

## Monthly report

### USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project (YEI)

### March 2018

#### Interconnected activities

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##### Youth initiatives and joint student activities program

- ✓ A meeting with representatives from secondary school Kiril Pejcinovic, Tetovo was organized by the project and support was provided to teachers in the process of defining the activities part of youth initiatives and joint student activities program. In addition, information regarding administrative regulation of the financial support to the school for realization of these activities was shared.
- ✓ A total of 31 activities supported within the youth initiatives and joint student activities program, were implemented by schools. Despite continues communication with the schools via email and telephone, the project team organized visits to schools in order to help the school's representatives in planning and implementation of the activities. During this month, support visits were organized in the following schools: PS "Zhivko Brajkovski", Butel, PS "Goce Delchev", Bitola, PS "Edinstvo-Bashkimi-Birlik", Gostivar, PS "Andrea Savevski Kikish", Tetovo, PS "Brakja Miladinovci", Struga, SS "Pero Nakov", Kumanovo and PS "Krstev Petkov Misirkov", Radovish.

##### 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](http://www.mcgo.org.mk))
  - Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/mcgo.mcec.mk](http://www.facebook.com/mcgo.mcec.mk))
  - Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/mcgo\\_mcec\\_mk/](https://www.instagram.com/mcgo_mcec_mk/))
  - mobile application EduMobMK (Android - <https://goo.gl/9wPRjq>; 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.
- ✓ Aiming to promote the importance of interethnic integration in education and civic and democratic values among youth, the project organized an online photo contest for teachers from all primary and secondary schools in Macedonia. For the interethnic integration theme, a total of 180 photos were submitted from 134 teachers. For the civic education theme, a total of 48 photos were submitted from 38 teachers.
- ✓ In order to coordinate online outreach activities with the project's partner organization Youth Educational Forum (YEF), a coordinative meeting was held with representatives of YEF. At the meeting, general guidelines for Branding Outreach and Communication Tools were discussed, aiming to ensure consistency and avoid overlapping.

##### Monitoring & Evaluation activities

- ✓ Electronic questionnaires as part of the quantitative section of the pretest of pilot schools were sent to all involved schools. The schools disseminated the questionnaires to students, parents, teachers and directors/professional service staffs. The project team monitored the data received from schools and provided support to schools in the process. The collection of data is expected to be finalized in the upcoming month.
- ✓ A total of 28 focus groups were organized as part of the qualitative section of the pretest with pilot schools. The focus groups were organized in five municipalities (Struga, Strumica, Kumanovo, Gostivar and Bitola). In total, 13 focus groups were organized with students, eight were organized with teachers and seven with parents.
- ✓ The school database was finalized and migrated to MCEC's server. A short training on how to use of the database was conducted to the project team.
- ✓ An electronic field visit report, utilizing Kobo Toolbox, was developed and guidelines for its use were delivered to project mentors. Using this report, the mentors will be able to provide the project with relevant information on the implementation of activities on a school and community level.

## Coordination and collaboration activities

- ✓ Representatives of the project attended USAID's Leadership Conference: *Macedonia's Journey from Development to Self-Reliance* which was held on March 30. The aim of the Conference was to officially mark the successful completion of the campaign for USAID's 25 Years Anniversary in Macedonia.
- ✓ Within the activities related to the celebration of the USAID's 25 Years Anniversary in Macedonia representative of YEI took part in the Sitel TV morning program.
- ✓ Representatives of the project attended the Western Balkans Youth Conference *Active Citizens* in Pristina, organized by the British Council in the period March 26-27. At the conference, through a series of panels, presentations and working groups, and in coordination with Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), a set of policy recommendations and suggestions to be presented at the Western Balkans Summit were developed.
- ✓ A progress update meeting was held with the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Education and Science, where the team provided information about the project's activities. At the meeting, developments both in the field of interethnic education, but also about civic education, were presented.
- ✓ YEI team conducted a meeting with representatives from the organization Democracy Lab. During the meeting, the team shared information regarding the process of improving Civic Education subject in primary and secondary school. Furthermore, the representatives from Democracy Lab presented their project proposal for Democracy and Civic Engagement Project and developed syllabus for service learning and civic engagement skills. The meeting was organized with the purpose to exchange experience and to discuss possible future collaboration regarding Civic Education.

## The voice of YEI

- ✓ To inspire and motivate youth and wider community to further take active role and engage in interethnic integration and civic responsibility activities, a series of events entitled "Youth Talks" were initiated in nine pilot municipalities. The aim of these activities is to hear the voice of youth and enable them to discuss community and youth topics that allow mutual collaborations, enhanced communication and awareness about community belonging and citizen responsibilities.
- ✓ Three Youth Talk events took place in Kumanovo, Strumica and Gostivar during March. As a result, youth from primary and secondary schools actively participated in the discussions on various youth topics and presented what they would like to change in their own communities. These events gathered more than 200 students and other participants, including municipal representatives, teachers, and local youth council representatives. Such events will follow in the course of April, May and June 2018, and will engage students from Tetovo, Dolneni, Bitola, Radovis, Butel and Struga.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Providing support to schools in implementation of joint student activities, supported by youth initiatives and joint student activities program.
- ➔ Regularly updating all project online platforms with information, news, photo galleries, videos, resources and materials.
- ➔ Selecting the winning photographs from the online photo contest for promoting interethnic integration in education and civic and democratic values among youth.
- ➔ Finalizing the collection of data through the electronic questionnaire.
- ➔ Processing and analyzing the data obtained from the qualitative and quantitative pretest with pilot schools.
- ➔ Inserting the data from schools in the project database.
- ➔ Organizing Youth Talks events in the pilot municipalities.

## Strengthened interethnic cohesion activities

### Coordination meeting with YEI Mentors for implementation of the working meeting with SITs

- ✓ A coordination meeting with YEI mentors was organized in Skopje, to present and discuss the developed contents for the planned working meetings with SITs from all primary and secondary schools. At this meeting the agenda was discussed and a small brochure with interethnic integration in education criteria was developed and given to mentors. In addition, the timetable of the working meetings with SITs was developed and shared, which also includes the plan of teams of mentors that will facilitate the working meetings.

### Working meetings with SITs from all school

- ✓ Preparations for gathering all SITs from schools across Macedonia were met by the project team. Starting from March 20 the first four meetings were held, gathering more than 480 SITs representatives from 160 schools. These working meetings aim is to discuss the role of the SITs in schools and changes made to their role at different levels. Additionally, on these meetings SITs representatives share their plans for curricular and extracurricular activities for joint student activities that are planned for this and the next schools year in their schools. Each working meeting is facilitated by a team of two YEI mentors. These meetings will take place from March till June 2018 and will include all primary and secondary schools from Macedonia grouped in 44 groups.

## Mentoring of curricular and extracurricular joint student activities by YEI mentors

- ✓ Various curricular and extracurricular joint student activities were implemented by schools and YEI mentors were engaged in mentoring and supporting such activities. In March, two curricular activities were visited and mentored, i.e. Edinstvo Bashkimi School in Gostivar and Goce Delcev in Bitola. Whereas other YEI mentors mentored extracurricular activities in the school Braka Miladinovci in Struga and Prerodba-Rilindja in Dolneni.

## Creative workshops in schools

- ✓ In eight selected secondary schools, teachers with their groups of students continued to implement creative workshops using different modules. These creative workshops are implemented every week in each of the schools. Students are offered diverse skills, from enhancing teamwork, team-building, developing communication and collaboration skills. Furthermore, students participate in lots of group works using creative ideas, and similar. In the following period, as part of their workshops, students will start to develop concepts for a joint product that will be presented at their final public presentations in their own communities. Until now, 72 creative workshops were implemented in schools.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing working meetings/workshops with SITs.
- ➔ Holding coordination meeting with MoES Working Group for Interethnic Integrated Education.
- ➔ Organizing YEI mentors visits to monitor extracurricular and curricular activities in schools.
- ➔ Supporting and implementing creative workshops in secondary schools

## Strengthened democratic culture & civic behaviours activities

### YEI support for revising Civic Education curricula content

- ✓ Through several working meetings, the sub-group responsible for key civic competences prepared the draft document with civic competences for students. The document gives focus on cognitive, social-emotional and practical dimension of the studying process. Crucial areas such as: civic identity; civic connection; citizenship and civil society; institutions; financial education; European Union and international organizations were developed and knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and civic behaviors that students should poses after certain degree of education were given in the document.
- ✓ On March 28, 2018 a working meeting with expert team for advancing Civic Education subject in primary and secondary school was conducted, where draft version of the document civic competences for students' was reviewed and suggestions for improvement were developed.
- ✓ The expert team discussed about activities that should be undertake in order Civic Education set-up to be established as a philosophy at school level engaging youngsters in decision making processes, developing positive attitudes towards initiatives, personal responsibility and volunteering in the community.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Announcing an open call for expert team for development of teaching programs for Civic Education subject.
- ➔ Organizing working meetings with the members of the expert group.

## Incentives to schools / Renovations

### School renovations

- ✓ The Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) was reviewed according to the comments received from the USAID Macedonia Mission Environmental Officer, responsible for Environmental Review and was officially approved by the USAID Mission Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Activity Manager COR/AOR and Bureau Environmental Officer. Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) was prepared for all possible types of school renovation projects that could be implemented in the pilot schools.
- ✓ Component team provided support to schools in implementation of activities supported by youth initiatives and joint student activities program.
- ✓ In addition, the component team provided support to workshops with SITs.

### Upcoming Activities

- ➔ Organizing field visits in selected schools.
- ➔ Establishing the School Renovation Teams in selected schools.
- ➔ Making the preparations for the School Renovation Teams training.
- ➔ Providing support to schools in implementation of activities supported by youth initiatives and joint student activities program.