

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



Interconnected activities

Project collaboration activities

- ✓ Partnerships with other organizations working on youth and education projects that have common values and goals with YEI are initiated and maintained. Thus, a joint student activity and organization of youth camp with Red Cross and Roma Rock School organizations was initiated. For that purpose, two joint coordinative meetings were held to discuss the objective of the youth camp, activities, the agenda and selection of student-participants. In the upcoming period, the project team will continue the coordination with both organizations to finalize activities and implement the youth camp.
- ✓ On May 31, 2022 project team representatives attended the “Digital Fair for Secondary Vocational Education 2.0” that brought together students, teachers, and parents from all primary schools across the country. The project team provided assistance and was involved in experience-exchange activities prior to the implementation of the event, regarding youth participation and the importance of interethnic integration. The event could be followed through Zoom Webinar in all languages of instruction and is available on [YouTube](#). Primary school students had a chance to hear the experiences of students studying in secondary vocational schools and the opportunities that vocational education offers regarding future careers. In the studio, students and representatives from schools and companies joined the discussions, using all languages interchangeably and setting a positive example of interethnic integration in education. The event was organized by Education for Employment (E4E@MK) project and the Ministry of Education and Science.

Public outreach

- ✓ On May 17, 2022, a [promotional event](#) was held on the occasion of the renovation of PS “Dimce Angelov Gaberot” from Demir Kapija. With the financial support from the US European Command (EUCOM), a new thermal façade was installed on the central building of the school thanks to which the school is warm in winter and cool in the summer and the studying and working conditions of more than 360 students and teachers are improved. Among the attendees on the event were USAID North Macedonia Country Representative, James Stein and the Chief of the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia, Major Daniel Mayeda, who together with the Mayor of the Municipality of Demir Kapija, Lazar Petrov, the school director, Mence Nikolova and representatives of the municipality and the school visited the school buildings, saw the new façade up close and made a tour of the space.
- ✓ Two (2) educational animated videos ([1](#), [2](#)) were developed for the needs of the online training for Civic Education teachers. They were published on USAID North Macedonia YouTube channel.
- ✓ Promotional materials regarding the project’s activities and accomplishments are being developed.
- ✓ The project’s excellent cooperation with media outlets resulted in media articles about the project activities in schools as well as in local communities.
- ✓ The project website and social media platforms were regularly updated with information and news about the course of project activities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ✓ Considering that the Project worked continuously on advancing interethnic integration in education and youth engagement, final evaluation is being conducted in order to provide an overview of the effects of the implemented project activities. 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. Thus, throughout this month, electronic questionnaires for teachers, students and parents were distributed to all primary and secondary schools in the country. The deadline for completion of the questionnaires is June 10, 2022. Additionally, focus group discussions were conducted with students and teachers in 9 schools across the country.

Idea Fusion Center (IFC)

- ✓ The Idea Fusion Center student-members and School Coordinators had a chance to provide testimonials regarding their overall experience with the activities and the implemented youth initiatives. These testimonials will be included in a video that will be promoted during the final event of the project and will capture the overall achievements within the IFC. For that purpose, the project team visited PS “Zivko Brajkovski” in Butel, PS “Straso Pindzur” v. Josifovo in Valandovo, PS “Marshal Tito” v. Murtino in Strumica, SS “Orde Copela” in Prilep, PS “Goce Delcev” in Bitola and SS “Kuzman Josifovski Pitu” in Prilep.

- ✓ Taking into account that an Idea Fusion Center Camp is going to be conducted in July, the team worked on developing the Camp Program. A document outlining the camp goals and objectives, as well as information on the expected participants and draft agenda was developed. 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

- ✓ To ensure self-reliance of activities and continuous quality implementation of joint curricular classes beyond the life of the project, YEI team engaged in developing an online training to be placed in BDE and VET Center professional development platforms. Hence, during this period, the project team continued with activities to develop the 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, an online and an in-person working meeting with BDE and VET Center representatives were held. During these meetings, the materials for three 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 and 3) Planning of joint curricular classes - separately for primary and secondary education, were finalized. Furthermore, the draft materials for the last two sessions i.e., 4) Organization and realization of joint curricular classes and 5) Assessment of the developed students' intercultural competencies were developed, reviewed and recommendations for their finalization were provided.

Intercultural Education (ICE) Standards for primary and secondary education

- ✓ The development of ICE Standards for primary as well as secondary education was supported by the project team jointly with Strengthening Multi-ethnic Cooperation in Municipalities Project financed by Pestalozzi Children's Foundation implemented by MCEC and the activities were carried out in partnership with education institutions. Following the adoption of the documents by MoES, the project team initiated the development of graphic design for both documents. The design was finalized in this period and the documents were shared with BDE, VET Center and MoES and published on their [web sites](#).
- ✓ Project partnership with Strengthening Multi-ethnic Cooperation in Municipalities Project will continue to achieve sustainability and implementation of adopted standards. Hence, jointly with education institutions and practitioners, activities for developing instructional videos for application of ICE Standards during the implementation of curricular and extracurricular activities in schools were initiated. Thus, coordination activities were conducted, and a plan and timeframe of activities drafted. In the upcoming quarter, materials and presentations for the instructional videos will be developed, followed by recording and placing the videos on the BDE and VET Center professional development platforms.

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, State Education Inspectorate 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 with state education inspectors aimed at acquainting them 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 will support them to implement this initiative/activity.

Municipal Policies for Interethnic Integration in Education (IIE) and Youth Civic Engagement.

- ✓ The project continued to track the adoption of Municipal Strategies for IIE and Youth Engagement in the remaining three (3) out of 15 municipalities included in the process in 2021 i.e., Bogdanci, Suto Orizari and Studenicani. In this period, the municipalities of Bogdanci and Studenicani adopted their local strategies. Hence, 14 out of 15 municipalities adopted such documents i.e., Dojran, Radovis, Caska, Bitola, Vasilevo, Karpos, Stip, Kisela Voda, Kicevo, Zhelino, Debar, Mavrovo Rostushe and now Bogdanci and Studenicani. The Municipality of Suto Orizari is expected to follow. The process of developing the strategy in this municipality is finalized and the document is forwarded to the municipal's council for adoption.

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

- ✓ The project team in partnership with 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 May 12, 2022, [youth actions](#) supported by the Municipality of Aerodrom and YEI project, in partnership with Youth Education Forum (YEF) were implemented and promoted. During the event, students conducted various activities initiated by them, related to protecting the environment and the importance of staying physically active and fit. Namely, students from primary schools “Goce Delcev”, “Blaze Koneski” and “Gjorgjia Pulevski” played basketball games in the renovated sports ground in Dolno Lisice, where basketball hoops were installed as a result of students’ proactiveness that presented an issue before. Additional groups of students worked together and planted trees in the park, rode their bicycles to show alternate ways of transport and played volleyball. Fifteen of those students were actively involved in the online activities for mapping and advocating for youth priorities and shared their views and contribution in the activities with the USAID representatives at the event. More than 50 participants were part of the event. Other than the student-participants it included the Mayor of Aerodrom, municipal representatives, guests from USAID, primary school teachers and school staff. [News](#) about the youth actions was shared with media from all over the country.
- Another event organized to promote the realized priority proposed by students from primary schools “Perparimi” v. Krusopek, “Diturija” and “Bajram Shabani” v. Kondovo was conducted on May 20, 2022. The arranging of the sports playing field with installation of new protective fence was conducted in PS “Perparimi” in v. Krusopek, Municipality of Saraj and it was initiated by the students during the online activities. The event brought together more than 50 participants, municipal representatives, primary school students, teachers, and school staff. To celebrate the joint achievements, students participated in different sports and activities for refurbishing and painting the existing benches in the school yard.
- In this period, the Municipality of Staro Nagoricane realized the intervention initiated by students from primary schools “Hristijan Todorovski Karpos” from v. Dragomance, “Hristijan Karpos” from v. Mlado Nagoricane and “Svetozar Markovic”. As a result of the collaboration between the project, the municipality, and the Youth Education Forum (YEF), a playground in v. Mlado Nagorichane was established and arranged with urban equipment, which was set as the most important youth priority. Activities for its promotion will be implemented in the upcoming period.
- On May 5, 2022, a coordination meeting with representatives from the Municipality of Cair was organized. The aim of the meeting was to discuss details and determine the timeframe for implementation of activities for promotion of the joint achievements and the student intervention that included installation of chess boards and equipment in the municipal park.
- ✓ On May 17, 2022, as part of the ribbon-cutting event activities in primary school “Dimce Angelov Gaberot” in Demir Kapija, also sports activities and student action (by planting trees in the school yard) were realized.
- ✓ The documentation of the cost-share from municipalities in the frames of the Component 1: Strengthening interethnic cohesion in the education system, was completed for Municipality of Gazi Baba with the contribution of 68.57% and Municipality of Gjorce Petrov with the contribution of 41.47% for the implementation of the Youth Actions. As of this month, the documentation for the cost-share of the municipalities involved in 2021 that implemented Youth Actions is completed for seven (7) out of 15 municipalities, and it amounts to 59.37% of the total investment.

Curricular activities in schools

- ✓ The project team in partnership with City of Skopje continued to provide support to the eight (8) secondary schools in Skopje (i.e., “Boro Petrusevski”, “Zdravko Cvetkovski”, “Arseni Jovkov”, “Josip Broz Tito”, “Dimitar Vlahov”, “Vlado Tasevski”, “Brakja Miladinovci” and “Pance Karagjozov”), to implement joint curricular classes with students from different languages of instruction. As a result, 162 joint classes in different general and vocational subjects (i.e., English language, Applied cosmetics, Computer science, German language, Art and Sport and sports activities) were held.



Strengthening democratic culture & civic behaviors activities

Student initiatives in primary schools and in secondary vocational schools

- ✓ The distribution of packages with materials to support student initiatives to phase 3 primary schools and secondary vocational schools began during this month. All secondary vocational schools received the packages, while the process of distribution to primary schools will continue throughout June 2022.

Policies for assuring sustainability

- ✓ The IT company SyNRG worked on programming *E-training on school civic ethos* and continuously consulted with the project team throughout the month. The draft version of the training was prepared and presented to the project team. The team provided feedback for improvement and had the opportunity to beta-test the overall training course, from the position of a user. After the final set of feedback from the project team, the version in Macedonian language will be finalized in early June and will be followed by a version in Albanian language.

- ✓ The second meeting of the Working Group for development of *Methodology for assessing school civic ethos* was held as a two-day event in order to finalize the framework of indicators and to reflect the changes in the questionnaires for students, teachers, parents and school management. The first versions of the documents have been prepared and consulted with all Working Group members. After the final set of revisions, they will be piloted in five (5) schools among different stakeholders, before being finalized.

Final promotional event for Civic Education

- ✓ The project team developed the structure and draft agenda for the event scheduled for August 25 and 26, 2022 and began contacting the pre-selected schools to participate in the final event, in coordination with the BDE and VET Center advisors responsible for their mentoring. By the end of the month, most of the contacted presenters confirmed participation at the event and were briefed on their tasks. More in-depth consultations will be held during the following month.



Incentives to schools - Renovations

School renovations

- ✓ Representatives from the best three (3) ranked companies for renovation projects: Installation of a new facade in PS "Milto Gura" in v.Strelci, Municipality of Kicevo; Reconstruction of school yard fence in PS "Joakim Krcoski" in Municipality of Kriva Palanka; Reconstruction of roof in satellite school in v.Oresani in PS "Marko Cepenkov" in Municipality of Zelenikovo; Reconstruction of classrooms in PS "Slavejko Arsov" in v.Podmocani in Municipality of Resen and Installation of new floor in PS "Hasan Prishtina" in Municipality of Cair was invited to individual interviews. After the interviews, the necessary documentation for approval of selected companies for the reconstruction of schools mentioned above was prepared by the project team and was sent for approval to the Contracting and Agreement Officer in the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo. The construction companies approved by the Contracting and Agreement Officer from the USAID Regional Contracting Office in Kosovo signed contracts with YEI CoP for each project separately.
- ✓ Preconstruction meetings for renovation projects: Reconstruction of roof in satellite school in v.Oresani in PS "Marko Cepenkov" in Municipality of Zelenikovo; Installation of a new facade in PS "Milto Gura" in v.Strelci, Municipality of Kicevo; Reconstruction of school yard fence in PS "Joakim Krcoski" in Municipality of Kriva Palanka; Reconstruction of classrooms in PS "Slavejko Arsov" in v.Podmocani in Resen Municipality and Installation of new floor in PS "Hasan Prishtina" in Municipality of Cair were organized in each school with representatives of the selected construction company, supervising company and representatives of school renovation team.
- ✓ On May 11, 2022, a call for applications for supervising of implementation of school renovation projects in six (6) schools was sent by e-mail to six (6) consulting companies. On May 16, 2022, tenders opening was organized, and consulting companies for supervising were selected.
- ✓ Results from the selection of construction companies and supervising companies were published on the MCGO web page: <https://mk.mcgo.org.mk/uncategorized/izbrani-kompanii-za-proekti-za-renoviranje-na-ucilista-5/>
- ✓ The project team continued 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. This month the project documented cost-share from PS "Dence Dejanoski" in the Municipality of Mavrovo Rostuse and the percentage of the cost-share is 14.91% of the total investment. So far, the project has documented contribution from nine (9) out of 12 schools and municipalities from the fourth project year in the renovation activities, and it accounts to 31.89% of the total investment.