

A close-up photograph of two young girls with long brown hair, smiling broadly. The girl on the left has her hand near her face, showing blue nail polish. They are wearing white shirts with red collars. The background shows ornate wooden chairs with gold accents.

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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**MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH  
INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**



**NANSEN DIALOGUE CENTRE SKOPJE**

STR. BAHAR MOIS NO.4, 1000 SKOPJE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje has marked an increasing interest on the Nansen model for integrated education and the Training Centre over the last period. Many local, regional, and international connections have been established in order to promote the model and share the best practices from the field of integrated education

## 1. INITIATING INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS: COOPERATION WITH EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FROM TURKEY

On July 9, 2013, NDC Skopje team hosted a delegation consisted of advisers within the Government of Turkey, university professors, representatives of educational associations and institutions. The delegation met with the NDC Skopje team and visited the premises of the Training Centre.

The goal of the visit was to get more closely acquainted with the program activities of the Nansen Dialogue Skopje in the field of integrated education and to explore the opportunity for establishing collaboration links between NDC Skopje and the relevant Turkish institutions and organizations.

NDC Skopje representatives thoroughly presented the Nansen model for integrated education, by highlighting the benefits of the education system from the implementation of the programs for integrated extracurricular activities. The activities implemented in the Nansen model schools

were presented through a video from an integrated class that grasped the atmosphere and working methodology applied during the implementation of the integrated extracurricular activities.

During the meeting, NDC Skopje representatives presented the purpose of the establishment and the scope work of the first Training for integrated education. The topics from the basic and advanced trainings for integrated education that are carried out within the Training were also presented in detail.

The delegation expressed the interest for the NDC Skopje scope of work and also expressed their wish to visit part of the schools that apply the Nansen model for integrated education.

*The initial meeting between NDC Skopje representatives and part of the delegation representatives was realized during the NDC Skopje working visit to Turkey in the period June 17-20, 2013.*

## 2. EXPANDING THE NANSEN MODEL FOR INTEGRATED EDUCATION IN VINICA MUNICIPALITY, MACEDONIA

### ONE MORE SCHOOL JOINS THE NANSEN FAMILY!

Motivated from the positive results and achievements of the Nansen model schools, Vinica Municipality has expressed interest to incorporate the Nansen model for integrated education in the multi-ethnic primary school Slavcho Stojmenski. After the initial contacts between NDC Skopje and municipal representatives from the education department, it was concluded that the necessary pre-conditions are fulfilled in order to start-up the preparatory phase for including the NMIE in the proposed school.



Mayor of Vinica Emil Donchev

*“The project will contribute towards the improvement of education quality in Vinica Municipality, respectively in the multiethnic school Slavcho Stojmenski. The goal of the project is increasing the communication between the children and to enable their joint active participation within the foreseen project activities.”*



Executive Director of NDC Skopje  
Sasho Stojkovski

*“Through the informal activities, we overcome the language barriers; also improve the cooperation and communication between the students, teachers and the parents. This provides the students ideal conditions for growing up and learning together and not just by each other.”*



In the premises of Vinica Municipality, on July 9, 2013, Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje signed the Agreement for cooperation with Vinica Municipality for including the Nansen model for integrated education in the primary school Slavcho Stojmenski. The Agreement for cooperation was signed on behalf of the Mayor of Vinica - Emil Donchev and the Executive Director of NDC Skopje Sasho Stojkovski.

The project will include students, teachers and parents from the Macedonian and Turkish ethnic community and its goal is to raise the level of integration through integrated extracurricular activities for students,

trainings for teachers and programs for cooperation with parents.

Vinica municipality has expressed the willingness to provide support and conditions for the start-up of the project in partnership with NDC Skopje. Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje will provide training scholarships for the teachers who will be the implementers of integrated extracurricular activities according to the Annual programs drafted by NDC Skopje. In addition, NDC Skopje and will provide expertise and mentoring to the school management and teacher staff during the implementation of the foreseen program activities within the project.

### 3. A CHAPTER TO REMEMBER: MARKING THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST GENERATION OF STUDENTS



Back in 2008, the first generation of students started to attend the education process in the first established integrated primary school Fridtjof Nansen (Shemshovo), in Preljubishte - Jegunovce Municipality, Macedonia. This school was the basis of further development and upgrade of the Nansen model for integrated education. The first generation of students completed the class teaching primary education (1 to 5th grade) enriched with five Annual programs for integrated extracurricular activities through a total of 23 thematic fields, i.e. sections.



*Executive Director of NDC Skopje  
Sasho Stojkovski*

*"The model that we developed together in 2008 demonstrated that can function successfully in one multiethnic school in which all the students learn and grow together with each other, and not just next to each other. I want to highlight that integrated education is a crucial necessity for the Macedonian education system, a necessity that is increasingly growing day by day. We hope that the fear from the unknown, lack of information, stereotypes and prejudices will be soon defeated and this type of education will be the priority for the local and central authorities that are responsible for the education in Macedonia."*



*NDN founder, Steinar Bryn*

*"There are many people who should be honored today, but I want to give a special honorable mention of the parents. Without your great support, and great strength, this school would not have started and this school would not have survived. You are the living proof that in building an integrated society, the most important group is not the politicians, it is not even the teachers- but it is the parents. You made important choices for your children- you can open windows for them or you can close windows. And in this context you definitely opened windows. You should be proud; you have given your children maybe the best start possible under these circumstances."*



*Mexhit Emurli  
President of the parents' council of the  
first generation of students*

*"We, the parents, were thrilled to take part in this project that represented a substantial benefit for both ethnic communities; the Macedonian and the Albanian. The project proved that we are ready for tolerance and collaboration thanks to the initiative and the integrated education concept introduced to us by Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje. I am certain that the positive impact from the project will be present for long time in our community. At the beginning, we had many differences that were further resolved with the strong will and dedication of the parents that were determined to support this process."*

The event organized to honor the very first generation of students from the first established integrated school was held in Skopje on August 31, 2013. NDC Skopje awarded certificates to the teachers, students, parents and local associates for their outstanding contribution during the last five years to the development and support of integrated education.

The event started with a speech of the NDC Skopje Executive Director - Sasho Stojkovski that highlighted the importance of the crucial decisions that were made during 2007 and beginning of 2008 together with the local community during the establishment of integrated education in Preljubishte, Jegunovce Municipality.

The founder of the Nansen Dialogue Network - Steinar Bryn emphasized the importance of the parents and families of the students from the first generation during the establishment of the first integrated school in Preljubishte, Jegunovce Municipality. During the event, the audience had the opportunity to be reminded on the development path of the Nansen model for in-

tegrated education in Preljubishte, Jegunovce Municipality through a documentary prepared and produced by NDC Skopje.

The documentary featured events back from the preparation phase of the introduction of the Nansen model for integrated education in the first integrated primary school up until the last activities during the academic year 2012/2013.

NDC Skopje representatives awarded certificates to the class teachers of the first generation of students that also were the implementers of the integrated extracurricular activities according to the Nansen model for integrated education.

The students from the first generation were also awarded with Certificates for their active participation in the integrated extracurricular activities during the last five years in the primary school Fridtjof Nansen (Shemshovo) in Preljubishte, Jegunovce Municipality. The certificates and the school kits were awarded to the students on behalf of the NDC Skopje Program Managers - Biljana Krsteska Papic and Veton Zekolli.

During the event, a special tribute was also given to the families of the students of the first generation for their outstanding contribution and support to the first integrated primary school and their active collaboration with the school and NDC Skopje team during the implementation of the integrated extracurricular activities. The families of the students were awarded Certificates for gratitude on behalf of the NDN founder Steinar Bryn.

At the event closure, NDC Skopje Executive Director - Sasho Stojkovski awarded Certificates for gratitude to the NDC Skopje local associates for their support and dedication through the entire implementation process of the Nansen model for integrated education.

The Nansen model for integrated education (NMIE) was applied for the first time and further developed in the first integrated school in Preljubishte, Jegunovce Municipality. The school serves as an excellent model for the other schools and municipalities that later started to implement the NMIE project.



## 4. WHAT'S NEW IN PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT?

**Providing the necessary resources, handouts and manuals to teachers was one of the priorities of the Team for education, training and development within NDC Skopje. During the month of September, 2013, NDC Skopje launched its most recent publication: Manual for teachers that implement the Nansen model for integrated education. The main aim of creating this Manual was to present and offer the teachers a variety of successful and innovative examples of integrated extracurricular activities derived from different implemented sections and intended for different age groups of students.**

The manual for teachers provides practical templates of planned and successfully implemented extracurricular activities should serve only as a benchmark for teacher while planning the activities in order to meet the main features of the Nansen model for integrated education, such as promotion of team and tandem collaboration, individualized approach to students in accordance with their potentials, abilities, interests, supporting activities through game approach as a central method of work, retaining bilingual component; design of multicultural school setting, etc.

All proposed extracurricular activities that are offered in the new Manual for teachers are embedded in various sections of the annual programs for extracurricular activities. The proposed templates of daily activities will enable the teachers to address the mutual correlation and close relationship between the daily themes, in order to offer different approaches to planning, organizing and the implementation of related topics and themes featured in the annual programs for integrated extracurricular activities.



### ANICA ONOSIMOSKA COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

*“The team for education, training and development within NDC Skopje initiated the process of drafting a collection of five Manuals for teachers- implementers of extracurricular activities according to the Nansen model for integrated education. The Manuals will be closely correlated with the thematic fields from the Programs for integrated extracurricular activities, at the same time they offer a more detailed approach to the Nansen model for integrated education characteristics.*

*The first published Manual is a reflection of successful and representative samples of integrated extracurricular activities, implemented by different teacher tandems in several schools that implement the NMIE.*

*The goal of this Manual is to inspire and encourage the teachers during the preparation process of original and inventive bilingual activities which at the same time will promote the specifics of the model.*

*This concept of promotion positive, successful and representative extracurricular activities will be practiced during the entire academic year, and the topics of the activities will be adjusted to the specific events and happenings occurring during the school year.*

*The first practical Manual, is drafted in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish) and will be distributed to the teachers that are in the role of Nansen model implementers”.*

## 5. ADVANCED LEVEL OF TRAINING: A STEP FURTHER IN DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS AND COMPETENCES ON INTEGRATED EDUCATION

During the month of September, 2013, the teachers that successfully completed the Basic training cycle for integrated education attended the first workshops from the Advanced training cycle for integrated education. This cycle of trainings is followed by nearly 50 teachers divided in two groups that applied for the trainings in order to further increase their knowledge, skills and experience on integrated education.



The announcement of the Advanced training cycle and the application process was completed in the beginning of September, 2013.

The training cycle began with the first workshops organized during the month of September covering the topic "Integrated education- educational trend and tendency" during which the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the various integration processes in the education sphere.

The workshop was implemented by using various interactive techniques and methods and had the following goals:

- Recognizing the types of integration through education within the frames of various education systems
- Comparing integrated education in the Republic of Macedonia and other education systems

Workshop I for the first group of teachers was implemented on September 12, 2013, whereas the second group of teachers attended the workshop held on September 19, 2013.

## 6. TRAINERS' SPOTLIGHT

*“The Advanced training cycle is attended by the teachers that have successfully completed the Basic training cycle for NMIE.*

*The training participants are a highly motivated group of teachers who come from many regions of the R. of Macedonia, at the same time are representatives of Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish ethnic community. This group of teachers is composed of all the direct implementers of integrated extracurricular activities according to Nansen model for integrated education, which in this way will strengthen their skills and competences for successful promotion of NMIE and its characteristics.*

*Part of the training participants are teachers who are prominent, active and dedicated educators from 10 different municipalities in Macedonia, in which for the time being the Nansen model for integrated education is not applied. This is a strong indicator that these teachers have recognized the role, importance and benefits of this type of training.*

*Through the advanced level of training, the teachers will have the opportunity to expand and enrich the information and knowledge for the integrated education concept as a global trend and tendency in education.*

*The trainings are consisted of 6 thematic areas that will be implemented by NDC Skopje staff and local experts, in addition, this training cycle will provide lectures by distinguished professors and experts from Northern Ireland, Norway, Turkey, etc. Their presence will be used to transfer positive examples, experience, achievements, and breakthroughs as well address the challenges faced during the process of promoting the integrated education concept”.*

*Biljana Krsteska Papic*

*Manager for education, training and development  
(Trainer within TCNMIE)*



*“The Advanced training cycle is consisted of 6 thematic areas, which represent a combination of lectures, workshops and practical project activity. The training cycle will be implemented during one semester.*

*The topics of the thematic areas are the following:*

- *Integrated education as an educational trend and tendency*
- *National curriculum as a precondition for integrated education*
- *Books/literature for primary and secondary education in the context of the concept for integrated education*
- *Design of multi - ethnic school environment*
- *Development of the idea for integrated education in Macedonian social context*
- *Evaluation of the structural components of the concept of integrated education”*

*Osman Emin*

*Coordinator for education, training and development  
(Trainer within TCNMIE)*



*“The training cycle is implemented in the local languages (Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish) by active application of the paraphrasing technique.*

*This level of trainings is currently organized for two categories of participants, i.e. the first group of teachers - implementers of the Nansen model for integrated education, whereas the second group is consisted of teachers that come from different municipalities in the R. of Macedonia and that NDC Skopje has decided to stipend”.*

*The training cycle has the following characteristics:*

- *Interactive way of working*
- *Bilingual / trilingual approach*
- *Working in small groups*
- *Group discussion*
- *Simulations*
- *Learning through solving problems*
- *Role play*

*Sonaj Bilal*

*Coordinator for education, training and development  
(Trainer within TCNMIE)*



**Modeli Na**

## 7. TRAINING CENTRE PARTICIPANT REVIEWS

"Despite the fact that I come from a mono ethnic school, I was interested to increase my knowledge and skills through the advanced training cycle and to transfer my experience to my colleagues and raise their awareness that even though our county is consisted of various ethnic communities, we are all equal, and it's necessary to establish the communication links between the children during their young age. By doing that, the children will learn how to recognize and appreciate the differences.

I decided to apply for the advanced training cycle for Nansen model for integrated education due to the unique opportunity to gain news skills and competences as a teacher; at the same time share the best practices will my colleagues that attend the trainings. I enjoyed the basic training cycle and I found the offered topics very unique and interesting. The trainings offered within the NDC Skopje Training Centre, gave me a whole new perspective related to community cohesion, I learned many new things for the first time about integrated education, extracurricular activities, communication with teachers and parents that I can also apply in the regular teaching process.

I am certain that we, the teachers, can provide a significant contribution in the prevention of further ethnical or cultural divisions in our society. The children should be taught to live together, and we must strive to transfer the multicultural values to them from their early age. That can be achieves successfully by incorporating the Nansen model for integrated education in the schools, where children can enjoy joint activities, socialize, learn about the differences and similarities and simply be friends. Even if the school is mono-ethnic, we can work with the students during the regular teaching process in the topics that are related to respecting diversity, reducing stereotypes and prejudices, learning about the different cultures, etc.

The basic and advanced trainings for integrated education, implemented within the NDC Skopje Training Centre, offer us unique topics and competences that we could not obtain during our studies in the Teachers training faculties and the entire formal education process. Here, we learn about a lot of exciting and applicable methods and techniques of work that we can use not only with our students, but also our colleagues and parents as well. One of the most important benefits for me as a teacher was to learn how to make an in-depth, structural and organized planning of the classes and daily topics, a skill that I gained during the trainings".



**NIKOLETKA PANEVA**

Teacher at primary school Kiril i Metodij  
Sveti Nikole Group II trainee



“I participated in the basic training cycle for integrated education according to the Nansen model for integrated education, and I decided to continue with the advanced trainings in order to enrich my skills by learning new approaches to education and also new topics that I have not learned about so far.

One of the main motives to participate in these trainings was the excellent communication that we had with the trainers and their outstanding transfer of knowledge and experience. I expect to gain new skills and knowledge from the advanced training cycle that we have started to follow during the month of September. I work in a multi-ethnic school that provides education to four ethnic communities: Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and Roma. We strive to work with all the students and I believe that these trainings will help me organize and implement various activities with a new approach which differs from the one that we have applied so far in the regular teaching process.

I am impressed from the organizational part of the trainings and the Nansen model in general, especially with the drafted programs for integrated extracurricular activities that the teachers-implementers of the model receive prior to the implementation of the activities with students. What I like most about the programs, is the incorporation and usage of the game method; and how the games used in the activities do not have only an entertainment character, but they always transfer an educational message to the students.

I must also highlight the excellent communication that we - the participants had during the trainings. This type of open communication should be practiced in our working environments and be a model of successful cooperation”.

## MERITA SEJDINI

Teacher at primary school Sande Shterjoski - Kicevo  
Group II trainee



“All the trainings I have attended within the Training Centre enabled me to plan and organize better integrated extracurricular activities as well as better classes in the regular teachings process. One of the most helpful aspects of the trainings was learning more about the unconventional methods that can be used during the classes; such is the game method and all the various game categories: energizers, introduction games, etc.

Besides in the extracurricular activities, we have started to apply the game method in the regular teaching process as well, with the goal of creating positive socio-emotional climate amongst the students. Integrated education is a process that requires a lot of work and dedication; therefore these trainings are essential for every teacher that wants to gain practical skills and competences in order to be successful in their work and communication with students, parents and school management”.



### ALEKSANDAR PETROVIK

Professor at secondary vocational school Mosha Pijade, Preljubishte - Jegunovce municipality  
Group I trainee - implementer of NMIE

“I was highly motivated to apply for the advanced training cycle based on the positive experience gained during the basic trainings. The trainings offer a broad possibility for upgrading our skills, also meeting new teachers and sharing our experiences. What impressed me the most during the trainings was the mutual support between the teachers, the equal opportunity for each of us to express in our native language and also to learn more about each other’s culture.

The topics presented during the trainings are very applicable in our school context, and I am happy to be one of the teachers that implement the Annual programs for integrated extracurricular activities according to the Nansen model for integrated education. The skills gained during the trainings help us have a better understanding on respecting differences and being inclusive towards our students, colleagues and parents”.

### MEJDIN USINOV

Teacher at primary school Marshal Tito - Strumica  
Group I trainee - implementer of NMIE



TRAINING CE

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## 8. SHARING BEST PRACTICES REGIONALLY: DELEGATION FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA VISITS NDC SKOPJE

NDC Skopje continues to share its best practices locally and regionally, and strives to provide the necessary support and expertise in order to support the integrated education processes in the region as a global educational trend and tendency.



Recognizing the NDC Skopje increasing success in the field of integrated education, Government representatives from the Herzegovina - Neretva Canton visited NDC Skopje in the period September 20 - 21st, 2013. The delegation was led by the Prime Minister - Denis Lasić, the Minister for Education, Culture and Sport - Zlatko Hadžiomerović, the Chief of Cabinet within Prime Minister's office - Veselko Čerkez and the Adviser of the Minister for ECS - Amir Kadribegović.

The visit, organized by Nansen Dialogue Centre Mostar is part of the efforts undertaken to improve the quality of education and introduction of the concept for integrated education in the Herzegovina - Neretva Canton. The government representatives were eager to learn more about NDC Skopje's journey and activities during the preparatory phase and the actual establishment of integrated education in Macedonia. On this occasion, the NDC Skopje office organized several meetings and consultations with key stakeholders and supporters of the initial idea and integrated education concept.

On September 20th, 2013, the delegation met with the Mayor of Jegunovce municipality - Toni Koceski where they discussed about the challenges faced during the start-up of the project Nansen model for integrated education as well as the benefits that this project brought to the entire community.



After the meeting in the Jegunovce municipality, the delegation visited the first primary and secondary integrated schools in Preljubishte where they met the teachers and students and attended and integrated extracurricular activity in the secondary school. In Skopje, the delegation was hosted by the Minister for Environment and Physical Planning - Abdulaqim Ademi who was been a key supporter during the introduction phase of the project Dialogue and Reconciliation as well as the Nansen model for integrated education. Mr. Ademi shared his personal views and perspectives regarding the efforts and preparations that need to be undertaken in order to achieve positive results in the field of integration and that persistence is the key while implementing projects of this nature.

During the visit, the delegation had a meeting in the Ministry for Education and Science where they were welcomed by the deputy Minister for Education - Safet Neziri. Mr. Neziri gave an overview of the general education environment in the Republic of Macedonia and the key factors that need to be considered while gradually introducing the concept for integrated education for the first time. The accent was put on the necessity of good communication between government officials of dif-

ferent ethnic backgrounds as a strong message to the grassroots community.

On September 21st, 2013, the delegation visited the premises of NDC Skopje where they got more closely acquainted with the work of the center and how the entire process was initiated, including the preparatory consultations and all other phases prior to the opening and establishment of the first integrated schools.

NDC Skopje Executive Director - Sasho Stojkovski held a presentation on the program for Dialogue and reconciliation that was the basis for the further development of the Nansen model for integrated education. The presentation offered thorough information about the structure and results of the project, also the challenges that were faced during the initial phases.

The Manager for Education, training and development - Biljana Krsteska Papic presented the development path of the Nansen model for integrated education with all its characteristics and acquisitions. The delegation had the opportunity to learn more about the NDC Skopje Training Centre for integrated education and its important role in the integrated education sphere.



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