

## USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *January 2020*



### Interconnected activities

---

#### Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Education institutions continued developing by-laws and regulating education staff lifelong learning through stipulating the process of professional development and career advancement in accordance with the Law for teachers and student support staff in primary and secondary schools. MCEC in partnership with UNICEF is supporting these activities, which assure quality in education system.

#### Public outreach

- ✓ To promote the impact of the school renovation conducted under Component 3 activities, [a ribbon-cutting/ field visit was organized at Avram Pisevski primary school](#) in the v. Bardovci, Municipality of Karpos. The event was attended by MAJ Patrick Enriquez from the Office of Defense Cooperation, the Mayor of the Municipality of Karpos, Stefan Bogoev, as well as a representative from the United States European Command (US EUCOM).
- ✓ A promotional video was developed for the renovation process of Kole Nedelkovski primary school in the Municipality of Centar, Skopje. The video portrays the importance of enabling working and learning conditions.
- ✓ YEI team in partnership with SEI and MoES CIIE commenced preparations for a public event related to the amendments that occurred in the School Performance Quality Indicators (SPQI) and Manual for Integral Evaluation. This event will gather all relevant key educational stakeholders, members of the MoES CIIE and all state inspectors to present the changes related to Integral Evaluation.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information, news and videos about the course of project activities.
- ✓ The project's excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in around 10 media articles about the project activities in schools as well as in local communities.

#### Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ A questionnaire was developed for evaluating the municipal involvement, for the municipalities which had in-depth collaboration with the project during 2019 (City of Skopje, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Butel and Strumica). The questionnaire in an electronic form was sent out to the municipal officials from the five municipalities. Following the receipt of completed questionnaires, a report will be developed containing key information on the manner of communication, financial planning, supported activities for interethnic integration in education and civic engagement, etc.
- ✓ Focus group questions were updated and reviewed for the purpose of the initial assessment with a sample of schools where subject clubs will be supported. The revised questions are now more suitable and additionally target issues of schools with one language of instructions but with students from different ethnic backgrounds. Namely, the focus group questions contain questions related to interculturalism.
- ✓ The project's database was updated with information from the capacity building activities that took place during this month. This will contribute to prompt access and detailed preview of data for project purposes.



### Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

---

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

- ✓ Members from the Ministry of Education and Science Council for Interethnic Integration in Education (MoES CIIE) in partnership with YEI project and OSCE held the first peer-to-peer capacity building and learning workshop in January. Two members from MoES CIIE organized sessions that focused on practical consideration of examples of grant applications regarding compliance with the principles of interethnic integration in education and determination of inputs, process and output indicators. These sessions goal was to assist members to upgrade their skills and knowledge using tools for assessments of applications. In addition, at the workshop members discussed the review of PMP (Performance Measurement Plan) indicators and excel table from collected data from school applications, as well as determination of indicators according to available data. At the following

capacity building workshop, MoES CIIE will focus on upgrading and revising of the PMP apropos progress of the interethnic integration process in schools.

#### Municipal ethnic integration policies

- ✓ In year 2020, fifteen (15) new municipalities will be included and will start the process of developing municipal policies and strategies for interethnic integration and youth engagement. Therefore, YEI team started preparations for a networking meeting anticipated to take place late February-early March. The new selected municipalities will work together with their peer municipalities that endorsed the interethnic policies in 2019. At this meeting, they will share and discuss good practices and challenges from this process. Afterwards, capacity building activities for municipal education officials will follow, in which YEI will support them to advance their skills for developing municipal policies for interethnic integration and youth engagement, including know-how on volunteering, civic engagement, fundraising, etc.

#### Engaging Youth to Lead by Example

- ✓ The project team jointly with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) started preparations for facilitating a workshop for municipal education officials and SIT members from the schools in the ten (10) municipalities aimed at providing guidelines for continuous support of long-term extracurricular joint activities in the subject clubs and support of youth actions in these communities. It is expected that municipalities and schools will gain skills on how to raise funds to support joint student activities and youth initiatives. As the newly adopted Law for Primary Education and the draft Law for Secondary Education prescribe student organizing in schools, the project will work with the elected students in the student parliament and the student ombudsman. In partnership with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) students' capacities for practicing their democratic and civic responsibilities will be built.

#### Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ Following the winter semester holidays and the schools were back to work. In that regard, six (6) vocational schools from City of Skopje continue to organize joint curricular classes as per selected subjects. YEI team in partnership with City of Skopje, Vocational Education and Training Center and Bureau for Development of Education organized coordination meetings to discuss the dynamics of support and mentorship that will be provided to schools throughout the year.

#### Long-term extracurricular activities in school subject clubs

- ✓ YEI team selected ten (10) schools in the ten (10) municipalities that in 2019 endorsed municipal polices to support the implementation of long-term extra-curricular activities in the school subject clubs throughout the year. The project team in 2020 will encourage these schools to increase the number of involved students in the subject clubs and include members of the student parliament in schools, in which the process of peer-to-peer collaboration will be a principal approach. At the end of the year, each school is expected to organize a joint youth event/action as a final presentation. Representatives of these schools (SIT coordinator and one member) will be gathered at the workshop with municipal education officials to discuss and plan joint student activities for subject clubs.

#### Long-term extracurricular activities in partnership

- ✓ Jointly with YEF, the project team initiated preparations for organizing a networking conference with partnering schools that will serve as a platform to exchange their good performances in the schools, success stories and the challenges they experienced, to improve the quality of IIE activities, and involve new approaches to implement more creative youth activities. In 2020, YEI will support 20 schools in partnership.



### **Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities**

---

#### Preparing reports from in class observations of CivEd lessons in primary schools and Civic ethos activities

- ✓ The project team entered and processed the data from reporting forms from conducted in-class observations and monitoring visits to CivEd Open Days. Two reports were developed on the basis of the data, resulting with findings on the quality of lessons and student initiatives, as well as recommendations on upgrading the reporting forms and processes.

#### Developing Term of Reference for engaging international consultant to develop and conduct a comprehensive training on school civic ethos

- ✓ On the basis of identified capacity building needs of institution representatives and practitioners, the project team defined the terms of reference (ToR) for the international consultant. His/her task will be to develop a tailor-made methodology for assessing and encouraging school civic ethos, and to conduct a training for the local BDE advisors as well as practitioners in order to raise their capacities and build the necessary competences.

#### Preparing materials for dissemination workshop on aspects of school civic ethos

- ✓ During January 2020, the contents and modules for the dissemination workshop on school civic ethos were prepared. During 2020, the advisors will disseminate the workshop to the school management and student support staff in order to enable them to understand better the overall civic ethos concept and how it should be integrated in different aspects of the school's day-to-day activities

#### Coordination meeting with BDE

- ✓ The project team started the coordination activities with BDE related to implementation of CivEd activities during this project year. Therefore, a meeting with representatives of BDE was organized, to define BDE advisors' engagement in terms of human resources and timeframe of activities for 2020.

#### Feedback on Civic Education concept

- ✓ The document - CivEd Concept was forwarded to the Civic Education working group for final feedback before its adoption. The comments from the CivEd working group members on the CivEd Concept will be reviewed and integrated into a pre-final version of the document. The pre-final version will be presented and discussed with all members of the working group during a working meeting at the beginning of February in order to be finalized for adoption.

#### Preparing a call for applications for members of the working group for Civic Education in secondary schools

- ✓ Call for applications for interested Civic Education teachers to be part of the working group for development of teaching and learning materials for secondary school CivEd was prepared. All secondary school CivEd teachers will be invited to apply during February, with a CV and samples of teaching plans (and videos of teacher's practice, if available).

#### Teacher Manual for grade 9 Civic education

- ✓ The graphic design of the final versions of the teacher manual for grade 9 was completed and the manual was uploaded on [BDEs web page](#), as well as shared with teachers by email.

#### Encouraging Civic Ethos

- ✓ Following the process of selection of company for provision materials for 120 schools conducting activities for encouraging civic ethos, the purchase of technical equipment was completed. The project developed the distribution plan and is in the process of preparing the necessary documents for delivering the equipment to schools.



### **Incentives to schools - Renovations**

---

#### School renovations

- ✓ Technical acceptance of the completed activities for renovation in PS "Kole Nedelkovski" from Municipality of Centar was organized by the project team.
- ✓ Furthermore, the project team worked on finalizing the three (3) new chapters of the second edition of the Guidelines Manual for Maintenance of School Buildings, which was initially produced as part of the activities of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project: 1) Maintenance of school hygiene; 2) Maintenance of systems which using solar energy and 3) Disaster risk management in the schools. This Manual will help schools to develop plans, methods and activities related to the maintenance of school buildings.
- ✓ The project team forwarded the Draft of second edition of the Guidelines Manual for Maintenance of School Buildings to the Ministry of Education and Science/ Sector for Capital Investments for review and comments.
- ✓ Additionally, the project team made the necessary preparations for selection of schools for renovation in 2020. The received applications during the last project year will be once again evaluated by members of the working group. School's needs for renovations will be checked, including if school facility in the meantime have been renovated, whether and which activities schools have implemented over the past year in the field of interethnic integration in education and civic initiatives.