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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

February 2017

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Debate Conference: Integrated Talks.** A two-day Debate Conference: "*Integrated talks*" was held which was attended by more than 100 secondary school students of different ethnic backgrounds in order to promote critical thinking, youth participation in decision-making and improvement of the interethnic relations among them. The students learned how to use a debate in real life and how to improve their public speaking skills. In addition, university professors, journalists and civil society representatives such as Maja Muhic from the University of South East Europe, Nazim Rashidi from Alsat-M, Mersiha Smailovikj from LEGIS, Bujar Luma from CBS Loja and Iva Mihajlovska from the Office of the Ombudsman were invited to share opinions and talk with the students about the intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity in Macedonia and the role of the young people in the development of culture, debate and media.
- **Festival of Performing Arts and Good Practices.** The second edition of the Festival "BE CREATIVE – BE INTERACTIVE – BE INTERETHNIC" was organized in order to share the best practices from the implemented creative workshops and creative corners of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project. The purpose of these creative processes through which the secondary school students from the Republic of Macedonia went in the past five year is to strengthen the participation of young people in the interethnic dialogue in the school environment and to increase the public awareness and the respect of human rights among young people in Macedonia through a creative approach and expression. This second edition of the festival was intended to be a practical and a good example for those who want to work with the younger generation in a creative way and it was intended for those who believe in the potential of the young generation and who believe that by guiding the creative potential possessed by young people, through well thought out and defined methodologies, changes can be made. The festival was attended by 110 students from the five schools which implemented a creative workshops methodology and a forum theater methodology, who resented their products of the 6-month work and mutual interaction. The festival was attended by the popular actors Sasko Kocev, Keti Doncevska-Ilic, Goran Ilic and Osman Ahmeti, who were involved in these processes and in the role of mentors.
- **Preparation of the IIEP closing ceremony.** The IIEP team began with the preparations for the ceremony for the achievements made so far under the project in partnership with the educational institutions, municipalities, schools and other partners and associates. The purpose of the event is to share the experiences and the progress towards interethnic cooperation and integration, and the further course of this important process in the educational system.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities covered regular updating of the information and publishing news and stories about the course of the activities through the Facebook page *Integratika*, as well as on the project's web site: www.pmio.mk.



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Additionally, the activities organised within the schools (independently or in partnership with the other schools) during this period were supported and covered by the media.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Organization of winter camp.** Winter camp was organized with participation of a total of 32 students and 8 teachers: from one monolingual (PS “Hristijan T. Karpos”, Kumanovo) and three multilingual primary schools (PS “Vrapciste”, Vrapciste, PS “Zivko Brajkovski”, Butel and PS “Brakja Miladinovci”, v. Dobrusevo, Mogila). At the camp, the students had the opportunity to cooperate in various mixed groups through communication games, team work, photographic workshops, as well as sports and fun activities. The 8 teachers also actively participated in the camp through special workshops organized for them.
- **Workshops for strengthening the role of the municipality in terms of the changes for IIE.** Two more workshops (on 1 and 2 February 2017) were held with the advisors in the municipalities that are involved in deepened cooperation and the SIT representatives from the schools. The five organized workshops included more than 200 participants.
- **Training for students from the pedagogical faculties.** Training was organized with 20 students from the pedagogical faculties in the RM. The purpose of the training is for the participants – future teachers to sensitise themselves for the work and to get familiar with the basic elements of the concept for promotion of the interethnic integration through the educational process.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **School Performances.** In the primary demonstration school “Sande Sterjoski” from Kicevo, a performance was held on the occasion of the school day. The performance comprised of several acts including two integrated acts prepared and implemented with students from all languages of instruction.
- **Working meeting with representatives of the municipality and elementary school principals.** A working meeting was held in Kicevo with the municipal education officials of the Municipality of Kicevo and the principals of the majority of elementary schools in the municipality. The previous practices of cooperation between the schools at municipal level were discussed, as well as the strategy for continuation of the cooperation and organizing new joint activities in the following year.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- **Renovation activities.** There are ongoing renovation activities which are an obligation of the IIEP in the municipal primary school of music “Lazo Micev Rale”, Municipality of Kavadarci.
- **A conference was held for presentation of good practices for maintenance of the schools.** The conference was held on 10 and 11 February 2017 in Hotel Drim in Skopje. The conference was attended by secretaries and technical personnel from the 63 renovated schools. At the conference, good practices for maintenance of the school buildings were presented by a representative from MoES/CI, municipal education officials, school principals and coordinators and members of Renovation Teams.
- **Equipment for maintenance of school buildings.** Equipment for maintenance of the school buildings was delivered to the PS “Hristijan Todorovski Karpos” in the Municipality



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of Kumanovo and the SS “Mosa Pijade“, Municipality of Tetovo which were additionally renovated in 2016.

- **Monthly meetings in 15 schools from Phase 5 for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the school buildings.** All 15 schools renovated in Phase 5 were visited by experts who monitor the work and the procedures for maintenance of the schools and they were provided with maintenance plans and professional assistance in terms of the maintenance of the school buildings (construction positions, heating system, electrical installations and hygiene).

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring and evaluation activities.** Monitoring of the ongoing IIEP activities, as well as finalization of the final evaluation report.

II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

- Closing ceremony for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project.
- Updating of the information and publishing contents via the Facebook page Integratika and the project's web page: www.pmio.mk.