

FINAL REPORT 2016

Center for Economic Analyses (CEA)

Skopje
January, 2017

General information about CEA

Logo:



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COVER LETTER

TO: CEA team
DATE: January 2017

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final report for 2016. Please let me know if there is any additional information we can provide.

Yours sincerely,

Marjan Nikolov

President of CEA



Signed

CEA Organizational Setup

Executive Board:

Marjan Nikolov, President

Bryan Roberts, Vice President

Dimitar Bogov (on hold when he becomes Central Bank Vice Governor and Governor)

Igor Mitevski

Vesna Garvanlieva

Borce Trenovski

Gabriela Dimovska

Assembly:

Borce Smilevski, President of the Assembly

Management council:

King Banaian, Prof. St. Cloud State University

Alex Mourmouras, IMF Institute

Giorgio Brosio, Prof. University of Torino

CEA Team:

Marjan Nikolov, President

Vesna Garvanlieva, Senior economist

Gabriela Dimovska, Senior economist

Igor Mitevski, Economist

Ana Marija Petrevska, Junior Economist

Stefan Miovski, Junior Economist

Deniz Selmani, Intern

IT:

Mile Naskovski

Financial accounting:

Saso Bulevski

Igor Bulevski

EU projects

- Signet contract for starting with implementation of the project **Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Shadow: Fostering evidence-based policy making in Macedonia** in partnership with IDSCS under the IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2015
- Signet contract for starting with implementation of the project **“Employment for Roma youth”** in partnership with Svetla Idnina Kocani, Sumnal Bitola and Sonce Tetovo, under the IPA Human Resources Development call for proposals, through CFCF.
- **MORE IN THE MONTHLY REPORTS**

Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency and transparency

- Started implementing the project *“Transparency level of the budget process in municipalities in RM”* granted by Metamorfozis.
- Started implementing the project *“From state audit to parliamentary oversight”* in partnership with Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and support by Foreign Commonwealth Office.
- Implementing the project: *Decentralized civic initiatives for more efficient fiscal decentralization*, a project grant under the CIVICA Mobilitias- Macedonia Programme. Prepared methodology for the survey and questionnaire. Finished with the field research with 40 CSOs from Macedonia. Draft analyse submitted to CIVIKA team.
- Implemented the project *“Monitoring of the Budget Expenditures in the Pre-election and Election Period”* in partnership with the Transparency International-Macedonia supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Skopje. Project duration: December 2015- January 2017. Decision for restarting the project from November 2016. Monitoring report was prepared.
- **MORE IN THE MONTHLY REPORTS**

Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Implementing the project: *Creating employment pathways for rural youth*, in partnership with Federation of Farmers of RM. Project supported by the European Commission through CFCF. Three job clubs in Lipkovo, Staro Nagoricane and Kriva Palanka opened and equipped. Signed 9 contracts for interns in job clubs, and 3 contracts for mentors in the clubs. CEA organized meeting in north east

region with representatives from LED sector from the municipalities. 17 new interns started internship in the companies.

- Implementing the project: “*Entrepreneurship policies in Macedonia for overcoming Roma othering*”, in partnership with IRIZ, supported by the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI). The research paper has been prepared and submitted. 3 local discussion meetings was organized in Kicevo, Kumanovo and Delcevo. Entrepreneurship policy analyzes was published. Publication with success stories was published. 2 infographics are prepared presenting the main findings of the research. Policy paper Entrepreneurship policies for overcoming Roma othering prepared
- **Study: MFSA training for NALAS** at the NALAS summer school and training of two representative of the Kosovo association of municipalities.
- **Study: PPP feasibility study for tourism in Kocani.** Prepared documents: Needs assessment, risk analysis, economic and financial analyses, legal aspects.
- **CEA Journal of Economics.** From 2012 CEA Journal of Economics become an international journal, indexed in EBSCO and EconLit databases of journals. With this journal we created an economic forum where economists were able to practice technical quantitative and qualitative analyses of economic problems and to enrich the public debate on economic issues in Macedonia.
- **MORE IN THE MONTHLY REPORTS**

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMS APPROACH FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Our researches, studies and analyses prepared are widely recognized and incorporated in the documents and policies of the government (central and local) and NGOs. Our practice is illustrated in the next table.

Table. Activities toward advocacy for policy change

| Stages of development | First stage of development | Second stage of development | Third stage of development |
|---|---|---|--|
| What do we do? | Doing the research Field analyses Desk analyses Academic reports | Preparation of policy papers/studies, summary, and policy briefs of the research | Advocacy through policy briefs, presentation at meetings, media visibility, expert groups, policy change |
| Who can really access CEA products | Accessible only to limited number of specialized readers Publishing on web | Accessible to wider population, journalists Publishing in electronic and printed media | Follow up meetings, opinion making, general public Press conferences Policy change |
| Characteristic | Closed type only to experts and clients | More open to general public | Toward policy change |

In 2017 we will continue organizing low cost expert group’s discussion, follow up meetings and press conferences.

In that way we will:

- Promote CEA's activities;
- Fulfil CEA's goals;
- Inform about contemporary problems and issues;
- Raise public awareness about problems and issues;
- Help design and/or at least redesign public policies, business and finance institutions behaviours and decision making.

All previously mentioned activities will be organized within CEA's departments and CEA will continue to identify problems and forecast possible policy issues that need immediate attention in policy arenas. CEA's ways (tools) of influencing policy makers:

1. High quality publishing program (CEA Journal of Economics, reports, analyses, position papers);
2. Continues building sound media visibility on public relevant issues (presenting reports, analyses, position papers policy briefs in the public);
3. Columns and articles in printed and electronic media, and social networks (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter);
4. Outreach to university, college and school students (CEA's products are used as teaching tools: Faculty of Economic – Skopje; International Slavic University, SEEU-Tetovo etc.);
5. Conferences, round-tables, expert discussions, seminars, workshops, direct meetings;
6. Direct meetings and close cooperation with policy makers.

MISSION STATEMENT, OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF CEA

The Mission of CEA is to continuously research economic development and public policy in the Republic of Macedonia and to offer recommendations, suggestions and measures to the government and non-governmental institutions.

CEA members share a common vision of the Republic of Macedonia as a new emerging economy integrated with regional and world markets. They devote their time, efforts and knowledge to help make this vision become a reality. CEA's code of ethics is available at: www.cea.org.mk.

Goals of CEA:

1. To provide quality policy analyses;
2. To support viable economic policy in Macedonia;
3. To help foster an environment that brings about higher investment, accelerated development and growth of the Macedonian economy, and EU accession;
4. To achieve financial sustainability;
5. To encourage regional cooperation and collaboration in the Balkans;
6. To strengthen civil society, social capital and trust.

These goals will be achieved through:

1. Building the capacities of CEA's members to do quantitative analyses and be objective so that CEA becomes an institution with widely demanded products and services;
2. Transition to complete reliance on non-donor revenues as quickly as possible;
3. Active identification and recruitment of candidates for CEA's consultant pool;
4. Developing a network of relationships with think-tanks in the Balkans, European Union countries, and the United States.

Specific actions to be undertaken:

1. Public promotion of CEA and its mission to the market;
2. Construction, maintenance, and further development of economic models;
3. Conducting unbiased and consistent analyses relying primarily on quantitative information;
4. Regular monitoring of the economic situation of the country;
5. Make recommendations on key policy issues facing the Macedonian economy;
6. Building links with think tanks and institutes in other Balkan countries, transition countries of central and eastern Europe, and western countries;
7. Close cooperation with international donors and financial institutions;
8. Enhancing public relations via publishing reports, analyses and other working papers

Outputs:

1. Working Papers
2. Columns and articles in media
3. Databases
4. Economic and financial models
5. Seminars, workshops and training courses given

Outcomes:

1. A sustainable think tank
2. Significantly improved capacities in using economic models and conducting policy analysis
3. Demand from Government agencies, international organizations and donors, and the business community for CEA products