

Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project (YEI) July 2018

Interconnected activities

Coordination and collaboration activities

- ✓ An informative and coordinative meeting was held with the newly appointed director of the National Examination Center Ms. Lidija Gosevska. The aim of this meeting was to provide information on the Youth Ethnic Integration Project, its activities and discuss the role and relevance of the National Examination Center (NEC) in supporting such activities at the national and local level. It was agreed that in the near future the coordination will be enhanced, whereas NEC Advisors will continue to be active and committed in supporting YEI activities for Interethnic Integration in Education in the country.

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/9wPRjg>; iOS - <https://goo.gl/t6KC2B>)
 - YouTube Channel ([Macedonian Civic Education Center - MCEC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...))
- ✓ All online outreach platforms are regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials about the course of project activities.
- ✓ As part of outreach activities, another product that the team is working to develop is the video on interethnic integration.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ On July 3, 2018 a working meeting with YEI mentors was held in Skopje, with the aim to present and discuss findings and recommendations from the pre-assessment report that measures students, teachers, parents and school staff perceptions, attitudes and behaviors related to implemented activities promoting ethnic cohesion and civic education on a school level. In addition, during this meeting feedback on the monitoring instruments was received and further activities and methods for more effective project implementation were discussed.
- ✓ Based on the feedback received from mentors and YEI team, the pre-assessment report for the first year of implementation in the schools is finalized and revisions of monitoring and evaluation instruments are underway.
- ✓ On July 11 and 13, 2018 the project team organized meetings with the representatives of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education, BDE and OSCE to discuss the MoES Working Group Performance Measurement Plan. At this meeting, MoES's Working Group monitoring and evaluation process was discussed and reviewed, including the M&E instruments. The aim of this activity is to ease the process of gathering and analyzing data, and assist the manner of drawing recommendations.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Maintaining cooperation and coordination with key education institutions, donors, other projects and organizations.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Finalizing revision of M&E instruments (KoBo questionnaires, pre and post assessment questionnaires and focus group discussion guides).
- ➔ Developing new instruments for evaluating long-term project activities.

Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

Coordination meetings with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education

- ✓ On July 31, 2018 a working meeting with members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education took place, in order to finalize the new data collection method and the amendments in the M&E instruments. Thus, instruments/questionnaires that are used to track the progress of interethnic integration at the municipal and school level when implementing joint student activities and initiatives were adjusted.

Planning of the activities for the second project implementation year

- ✓ The project worked on identifying schools to be involved in implementation of creative workshops, curricular and extracurricular activities, youth civic clubs, etc. Furthermore, the final list of schools to be involved during July 2018 – December 2019 will be also coordinated with key education institutions.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing a working meeting with the members of MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education and directors of educational institutions.
- ➔ Organizing workshops for newly appointed SIT members in secondary schools.
- ➔ Organizing a workshop on the Strategic and Effective Communication for the members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education.
- ➔ Planning the public presentations from schools involved in the creative workshops and forum theatres.

Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

Revision of teaching plan and programs for Civic Education subject

- ✓ Soon after finalizing the process of developing the draft Civic Education curricula for grade eight (8), the document was forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Science and will be adopted in the upcoming period.
- ✓ The working group responsible for the revision of Civic Education curricula, established by the BDE, developed the first draft of Civic Education curricula for grade nine (9) of primary school and the first (1) year of secondary schools. Namely, the curriculum for grade nine (9) is expected to be implemented in the education system from the academic year 2019/2020.
- ✓ The Civic Education curriculum for the first (1) year of secondary schools will be piloted in six (6) schools during the academic year 2018/2019. Therefore, the working group responsible for the revision of Civic Education curricula shared the document with the BDE representative and Head of Sector for Educational Plans and Programs and the Civic Education expert team for review and feedback. During the upcoming period, the received feedback will be reviewed and incorporated in the document.

Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8)

- ✓ At the beginning of the month, an initial meeting with authors of the *Brochure for Civic Education* was organized by the project team. As a result, the time frame for finalization of the *Brochure* was defined and the content and outline were discussed. The authors agreed that grade eight (8) *Brochure for Civic Education* should present each of the themes through the following structure:
 1. *Theoretical part* – including knowledge that students should acquire;
 2. *Did you know that?* – consisting of useful information related to the theme;
 3. *During the class* – entailing a list of activities that students could be involved in during the classes (i.e. questions for discussion, role play, simulations, interactive games and quizzes);
 4. *Students act in the community* – containing a list of possible activities that students could be involved in as extracurricular activities in school and community;
 5. *Register of words* – including short explanations and definitions of new words related to Civic Education;
 6. *Useful links and materials* – entailing a list of useful materials (i.e. electronic and online contents, texts and photographs).

- ✓ Following, on July 14-16, 2018 a three-day working meeting with the authors of the *Brochure for Civic Education* was held. The project team organized this working meeting with the aim of developing the first draft of the *Brochure for grade eight (8)*. While developing the document, the authors were assigned specific themes to develop and later revise based on the received feedback from other members of this team and/or authors. Guidelines for improving the quality of the content were given and discussions about the expected results from this process were made. Following this meeting, the authors of the *Brochure for Civic Education* for grade eight (8) students proceeded with the process of revision and submitted the modified versions.
- ✓ In order to have a learning content that is in line with the Civic Education curricula, but also comprises of contemporary democratic values, the initial draft of the *Brochure for Civic Education* will be forwarded to academic professors, educational experts and experienced practitioners for feedback in the upcoming period. The aim of this inclusive process is to have a learning content that will help in the process of creating active and engaged citizens that are inspired to contribute towards improvement of their school and community.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the *Brochure for Civic Education* for 8 grade students.
- ➔ Finalizing the Civic Education curricula for the first (1) year of secondary schools.
- ➔ Outlining the process of conducting the Baseline Research for the Civic Education Content in Secondary Schools.
- ➔ Outlining the process of developing training modules for Civic Education teachers for primary school.

Incentives to schools / Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ On July 10, 2018 on the initiative of a representative of Municipality of Centar, YEI team conducted an informative meeting with the Mayor, head of the education department and the president of the municipal council. On this meeting, the possibilities for cooperation in the field of education and maintenance of school buildings were discussed. As a result, an informative meeting with all primary and secondary schools directors from Municipality of Centar will be organized before the start of the upcoming academic year. The directors will have an opportunity to share information regarding school procedures, methods and activities for maintenance of school buildings and jointly will discuss the way for raising the awareness for the importance of school's building maintenance.
- ✓ In order to commence with the process of renovations in schools, the project will proceed with the next steps and request needed approvals and modifications.

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.
- ➔ Holding an informative meeting with all primary and secondary schools directors from Municipality of Centar.