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# Six months of YEI successes during COVID-19



A story of perceiving changes as an **opportunity for adaptation and advancement** during a world crisis



**285 digitalized project activities with over 500 involved students**



**Around 700 participants took part in 60 meetings, online discussions and capacity-building activities**



**Instructional videos, guidelines and infographics for providing support for teachers and schools in coping with the COVID-19 crisis and adapting to distance education have been developed**

## **Component 1: Strengthened Interethnic Cohesion in the Education System**

- ✓ More than 470 students have taken part in 255 joint curricular classes conducted online.
- ✓ Around 50 students have taken part in 30 school subject club activities conducted online.
- ✓ A total of seven (7) online meetings have taken place between mentors and municipality officials which resulted with two (2) Municipality Policies for IIE and Youth Engagement being endorsed and eleven (11) municipalities working on their finalization.
- ✓ Six (6) online workshops have been conducted with 270 students from six (6) municipalities and eighteen (18) primary and secondary schools.
- ✓ An animated instructional video was developed in partnership with Youth Educational Forum, aimed to help teachers organize digital extracurricular activities with their students. The video was uploaded on the EDUINO platform.
- ✓ To mark the International Day of Peace, students from all 18 schools in six (6) municipalities, who were part of the process and activities for defining Youth Actions on the municipal level, recorded and shared their messages of peace.
- ✓ In collaboration with the MoES CIIE, the project team helped in gathering feedback from 262 primary and 68 secondary schools on conducted activities in the school year 2018/19.

## **Component 2: Strengthened Democratic Culture and Civic Behaviors Among Youth**

- ✓ More than 300 participants (CivEd teachers, student support staff and school management) from 120 schools took part in 25 online meetings for Encouraging Civic Ethos.
- ✓ A total of nine (9) online meetings were conducted with the Working group for secondary school CivEd and as a result, the Teacher's Manual for CivEd in vocational secondary school was developed and materials for Modules 1 and 2 were prepared.
- ✓ Two (2) guidelines for online teaching and assessment tools were developed for CivEd teachers containing a selection of online tools for CivEd classes and a guide on the process of assessment of CivEd competences, during the period of distance learning.
- ✓ More than 70 participants attended an online discussion on using digital tools during the distance education period and discussed the challenges they faced during this time.
- ✓ A booklet with good practices of student initiatives was developed and approved by the BDE serving as a guideline for schools on the process of conducting effective student initiatives.
- ✓ The Civic Education Concept in Primary Education has been approved by the BDE and adopted by the MoES.
- ✓ The materials which have been developed within the project, have been utilized in 44 CivEd classes on the platform Edulno (31 in Macedonian and 13 in Albanian language) and 9 classes on TV-Classroom.
- ✓ Over 2052 students and 127 CivEd teachers provided feedback on the revised curricula for grades eight (8) and nine (9), allowing the project team to evaluate the effects of the revisions.
- ✓ The research on CivEd in secondary schools conducted in 2019 containing feedback from 733 secondary school students and 106 CivEd teachers was finalized and published.

## **Component 3: School Incentives/ Renovations**

- ✓ A total of 12 online meetings were held with 48 members of the SRT (School Renovation Teams) where the priority projects for renovation of the schools from the technical aspect were discussed in detail.
- ✓ The project team developed a video containing steps and guidance for cleaning and disinfecting the school buildings after the crisis to prepare schools to open their doors to students.
- ✓ An infographic containing detailed procedures for cleaning and disinfection of school buildings after the crisis with COVID-19 pandemic was developed.
- ✓ The Guidelines Manual for Maintenance of School Buildings – Part Two was published. This publication was adopted by the MoES. It contains a number of useful guidelines and recommendations for educational institutions, municipalities and schools, regarding school cleaning procedures, operational procedures.
- ✓ An animated video for disaster (emergency) risk management in schools and an interactive video for disaster (emergency) risk management in schools were developed and uploaded on MCEC and the Ministry of Education and Science websites.

## **Lessons Learned**

- **Institutional support from BDE and VET Center through mentorship and online workshops is essential for the teachers, especially during distance education**, as it contributes towards better readiness of teachers and more efficient implementation of curricular and extracurricular activities. Thus, continuous institutional support through capacity building activities will be ensured through upcoming project activities.
- **The digitalization of curricular and extracurricular activities has a positive effect on students' creativity and focus in comparison to the traditional classroom setting**. Through the monitoring activities conducted with students regarding both curricular and extracurricular activities, it was concluded that the use of different digital tools improves the effectiveness of following the lectures and completing assignments. The project will work towards encouraging teachers to use a combination of digital tools even in traditional classroom settings.



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