

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *December 2019*



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ The course of developing the by-laws that regulate the processes and procedures related to professional development and career advancement of education staff in schools as stipulated in the Law for teachers and student support staff in primary and secondary schools is ongoing. The project in partnership with UNICEF is supporting these activities expected to be finalized in the upcoming quarter.

Public outreach

- ✓ A [promotional event for joint curricular classes](#) with secondary school students from City of Skopje studying in different languages of instruction was organized by the City of Skopje and the Ministry of Education and Science, with the support of the USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project and the OSCE Mission to Skopje. At the event, welcoming remarks were given by the Mayor of the City of Skopje, Petre Shilegov, the Minister of Education and Science, Arbër Ademi, the USAID North Macedonia Country Representative, Erik Janowsky, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, Clemens Kojka. Students and teachers shared their personal experiences from joint curricular classes and the results from the conducted researches for this initiative were also presented.
- ✓ A [video](#) to promote the impact of the joint curricular classes was developed and shared during the promotional event for joint curricular classes as well as through online outreach platforms.
- ✓ Following the event, a project representative was interviewed as part of a [media article on TV Al Jazeera](#) related to the joint curricular classes with students who study in different languages of instruction.
- ✓ To increase public outreach about youth actions in four schools in the City of Skopje, a promotional [video](#) was developed and shared on social media channels.
- ✓ To highlight the impact of the school renovation activities in Brakja Ramiz Hamid primary school in the Municipality of Suto Orizari, a promotional [video](#) was developed.
- ✓ An interactive animated video for crisis management in schools was developed. The video will help students become aware of procedures to follow and what to do in emergency situations such as an earthquake, flood or fire.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ✓ The project's excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in more than 60 media articles about the project activities in schools as well as in local communities. [Media newsletter](#) was developed and shared with all media outlets.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ As part of monitoring and evaluation activities, field visits to the last youth action in SS Boro Petrushevski was organized. The event encompassed more than 120 students from the four secondary schools from City of Skopje, who worked on embellishment of the school yard and placing new bicycle parking lots, planting trees and cleaning the school yard. During the visit, the students' views and awareness on youth activism were assessed and a report on the perceptions on youth activism and youth collaboration was prepared.
- ✓ Monitoring of the beneficiaries, their activities and project input is ongoing. Collected information on the participants from capacity building activities supported by the project, such as: trainings, workshops, mentoring sessions, working meetings, etc. were entered in the project database to provide an overview of targeted beneficiaries.
- ✓ Field visits to SS "Brakja Miladinovci", Dracevo and PS "Kuzman Josifoski Pitu" in Kicevo were organized to monitor the quality of school renovation activities as well as learn about school and student activities related to renovation.
- ✓ A public presentation of the key findings from the project monitoring and evaluation activities was organized that was attended by representatives from the key educational institutions.



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

Project support to the Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE)

- ✓ Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) in partnership with YEI project and OSCE held a coordination meeting to discuss the criteria and the assessment of the received applications for MoES funded interethnic integration activities in schools. MoES published the call for grant program that supports IIE activities at the school level late October and the call

was open for 30 days inviting all primary and secondary schools to apply with various types of activities. 200 schools responded and submitted applications. The members of the MoES CIIE compiled the applications for assessment, whereas the results of selected/awarded schools will be published in late January/early February 2020.

Project support to State Education Inspectorate

- ✓ After the gathered feedback and recommendations by all state education inspectors through regional meetings, the State Education Inspectorate (SEI) working group finalized the Manual for Integral Evaluation of Schools and the School Performance Quality Indicators (SPQI) in all 7 (seven) areas. These areas include: 1) Curricula and teaching programs; 2) Student's achievements; 3) Teaching and learning; 4) Student's support; 5) School climate; 6) Resources and 7) School management. In this way, SEI will have an improved mechanism to ensure quality in the implementation of interethnic integration and civic activities in our education system. At the beginning of 2020, YEI in partnership with SEI and Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) will organize a public event to present the changes in the Manual for Integral Evaluation.

Municipal ethnic integration policies

- ✓ Through mentoring visits and support, the process of endorsement of Municipal Strategies and Policies was completed. The municipalities of Gostivar, Tetovo, Kavadarci and Sv. Nikole endorsed the strategies at their municipal council meetings. Thus, all 15 municipalities that in 2019 developed their municipal policies and strategies will disseminate the experiences with other new municipalities in 2020.

Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ The project team jointly with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) and in partnership with City of Skopje organized the last two Youth Actions for this year. These actions encourage youth activism in students from different ethnic communities. They have the opportunity to cooperate with the local authorities and implement initiatives for improvement of the social challenges that concern them.
 - On December 06, 2019, students from the following secondary schools from Skopje - "Arseni Jovkov", "Brakja Miladinovci", "Zdravko Cvetkovski" and "Boro Petrushevski, organized [Youth Action in secondary school "Brakja Miladinovci"](#). More than 150 students, at the beginning of the action, cleaned the schoolyard and then some of them planted seasonal seeds and landscaped the spice garden, while others made decorative items. The young people had fun by simultaneously participating in many landscaping activities.
 - On December 13, the last [Youth Action took place and was organized in SS "Boro Petrusevski"](#), with participation of more than 120 students from the four secondary schools from City of Skopje. The secondary school students placed new bicycle parking lots and painted them. They also decorated the schoolyard by painting the walls and the fences. Being aware of the importance of the environment protection, they cleaned the space and organized eco-action for planting trees.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ On December 10, 2019 in partnership with City of Skopje, a promotional event for joint curricular classes was organized. The event gathered around 200 participants. During the event, the students and the teachers shared their personal experiences from the positive impact of the joint classes. About 90% of the students from different ethnic communities socialized, communicated and made new friends during the classes and 80% of them would like to have joint student classes in the next school year as well. The joint classes improved the interethnic cooperation and integration among the students from different ethnic communities and strengthened their civic and democratic values. During the second semester of the school year 2018/2019, over 700 joint classes were held, with over 450 students participating.

Long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs

- ✓ During this month, the schools continue to implement activities with students from different language of instruction within school subject clubs.
 - Regular meetings of students' members of chemistry school club were organized in PS "Goce Delchev" from Bitola. During these meetings, students from Macedonian and Albanian language of instruction had an opportunity to interact; exchange experiences and by performing chemical experiment to deepen their knowledge on different chemical processes such as: distillation, crystallization and the process of sublimation. Furthermore, they expand their knowledge on substances, compounds and mixtures. In addition, they learned more about the benefits of recycling process and how this process helps to protect the environment.
 - In SS "Cvetan Dimov", Municipality of Cair, students from Albanian and Turkish language of instruction, implemented activities within drama school club, which enabled them to learn and develop drama skills in order to share their interests and needs through theatre performance.

Long-term extracurricular activities in partnership

- ✓ Activities in partnership continued to be implemented in the selected schools with students from different language of instruction.
 - Students from primary school "Moshja Pijade" Municipality of Tetovo, implemented an activity in partnership with students from "Kocho Racin" Municipality of Sveti Nikole. Jointly they organized a humanitarian action and donated food and clothes to socially disadvantaged families from Tetovo.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Encouraging Civic Ethos

- ✓ 19 Open CivEd days were organized in schools during December, and were visited and monitored by BDE advisors, as well as YEI team. The activities ranged from: initiatives for improving the space in the school and around the school, environmental activities for cleaning up the school space and/or awareness raising on environmental issues, workshops on different topics of interest for students: influence of school testing on students' self-confidence, children rights, EU integration, environmental protection; discussions with members of local governments aimed at presenting initiatives and advocacy for certain ideas, etc. Several good practices were detected during this period, which demonstrate that schools which have tradition of student participation and inclusion find the activities for encouraging civic ethos as a natural extension of their everyday work with students.
- ✓ The process of selection of company for provision materials for 120 schools conducting activities for encouraging civic ethos was completed during this period. Schools are expected to receive the materials beginning of February 2020, as per the distribution plan.

Capacity building of BDE advisors on School Civic Ethos

- ✓ The workshop on aspects of school civic ethos for BDE advisors was held on December 2-3, 2019. 19 BDE advisors participated at the workshop that included five sessions: (1) Overview of the national CivEd Concept as a basis for democratic climate at school, (2) Introduction to the revised State Education Inspectorate indicators for assessing interethnic integration and student democratic participation, (3) Review of the process of supporting and guiding student initiatives, (4) Practical examples of cooperation between the school and the local community, with regards to the roles of the school director, support service and the municipal administration; and (5) Presenting the guidelines on detecting and collecting good practices from schools. BDE advisors participated at the workshop and will disseminate the core contents to the schools they are responsible for, during the first quarter of 2020.

Baseline Report on the implementation of Civic Education in Secondary Schools and participatory feedback on the revised CivEd curriculum

- ✓ Based on the main findings and recommendations from the analyses: *Baseline assessment of CivEd in secondary schools* and *Experiences with the CivEd subject in grade eight (8)*, two policy briefs were prepared, summarizing the main findings of the analyses and the main recommendations. The documents were translated in Albanian language, graphically designed, printed and shared with stakeholders during the final event for presenting the project achievements in 2019. The documents will announce further reforms in CivEd which will take place during the upcoming period.

CivEd teaching and learning resources

- ✓ All contents from topics 4 - 6 from the Teachers Manual for Grade 9 CivEd were completed translated in Albanian, Serbian and Turkish language and are being graphically designed, after which they will be posted on BDE web page.

Reflection on civic education teaching in schools

- ✓ 27 reports from BDE advisors were received, with regards to their visits to CivEd lessons in grades eight (8) and nine (9). The reports indicate that teachers use the materials developed in the frame of the project and recommended by BDE. However, there is a high variability with regards to the quality of the lessons. Teachers need constant mentoring and guidance in order to be able to facilitate lessons which not only cover CivEd content, but demonstrate civic values and behaviors in practice.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ Technical acceptance of the completed activities for renovations in SS "Braka Miladinovci" from City of Skopje; PS "Nikola Vapcarov" Municipality of Cair and PS "Kuzman Josifovski Pitu" from Municipality of Kicevo was organized by the project team.
- ✓ In this period, the maintenance tool boxes which includes tools, hygiene equipment and protective equipment were delivered to the 12 schools renovated in the second project year.
- ✓ Three new chapters as part of the second edition of Guidelines Manual for Maintenance of School Buildings were finalized by the component team in collaboration with consultants', experts in the relevant fields.
- ✓ Furthermore, documentation for cost-share contribution of school and municipality in the renovation process (financial or in-kind) was completed/finalized for PS "Vanco Nikoleski", Municipality of Ohrid.