

Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project October 2018

Interconnected activities

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/UCMacedonianCivicEducationCenter))
- ✓ All online outreach platforms are regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials about the course of project activities.
- ✓ EduMobMK was modified to reflect the project needs. Namely, the section *Events* was replaced with a new section *Calls*. This section will feature calls for application for various types of support for schools, teachers and youth. Furthermore, modifications were introduced to comply with the latest iOS and Android requirements.
- ✓ The animated video for promoting interethnic integration was finalized and promoted during the public presentation of joint student activities, the project's TV appearance on TV Alsot as well as through online outreach tools. The video is available on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kUxOErj-4>.
- ✓ An informative video for the public presentation of joint student activities was created and shared on the project's online outreach platforms. The video depicts the school products from joint students' activities and creative workshops from the phase 1 of the project. The video is available on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmkBtE4MTmg&t=2s>.
- ✓ Infographics for the project's support to teachers, students and schools as well as the project's main accomplishments were developed. In these infographics, the project presented the areas in which the target groups will be supported.
- ✓ Representatives of the project participated at the USAID Development Outreach and Communications Workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of Information Officers for planning and executing outreach events and improving social media outreach. The guidance and information gained during this workshop will support the team in the successful implementation of upcoming project activities.

Workshop on critical thinking and argued expression

- ✓ A follow-up activity upon the #YEIforPeaceDay event was organized by the project. The activity or the *Workshop on critical thinking, argumentative speaking and youth initiatives* was organized for students who participated in the open community class. As a result of this workshop, a letter for the Mayor of the City of Skopje comprised of recommendations for beautifying the Skopje City Park was finalized.

Cooperation with media outlets

- ✓ For the previously mentioned workshop with students from different ethnic backgrounds, aiming to ensure greater coverage of project activities, a journalist field visit was organized. Specifically, the editor-in-chief of Radio MOF attended and covered the workshop. The article is available on the following link: https://www.radiomof.mk/so-drushba-protiv-stereotipite-osnovcite-od-butel-gi-detektiraa-problemite-vo-aednicata/?fbclid=IwAR1GjOw2jguPjsjFIdb7dfMWbK4I55wvzMKhfWIXtnFGSBAhOut-UMI_rew.
- ✓ Furthermore, project representatives were guests on the morning program on TV Alsot. The aim of the TV appearance was to inform the public about the successful organization of the Youth Camp and to share recent project accomplishments in strengthening interethnic integration in schools. To view the guesting on the morning program please visit the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA_JI1VZZds.

Public presentation of joint student activities products

- ✓ On October 17, 2018 a public presentation of joint student activities products was organized in Youth Cultural Center in Skopje. The event brought together about 130 students from 11 primary and secondary schools involved in the phase 1 of project implementation. In addition, about 250 guests, i.e. representatives from other schools, institutions and local community enjoyed the event.
- ✓ At the very start of the event, students from following schools: PS "Brakja Miladinovci" v.Tabanovce, Kumanovo, PS "Zhviko Brajkovski", Butel, PS "Goce Delchev", Bitola, SS "Pero Nakov", Kumanovo, PS "Marshal Tito", Strumica, PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" v.Debreshte, Dolneni and PS "Gjorgji Sugarev", Bitola, present the products from the process of implementation of youth initiatives and joint student activities in the designated booths.

- ✓ Furthermore, products, i.e. theatre plays from implementation of creative workshops and forum theatres were also presented during this event by students from secondary school “Kiril Pejčinovikj” from Tetovo and secondary school “Gostivar” from Gostivar.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ 90% of municipalities responded to the questionnaire for municipalities measuring municipal representatives' perceptions about the need for implementation of activities addressing interethnic integration and civic initiatives, including the need municipalities to provide support for such activities. Preliminary data processing was conducted and the statistical report will be finalized within the upcoming period.
- ✓ The electronic questionnaires for the post-assessment of experiences and opinions of students, teachers, parents and school management/support staff was sent to all 40 phase 1 schools during the first week of October. The process of data collection is ongoing and is expected to be completed during the second week of November 2018.
- ✓ A schedule for focus group discussions by schools was prepared by the project team. Furthermore, the component team also selected the moderators for each focus group. On these focus groups, students, teachers and parents from phase 1 schools will provide their insight with regards to the activities conducted in their schools and communities.
- ✓ Methodology for *Baseline assessment of Civic Education in secondary schools* was developed and approved by the BDE. In line with the methodology, questionnaires for teachers and students were designed and sent to BDE for approval.
- ✓ Instrument for electronic assessment of students' opinions regarding the effects of activities conducted during the Youth Camp was developed and filled in during the Yputh Camp's closing event.
- ✓ During the reporting period, the M&E team provided support to other components for their activities. Namely, the component for strengthening interethnic integration in education was supported through assisting the Ministry of Education and Science in developing the electronic application form for the Ministry's grant scheme.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Making available for download the latest version of EduMobMK.
- ➔ Promoting the project's online outreach platforms to schools involved in the second project year.
- ➔ Finalizing the promotional video for the Youth Camp and sharing it with the general public.
- ➔ Organizing a TV appearance.
- ➔ Organizing a students' meeting with the Mayor of City of Skopje.
- ➔ Conducting focus group discussions with students, teachers and parents, in the frames of the post assessment of phase 1 schools.
- ➔ Developing procedures for conducting pre and post assessment for the phase 2 schools, in terms of: selection of respondents, timeframe for responding, assigning responsible school representative, etc.
- ➔ Conducting survey and focus groups for *Baseline assessment of Civic Education in secondary schools*.
- ➔ Preparing the electronic questionnaires and information letters for the pre-assessment of phase 2 schools.
- ➔ Analysis of data from the Municipalities' Survey.
- ➔ Data analysis of post-assessment survey of phase 1 schools.

Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

Collaboration with key educational institutions

- ✓ Project team in cooperation with OSCE held several coordination meetings with the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education and State Education Inspectorate representatives to discuss and plan the upcoming regional meetings with the State Education Inspectors in Macedonia. Based on the planned activities of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education, five (5) regional meetings will take place in the period from November 2 to November 16, 2018 in Skopje, Tetovo, Stip, Ohrid and Bitola. During these meetings, all State Education Inspectors will be informed and updated about the process of interethnic integration in education, as well as the objectives, the achieved results and future activities of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education. Furthermore, the role of the inspectorate and the integral evaluation in providing systemic support to the process of interethnic integration in education will be discussed.

Workshop for building the capacities of YEI mentors for strategic and effective communication

- ✓ The project team commenced with preparations and organized a three-day workshop for capacity building of project mentors for effective and strategic communication. From October 17-19, 2018 guided by experienced trainer, the project mentors discussed and developed skills for effective and strategic communication as a fundamental aspect for supporting School Integration Team members, other teachers and students when implementing interethnic integration in education activities at the school level. The workshop was designed to offer various forms of simulations and exercises, such as: organizing press-conferences, debates, etc. As a result, YEI mentors had an opportunity to further develop skills for communicating with relevant stakeholders at the municipal and school level. Furthermore, they learned how to convey mutual messages to the public about the relevance of interethnic integration in education process in the country.

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

- ✓ Project team organized and conducted visits and meetings with directors, professional staff and SIT members from several schools from Skopje and Kratovo. The goal was to discuss activities, the role and the responsibilities of School Integration Team members, extra-curricular activities and partnership activities, how to actively include youth in planning process, but also help other teachers from this school to plan and implement interethnic integration in education activities. In addition, guidance and information was shared with schools regarding the MoES grant support for interethnic integration in education activities. These visits will continue to take place in the following period to support other schools that will in the near future conduct activities in partnership with other schools.

Supporting the City of Skopje's initiative for advancing interethnic integration in education in schools

- ✓ Project team conducted several coordination meetings with OSCE representatives, representatives from City of Skopje and representatives from project partner organization Youth Educational Forum, and made the preparations for the upcoming roundtable with secondary school directors and SIT representatives for November 06, 2018. The roundtable is envisaged as an opportunity for the participants to learn more about the relevance of interethnic integration in education process in the education system, learn about good practices, about the support provided by MoES and the donor community, and share their views and discuss the positive experiences and challenges when implementing activities at the school level.

Training for Creative Workshops for new eight (8) secondary schools from phase 2

- ✓ In coordination with mentors, the preparations for organizing the training for teachers who will implement creative workshops at schools commenced. The component team provided all necessary information to schools and the selections of teachers at the school level were made. In addition, modules and content of the training were prepared in coordination with mentors and facilitators. The training for teachers will take place from November 14-16 in Skopje, and will build the capacities of 16 new teachers from eight (8) secondary schools to implement the methodology with students at the school level.

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 started preparations for supporting the teachers from four (4) secondary schools from Skopje to implement joint curricular classes in their respective schools. In this period, modules and contents are being discussed and designed. The workshop for interethnic integration in education process and implementation of the joint curricular classes will take place end of November.

Long-term extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ On the call for applications for all primary and secondary multilingual schools for support of implementation of long-term extracurricular activities in their school subject clubs, 28 schools applied. Within this week the received applications were evaluated according to the defined criteria by the project committee consisted of project coordinators, representatives of partner organization Youth Educational Forum, member of MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education and representative of Project Mentors.
- ✓ In the upcoming period, the project will announce the results to schools and the selected schools will be invited to an orientation meeting. During this meeting, the administrative regulation of the payment procedure will be presented. Namely, through group work the schools will be provided with support and guidance to successfully implement the approved activities. As a result, students and teachers from the selected schools will implement activities that will enable them to know each other better, to learn and work together toward jointly based goal/product, while establishing and fostering interpersonal communication, interethnic and civic values.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing five (5) regional meetings with State Education Inspectors in Macedonia in coordination with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integration and OSCE.
- ➔ Holding a roundtable discussion with secondary schools directors and SIT representatives from City of Skopje.
- ➔ Organizing training for Creative Workshops for teachers implementers from new eight (8) secondary schools in Macedonia.
- ➔ Supporting and building the capacities of the teachers from the four (4) secondary schools from Skopje to implement joint curricular classes.
- ➔ Providing support to School Integration Teams (SIT) members in schools.

- ➔ Preparations for the meeting with Mayors and Municipal Education Officials.
- ➔ Preparations for training for forum theatre methodology for teachers implementers from new eight (8) secondary schools in Macedonia.
- ➔ Organizing orientation meeting with school selected to implement long term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs.

Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students

- ✓ During October, the project team finalized all six themes part of the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students. The six teaching themes presented in Brochure are as follows:
 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.

Four out of six themes were reviewed, proofread, designed and translated, and the last two themes are in the process of designing.

- ✓ Having in mind that there is a lack of teaching content for grade eight (8) Civic Education subject, the first theme of the Brochure developed jointly with the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) and other key education stakeholders was published on BDE website in the previous month. Thus the students and teachers started using the materials immediately. Therefore, upon finalizing the second theme of the Brochure, the same process was replicated. To support the implementation of Civic Education in schools and support the teaching and learning process, the second theme of the Brochure was also published on the BDE web site and is available on the following link: <http://bro.gov.mk/?q=mk/node/256>.

Development of modules for training Civic Education teachers

- ✓ Training modules matching the comprehensive Civic Education reform and the new teaching methods and techniques were finalized by the project team in this reporting period. This presents an inclusive process led by BDE as a responsible institution supported by the project team. In cooperation with BDE, the project team developed the induction content, the agenda for the upcoming teacher trainings and presentations for each theme. Specifically, the modules include content regarding new improved curricula, methods and instructions for building civic competences among students, creating initiatives and models for empowering students' participation in decision making processes.
- ✓ Participants at the meetings for developing training modules were members of the working group responsible for developing the modules that includes BDE advisors, practitioners and civil society representatives.

Baseline research for Civic Education content in secondary schools

- ✓ The project team conducted a coordinative meeting with BDE representatives, where a discussion about needs assessment and systematic setup of the Civic Education in secondary school was led. Based on the information gathered during this meeting, the methodology and timeframe for *Baseline research for Civic Education content in secondary schools* will be developed.
- ✓ The baseline research will include: assessment of topics/contents of interest for students, analysis of instructional methods for acquiring student competences, assessment of teachers' opinions on the relevant contents for the secondary education curriculum. The methodology would also include an assessment of teachers training needs for successful teaching of the subject, including self-assessment of their skills for teaching the required competences to students.
- ✓ During the reporting period, the project team in coordination with BDE representatives developed a field research methodology for the *Baseline research for CE content in secondary school*.

Youth Camp

- ✓ On October 20-22, 2018 a Youth Camp was organized in Ohrid, with 60 student and 12 teachers from the following secondary schools involved in the first project year activities: "Jane Sandanski", Strumica, "Rilinja" v.Zhitoshe, Dolneni, "Zef Ljush Marku", Skopje, "Pero Nakov", Kumanovo, "Niko Nestor", Struga and "Kuzman Shapkarev", Bitola. The selection of schools was based on the schools' demonstrated motivation and dedication to implement YEI activities.
- ✓ The Youth Camp was composed of different activities that not only encouraged collaboration between students from different ethnicities, but also stimulated students' creativity, critical thinking, communication and problem solving skills. Led by experienced facilitators, the participants were motivated to be actively involved in the decision making during the camp such as choosing the topic for debate, choosing the problem and finding the solution that is in their best interest. This positive experience, enabled students to demonstrate democracy and civic behavior while in the camp and to prepare them for future active involvement in the community and schools.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students.
- ➔ Developing research instruments (e-surveys), focus group discussion guides and interview guides for *Baseline research for Civic Education content in secondary school*.
- ➔ Organizing training of trainers for facilitators that will implement trainings for primary school Civic Education teachers.
- ➔ Conducting preparatory activities for carrying out trainings for primary school Civic Education teachers.

Incentives to schools / Renovations

Collaboration with UNICEF

- ✓ On October 2, 2018 the component team organized a joint meeting with the representatives of UNICEF. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the development of handbooks on disaster risk management for primary and secondary schools.
- ✓ During the meeting, the UNICEF representative shared the information about the stage of development of the handbooks. The handbook for activities with students from grade 1-3 of primary school is finalized, while the handbooks for students from grade 4-6 and from grade 7-9 of primary school are in the process of development. The handbooks are developed in cooperation with BDE Advisors.
- ✓ Youth Ethnic Integration Project will develop the handbooks for students in the secondary schools by using the same methodology. These handbooks will be used by the project during the workshops for developing disaster risk management skills to school staff and students that will be held with representatives from 12 selected schools for renovation and 10 youth clubs.

School renovation

- ✓ Following the field visits to 12 selected schools, in each school, the priority project for renovation of school building was defined. Audits of the technical design followed by development of Bill of Quantities (BoQ) and Scope of Work (SoW) necessary for preparing the Request For Offers were completed for 10 school renovation projects by the Component Coordinator (civil engineer).
- ✓ Memorandums of Understanding for renovation of 10 selected schools were prepared by the component team, in order to define the responsibilities of all parties involved in the renovation process. The Memorandums of Understanding were signed by the MCEC Executive director, Project Chief of Party, mayors of Municipalities and school directors.
- ✓ Request for offers for renovation of PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" v. Debreshte, Municipality of Dolneni, PS "Andreja Savevski Kjikjish", Municipality of Tetovo, PS "Marshal Tito", Municipality of Strumica and SS "Jane Sandanski", Municipality of Strumica were prepared by the project team. The requests for offers for renovations of four (4) schools were announced on October 29, 2018 in two daily newspapers: "Nova Makedonija" and "Koha" and on the following web page: www.mcgo.org.mk. The deadline for submission of offers for renovation is November 12, 2018. In addition, the request for offers for renovation for six (6) schools: PS "Kiril i Metodij" v. Romanovce, Municipality of Kumanovo, SS "Pero Nakov", Municipality of Kumanovo, PS "Aco Shopov", Municipality of Butel, PS "Goce Delche", Municipality of Bitola, SS "Kuzman Shapkarev", Municipality of Bitola and PS "Brakja Miladinovci", Municipality of Struga is in the process of development.
- ✓ In the next period, technical documentation for school renovation will be submitted by these two schools: PS "Nikola Karev", Municipality of Radovish and PS "Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik", Municipality of Gostivar.
- ✓ A public call for registering consulting companies for design, revision and supervision of school renovations was opened from September 5 till October 5, 2018. The call was published in two daily newspapers, Dnevnik and Koha, in Macedonian and in Albanian language and the project's website www.mcgo.org.mk. By the end of the deadline, applications from 12 consulting companies were received.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Signing of MoUs with directors of two selected schools i.e. PS Nikola Karev from Radovish and PS Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik from Gostivar and Mayor from respective municipalities.
- ➔ Announcing the request for offers for selection of construction companies
- ➔ Selection of construction companies.
- ➔ Selection of consulting companies for supervision.
- ➔ Preparing the annex to the Joint Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for the renovation projects in primary schools.
- ➔ Organization of preconstruction meetings in the schools.