

## Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project November 2018

### Interconnected activities

#### Project collaboration activities

- ✓ On November 2, 2018 the project representatives met with the Practice Manager for Education for the Europe and Central Asia of the World Bank. The meeting revolved around the current situation regarding the quality and relevance of the education in Macedonia and the role of the think-tanks and civil sector in overcoming the shortcomings in education quality and relevance, in light of the information presented in the Human Capital Project.
- ✓ A meeting with the Special Advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister of Republic of Macedonia for Developing Multicultural Society, Interculturalism and Inter-Cultural Communication was held by the project team on November 5, 2018. During the meeting the call for applications for representatives of civil society organizations and interested persons for participation in working groups for preparation of the *National strategy for development of the concept for a common (one) society and interculturalism in the Republic of Macedonia* was discussed.
- ✓ Following the move of Macedonian Civic Education Center offices to a new location, an OPEN HOUSE event was organized on November 7, 2018. During the event the Youth Ethnic Integration presented project goals, objectives and achievements to guests, partners and donor community.

#### 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](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.
- ✓ In addition, EduMobMK was promoted to the schools who are involved in the second project year – schools which will be supported to organize joint subject clubs in schools, creative workshops and forum theaters. Therefore, the schools who are involved in project activities will have continuous access to information about calls for applications for various types of support by the project as well as news about project events.
- ✓ A promotional video regarding the Youth Camp organized in October was created. The video is available on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQFJHk9XFdo&t=4s>. The video portrays the activities conducted with students from different ethnic backgrounds during the Youth Camp and communicates the importance of strengthening interethnic cohesion and building civic and democratic values and behaviors among youth with the general public.
- ✓ Representatives of the project participated at a USAID Development Outreach and Communications Workshop. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of Information Officers for improving outreach via the social network Instagram. As a result of the workshop, new practices will be utilized for increasing engagement and driving results via social media.

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

- ✓ As a follow up of both, the *YElforPeaceDay* event and the *Workshop for critical thinking, argumentative speaking and youth initiatives*, a student discussion with the Mayor of the City of Skopje will be organized. The aim of the meeting is to give the students an opportunity to share their recommendations for beautifying the Skopje City Park with the Mayor and get familiar with the opportunities to effect change and directly participate in the initiative.

#### Cooperation with media outlets

- ✓ A TV appearance for two teachers from the secondary school “Nikola Karev” in Strumica who were trained for implementation of creative workshops and forum theaters was organized. As guests on the morning program on TV Kanal Vis, the teachers shared information about the successful organization of creative workshops in the schools and announced the upcoming public presentation from the creative workshops. To view the guesting on the morning program please visit the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ncFvomZMTg&t=1s>.
- ✓ In addition, to increase public awareness about the project activities, media coverage for the public presentation from the creative workshops was facilitated.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ Data collection from the post-assessment of phase 1 schools is completed. It resulted in collecting about 1300 responses from students, 350 from teachers, 420 from parents and 63 from school directors and professional staff. The sample is regionally and ethnically balanced and provides solid ground for analysis of the effects of the first phase of project activities.
- ✓ In addition, 16 focus group discussions with students, teachers and parents from phase 1 schools were completed and the process of collecting transcripts from the discussions is ongoing. The qualitative analysis of the focus group discussions will further elaborate the effects the implementation of project activities had on school and community level.
- ✓ The M&E team prepared an electronic form for reporting the activities conducted in the frames of the subject clubs. The form was presented to school representatives during the meeting held on November 12, 2018. This will enable the project team to gain an easy access to information related to quality and quantity of conducted activities within the school subject clubs.
- ✓ Furthermore, the project developed a new instrument in the KoBo platform to be used by the project team during monitoring visits to subject clubs activities in the multilingual schools. The instrument includes questions specific to the criteria for implementing interethnic joint subject clubs in schools. This will inform the project about the quality of implementation and will be used as a learning tool for implementation of such and similar activities in school clubs in the future.
- ✓ Instruments (questionnaires for students and teachers) for the baseline assessment of Civic Education curriculum in the secondary schools were developed and sent to Bureau for Development of Education for approval. Once approved, the questionnaires will be uploaded in the electronic version and sent to Civic Education teachers and students from secondary schools.
- ✓ A form for electronic registration of teachers-participants at the Civic Education trainings for new curriculum for grade eight (8) was prepared and is being used to register participants and collect additional data on the teachers teaching Civic Education in primary schools. This is a very effective tool to troubleshoot any problems in communication or information sharing with schools and enables the project team to act swiftly and contact schools and/or teachers that didn't register, inform them about the training opportunity and instruct them about the process of enlisting.
- ✓ To learn about the quality of the ongoing civic education teacher trainings, an evaluation questionnaire was developed and is used at the end of each training phase. The questionnaires contain items on the teachers' needs for supporting civic initiatives which they are required to conduct with their students.
- ✓ The e-questionnaires for students, teachers and parents from phase 2 schools were prepared. However, due to donor recommendation the e-questionnaires will be used as part of the evaluation of effects at the end of conducted activities (May/June 2019).

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing a visit of USAID Desk Officer to Macedonia, Mr. David Brown to PS Zhivko Brajkovski in Butel and the Municipality of Butel.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Creating a media digest and sharing it with media outlets.
- ➔ Updating the strategy for use of online outreach tools.
- ➔ Organizing a student discussion with the Mayor of the City of Skopje.
- ➔ Conducting focus groups with students from the phase 2 schools, in order to assess their opinions and perceptions with regards to the interethnic integration and civic initiatives in school.
- ➔ Preparing and conducting e-survey with secondary school civic education teachers and students, in the frame of the Baseline assessment of the new civic education curriculum for secondary schools.
- ➔ Processing data from post-assessment survey and focus group discussions with teachers, students and parents from phase 1 schools.
- ➔ Developing instruments for assessing primary schools teachers' and students' experiences from implementation of the new grade eight (8) civic education curriculum in the first semester.

## Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

### Supporting the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education in implementation of planned activities

- ✓ The project team supported the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education to develop an electronic application form for schools to apply for MoES grant for joint student activities. As a result, MoES received 114 completed applications from primary and secondary schools in the country. Following, on November 30, 2018 the project jointly with the MoES Working Group defined the criteria and the assessment process for the evaluation of received applications. Moreover, the selection process is expected to be finalized within the upcoming period.

## Regional meetings with State Education Inspectors

- ✓ The support to the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education planned activities to strengthen the process of interethnic integration in the education system continued. Five (5) regional meetings with State Education Inspectors were organized in Skopje, Tetovo, Stip, Ohrid and Bitola in the period from November 2 to November 16, 2018. During these meetings, all State Education Inspectors were informed and updated about the process of interethnic integration in education, as well as the objectives, achieved results and future activities of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education. Also, the role of the inspectorate and the integral evaluation in providing and improving the systemic support to the process of interethnic integration in education was discussed. YEI together with OSCE and MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education will discuss the outcomes and recommendations from these meetings and review possibilities of addressing them accordingly in the forthcoming period.

## Roundtable discussion on the role of the secondary schools in advancing interethnic integration

- ✓ On the initiative of the City of Skopje, the project team conducted preparations and organized a roundtable discussion with secondary school directors and School Integration Team representatives from all secondary schools in Skopje on November 06, 2018. The roundtable gave the participants an opportunity to learn more about the relevance of interethnic integration in the education system, learn about good practices, the support provided by MoES and the donor community, share their views and discuss the positive experiences and challenges when implementing activities at the school level.

## Providing support to schools and School Integration Teams (SIT) members

- ✓ The project team provided support to the School Integration Team members from two partner schools, the primary schools Dimitar Makedonski from Municipality of Aerodrom and primary school Rametulla Ameti from v. Ciflik in Municipality of Zelino to meet and discuss the joint student activities that will be implemented in partnership. Both schools are selected to implement extracurricular activities with students from different languages of instructions during second project year.
- ✓ During the informative meeting, the representatives from School Integration Teams discussed the type of activities to be implemented with students, the time frame for implementation, the process of administrating the support, etc. As a result, both schools will have an opportunity to cooperate and change students and teacher attitude related to interethnic integration in education.

## Training for Creative Workshops and Forum Theatre for new eight (8) secondary schools from phase 2

- ✓ In coordination with mentors, the training for teachers who will implement creative workshops in the newly selected eight (8) secondary schools was organized. The project selected the following eight secondary schools to implement activities within project phase 2: SS Ismet Jashari, Municipality of Lipkovo; SS Saraj, Municipality of Saraj; SS Riste Risteski-Ricko, Municipality of Prilep; SS Kuzman Sapkarev, Municipality of Bitola; SS Braka Miladinovci, Municipality City of Skopje; SS Kole Nehtenin, Municipality of Stip; SS Gorce Petrov, Municipality of Kavadarci and SS Car Samoil, Municipality of Resen. The component team provided all necessary information to schools, as a result the selection of teachers at the school level were made. In addition, modules and the training content were prepared in coordination with mentors and facilitators. The teacher training took place from November 14-16, 2018 in Skopje and built the capacities of 18 new teachers to implement the methodology with students at the school level.
- ✓ Furthermore, the teachers from the eight (8) selected secondary schools were additionally gathered and trained to implement the forum theater methodology during a three-day training held on November 26-28, 2018. The goal of this training was to develop teachers' skills to use forum theater methodology with their students. The training offered various simulations and practices to teachers for developing skills to deal with various issues and learn to offer plenty of solutions when working with students. This methodology is practical, inclusive and participatory.

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

- ✓ Jointly with the City of Skopje and in coordination with OSCE, component team continued with preparations for supporting teachers from four (4) secondary schools in Skopje to implement joint curricular classes in their respective schools. Together with project mentors, modules and contents are discussed and designed. The workshop for teachers for implementation of interethnic integration in education process and joint curricular classes will take place in Ohrid on December 20-22, 2018. At the workshop will take part teachers designated to implement joint curricular classes in the forthcoming period.

## Long-term extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ On November 12, 2018 the project team organized an orientation meeting with representatives from schools selected to implement long-term extracurricular activities within school subject clubs. The meeting was divided in four (4) sessions covering the following topics: program and administrative guidance; monitoring and evaluation of the activities; media coverage and social media and group work.
- ✓ During this meeting, the facilitators shared with the participants' information regarding the administrative regulation of the payment procedure, as well as information regarding the process of monitoring and evaluation of the implemented activities. Furthermore, project web site, Facebook profile and mobile application "EduMobMK" were presented.
- ✓ In the final session, through group work, schools were provided with support and guidance to further develop the proposed activities in the application form that will lead to successful implementation of the approved activities and presentation of achievements in front of their communities. Following this meeting, the schools will commence with implementation of activities in the schools clubs with students from different languages of instruction.

- ✓ The primary school Petar Zdravkovski Penko and secondary school Cvetan Dimov were selected to implement long-term extracurricular activities in their school subject clubs but were unable to participate at joint orientation meeting. Thus, individual meetings with the school directors and teacher-implementers of the school subject clubs from these schools were organized. During the meetings, instructions for improving the quality of implementation of proposed activities and information regarding the regulation of administrative procedures were shared. Following these meetings, both schools will further develop the proposed activities and review the proposed budget.

#### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Supporting and building the capacities of the teachers from four (4) secondary schools from Skopje to implement joint curricular classes.
- ➔ Providing support to School Integration Teams (SIT) members in schools.
- ➔ Organizing orientation meeting with schools with single-language of instruction selected to implement long-term extracurricular activities in partnerships.
- ➔ Organizing long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs.
- ➔ Providing support to selected school to implement long-term extracurricular activities in school subject club.

## Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

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

- ✓ During November, the project team finalized all six themes part of the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students, i.e.:
  1. Civic Identity - an image of self as a citizen
  2. Cooperation and connection in civil society
  3. Citizen and society
  4. Religion, art and media in civil society
  5. The citizen and the state, and
  6. The Citizen and the world.
- ✓ All themes are designed, proofread and translated on all four languages of instruction.
- ✓ Furthermore, the third theme of the Brochure was published on the BDE web site and is available on the following link: [http://bro.gov.mk/docs/osnovno-obrazovanie/Broshura\\_za\\_gragjansko\\_obrazovanie-Tema\\_3.pdf](http://bro.gov.mk/docs/osnovno-obrazovanie/Broshura_za_gragjansko_obrazovanie-Tema_3.pdf).

### Civic Education teacher trainings

- ✓ In preparation for Civic Education teacher trainings, the project team conducted several coordination meetings, during which the organizational and logistical aspects were finalized. During November and December, approximately 450 Civic Education primary schools teachers will be trained in line with the revised Civic Education curricula and the Brochure for grade eight (8) students.
- ✓ These trainings will enhance Civic Education teachers' knowledge, methods and techniques to implement the revised Civic Education curricula in primary schools. The modules will also provide support for organizing civic initiatives in schools and community. Furthermore, the modules will include criteria for achieving, engaging and creating an interactive environment for development of civic knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviors, where students can learn by doing.
- ✓ On November 19-21, 2018 the first three-day training for Civic Education teachers from primary education was organized in hotel Drim in Struga. The second training was organized on the same location on November 26-28, 2018. These trainings enabled teachers to familiarize with the new approach to teaching and learning civic education that implies active involvement of students and implementation of student initiatives on school and community level.
- ✓ By the end of November, more than 200 primary school Civic Education teachers took part in one of two organized trainings. The training consists of eight sessions, where the first session provides participants with the knowledge and understanding about the meaning of Civic Education subject and the process of creating active and informed citizens. The next six (6) sessions introduce teachers to the themes in the Civic Education curricula. Each theme is represented through: presentation about key elements and methods, and techniques conducted through group work.
- ✓ The final sessions' aim is to empower Civic Education teachers to conduct students' initiatives. As a result, students' ideas about activities in the classroom, school and community will be developed and then implemented with help of their teachers. Through this session, examples about positive activities are given, in order to improve the community. Namely, during the first two trainings, these activities inspired teachers and motivated them to take action and build students' civic behaviors that will improve their community.

#### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students.
- ➔ Organizing trainings for the remaining more than 200 Civic Education teachers.
- ➔ Commencing with preparations for development of a series of animated videos to promote the reforms in Civic Education curricula.

## Incentives to schools / Renovations

### School renovation

- ✓ Within this period, Request for Offers for Renovation of PS “Kiril and Metodij” v.Romanovce and SS “Pero Nakov” from Municipality of Kumanovo; PS “Aco Shopov” from Municipality of Butel; PS “Goce Delchev and SS “Kuzman Shapkarev” from Municipality of Bitola and PS “Brakja Miladinovci” from Municipality of Struga prepared by the component team were announced in two daily newspapers (“Nova Makedonija” and “Koha”) and on the following web page: [www.mcgo.org.mk](http://www.mcgo.org.mk).
- ✓ On November 12, 2018 the evaluation committee organized public opening of the received bids for selection of construction companies for renovation projects for the following schools: PS “Vera Ciriviri Trena” v.Debreshte, Municipality Dolneni; PS “Andrea Savevski Kjikjish”, Municipality Tetovo; PS “Marshal Tito”, Municipality of Strumica and SS “Jane Sandanski”, Municipality Strumica. Interviews were conducted with representatives from each of the three (3) lowest price bidders and the project team prepared the necessary documentation for approval of selected constructing companies. The documentation was sent for approval and was officially approved by the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo.
- ✓ On November 19, 2018, the committee organized a public opening of the received bids for selection of construction companies for renovation projects of the following schools: PS “Kiril and Metodij” v.Romanovce, Municipality of Kumanovo; SS “Pero Nakov”, Municipality of Kumanovo and PS “Aco Shopov”, Municipality of Butel. Interviews were conducted with representatives from each of the three (3) lowest price bidders and the project team prepared the necessary documentation for approval of selected constructing companies. The documentation was sent for approval to the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo.
- ✓ On November 28, 2018, the committee organized public opening of the received bids for selection of construction companies, for renovation of the following schools: PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Bitola; SS “Kuzman Shapkarev”, Municipality of Bitola and PS “Brakja Miladinovci”, Municipality of Struga. Interviews were conducted with representatives from each of the three (3) lowest price bidders and the project team prepares the necessary documentation for approval of selected constructing companies.
- ✓ On November 7, 2018 requests for quotations was sent to the 3 highest ranking companies for supervision for each of the ten (10) renovation projects. On November 14, 2018 the committee comprised of project team members opened the received bids for selection of supervising companies and the lowest price bidders were selected for each of the ten (10) renovation projects. The supervisor should work in compliance with the contract and the Scope of Work.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Sending for approval the documentation for selection of construction companies, for renovation of the following schools: PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Bitola; SS “Kuzman Shapkarev”, Municipality of Bitola and PS “Brakja Miladinovci”, Municipality of Struga to the Contracting and Agreement Officer from the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo.
- ➔ Organizing preconstruction meeting 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; PS “Andrea Savevski Kjikjish”, Municipality of Tetovo; PS “Marshal Tito”, Municipality of Strumica; SS “Jane Sandanski”, Municipality of Strumica; PS “Kiril and Metodij” v.Romanovce, Municipality of Kumanovo; SS “Pero Nakov”, Municipality of Kumanovo; PS “Aco Shopov”, Municipality of Butel; PS “Goce Delchev”, Municipality of Bitola; SS “Kuzman Shapkarev”, Municipality of Bitola and PS “Brakja Miladinovci”, Municipality of Struga.
- ➔ Submitting technical documentation for school renovation by these two schools: PS “Nikola Karev”, Municipality of Radovish and PS “Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik, Municipality of Gostivar.