

## Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project December 2018

### Interconnected activities

#### Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Representatives of the project participated at a Gender Inclusiveness Training organized by Pestalozzi Children's Foundation held on December 10–12, 2018. The aim of the training was to provide the participants' with the relevant knowledge, skills and values that will allow them to contribute towards effective implementation of gender-mainstreaming strategies in project activities as well as communication activities.
- ✓ Training on gender and social inclusion for E4E@mk project implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and the Macedonian Civic Education Center staff and partners was organized on December 19, 2018. Members of Youth Ethnic Integration project team participated in the training and learned more about ways of addressing and introducing gender and social inclusion in project activities.
- ✓ On December 17, 2018 a meeting with the Deputy Minister for Education and Science and project management staff was held, during which updates about the implementation of Youth Ethnic Integration Project were shared and the cooperation between Macedonian Civic Education Center and the Ministry of Education and Science related to interethnic integration in education and revision of the implementation of civic education was discussed.
- ✓ Members of the project team participated at the event marking the start of consultation for development of the *National strategy for development of the concept for a common (one) society and interculturalism in the Republic of Macedonia*. The consultation will be conducted in seven clusters or areas, i.e. legal framework, education, culture, local self-government, youth, social cohesion and integration, in which Macedonian Civic Education Center will take part and provide input.

#### 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](https://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/9wPRjq>; iOS - <https://goo.gl/t6KC2B>)
  - YouTube Channel ([Macedonian Civic Education Center - MCEC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMacedonianCivicEducationCenter))
- ✓ All online outreach platforms are regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials about the course of project activities.
- ✓ Based on the findings from the social media monthly analytics and due to the fact that social media networks are constantly evolving, the *Strategy for use of online outreach tools* was updated to reflect on the relevant findings. This will ensure improved, appropriate and uniform informing about project activities and accomplishments via all online outreach tools.
- ✓ Preparations for production of a video portraying the renovation process in PS "Aco Sopov" in Butel have commenced. In addition to representing project activities for improving learning conditions in schools, the video will also promote local community engagement in such activities.
- ✓ Project representatives participated at a USAID Development, Outreach and Communication meeting. The aim of the meeting was to coordinate upcoming project communication activities in accordance with the latest USAID guidance that focuses on journey to self-reliance.

#### USAID Desk Officer, David Brown visit to Macedonia

- ✓ On December 4, 2018 a visit of the USAID Desk Officer to Macedonia, Mr. David Brown to the Municipality of Butel was organized. At the beginning of the event, an informal meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality of Butel was held.
- ✓ Afterwards, a roundtable discussion was organized on which Mr. David Brown, the Mayor of the Municipality of Butel and municipality representatives, the director of PS "Zivko Brajkovski" and representatives of the School Integration Team (SIT), students, parents and project team members discussed the importance of the interethnic integration process in the education system and the impact of the school activities that enable interaction, collaboration and cohesion among youth from different ethnic communities.
- ✓ At last, a joint visit to PS "Zivko Brajkovski" was conducted, where students portrayed the products from the joint student activities and youth initiatives supported by the project in the previous schools year.

## Organizing the student discussion with the Mayor of City of Skopje

- ✓ The project team commenced with preparations for the upcoming student discussion with the Mayor of City of Skopje, where students will share their recommendations for beautifying the Skopje City Park with the Mayor. Representatives of the project participated in a coordinative meeting with representatives of the municipality, during which late January was suggested as a suitable period for organizing the event.

## Cooperation with media outlets

- ✓ To strengthen the cooperation with media outlets and ensure that they are updated with information about the course of project activities and accomplishments, a media newsletter was developed and shared with them.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ 339 evaluation forms were collected from teachers that participated at the trainings for the new Civic Education concept. The processed data indicates that teachers perceive the training as relevant for their teaching practice and they plan to apply the proposed activities during the lessons. According to teachers, the training has assisted them in gaining a clear picture of the curricular aims. The student initiatives are perceived as a particularly interesting aspect of the new concept, but in order to complete them, teachers emphasize the importance of support from the school management, as well as the local government.
- ✓ A new survey instrument was developed, for the aim of assessing the experience of Civic Education teachers in implementing the new civic education curriculum and brochure in the classroom. On December 17, 2018 the electronic version of the questionnaire was sent to all civic education teachers registered in the MCEC database, the vast majority of which have participated at the trainings for the new curriculum. The process of data collection is ongoing and so far - 150 teachers have responded. In line with the questionnaire for teachers, the questionnaire for grade 8 students is in the process of development.
- ✓ The focus groups for the post-assessment of experiences, opinions and perceptions of students and parents from phase 1 schools were completed and transcripts of the discussions were submitted. A total of 25 focus groups were conducted, 7 of which with teachers, 5 with parents and 13 with students.
- ✓ The processing of the post-assessment data (survey responses and focus groups transcripts) was initiated and will be completed during the following reporting period.
- ✓ The revised instruments (focus group discussion guides) were prepared for assessing experiences and perceptions of students which will be involved in the school subject clubs. A total of 12 focus groups with students were conducted in 6 schools from different municipalities.
- ✓ Evaluation questionnaire for teachers from secondary schools from the City of Skopje, which are going to conduct joint lessons, was prepared and given to teachers after the training. The initially processed data indicates that teachers found the training to be useful for their practice and consider that it has prepared them to effectively conduct joint lessons
- ✓ In addition, with the aim of following the anticipated changes in the opinions and experiences of students from secondary schools from the City of Skopje, which will be part of the joint lessons, pre-assessment questionnaire was prepared in an electronic form. In consultation with the representatives of the four schools, the questionnaires were printed in hard copy and distributed to schools

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Maintaining the cooperation and coordination with key education institutions, donors and other projects.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Organizing a student discussion with the Mayor of City of Skopje.
- ➔ Making preparations for developing a series of animated videos for civic education.
- ➔ Completing data processing and writing reports on: (1) Post assessment findings from phase 1 schools, (2) Pre-assessment of qualitative data from phase 2 schools (subject clubs), (3) Assessment of experiences of students and teachers with the new civic education curriculum.
- ➔ Finalizing the questionnaire for students on the experiences with the new civic education curriculum and collecting their responses.
- ➔ Collecting qualitative data (through focus groups with students) on the experiences and perceptions of students which will be involved in the joint activities with partner schools.
- ➔ Finalizing questionnaires for the baseline evaluation of civic education in secondary schools upon BDE approval.
- ➔ Participating in the consultation and working meetings for development of the *National strategy for development of the concept for a common (one) society and interculturalism in the Republic of Macedonia.*

## Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

### Supporting and building the capacities of teachers for joint curricular classes

- ✓ In cooperation with the City of Skopje and in coordination with OSCE, the component team organized training for teachers from four (4) secondary schools from Skopje to implement joint curricular classes in their respective schools. Prior, the modules and content for the training were prepared in coordination with YEI mentors selected to facilitate the training. The training took place in Ohrid from December 20-22, 2018 and gathered all designated teachers to implement the joint curricular classes in the forthcoming period. VET Center advisors were also present at the training, which in the forthcoming period will follow and mentor the implementation of the joint classes in the respective schools.

### Presentation of the findings and recommendations from the five (5) regional meetings with State Education Inspectors in Macedonia

- ✓ A working meeting with the members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education to discuss the findings and recommendations that resulted from implementation of five (5) regional meetings with state education inspectors in November was organized by the component team. Furthermore, the participants discussed the next steps that need to be undertaken to address them accordingly in the forthcoming period.
- ✓ In addition, the plan of activities, the good practices and challenges of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education were discussed and shared.

### Long-term extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ During this month, most schools selected to implement long-term extracurricular activities within school subject clubs were focused on the process of procurement of necessary materials for implementation of the activities. Only a few schools started to implement activities with students and most often they were initial meetings between students from different languages of instruction.
- ✓ Students from art subject club in primary school "Goce Delchev, Municipality of Aerodrom implemented activities which enabled them to learn through a workshop entitled "to draw with love". Under the mentorship of their teachers, through interactive methods and practical lessons they learned how to create volume in art.
- ✓ In PS "Pere Toshev" v. Dupjachani, Municipality of Dolneni, students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction implemented activities within English language subject club. Divided in three (3) groups they performed a research on different ethnicities in Macedonia. They explored their culture, language, tradition, religion and origin.
- ✓ A diverse group of students learning in different languages of instruction, during the chemistry subject club in PS "Goce Delchev" from Municipality of Bitola studied about the elements of the periodic table.

### Joint student activities in partnership

- ✓ The project selected twenty two (22) schools with one language of instruction which will be supported to implement activities in partnership during the second school semester. The selection was carried out according to the following criteria: regional representation, primary and secondary schools, "champion schools" or successful schools that implemented activities in partnership in the past and newly established schools.
- ✓ On December 4, 2018 a link to the online application for implementing activities in partnership was sent to the selected schools. The deadline for submission of applications was December 21, 2018. In the next semester, the selected schools will commence with implementation of extracurricular activities with students from different language of instruction.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Implementation of the creative workshops with students in eight (8) selected secondary schools from project year 2.
- ➔ Regular meetings and coordination with the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education.
- ➔ Follow up meetings with teachers, School Integration Team members and directors from selected secondary schools for joint curricular classes.
- ➔ Providing support to selected school for implementation of long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs and organizing field visits to back the implementation.
- ➔ Providing support to selected schools for implementation of extracurricular activities in partnership and organizing field visits to back the implementation.

# Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

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

- ✓ During December the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students was disseminated among teachers that participated on the Civic Education training. Teachers had the possibility to read and discussed the content within the Brochure. They've shared their experience regarding the Civic Education subject that is held according to the Brochure and the new revised Civic Education curricula. The teachers shared the students' opinion about the first two themes that were published on the BDE web site. They pointed out that the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight is dynamic and well-adjusted to the students' needs and perspectives.
- ✓ The project team started the preparatory process for printing the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8).

## Civic Education teacher trainings

- ✓ At the beginning of December seven (7) two-day trainings for primary school Civic Education teachers were organized in hotel Drim, Struga, during which 153 teachers were trained. These trainings enabled teachers to familiarize with the new approach to teaching and learning civic education that encourages active involvement of students and implementation of student initiatives on school and community level. Led by experienced facilitators (BDE Advisors and practitioners), the teachers were trained in line with the revised Civic Education curricula and the Brochure for grade eight (8) students. Participants in their evaluation form noted that the presentations, the methods and techniques were useful and the concept of the trainings gave them clear overview of the Civic Education curricula. They emphasized that the knowledge gained for students' initiatives and the role of active engagement will be crucial for building student civic competences.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students.
- ➔ Organizing induction meetings for grade nine (9) Civic Education reform.
- ➔ Commencing with preparations for development of a series of animated videos to promote the reforms in Civic Education curricula.

## Incentives to schools / Renovations

### School renovations

- ✓ The necessary documentation for approval of selected companies for renovation projects for the following schools: PS "Goce Delchev", Municipality of Bitola, SS "Kuzman Shapkarev", Municipality of Bitola and PS "Brakja Miladinovci", Municipality of Struga was prepared by the project team. The prepared documentation was sent for approval to the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo. Approvals for selected companies for renovation projects for the following schools: PS "Aco Sopov", Municipality of Butel; SS "Pero Nakov", Municipality of Kumanovo; PS "Kiril i Metodij", v. Romanovce Municipality of Kumanovo; PS "Goce Delchev", Municipality of Bitola; SS "Kuzman Shapkarev", Municipality of Bitola and PS "Brakja Miladinovci", Municipality of Struga were received from the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo. Hence, 10 out of 12 selected schools for renovation projects are approved and the list of selected companies was announced on the following link: <http://mk.mcgo.org.mk/jobs-tenders/>.
- ✓ The project team organized preconstruction meetings with representatives of selected construction companies, supervising companies and representatives of school renovation teams in the following schools: PS "Andrea Savevski Kjikjish", Municipality of Tetovo; SS "Jane Sandanski", Municipality of Strumica; PS "Marshal Tito", Municipality of Strumica; PS "Aco Shopov", Municipality of Butel; PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" v. Debreshte, Municipality of Dolneni; PS "Kiril I Metodij" v. Romanovce, Municipality of Kumanovo; SS "Pero Nakov", Municipality of Kumanovo; PS "Goce Delchev", Municipality of Bitola; SS "Kuzman Shapkarev", Municipality of Bitola and PS "Brakja Miladinovci", Municipality of Struga. During these meetings, representatives of selected construction companies were familiarized with the scope of work that will be performed, the project documentation and other specifics regarding the renovation projects.
- ✓ The renovation activities that were an obligation of the Youth Ethnic Integration Project were completed in two schools. The technical acceptances of the completed activities were organized in the following schools: SS "Pero Nakov", Municipality of Kumanovo and PS "Andreja Savevski Kjikjish", Municipality of Tetovo. In these schools, the works that are an obligation of the schools and the municipalities will be completed during the winter holidays.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing technical acceptances with representatives of selected construction companies, supervising companies and representatives of school renovation teams from the following schools: PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" v. Debreshte, Municipality of Dolneni; SS "Jane Sandanski", Municipality of Strumica; PS "Kiril and Metodij" v. Romanovce, Municipality of Kumanovo; PS "Aco Shopov", Municipality of Butel; SS "Kuzman Shapkarev", Municipality of Bitola.
- ➔ Submitting technical documentation for school renovation by these two schools: PS "Nikola Karev", Municipality of Radovish and PS "Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik, Municipality of Gostivar.