

Monthly report USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project September 2018

Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Municipality of Centar was supported by the project team to integrate interethnic integration activities in primary schools. On the initiative of Municipality of Centar, the project team met with their representatives to discuss annual school programs in primary schools in their territory. As a result, the project team provided support in advancing existing annual school programs and school annual global plans by proposing curricular and extracurricular activities that advance interethnic integration in education. Hence, members of the team developed recommendations and forwarded those to the municipal representatives and municipality council for review and adoption.
- ✓ A second request was made by the Municipality of Centar to support their schools. On a separate meeting, the project team met with their representatives to discuss school building maintenance in seven (7) primary schools in their territory. During this meeting different possibilities for cooperation and methods for presenting the maintenance of school buildings were reviewed.
- ✓ On September 27, 2018 the Youth Ethnic Integration project team members also met with the organization Search for a Common Ground implementing Advancing Social Cohesion project. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the approach and prepare a joint presentation of both projects baseline study research data. In collaboration, both teams will present their findings before USAID staff late October.

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.
- ✓ A social media campaign for promoting the mobile application EduMobMK was developed and launched. The aim of the campaign is to increase the number of regular users of the application and ensure that schools are regularly informed about the course of project activities.
- ✓ An informative video for #YEIforPeaceDay event was developed and shared on all project's online outreach platforms. In addition, the video was promoted during the project's TV appearance on TV Sitel and is available on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2-sQBL-Adv>.
- ✓ Moreover, the project team is working on finalizing the animated video for promoting interethnic integration.

#YEIforPeaceDay

- ✓ On 21 September, 2018 to mark the International Peace Day, a public promotional event #YEIforPeaceDay was organized in the City Park in Skopje. The event was attended by more than 100 students and teachers from all primary schools from the municipality of Butel – PS Aco Sopov, PS Goce Delcev, PS Liman Kaba, PS Panajot Ginovski, PS Petar Zdravkovski Penko, PS Sv. Kliment Ohridski and PS Zivko Brajkovski. During the event, students from different ethnic communities jointly participated in several innovative and creative civic initiatives.

Cooperation with media outlets

- ✓ A representative from the project and two teachers from PS Zivko Brajkovski, Butel were guests on the morning program on TV Sitel. The aim of the TV appearance was to inform the public about the successful celebration of the International Peace Day 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=qIIvtWZlwN4&list=PLtjIOzsdTmKKiFeKxV7cL7M-swP33plTh&index=9>.
- ✓ Aiming to strengthen the role of the media in the process of promotion of the interethnic integration in schools, as well as the development of civic and democratic values among youth, a roundtable discussion with journalists was organized. During the event, the data from the pre-assessment research of phase 1 schools was also presented. Thus, about thirty journalists, representatives of the educational institutions and representatives of the international donor community attending the roundtable participated on the discussion on the following topic: *The role of the media and its impact on promoting interethnic integration and democratic values among youth.*
- ✓ Furthermore, to strengthen the cooperation with media outlets and ensure that they are updated with information about the course of project activities and accomplishments, a media newsletter was developed and shared with them.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ The project team developed and forwarded an e-questionnaire addressed to 80 municipalities and their representatives. The purpose of this survey is to assess 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. By the end of September, responses from 44 municipalities were received.
- ✓ A revised e-questionnaire for representatives of the school support staff and school directors' was prepared, translated and will be forwarded to schools soon. It aims to explore school support staff and school directors' perceptions on interethnic integration and civic initiatives in the schools, as well as gather their suggestions for improving the implementation of activities.
- ✓ The process of translating instruments for post-assessment perceptions and practices of students, teachers, parents, support staff and school directors from the phase 1 schools was completed. Questionnaires were inserted into SurveyMonkey and the process of developing collector lists for each school and sub-sample (students, teachers, parents, support staff and principals) is underway.

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.
- ➔ Promoting EduMobMK to schools involved in the second project year.
- ➔ Developing the infographic for integrated subject clubs.
- ➔ Sharing the video for promoting interethnic integration with the general public.
- ➔ Developing the video for civic and democratic values among youth.
- ➔ Organizing a field visit for representatives of media outlets.
- ➔ Organizing a TV appearance.
- ➔ Finalizing the methodology and instruments for conducting the baseline research of modes of implementation of Civic Education in secondary schools.
- ➔ Conducting post-assessment e-survey among students, teachers, parents, school support staff and school directors from the 40 - phase 1 schools.
- ➔ Completing the e-survey with municipality representatives and preparing the first draft with findings.
- ➔ Finalizing the methodology and instruments for the *Baseline study on the mode of implementation of civic education in secondary schools*.
- ➔ Training for focus group moderators and note-takers for the implementation of post-assessment research in phase 1 schools, and the *Baseline study on the mode of implementation of civic education in secondary schools*.

Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

Support to the City of Skopje's initiative for advancing interethnic integration in education process in secondary schools

- ✓ The project, in cooperation with OSCE and in coordination with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integrated Education and the Mayor of City of Skopje developed an Action Plan for the initiative raised by the City of Skopje, to support joint curricular classes with students from different languages of instruction in three selected secondary schools in Skopje.
- ✓ Thus, a meeting with the representatives from the City of Skopje, representatives of the three secondary schools (Arseni Jovkov, Boro Petrusevski and Zdravko Cvetkovski) and the project team was organized at the beginning of September, to discuss the initiative and plan the joint classes.
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Workshops to support new members of School Integration Teams (SITs)

- ✓ YEI team prepared and organized two (2) workshops to support new members of the School Integration Teams (SIT). 24 schools have new members of School Integration Teams (SITs) and needed support to introduce them to their responsibilities and processes on the school, municipal and national level. YEI mentors facilitated the process, during which School Integration Teams (SIT) members gained the necessary knowledge and skills to adhere to interethnic integration in education criteria when organizing and implementing joint student activities. In addition, the mentors

helped members to learn about the institutional changes and developments in regard to interethnic integration as a vital process in the education system. In the following period, support will be ensured for these schools. Hence, they can actively be involved in the interethnic integration in education processes and commence with implementation of interethnic integration activities in the schools.

Meeting with all Mayors and municipal education officials in Macedonia

- ✓ In order to strengthen the collaboration with municipalities, YEI team is preparing and will organize a meeting with Mayors and the municipal officials from all over Macedonia in the course of October. During the meeting, information about the ongoing interethnic integration in education process and Youth Ethnic Integration project activities will be shared. Furthermore, information about the institutional changes and achievements in the education system, maintenance of the schools buildings, improvement of the working and safety conditions for students and teachers will also be communicated. In addition, representatives of the MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integrated Education will inform Mayors and municipal officials about the relevance of the MoES grant that provides support to schools to implement joint student activities.

Workshop for building the capacities of YEI Mentors for Strategic and Effective Communication

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Long-term extracurricular activities in schools

- ✓ On September 7, 2018 a call for application was announced and all primary and secondary multilingual schools were invited to apply for support for implementation of long-term extracurricular activities in their school subject clubs. School submitted their applications online within a given deadline that allowed the project team to swiftly summarize the results.
- ✓ In the upcoming period, the received applications will be evaluated by the project committee according to the defined criteria. Following, the project will announce the results to schools.
- ✓ Selected schools will be supported to implement activities with students 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 three (3) Working meetings with Mayors and municipal education officials from municipalities in Macedonia.
- ➔ Implementing the workshop for building the capacities of YEI Mentors for Strategic and Effective Communication.
- ➔ Preparing the support to schools from the City of Skopje for advancing interethnic integration in education process through carrying out their initiative for joint classes.
- ➔ Holding regular coordination meetings and activities with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integrated Education.
- ➔ Meeting preparations for in-class observations and joint curricular classes.
- ➔ Organizing public presentations from the creative workshops and meetings with new selected eight (8) secondary schools for implementation of the creative workshops and forum theatre in 2019.
- ➔ Completing the evaluation of applications for supports of implementation of long-term extracurricular activities and announcing the results.
- ➔ Providing support to schools in implementation of long-term extracurricular activities.

Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students

- ✓ During September, the project team worked on finalizing the content and the specific themes that are part of the Brochure for Civic Education for grade eight (8) students. The first two themes of the Brochure were reviewed, proofread, designed and translated. Furthermore, the other four themes were also reviewed and the authors worked on their finalization.
- ✓ To support the implementation of Civic Education in schools and support the teaching and learning process, the first theme of the Brochure was published on the BDE web site and is available on the following link: <http://bro.gov.mk/?q=mk/node/256>.

- ✓ Publishing and making available the first theme of the Brochure developed based on the new improved Civic Education curricula marks the first result of the reform for advancing Civic Education subject implemented with the support of Youth Ethnic Integration Project.

Development of modules for training Civic Education teachers

- ✓ For the purpose of creating a comprehensive Civic Education approach, the project team started with development of modules for training of Civic Education teachers. Therefore, on September 16-18, 2018 the project team organized a three-day working meeting with the members of the working group responsible for developing the modules that includes BDE advisors, practitioners and civil society representatives. As a result, the foundation was set for developing the modules according to the new Civic Education curricula.
- ✓ 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. The working group responsible for developing the modules continues with its work and participates in a set of working meetings. As a result of these activities, draft modules are expected to be developed by the beginning of next month.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Finalizing the process of developing the Brochure for Civic Education for 8 grade students.
- ➔ Conducting the initial activities to commence the process of implementing the Baseline Research of the Civic Education Content in Secondary Schools.
- ➔ Finalizing the process of development of modules for training Civic Education teachers in primary schools.
- ➔ Organizing training of trainings 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

Field visits to selected schools for renovation from the first (1) project implementation year

- ✓ Field visits organized by the component team in order to analyze the technical aspect of the requested renovation projects for: PS "Vera Ciriviri Trena" in village Debreshte, Municipality of Dolneni; PS "Goce Delchev" and SS "Kuzman Shapkarev" in Bitola, PS "Andreja Savevski Kjikjish in Tetovo, PS "Edinstvo Bashkimi Birlik" in Gostivar, PS "Nikola Karev" in Radovish, PS "Marshal Tito" and SS Jane Sandanski in Strumica and PS "Aco Shopov" in Butel. In each school, in collaboration with School Renovation Team, the priority project for renovation of school building was defined.
- ✓ After the field visits, ten (10) out of 12 visited schools submitted the technical documentation for the priority renovation projects to the component team for further assessment. The technical documentation and requested positions submitted from six (6) schools were evaluated by the component team.
- ✓ On September 4, 2018 a public call for licensed companies for design, revision and supervision of construction works was announced in two daily newspapers (Nova Makedonija and Koha) and on MCEC website on the following link: <http://mk.mcgo.org.mk/jobs-tenders/>. Upon receiving the companies CVs, the component team will create a database of companies that will be used for renovation projects in schools. The database will be used to identify fitting companies for supervision of specific school renovations.

Vist of Major General Steven Cray to Municipality of Ohrid and PS Bratstvo Edinstvo

- ✓ On September 20, 2018 Major General Steven Cray, Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard visited the primary school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" in Ohrid and conducted an informal meeting with the Mayor of Municipality of Ohrid and the school representatives.
- ✓ The event in the school was attended by more than 40 students, teachers and parents, the Mayor of the Municipality of Ohrid, Jovan Stojanovski, as well as representatives of the Vermont National Guard, USA.
- ✓ All participants took part in a roundtable discussion about the joint activities implemented by the school with students from the three languages of instruction, as well as their impact on the wider community. Inspired by the positive results of such activities, youth from PS Bratstvo Edinstvo informed Major General Steven Cray about their willingness to establish partnership with a school from Vermont, USA.

Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Signing of Memorandum of Understandings with school directors and Mayors from the municipalities.
- ➔ Preparing of tender documentation for school renovation projects and announcing a public calls for selection of most favorable bidders for implementation of renovation activities.
- ➔ Evaluation of the first-ranked companies for implementation of renovation projects.