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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for making 2016 another year filled with success and big steps for the Institute!

We continue to be driven by the belief that no child should experience limited life possibilities based on the geographical location of their birth. All deserve to able to take their lives as far as their drive allows. It is important to understand that the inequality we see, school segregation, are both structural and systemic.

We applaud, support and work with the change agents who work relentlessly, and often without recognition, to ensure that each child has equal opportunity. To that end, here are a few program highlights:

- 2,900 students reached with JUMP Math in academic year 2015 - 2016
- 160 teachers using JUMP Math in academic year 2015 - 2016
- 128 stakeholders trained for academic year 2016 - 2017
- presence in over 100 schools
- 7 webinars for JUMP Math reaching 620 education specialists
- 8 national media appearances
- 38 radio shows on education
- 8 JUMP Math Trainings conducted.

With a 40% illiteracy rate amongst our children according to the most recent PISA results, it is clear that there is much work that remains to be done. We must press ahead together. To reach those most in need, it requires that mission to become a national priority and the realization that by positively impacting education we change the course of the entire nation.

Thank you wholeheartedly for being part of our journey and we look forward to the continued success of IPE with your support!

In solidarity,

Joanna Marinova, Executive Director
Institute for Progressive Education
Our Mission

The Institute for Progressive Education contributes to the creation of an education system that supports people in their development in response to the challenges of the 21st century. We achieve this through implementing innovative teaching practices and systems, supporting the professional development of teachers, and conducting systemic research.

Our Vision

Through meaningful education we work towards creating an environment where each and every person discovers and fulfils their full potential for the creation of an active, sustainable, and prosperous Bulgarian society capable of successfully positioning itself on a global scale.
**Accomplishments**

**Policymaking**

In the period January – August we were actively involved in carrying out analyses and making recommendations on the secondary legislation to the new Education Act. Our recommendations on quality management, regulation of innovations, reduction of administrative load, school autonomy, civic, health, and environment education were reflected in the final versions of the official documents. We are proud of having been able to contribute on a systemic level to the improvement of the overall quality, efficiency, and modernization of education in the country.
Educational Resources
JUMP Math

- Continued to implement the innovative math teaching program in primary schools throughout Bulgaria reaching 2,900 (2015-16) and 2,773 (2016-17) students
- Translated the latest editions of JUMP Math resources - teacher guides, student workbooks, tests and quizzes (grades 1 to 5) into Bulgarian
- Adapted (grades 1 and 5) to the new math curriculum
- Distributed resources to 160 (2015-16) and 134 (2016-17) teachers and 2,900 (2015-16) and 2,773 (2016-17) students
- ran 5 online introductory seminars reaching 176 teachers
- registered JUMP Math as an official option for school innovation

“Ever since we introduced JUMP Math in the classroom, we have not had a single kid who is not willing to participate; all are fully involved in what we are doing, unlike what happens with the traditional approach or with other subjects. Whenever a kid faces a difficulty or makes a mistake, they never lose their motivation, they do not get frustrated, and do not give up as it used to happen before. My students now proactively seek ways to comprehend what presents a challenge to them. They are not primarily concerned with the marks they get, but want to explore their mistakes and why things work in certain ways. They are looking for meaning and most importantly - they are engaged in thinking.”

Sylva Trichkova about her 4th grade students from the St Cyril and Methodius School in Gotze Delchev
Teacher Training

The number of teachers who began the 2016/2017 academic year using JUMP Math was 134 reaching over 2,700 students.

“JUMP Math has given us so much over the years! Students are already familiar with the system and are not anxious when they work on the blackboard. They insist on presenting their work to the class in each lesson. They demonstrate interest, they work with concentration, and are willing to support each other. I am now beginning to transfer JUMP Math ideas and approaches to other subjects such as physical education and Bulgarian language.

Yordanka Dimitrova, 3rd grade teacher at the Bratia Miladinovi School in the village of Sklave, Sandanski

To respond to teachers’ needs we improved our JUMP Math teacher training modules and teacher support which now include:

- 7 online training modules, reaching 620 education professionals
- a 3-day intensive training session reaching 215 teachers
- lesson observation and reflective sessions in 80 schools
- the creation of a teachers’ network.
Evaluation

Together with Market Links and the New Bulgarian University we carried out an independent comparative study of student achievement in mathematics. The first of its kind for the country, the study compared students who study JUMP Math to those who follow the traditional math system.

1751 primary students (grades 1 to 4) studying with JUMP Math and other programs were tested in terms of math knowledge, skills, motivation, attitudes, and depth of understanding.

The results showed that:

- 4th graders studying with JUMP Math achieve higher results than students who studied under the traditional math system. JUMP Math provides students with a solid foundation for proceeding to the more complex concepts, thinking models, and analysis characteristic of the next education level.
- JUMP Math students demonstrate lower levels of math anxiety while the two groups do not have any differences in relation to the levels of general anxiety.
- JUMP Math students demonstrate statistically significant positive attitudes towards the future benefits of studying mathematics.
- JUMP Math students have more confidence in their own ability to be successful in maths than their peers who studied under other arrangements. Such an attitude influences positively the application of more effort in learning in general and the experience of the joy of learning in the long term.
- JUMP Math children achieve higher results in depth of understanding tests in comparison with their peers who received other types of math instruction.
- JUMP Math students retain more information in their working memory - an important element for mental math and text comprehension.
Public and professional engagement

As part of our ongoing monitoring of education trends, we organized two meetings devoted to school innovations attended by NGOs, Ministry of Education, Syndicate of Bulgarian Teachers representatives, school heads, teachers, and university lecturers.

An important achievement in promoting change in education was the weekly radio program 52 Myths About Education – a joint project with Darik Radio. Thirty-eight programs discussed hot education issues such as quality school education, school self-assessment, school autonomy, testing, civic education, inclusive education, school leadership, teacher training and development, raising public awareness and understanding.

In addition, we participated in and attended the following public and professional events:

- 21st century skills by Teach for Bulgaria and UNESCO
- Conducted training for parents at Academy for Parents
- Global Conference of Teach for All
- Conference Education 2016
- School for the Future event
- European practices in support of early childhood development at Sofia University
- Vision and leadership in education with former Hungarian Minister of Education
- Path towards literacy in partnership with the Institut Francais de Bulgarie
- Inclusive Education conference
Following an extensive consultation and planning process, IPE opened its first model school integrating JUMP Math, International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, and the Montessori approach. The school is an embodiment of the Institute’s values of unconditional love and acceptance, freedom, and collaboration in a structured environment. The school is an essential element of IPE’s vision of the future of Bulgarian education.
Financial information (in BGN)*

All activities of the Institute for Progressive Education for the provision of quality learning methods and resources, and the creation of an education system that supports people in their development in response to the challenges of the 21st century, are supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

The grant has made possible for IPE to maintain a team of education and learning experts, be an active player in the formulation of education policies and strategies in Bulgaria, implement and promote innovative education methods, be actively involved in the training and support of teachers’ professional development, generate civic initiatives for defining public demands on education, and open the first model progressive school.

JUMP Math Program

Revenue
America for Bulgaria grant: 283 000
Other donations: 5 000
Revenue from publication sales: 16 000
Revenue from training: 3 000

Expenditure
229 000

First Progressive School
Donations: 186 000
Fees revenue: 200 000
Total expenditure: 317 000

Other IPE Activity
Grant for financial audit from the Trust for Social Achievement: 3 000
VAT refund: 16 000
Membership fees: 1 000

*Fiscal year ended 31 December 2016; JUMP Math Program fiscal year ended 31 August 2016
Team

Joanna Marinova
Executive Director

Mariana Bancheva
Phd Director of Educational Policies

Violeta Nikolova
Finance & Administration Manager

Olga Ninova-Trayanova
Teachers Professional Development Manager

Petar Velkov
Training and Teacher Support Coordinator

Yana Noel
Project Manager

Mladen Valkov
Mathematician

Irina Ivanova
Technical Assistant
IPE Board

Management Board

Yavor Djonev, Chair, Sirma Group Holding co-founder
Rumen Petrov, Deputy Chair, New Bulgarian University
Desislava Stoeva, Casa dei Bambini Sofia Montessori School
Mariana Georgieva, Psychologist
Raycho Radev, Philosopher and former school director

Supervisory Board

Pavlina Petrova, Public Policies Watchdog Forum Foundation
Evgenia Peeva, Executive Director, Teach for Bulgaria
Yurii Andzhekerski, Education Forum