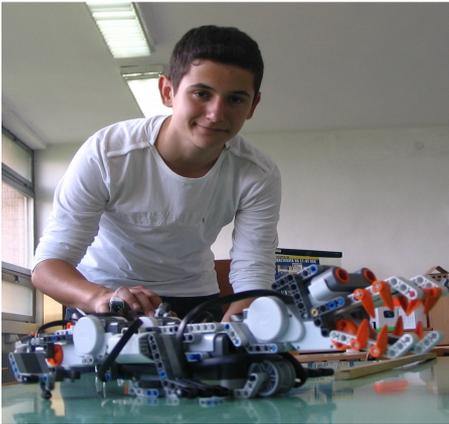




EDUCATION FOR A MODERN SOCIETY

2010



The Primary Education Project equips "21st Century Technology Labs" to increase student interest in technical studies and professions.

USAID Selected Results 1993-2010 Education

- Created Student Support Technician clubs in all central primary schools
- Helped over 2,200 Roma students to improve performance leading to increased graduation rates and higher education opportunities
- Created an educational web portal for primary and secondary schools
- Introduced entrepreneurship and career guidance curriculum content into upper primary schools
- Instituted Performance Indicators for both integral and self-evaluations of schools in the national system
- Established career centers in 71 vocational secondary schools
- Established real businesses in 44 and virtual companies in 7 vocational schools
- Organized the biggest humanitarian concert in Macedonian history
- Developed assessment standards and Code of Ethics
- Established the South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo

OVERVIEW

Several international studies show that Macedonia lags behind other transition countries in education performance. Improving the quality of education is a key priority for the Government of Macedonia and USAID to ensure that youth are equipped with knowledge and skills that will help foster economic growth and improve Macedonia's prospects for European Union membership. Since 2002, USAID has been implementing programs to address all levels of the education system – primary, secondary and university.

PROGRAMS

EQUAL ACCESS FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Launched in 2010, Equal Access promotes the idea that persons with disabilities can make use of the abilities they have and overcome the barriers they face in their daily life. It provides enhanced opportunities for primary-school students with disabilities in Macedonia to access education opportunities through the use of assistive technology. It increases teacher abilities to work with new technologies to assist these students, and promotes the benefits of assistive technology use in schools. Equal Access involves relevant stakeholders in creating an environment where children with disabilities can gain a better education.

PRIMARY EDUCATION PROJECT (PEP)

PEP improves the quality of primary education in Macedonia by introducing teaching methods that stimulate the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills in students, renovating schools to provide better learning environments, and expanding access and use to computer and internet technologies. The project works with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bureau for the Development of Education to develop quality digital learning materials and revitalize math and science curricula. To stimulate and reinforce quality learning, the majority of teachers in the upper primary grades will be trained in effective assessment methods, as well as inquiry-based learning techniques. As part of its school renovation component, the project will modernize over 100 schools across the country during its five years of implementation.

ROMA EDUCATION PROJECT

The Roma Education Project provides comprehensive education support for increasing school retention and academic achievement of Roma youth. Through its five Roma Education Centers in 5 communities in Skopje, Kumanovo and Prilep, the project assists preschool students in preparation for regular school, delivers after-school tutoring for primary school students, and provides scholarships and mentoring to secondary and higher education students. The project also works with parents to raise their awareness about the importance of education, and provides training to the teachers in intercultural education and education for social justice, school improvement and dealing with diversity.



The Equal Access for Equal Opportunities program helps students with disabilities learn to use assistive devices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Education Office Director
Alexander Woods
Tel: 011-389-2-310-2000

Local address:
USAID/Macedonia
U.S Embassy, Samoilova 21,
1000 Skopje
Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia Desk Officer
Email: Macedonia@usaid.gov
Tel: 202-712-4873

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

HUMAN & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Through this program, USAID has been enhancing capacities of the State Education Inspectorate (SEI) and the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) as key institutions in the education system whose functions and roles have been modernized and altered significantly since 2006. USAID support resulted in SEI providing professional education quality assurance by conducting over 80 school integral inspections in academic 2007/08. In addition, the program helped BDE improve its IT infrastructure and automate its job processes.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

CREATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROJECT

Since 2002, the Creative Teaching and Learning Project worked with 19 general secondary schools (gymnasia) and 45 primary schools to introduce interactive teaching methods, establish media labs with new computers and internet connectivity, and introduce best practices in school management. In 2005, the project focus shifted from in-service to pre-service teacher training: it is working with eight Teacher Training Institutions to ensure that future teachers start their jobs prepared with student-centered teaching methods and strong information technology skills. The project provided training in interactive teaching methodology and the principles of the European Credit Transfer System, and updated the curriculum to integrate Education for Social Justice and Information Technology. The project also provided facility renovations and established model classrooms and media labs.

SECONDARY EDUCATION ACTIVITY (SEA)

The Secondary Education Activity focused on improving the quality of education in all vocational schools across Macedonia and preparing their students for the workforce. It had three major components: teacher professional and career development; student career preparation; and strengthening school management and governance. Principles, standards, and competencies for teacher professional development, as well for teachers' Career Development grades were developed. The project has established 71 computer-equipped career centers, 59 vocational school-based companies, and virtual firms in 7 economics high schools to provide linkages with businesses and give students hands-on professional experience. Through its director certification program, the project trained over 360 primary and secondary school directors and developed a performance-based school management system, while School Board members were trained in executing their newly defined functions in a decentralized education system.

E-SCHOOLS PROJECT

The e-Schools project has improved the quality of teaching and enabled the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) by teachers and students. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science, the project installed 6,000 computers donated by the Chinese Government, trained over 10,000 teachers in the use of ICT in Macedonian schools, and created an education portal that linked the school communities and all teachers in a virtual working environment (www.schools.edu.mk). Servers were installed in all 460 schools to provide for central monitoring, troubleshooting and other maintenance support.