



E-bulletin

USAID Readers are Leaders Project

Literacy and Math for Intellectual Growth

This project is being implemented by the Foundation for Education and Cultural Initiatives "Step by Step" – Macedonia

Dear readers,

This is the first issue of our e-bulletin for the new year and the new school semester. Ahead of us is a period full of activities for everyone involved with the USAID Readers are Leaders Project or for all of you who wish to get involved. In this issue you can read about the activities that the project team carried out at the end of the last year, as well as the events planned for February.

Enjoy reading!

Greetings from the project team



EGRA and EGMA piloted in selected schools

In the period between December 4 and 24, EGRA and EGMA tools were successfully pilot tested with 3 and 4 grade students from 21 schools selected for the first phase of the project. A total number of 2000 learning assessments in language and math were administered by trained pedagogues and psychologists who took the role of assessors. Trained BDE and NEC advisors, members of the EGRA and EGMA work groups, and Step by Step educational coordinators conducted 35 school observations in order to identify any problems in the technical conditions, instructions, or the subtasks during the administration process. Student results are being processed in cooperation with the NEC representatives and once finished, along with the recommendations from assessors' field insight, will be discussed with all stakeholders to modify the subtasks and better prepare for the baseline study planned for the end of the school year.

Letters and Numbers Roadshow

activities in the schools

As we announced in the previous edition of our e-bulletin, the Reading Roadshow continued its tour around the pilot schools during December, as well. Young learners, their families and representatives from the local communities enjoyed the public sessions together with the local celebrities. The actors Zoran Ljutkov, Zorica Pancik, Zarie Jonuzi and Fisnik Zeqiri were part of the public figures who joined our team to bring some joy and fun in the learning process with students from the schools we visited.



More than 200 students at the Roadshow
in PS Blaze Koneski - Veles



Students and community members at the Roadshow in
Gorno Jabolciste, Caska

Readers are Leaders Project at a Roundtable for Open Educational Resources

In December, representatives from the Readers are Leaders Project participated in the roundtable 'OER - Experiences, benefits, challenges, open issues and future steps'. This event was organized by the Metamorphosis Foundation and was attended by 35 participants from primary and secondary schools, universities, libraries, non-governmental organizations and public institutions. In addition to the discussion among the participants, the hosts presented the Alliance for Open Educational Resources. This Alliance is, in fact, an initiative that aims to provide a repository for all open source educational resources or resources which have the Creative Commons copyright. USAID Readers are Leaders Project is supporting this initiative and will make all its resources available to the public so that we ensure maximum reach. You can learn more about the open educational resources at: <http://oer.mk/>



OER Roundtable

New learning materials

Over the past period, the Digital Resources Component of our project was collaborating with a work group of selected educators in order to choose and localize appropriate and interesting picture books for the young learners. The picture books are now audio recorded and we are expecting the first ready-to-use audio story book to be on our website during the first week of February. In the meantime, the working group is carefully selecting another 16 books which will be localized during this year.

Skopje City Mall is the new friend of the Readers are Leaders Project

The Readers are Leaders Project started a cooperation with Skopje City Mall to provide additional setting for young learners and their families to get engaged in entertaining reading and math activities during the weekends. The Kids Club, a specialized children's corner on the second floor of the mall will be the place where the Readers are Leaders team will welcome all of you with activities one Saturday of each month. Join us for the first Reading and Math are Fun session on 15 February at 12.30 and be part of fun learning activities with the actor Gorast Cvetkovski!

Readers are Leaders agenda for February:

Join us for some of the scheduled Reading and Math are fun sessions together with some of our favorite singers and actors:

5 February, 10:00

Reading and Math are Fun with Kristina Arnaudova and Amernis Noksiqi in PS "Vasil Glavinov" - Veles

5 February, 12:00

Reading and Math are Fun with Kristina Arnaudova and Amernis Noksiqi in PS "Jordan Hadzi - Konstantinov Dzinot" - Veles

6 February, 10:00

Reading and Math are Fun with Igor Angelov and Zarije Jonuzi in PS "Perparimi" - Cegrane, Gostivar

6 February, 12:30

Reading and Math are Fun with Igor Angelov and Zarije Jonuzi in PS "Andreja Savevski Kikish" - Tetovo

11 February, 12:00

Reading and Math are Fun with Venera Lumani and Fisnik Zeqiri PS "Drita" - Rasce, Saraj

12 February, 10:30

Reading and Math are Fun with Kristina Arnaudova and Igor Angelov in PS "Mirce Acev" - Skopje

12 February, 12:30

Reading and Math are Fun with Kristina Arnaudova and Igor Angelov in PS "Strasho Pindjur" - Skopje

15 February, 12:30

Reading and Math are Fun with Gorast Cvetkovski in Kids Club, Skopje City Mall

If you have questions, suggestions or requests regarding the Readers are Leaders Project, please contact Ana Dimovska through e-mail: ana@stepbystep.org.mk or cell: 072/ 307-321
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