Dear friends of the "Step by Step" Foundation,

Our team is greeting you with the last edition of the e-bulletin for this school year! Enjoy the summer, but don't forget to take a book wherever you go! :)

Greetings from our team

USAID Readers are Leaders Project

EGRA and EGMA baseline study

Collaboration with teacher training faculties

Join us for a "Reading and Math are Fun" event in Skopje City Park

Magic Literacy Van Joy in several school grounds!

Prepare for summer reading!

Teacher Professional and Career Development Project

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHER’S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Student Support Staff Competencies

Project for (Self) Empowerment of Roma Parents and Children

How we celebrated St. George holiday

TRAININGS FOR ACTIVISTS FROM THE PARTNER NGOS ORGANIZED

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After months of preparations and training, the baseline study for assessing early grade reading and math performance was conducted in the period from May 19 – May 31. Around 4000 reading and math assessments with second and third graders from 41 selected schools from all regions in Macedonia were realized.

A total of 83 assessors who work as pedagogues, psychologists and teachers in the selected schools, as well as two educators from the special primary school “Maca Ovcharova” – Veles conducted the assessments with a sample of 2000 second and third grade students. EGRA and EGMA administration process was observed by 21 observes, namely advisors from the State Examinations Center, professors from the teacher training faculties and teachers, pedagogues and psychologists who participated in the EGRA and EGMA instruments adaptation, as well as the Step by Step educational coordinators.

In the upcoming period, data will be analyzed and discussed with all relevant education stakeholders. Based on the results the project team will plan tailored-made trainings for enhancing educators’ skills in the fields.

*Readers are Leaders Project expresses appreciation to everyone involved in the baseline study, especially to the pedagogues, psychologists, teachers and students from the selected schools for their valuable contribution in the data collection process.*
USAID Readers are Leaders Project signed memoranda of cooperation with the faculties of pedagogy in Skopje, Shtip and Bitola, as well as with the Institute of Pedagogy at the Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje. In the period between April 29th and May 8th, the project team organized trainings for use of EGRA and EGMA as tools for early grade reading and math assessment with students from these faculties. Some of the students were also involved in field assessments by observing the whole process in the schools and took part in one of activities for family and community involvement that the project team organized in Strumica.
USAID Readers are Leaders Project invites you to celebrate the end of the school year.

**Event**

**Reading and Math are Fun**

**Date**

8 June, 11:00 – 15:00

**Location**

City Park Skopje, at “Shkolka”

Let's mark the end of this school year with a fun event in the park. Reading sessions with famous actors and exiting math challenges are just a small part of the activities.

*Bring the children books you have already read and swap them for other, exiting books with other participants at the event.*

We are expecting you for a fun and educational Sunday!

**Magic Literacy Van**

filled with picture books, other books and math games

- Play and learn
- Reading sessions with famous actors
- Reading corner
- Art corner
- Book-swap corner
- Math corner
- Many other interesting activities

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If you combine the sun, a mobile library filled with books and students, you get a fun event in a school yard with our special Magic Literacy Van! In May, we visited a few schools in Strumica, Debar and Veles. In PS Vidoe Podgorec - Strumica and PS Bratstvo Edinstvo – Debar students shared a fun reading session with famous actors and explored through the shelves of our Magic Literacy Van. At the end of May, our Magic Literacy Van parked into the shared school yard of SPS Maca Ovcharova and PS Jordan Hadzikonstantinov – Dzinot in Veles. Students had the chance to enjoy a few hours of reading, math and art activities and shared a story with the two famous actors – Sonja Stamboldzioska and Martin Jordanoski.

The school bell may stop ringing, but that does not mean the reading and learning has to stop. We have prepared two new picture books to keep young readers entertained during the summer months: King Ben and Bursunsul and Paskulina. Download them for free from our digital library.

We would also like to remind you that in the library you can find other picture books and materials published over the last few months that you can download and read during the summer.
The first meeting of the expert group in charge of devising the process for planning the professional development of teachers was held on May 9th in hotel TCC Grand Plaza and the next meeting was held on May 17th. During the meetings the group started to define the process of teacher professional development. The members of the group took responsibility to describe the phases of the process and this marked the beginning of the writing the Guidelines. This expert group continues its work in the following period.

On May 27th in the hotel TCC Grand Plaza was held a round table discussion regarding the Catalogue of Core Professional Competencies for Student Support Services with representatives from the faculties that educate future student support staff.

After incorporation of the suggestions that arose from the round table discussion, the updated Catalogue along with the Catalogue of student support staff - mentor and student support staff – advisor will be sent to the schools for feedback.

In order to be sure that this Catalogue reaches you, please send the up-to-date school e-mail address to: ane@stepbystep.org.mk

For more information regarding the “Teacher competencies” component, contact Ana Stojanov, Project Coordinator, through e-mail: ane@stepbystep.org.mk or cell: 072/307-327.
In May, a number of activities and creative games were organized in the Parent and Child Support Centres for the children and their families devoted to the Roma holiday celebrating St. George. The children talked and performed various creative tasks on the traditions and customs in their families and community.

A workshop was organised for the partner NGOs, during which Zorica Trikic, Senior Program Manager at the International Step by Step Association and Romani Early Years Network coordinator provided training on Principles of working with small aged children, Child-centred practices, Reflective practice, Literacy and language, Pillars of parenthood and Positive discipline. In addition, an initial meeting was convened of a group of NGOs aimed at establishing a Macedonian network for training and professional development of early childhood development practitioners, with the objective of developing and promoting the capacities of professionals and paraprofessionals working on early childhood development issues.

For more information regarding the Project for (Self) Empowerment of Roma Parents and Children contact Elena Mishikj, Project Coordinator, through e-mail: elena@stepbystep.org.mk or Majda Josheska, Educational Coordinator, majda@stepbystep.org.mk.