

USAID Youth Ethnic Integration Project MONTHLY REPORT - *June 2022*



Interconnected activities

Public outreach

- ✓ Five (5) promotional videos about planning and implementing youth actions in [Tetovo](#), [Veles](#), [Prilep](#), [Kocani](#) and [Berovo](#) were published and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ On June 7, 2022, activities for promoting the youth action and the initiative of the students from the primary schools “Hristijan Todorovski Karpos”, “Hristijan Karpos” and “Svetozar Markovic” from Staro Nagoricane were organized. Also, a [promotional event](#) was organized on the occasion of the renovation of the sports hall for students from lower grades in the primary school “Hristijan Todorovski Karpos” in v. Dragomance. With financial support from the US European Command (EUCOM) part of the school building was completely renovated and adapted into a sports hall, so around 65 students have a better space for sports and socializing.
- ✓ A promotional event and a field visit in the renovated school building in PS “Marko Cepenkov”, v. Oresani in the Municipality of Zelenikovo was organized. With financial support from the US European Command (EUCOM), the roof of the school was reconstructed, and the attendees had an opportunity to see it during the visit. Also, all renovation activities were presented to the representative from USAID Washington and representatives from USAID North Macedonia.
- ✓ The online training meant for teachers *E-training on school civic ethos* was finalized.
- ✓ The process of crafting materials and arranging the recording of the instructional videos for application of the Intercultural Education (ICE) Standards started. The instructional videos will be uploaded on the platforms Eduino and Inovet and will be meant for teachers, school staff and other interested stakeholders.
- ✓ A promotional video for the event that was previously organized with students that are a part of the Idea Fusion Center was developed. It contains more details about the students’ initiatives that were implemented in the schools as well as their unified idea for student networking that was presented before representatives from the relevant educational institutions. The video will be presented during the Idea Fusion Center summer camp.
- ✓ Promotional materials regarding the project’s activities and accomplishments are being developed.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information and news about the course of project activities.
- ✓ The project’s excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in 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

- ✓ In order to provide an overview of the effects of the project, the project team conducted final evaluation activities throughout this month. The assessment of perceptions, opinions and experiences of students, parents, teachers, school management and institutional representatives combines the quantitative approach of collecting data from e-questionnaires and the qualitative approach of conducting focus group discussions, field visits and individual interviews with project beneficiaries. With the support of the BDE, by the end of the school year, over 2400 questionnaires were filled out by students, over 1000 questionnaires were filled out by teachers and over 1800 questionnaires were filled out by parents. Additionally, the implementation of focus group discussions was completed, as over 40 focus groups were conducted with project beneficiaries. In the upcoming period, the field visits and interviews will continue, and the process of data analysis will take place.

Idea Fusion Center (IFC)

- ✓ Taking into consideration that the Idea Fusion Center Camp is going to be conducted in July, the team conducted numerous meetings with the camp trainers and finalized the materials for the camp activities. This activity will bring together the IFC Alumni, the School Coordinators, as well as the newly selected students from the 11 involved schools, in the period July 4-6, 2022.



Strengthening interethnic cohesion activities

Online training for teachers-implementers of joint curricular classes

- ✓ The project team continued with activities to further develop materials for the online training for teachers-implementers, based on the *Guideline for implementation of joint curricular classes* and the experience from practical implementation of such classes in schools. Therefore, working meetings with BDE and VET Center representatives were held, during which the prepared material for all five sessions i.e., 1) Interethnic integration in the education system and the benefits from the implementation of IIE activities; 2) School activities for implementation of joint curricular classes; 3) Planning of joint curricular classes - separately for primary and secondary education; 4) Organization and realization of joint curricular classes and 5) Assessment of the developed students' intercultural competencies were jointly reviewed and finalized. Following, the developed materials were shared with various stakeholders for consultation and the received feedback was incorporated in the document.
- ✓ In addition, the project team initiated the process of programing the training and embedding it to the BDE and VET Center platforms for professional development of schools. Thus, an online meeting with the IT company was held that will develop the online training for teachers-implementers of joint curricular classes. During the meeting, the content of the training was shared and the timeframe for programing and placing the training in both platforms was agreed. Apart from the theoretical part presented textually, the training sessions will include video statements from end-users, exercises and sets of questions to evaluate mastering of materials and/or information for each session (expected to be answered with at least 80% accuracy). At the end, the online system will issue a certificate for all successful participants in the online training.

Intercultural Education (ICE) Standards for primary and secondary education

- ✓ YEI in partnership with Strengthening Multi-ethnic Cooperation in Municipalities Project financed by Pestalozzi Children's Foundation and implemented by MCEC, continued with activities for developing instructional videos for application of ICE Standards during the realization of curricular and extracurricular activities in schools. Following the initial coordination meeting, the members of the working group consisted of representatives from education institutions and practitioners, drafted a plan and timeframe of activities. Moreover, the members of this working group commenced to develop the materials, as well as the presentations for the videos.

Partnership with key educational institutions

- ✓ Through the integral evaluation, State Education Inspectorate (SEI) monitors and evaluates the quality of implementation of education process in primary and secondary schools, as well as the application of education laws and other regulations. To perform quality inspections and evaluation, SEI follows all changes in the primary and secondary education. Therefore, representatives from this institution initiated an additional activity and requested support for the organization of capacity building workshops aimed at acquainting state education inspectors with the novelties introduced with the Concept for primary education and recent changes in secondary education. Taking into consideration the importance of the integral evaluation in the process of ensuring quality in the implementation of interethnic integration and civic activities in our education system, the project in coordination with SEI supported the implementation of this initiative/activity. As a result, on June 6 and 7, 2022, a total of 53 education inspectors attended the two (2) one-day workshops held in h. Aleksandar Palace in Skopje.

Summer camp

- ✓ The project team in cooperation with the Red Cross and Roma Rock School organizations realized a summer camp on June 27-29, 2022. The camp took place in h. Solferino Hotel, Struga and was attended by 30 students from different ethnic background and organizations, i.e., Red Cross volunteers included in the Human Values Promotion Program, students-members of the Roma Rock School organization, as well as students from two secondary multilingual schools from City of Skopje who participated in the YEI project activities and demonstrated dedication and motivation for implementation of activities for IIE and youth engagement. The aim of the summer camp was to provide a creative and fun space through which a deeper relationship between the students from different ethnic communities was established. In order to enable maximum interaction between the students, the camp consisted of a combination of group and plenary activities. The plenary activities were teambuilding activities and group discussions, whereas the activities implemented in small mixed groups were creative and interactive joint student activities (music and creative workshops, organizing talent show by including music, dancing, singing and performances, etc.). To encourage greater cooperation and communication among the participants, each exercise and activity was implemented with a different "mixed" group of students. In each activity, special emphasis was put on the opportunity for exchanging opinions and experiences among students.

Implementation of youth actions in municipalities included in the process in 2021 and promotion

- ✓ The project team in partnership with Youth Educational Forum (YEF) conducted activities for finalization of the youth actions in the municipalities included in the process in 2021, as well as their promotion. Thus, the following was accomplished:
 - On June 6, 2022, an event for promotion of successfully implemented youth actions which included installation of outdoor chess boards, was organized in the Municipality of Cair. The youth actions were initiated by students from primary schools: "Hasan Prishtina", "Imri Elezi" and "Jashar Bej Shkupi" and supported by the municipality and YEF project, in cooperation with the YEF. The event brought together more than 50 participants, municipal representatives, primary school students, teachers, and school staff. To celebrate the joint achievements, sports activities with students were held, as well as an eco-action for cleaning the park, as a part of students' efforts to raise environmental awareness among residents.
 - On June 17, 2022, youth actions supported by the Municipality of Staro Nagoricane and YEF project, in partnership with YEF were implemented and promoted. During the event, students from primary schools: "Hristijan Todorovski Karpos", v. Mlado Nagorichane, "Hristijan Karpos", v. Dragomance and "Svetozar Markovik" were engaged in various activities initiated by them. They played fun sports activities in the sports ground in v. Mlado Nagoricane. Additional groups of students worked together, refurbished, and painted the football goals, while the third group of students enjoyed playing games in the children playground that was arranged with new equipment as a result of students' proactiveness. More than 50 participants were part of this event. Other than the student-participants, the event was attended by the Mayor of Staro Nagoricane, municipal representatives, primary school teachers and school staff.
- ✓ The process of collecting/registering cost-share of the municipalities with implemented Youth Actions continued and, in this month, documentation was completed for:
 - Municipality of Veles with the contribution of 74.72% of the total investment. With this cost-share, the process of documenting was completed for 10 out of 10 municipalities involved in 2020 and it accounts to 69.56% of the total investment.
 - Municipality of Kocani with the contribution of 61.11%; Municipality of Saraj with the contribution of 36.80%; Municipality of Aerodrom with the contribution of 83.61% and for the Municipality of Center with the contribution of 81.90% of the total investment. So far, the documentation for the cost-share was completed for 11 out of 15 municipalities involved in 2021, and it accounts to 66.86% of the total investment.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ On June 24, 2022, 62 teachers-implementers and School Integration Teams (SIT) coordinators from the following eight (8) secondary schools: "Boro Petrusevski", "Arseni Jovkov", "Zdravko Cvetkovski", "Brakja Miladinovci", "Dimitar Vlahov", "Vlado Tasevski", "Josip Broz Tito" and "Pance Kragjov" received [special awards](#) and recognitions from the Mayor of City of Skopje Danela Arsovska. As per the established practice, City of Skopje recognized teachers' efforts, their contribution and active participation in promoting IIE through participation in the initiative "I learn the language of my friend" and the organization of regular joint curricular classes with students from different language of instruction in the school year 2021/2022. During the academic year 2021/2022, a total number of 1336 joint classes in different subjects (i.e. Applied cosmetics, Computer science, English, French and German language, Art, Sport and sports activities etc.) were held, with 892 students participating.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Student initiatives in primary schools and in secondary vocational schools

- ✓ The distribution of packages with materials for supporting student initiatives to phase 3 primary schools and secondary vocational schools proceeded throughout May and June and was finalized. All 96 primary and 74 secondary vocational schools have received: LCD projector, laptop, posters for planning student initiatives and notebooks-planners for school staff.

Policies for assuring sustainability

- ✓ The project team worked along with the IT company to finalize the Macedonian language version of the *E-training on school civic ethos* and with the BDE on the development of certificates for completed training. The Macedonian version of the training is finalized and will be made available on the Eduino platform for all registered school staff. In addition, the training contents in Albanian language are completed and will be integrated in the platform in July.
- ✓ The WG on developing *Methodology for assessing school civic ethos* had its third meeting aimed at finalizing the assessment instruments for each stakeholder. After being approved by the WG members, questionnaires were programmed into Google forms in Macedonian and Albanian language and shared with a sample of: teachers, students, parents, management and support staff from 5 schools. The responses were collected by the end of June and will be processed and analyzed in early July. Based on the findings from the piloting, the WG will finalize the overall methodology.

Final promotional event for Civic Education

- ✓ Several meetings with the YEF team were held to agree upon the timeframe and specific activities for the event. The concept for the conference was slightly changed to fit into a one-day event with large number of participants, followed by a one-day policy workshop.
- ✓ After all invited speakers from the schools confirmed their participation, the team held meetings with the speakers to discuss the structure of the presentations and timelines for the overall process.
- ✓ Information on the conference was sent to all schools and CivEd teachers to express interest for participation and register a 4-member team from their school and over 100 school teams (consisted of teachers and students) have applied to participate at the conference.
- ✓ The presenters from schools sent the initial draft versions of their presentations for review and feedback from the project team.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ Engineering Reports for school renovations projects: Reconstruction of schoolyard fence in PS "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" in Municipality of Butel; Reconstruction of satellite school in v. Gjurgjeviste in PS "Naim Frasheri" in Municipality of Vrapcishte; Reconstruction of sport hall in PS "Goce Delcev" in Municipality of Sveti Nikole and Reconstruction of the basketball playground in PS "Koco Racin" in Municipality of Kratovo were prepared by the component team.
- ✓ Memorandums of understanding for school renovation projects mentioned above were signed by the MCEC Executive Director, Project Chief of Party, Mayors of Municipalities, and School Directors, so that all stakeholders accepted the obligations for the reconstruction of the schools.
- ✓ On June 10, 2022, a request for offers for the selection of construction companies for the projects: Reconstruction of schoolyard fence in PS "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" in Municipality of Butel and Reconstruction of satellite school in v. Gjurgjeviste in PS "Naim Frasheri" in Municipality of Vrapcishte were announced in two daily newspapers "Koha" in Albanian language and "Nova Makedonija" in Macedonian language and on the MCEC's website.
- ✓ On June 17, 2022, a request for offers for the selection of construction companies for the projects: Reconstruction of sport hall in PS "Goce Delcev" in Municipality of Sveti Nikole and Reconstruction of the basketball playground in PS "Koco Racin" in Municipality of Kratovo were announced in two daily newspapers "Koha" in Albanian language and "Nova Makedonija" in Macedonian language and on the MCEC's website.
- ✓ On June 24, 2022, public opening of offers submitted by the construction companies for the projects: Reconstruction of schoolyard fence in PS "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" in Municipality of Butel and Reconstruction of satellite school in v. Gjurgjeviste in PS "Naim Frasheri" in Municipality of Vrapcishte was organized in the MCEC premises.
- ✓ Technical acceptance for the reconstruction of roof in satellite school in v. Oresani in PS "Marko Cepenkov" in Municipality of Zelenikovo was organized in the school with representatives of the selected construction company, supervising company, and representatives of the school renovation team.
- ✓ On June 16, 2022, Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO), Poojan Tripathi, USAID representatives, and YEI team visited PS "Marko Cepenkov" in the Municipality of Zelenikovo. The aim of the visit was for BEO to control how was implemented the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) during the construction works for the roof reconstruction.
- ✓ In addition, the project team will continue to work on registering/collecting the necessary documentation for the cost-share contribution of schools and municipalities in the renovation process (financial or in-kind) for the schools in which the renovation process was completed.