

# YOUTH ETHNIC INTEGRATION PROJECT

## A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME OF THE PROJECT?

The project started in April 2017 and will end in April 2022.

### WHO IMPLEMENTS THE PROJECT?

Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC) implements the project in cooperation with partner organization Youth Educational Forum (YEF). The project is funded by USAID and U.S. European Command.

### WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

The project established a close working relationship with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), all key educational institutions, all municipalities and schools in Macedonia and the international donor community.

### WHAT ARE THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES?

To improve interethnic integration through enabling positive interactions among ethnically diverse youth at a school and community level, and improving civic education curriculum, skills and behaviors, and volunteering among the youth. Over the project duration more than 50 schools will be renovated as an incentive for schools to participate in project activities.

### HOW MANY SCHOOLS WERE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROJECT?

40 schools from 9 municipalities (Bitola, Butel, Gostivar, Dolneni, Kumanovo, Radovis, Struga, Strumica and Tetovo). Creative workshops were implemented in 8 additional secondary schools.

## COOPERATION WITH THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES

- In order to express a mutual interest for cooperation, Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bureau for Development of Education were signed.
- Introductory meetings with mayors and representatives of the 9 municipalities included in the first year of the project were organized.
- Regular meetings with the Ministry of Education and Science Working Group for Interethnic Integration in Education were held.
- Representative from key educational institutions are involved in the process of updating the civic education component for primary and secondary education curriculum.
- Ministry of Education and Science representatives are included in the working group for school renovation activities which will create positive conditions for learning in schools, as an incentive for schools to enhance their work in the area of ethnic integration and demonstrated civic skills and behaviors.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES



- To provide user-friendly access information about project activities, a mobile application "EduMobMK" was launched. "EduMobMK" features the latest news in the sphere of education, information about calls for applications for various types of support for the schools and the communities as well as know-how resources. The application can be downloaded via the following links: [goo.gl/t6KC2B](https://goo.gl/t6KC2B) (iOS) and [goo.gl/9wPRjq](https://goo.gl/9wPRjq) (Android).
- To celebrate the International Peace Day, an event entitled #YEIforPeaceDay was organized. More than 130 students from different ethnic communities gathered to jointly debating their views on multiculturalism and youth's role in society, play fun sports and entertainments games and plant trees.
- A Launch Event officially marking the start of the project activities was organized. At the event, more than 100 students from various ethnicities emphasized the beauty of the colourfulness of our society through their performances.

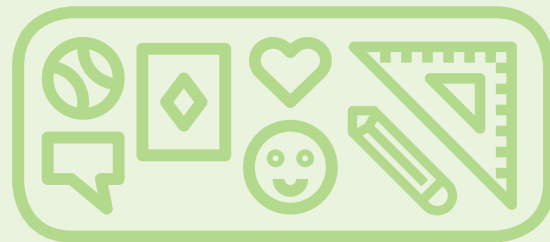
## ADVANCING INTERETHNIC INTEGRATION IN EDUCATION

## PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION



- The School Integration Teams (SITs) which have been established in all schools across Macedonia with the aim to be catalysts for interethnic integration in schools were furthered scaled up. 44 working meetings with SITs from all primary and secondary schools were organized, including more than 1,250 SITs representatives.
- 85 youth initiatives and joint student activities were supported as part of curricular and extracurricular primary and secondary schools activities, with more than 1,300 students from different ethnic communities participating.
- Trainings for creative workshops and were conducted for 16 teachers from 8 secondary schools, enabling the subsequent organization of more than 300 creative workshops and forum theaters including around 160 students were organized.
- A cycle of 9 public student discussions "Youth Talks" were organized in all municipalities included in the first project year, with more than 800 students, teachers, parents, mayors and municipalities representatives participating.

- A comparative analysis of regional and international best practices related to Civic Education was conducted, comprised of key findings from the implementation of the Civic Education curricula in 6 selected countries (Australia, Austria, Finland, Montenegro, Slovenia and USA) and an overview of international recommendations related to Civic Education.
- After the finalization of the "Document for student's civic competences", a revision of the Civic Education curriculum for 8th grade in Macedonia was conducted, in cooperation with the Strengthening Multiethnic Cooperation in Municipalities Project funded by the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation.



## SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION



- Working group for school renovations comprised of U.S. Department of Defense, Ministry of Education and Science/Sector of Capital Investments and project representatives was established.
- As an incentive for schools to participate in project activities and in order to improve the learning and working conditions in school buildings, through an open call, 9 primary and 3 secondary schools were selected for renovation activities.
- Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) was developed and finalized, in order to ensure that all renovation activities are to be in compliance with USAID regulations.
- As part of the joint and coordinated efforts of the project and UNICEF, workshop modules for building the skills for disaster risk management of all employed staff in the school, students and parents are being developed by UNICEF.

- Joint student activities and initiatives on school and community level will be supported, to create opportunities for schools to foster better interethnic integration among youth.
- The educational officials of all municipalities will be supported to start the process of developing policy strategies focused towards advancing the youth ethnic integration and support youth civic initiatives at local level.
- Educational institutions will be further supported in their efforts to revise the civic education curriculum and engage students in school and community life.
- Capacity building activities targeting educational institutions and teachers will be conducted, in order to enable active civic engagement of students at school and community level.
- Over the project duration, more than 50 schools will be renovated.
- Post-assessment will be conducted in the 40 schools included in the first project year.

- Pre-assessment was conducted in the 40 schools included in the first project year, combining quantitative (e-survey) and qualitative methods (focus group discussions).
- An electronic database comprised of all relevant information about all primary and secondary schools in Macedonia regarding project activities was developed and the process of data input is ongoing.
- Utilizing Kobo Toolbox, electronic M&E tools for field visits of project activities were developed.

### WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

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