



USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *March 2019*



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Macedonian Civic Education Center is part of the reforms in education in the country. Members of the project team were selected to be part of the working group established by the Minister of Education and Science to implement OECD recommendations proposed in the "Review of the evaluation and evaluation system" report. Through participation in the working group, the project will contribute towards self-reliance of project activities and processes and support the government in their commitment to introduce sustainable change.

Public outreach

- ✓ An infographic for standards and budgets for school buildings maintenance was developed and shared with representatives of the 12 renovated schools, available on the following link: http://www.mcgo.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Standardi-i-budzeti-za-higiena-vo-ucilist%D0%B0_ENG-1.pdf.
- ✓ Media newsletter was developed and shared with all media outlets.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ The project team worked in partnership with the MoES to ensure media coverage of the event for promotion of new Civic Education concept, resulting in more than 25 TV and online articles about the event.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ Focus groups with students, for assessing the initial students' needs and perceptions in 12 schools which started to implement activities in partnership, were completed. Based on the results, report was prepared. The recommendations will be used to inform the schools and guide them on the type and structure of activities favored by students.
- ✓ Evaluation questionnaires were prepared for the trainings on: 1) school maintenance for the school technical staff and 2) strengthening the support between municipalities, schools and business sector to support project activities and youth initiatives. Both trainings received positive assessment (over 4, on a 1-5 scale).



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ Informative meetings were organized with three (3) out of five (5) municipalities (Gostivar, Kumanovo and Skopje) selected to implement activities that will support student youth actions. The selection of municipalities was made based on the regional geographic representation, multilingual character of municipalities, the legacy of partnership with the project and the good collaboration with schools in their territory.
- ✓ Following, two (2) workshops for municipal education officials and School Integration Team members from five (5) municipalities were organized. At these workshops, guidelines for supporting schools to implement interethnic integration and civic engagement activities were provided. Furthermore, the benefit of engaging the private sector in such activities was discussed.

Coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Council for Interethnic Integration in Education

- ✓ In collaboration with OSCE, a coordination meeting with the MoES Council for Interethnic Integration in Education was organized to discuss the upcoming two (2) orientation meetings with schools that were awarded MoES grant. The goal is to provide schools with guidance for implementation of proposed interethnic integration in education activities.
- ✓ The MoES Council for Interethnic Integration in Education will also support joint curricular classes in secondary schools and support the work of the State Education Inspectorate in reviewing and upgrading School Performance Quality Indicators.

Coordination meeting with State Education Inspectorate (SEI)

- ✓ A coordination meeting with the SEI representative was held in order to discuss the process of reviewing and upgrading the School Performance Quality Indicators. State Education Inspectorate nominated five inspectors who will be part of working group to carry out this process. The recommendations and outcomes from the regional meetings with SEI inspectors will set the pace of the process.

Creative workshops in schools

- ✓ In eight (8) selected secondary schools, teachers with their groups of students continued to implement creative workshops using different modules. These creative workshops are implemented every week in each of the schools and until now, 96 creative workshops are implemented in the secondary schools. Students are offered diverse skills, from enhancing teamwork, team-building, developing communication and collaboration skills. Furthermore, students participate in lots of group works using creative ideas, and similar.

Curricular Activities in schools

- ✓ Four (4) secondary schools in Skopje (Boro Petrusovski, Zdravko Cvetkovski, Arseni Jovkov and Braka Miladinovci) continued to implement curricular activities in their respective schools. In March, schools held 101 joint curricular classes (i.e. vocational subjects, sport, English and German language, practical lessons and other

curricular activities) that enabled extended communication among students from different languages of instruction.

Long-term extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ Activities with students from different languages of instruction within school subject clubs continued in: PS “Goce Delchev”, Aerodrom, PS “Kiril i Metodij” v.Stajkovci, Gazi Baba, SS “Gostivar”, Gostivar, SS “Cvetan Dimov”, City of Skopje, PS “Vera Ciriviri Trena” v.Debreshte, Dolneni, PS “Goce Delchev”, Bitola and PS “Strasho Pindzur” v.Josifovo, Valandovo. Field visits were conducted to provide support to schools.
 - In SS “Gostivar” from Gostivar, 36 students from Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language of instruction, members of drama school club continued with regular rehearsals for the play. Another school that implemented an activity within drama school club was SS “Cvetan Dimov” from City of Skopje. Under the mentorship of their teachers, students from this school conducted regular rehearsals.
 - In primary school “Kiril i Metodij” v.Stajkovci, Gazi Baba, 30 students from art subject club worked jointly on creating abstract drawings. 36 students from PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Aerodrom have also implemented activities within art subject club. Divided in ethnically mixed groups, the students worked on creating numbers and letters using fabric and paper in different colors.
 - 20 students, members of chemistry school subject club in PS “Goce Delchev” from Bitola, had an opportunity to learn more about the rate of chemical reaction and how to calculate it.
 - In PS “Vera Ciriviri Trena” v.Debreshte, Municipality of Dolneni, 30 students from Macedonian and Turkish language of instruction implemented an activity within the sports club. Through this activity the students had an opportunity to master the basic sports techniques.

Activities in partnership

- ✓ Activities in partnership continued to be implemented in the selected schools with students from different languages of instruction.
 - PS “Tode Hadzi Tefov” from Kavadarci implemented an activity in partnership with PS “Bajram Shabani” from v.Kondovo, Municipality of Saraj. The students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction from both partner schools were engaged on a workshop during which they created 3D geometric shapes.
 - Another school that implemented activities in partnership is PS “Naim Frasheri” from Tetovo. Students from this school worked jointly with students from PS “Krste Misirkov”, Municipality of Gazi Baba and prepared greeting cards from recycled materials with messages raising eco awareness.
 - Students from primary school “Aco Shopov” from Butel worked jointly with students from primary school “Liman Kaba” from the same municipality on beautifying the school yards in both schools.
 - Students from SS “Ismet Jashari”, Municipality of Lipkovo and SS “Mitko Pendzukliski”, Municipality of Kratovo had an opportunity to work together and to learn more about the benefits of the healthy food.
 - Students from PS “Rajko Zhinzifov v.Orizari, Veles worked in partnership with the students from PS “Blazhe Koneski” from Veles. They were engaged on a workshop entitled “We grow together”, during which they wrote poems.
 - Another school that implemented an activity in partnership is SS “Saraj” from Saraj. Students from this school together with students from SS “Nikola Karev” from Strumica participated in a workshop for mutual acquaintance, facilitated by teachers from both languages of instruction (Macedonian and Albanian). During the workshop the students participated in different activities intended to provide the opportunity for students to get to know each other and work together. Following the workshop, the students participated on a sports competition in volleyball.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Baseline research of civic education content in secondary schools

- ✓ Quantitative data for the *Baseline research of civic education content in secondary schools* were collected. In total, survey responses from 120 civic education teachers and 740 students were received and will be processed and analysed by Bureau for Development of Education with the aim to provide guidance for the ongoing civic education reform in secondary education.

Participatory feedback on CivEd curriculum

- ✓ Responses of grade 8 students, on the experiences with the new civic education curriculum, were processed and integrated into the report encompassing teachers’ responses. Findings indicate that students used the newly developed materials, albeit in combination with the old textbook. Nevertheless, the experiences with the new curriculum are positive for the majority of students, although they would prefer to have textbooks and have more interactive lessons.

Guidebook for grade eight (8) students

- ✓ The *Student guidebook for grade 8* was published in all four languages of instruction (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and Serbian) and distributed to civic education teachers during a promotional event for the new civic education concept, along with certificates on completed training for the grade 8 curriculum.

Promotional event for the new civic education concept

- ✓ An event for promoting the new civic education concept and handing out certificates to teachers which participated at the training for implementation of the revised grade 8 curriculum was organized. Over 300 teachers participated, along with representatives of education institutions, international organizations, media, etc. The civic education concept was promoted by the Minister of Education, Director of the Bureau of Development of Education and the Executive director of MCEC.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ The Memorandum of Understanding for the renovation of the PS "Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik", Municipality of Gostivar, which was prepared by the project, was signed by the MCEC Executive Director, the Project Chief of Party, the Mayor of the Municipality of Gostivar and the school principal. The tender for "Reconstruction of a sports hall" in this school was announced and the selection of the most favorable contractor is under way.
- ✓ The construction company for "Adaptation of an open space in the school into a classroom and placing new pellet stoves in four satellite schools" in the PS "Nikola Karev" in the Municipality of Radovis was selected and the performance of the foreseen works is in progress.
- ✓ The Project team organized a visit of the representative of the USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia - Cristine Olive to the PS "Aco Shopov" in the Municipality of Butel. The meeting was attended by the Mayor of the Municipality of Butel, representatives from the PS "Aco Shopov" and representatives from the partner PS "Liman Kaba" from Ljuboten. The purpose of the visit was to see how a municipality supports the activities in the school, both in the segment of regular activities and in the segment of renovations.
- ✓ An analysis of the standards, needs and budgets for maintaining hygiene in the schools was completed. A comparison was made between a private and a public school. Thus, a report and an infographic were produced that show the findings and the results.
- ✓ The training for representatives of the 12 renovated schools in the first project year (technical staff, school secretaries and principals) was held on March 22, 2019. At the training, the good practices for maintenance of school facilities, maintenance of hygiene, maintenance of heating systems in the schools and organization of the school staff in case of natural disasters were presented.
- ✓ A tender procedure was conducted, whereby companies were selected for procurement of tools and equipment for maintenance of school facilities.
- ✓ On the call for selection of schools for renovation that was submitted to all primary and secondary schools, as a result 195 applications were received. The applications were administered and sent for evaluation to all members of the committee individually. The results are expected to be obtained in the first week of April.
- ✓ The documentation for the cost share of the schools and the municipalities in the renovation projects was completed for six (6) schools, and it accounts for 20.92% of the total investment.