

Monthly report

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project (YEI)

June 2018

Interconnected activities

Youth initiatives and joint student activities program

- ✓ The majority of schools supported within the youth initiatives and joint student activities program, completed the implementation of all activities planned in their applications during this month. So far, a total of 28 schools implemented 87 activities with students. However, due to the number of activities implemented in this period, three schools didn't manage to implement their activities approved in the applications. Therefore, the project allowed these schools to implement the planned activities at the beginning of the next school year in September. In order to increase the outreach and to inform the local communities of the schools' activities, short stories for the activities implemented were regularly published on the project web and Facebook page.

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](#))
- ✓ All online outreach platforms are regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials about the course of project activities.

Coordination and collaboration activities

- ✓ A conference on interethnic integration in education was organized by local NGO Mirovna Akcija, during which the Youth Ethnic Integration (YEI) project goal, objectives and expected outcomes were presented by the Project Chief of Party.
- ✓ Furthermore, the project team attended the event organized by Macedonian Civic Education Center, which marked the start of the Education for Employment in Macedonia Project (E4E@mk). This project will enable more citizens, especially young people, to acquire high quality vocational education and training, as well as provide assistance in the development of vocational skills that will contribute to increased employment in the country.
- ✓ The project representatives also participated at the panel discussion organized by Youth Educational Forum, Coalition SEGA and First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi. The aim was to discuss the new proposed draft rulebook on student organizing and the amendments to the Law for secondary education. At the panel discussion participated representatives of the governmental institutions, school management staff members, students and civil society organizations and shared their views on the document.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ New instruments for evaluating effects of the long-term activities (creative workshops and forum theater) were developed. These included three types of short questionnaires: for students-participants in the activities, for students-spectators during the public presentations and for other spectators in the public presentations. The project staff piloted the questionnaires during three public presentation events organized following the implementation of creative workshops and forum theater in the schools.
- ✓ In order to make the monitoring process more effective, new Survey Monkey forms for reporting on (1) SITs structure and (2) joint student activities were developed.
- ✓ First draft of pre-assessment (baseline) report on the perceptions, opinions and experiences of stakeholders in 40 pilot schools was compiled. The main findings and conclusions were presented to the project team and recommendations were adjusted according to received feedback.

- ✓ Preparations for the upcoming working meeting with YEI Mentors were finalized. The aim of this meeting is to: acquaint mentors with the baseline situation; assess their experiences in using monitoring instruments during school visits; and plan the engagement of mentors during the upcoming period.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Maintaining cooperation and coordination with key education institutions.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Meeting with YEI mentors with the aim to present pre-assessment report and discuss recommendations, receive feedback on field experience with monitoring activities and plan mentoring activities for the upcoming period.
- ➔ Finalizing pre-assessment report after incorporating the feedback from mentors.
- ➔ Continuing insertion of data in the School Database.

Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

Working meetings with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education

- ✓ At the end of June 2018, YEI in collaboration with OSCE gathered members of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education at a working meeting in Struga. The aim of this meeting was to present the latest results from implementation of joint student activities, the work with schools and SITs during this school year, to discuss challenges and the ongoing support of the educational institutions in the process of interethnic integration in education. In addition, at this working meeting the plan of activities that the Working Group will implement in the period 2018-2019 was jointly discussed and agreed, such as: designing the MoES Working Group rules of procedure, organizing regional meetings with State Education Inspectors, reviewing the application process and administering of the MoES grant to support schools for interethnic integration in education activities, developing promotional materials and organizing media presence, advancing the skills for public presentations, promoting school activities with municipal authorities, etc.

Creative workshops in schools

- ✓ Three final public presentations resulting from creative workshops were organized at the beginning of June 2018. The presentations were implemented for several months in a number of secondary schools throughout Macedonia within the USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project. By combining individual and team work, the young students in the workshops were able to create and creatively express themselves. Also, by employing a series of innovative techniques, the young people have also deepened their knowledge and understanding of the stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination in the society.
- ✓ The students from “Niko Nestor” in Struga transformed their creativity into a musical and dance performance entitled “The Bridge of Friendship”, and performed it publically before the City Center Bridge in Struga. The event was attended by more than 100 students, teachers, parents, and representatives of the local self-government, including the citizens passing by.
- ✓ In Bitola the students from the “Gorgi Naumov” secondary school made a short film entitled “Bitola – Open for Everyone” and organized its promotion that was attended by more than 60 guests in the school. The short film depicts the ideas and initiatives of youth to improve their community, and it also displays several cultural and historical landmarks of the city which places great importance on the different ethnic communities.
- ✓ The public presentation of the students from the “Kiro Burnaz” secondary school in Kumanovo, in front of their classmates, parents and teachers, included a synthesis of three art forms and contained a musical segment – two choir performances, a dramatic segment – performance of seven theatrical scenes and an arts segment – exhibition of photographs, posters and drawings.
- ✓ The remaining schools involved in the creative processes will also make their public presentations in the upcoming period.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Planning and designing the working meetings with municipal representatives.
- ➔ Planning and coordination of the MoES Working Group activities.
- ➔ Preparing for the coordination meeting with YEI mentors.
- ➔ Preparing for the public presentation resulting from implementation of creative workshops in four (4) secondary schools included in the first project year.

Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

Revision of teaching plan and programs for Civic Education subject

- ✓ On June 1, 2018 the expert team responsible for improvement of Civic Education for primary and secondary schools held a meeting where the draft Civic Education curriculum for grade eight (8) was discussed. During the meeting, the expert team was divided in few smaller groups and reviewed the content in details. Suggestions for improvement of the document were made in line with the aim that is: civic education concept to provide opportunities for pupils to put their citizenship learning into action and so enhance the learning outcomes, for example through participation and initiatives that promote pupil voice.
- ✓ Furthermore, the expert team discussed about the cross-curricula approach and extra-curricular activities that should be undertaken in the following period.
- ✓ After the process of reviewing the draft Civic Education curricula for grade eight (8), the document was finalized and proofread. By the end of the month, the document was sent to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) for adoption by the Minister for Education and Science.
- ✓ The working group responsible for the revision of Civic Education curricula, established by the BDE, started the process for developing the Civic Education curricula for grade nine (9). Through working meetings and individual work, members of the working group developed the first draft and enhanced the curricula.

Draft version of the Document for student's civic competences finalized

- ✓ The draft version of the *Document for student's civic competences* was reviewed by distinguished educational experts. They shared their feedback and suggestions for improvement. The "Document for student's civic competences" will be open for further review in the following period.

Manual for Civic Education

- ✓ In order to provide support to students to properly implement Civic Education subject, a brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) will be developed by the project team in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and Bureau for Development of Education (BDE). For that purpose, in cooperation with key institutions, an outline of the brochure was developed.
- ✓ The project team conducted a meeting with the BDE Director and representatives, where the timeline of activities for developing the Civic Education concept and its components were discussed and agreed.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the Civic Education curricula for grade nine (9).
- ➔ Starting the process for development of Civic Education curricula for the first year of secondary school.
- ➔ Developing the first draft of the brochure for civic education.
- ➔ Outlining the process of conducting the Baseline Research for the Civic Education Content in Secondary Schools.

Incentives to schools / Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ The workshop module and materials for training intended for technical staff and school secretaries, related to building the skills for school maintenance were developed and completed by the component team.
- ✓ In addition, representative of component team held a regular meeting with representatives of MoES/SCI to ensure that MoES/SCI annual program for school renovations is aligned with YEI renovation plan.
- ✓ Furthermore, exchange of information with UNICEF representatives was regularly conducted related to developing the workshop materials for enhancing school staff, students and parents' skills for disaster risk management.

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.