group drafted the Civic Education curricula for the first (1) year of secondary school. Hence, the draft curriculum was sent to the members of the expert team for review and feedback. Following this process, YEI team conducted working meetings with members of the working group for developing Civic Education curricula for the first (1) year of secondary schools to review and incorporate in the document the received feedback from the expert team responsible for review of Civic Education subject. As a result, the document was finalized. Thus, the document was proofread and sent to the Minister of Education and Science for adoption;

### Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8)

- ✓ In the month of August, the project was focused on developing the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students. For that purpose, communication with designated experts was established, who within the given deadline gave comments and recommendations to the project team regarding the content of the Brochure.
- ✓ Afterwards, on August 14, 2018 a working meeting with the authors of the Brochure for Civic Education was held with the aim to discuss the feedback received from the designated experts and to set the timeframe for improvement of the content of the Brochure.

- ✓ Following, on August 23-25, 2018 YEI team organized a three-day working meeting with the authors of the Brochure for Civic Education, during which the themes of the Brochure were reviewed. Till the end of the month, the team was working individually and in groups in order to have final draft of the Brochure's content. In addition, the project team was working on the concept for designing the document.

#### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the Brochure for Civic Education for 8 grade students.
- ➔ Conducting the initial activities to commence the process of implementing the Baseline Research of the Civic Education Content in Secondary Schools.
- ➔ Conducting the preparation activities for the process of developing training modules for Civic Education teachers in primary schools.

## Incentives to schools / Renovations

### School renovations

- ✓ On August 7, 2018 a coordination meeting with members of the component working group was conducted. During this meeting, the list of 12 schools selected for renovation in the first project implementation year was finalized. Results from the evaluation process were announced on the MCEC website and the approval letters were sent to the selected schools and Municipalities. The list of selected schools for renovation from phase one (1), is announced on the following link: <http://www.mcgo.org.mk/uncategorized/list-of-12-schools-selected-in-component-3-for-2018/>.
- ✓ On August 17, 2018 a one-day workshop with 32 representatives from the 12 schools selected for renovation in the first project implementation year was organized by YEI team. The workshop aim was to define the needs and priorities for renovations and obtain information about next activities. During the workshop, the participants were familiarized with the procedure of updating data about the school facilities (both central and satellite school), the procedure for technical assessment of school facilities, as well as the criteria for determining priorities for renovation. Additionally, precise instructions regarding next steps were also given.
- ✓ Following the workshop, a school renovation team (SRT) consisted of representatives from the school, the parents' council, the Municipality and four students (representatives of the school community) was established in each of the 12 selected schools. Furthermore, all 12 schools submitted the lists of SRT members to the project team.
- ✓ Furthermore, the members of SRT from all 12 schools organized a second meeting in their schools. During this meeting, the members of each SRT discussed the school renovation needs and prepared a list of priorities for renovation. All 12 schools submitted the lists of priorities for renovation to the project team within given deadline.
- ✓ Field visits to PS Braka Miladinovci in Struga, SS Niko Nestor in Kumanovo and PS Kiril and Metodij in village Romanovce were organized by the component team, in order to analyze the technical aspect of the requested renovation projects. In each school the priority project for renovation of school building was defined.

#### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing field visits in schools selected for renovation.
- ➔ Signing Memorandums' of Understanding with school directors and Mayors of the municipalities.
- ➔ Announcing an open call for application for consulting companies for supervising the construction works.
- ➔ Preparing the tender documentation for school renovation projects and announcing public calls for selection of the most favorable bidders for the renovation activities.