

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2021

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)

Skopje
January 2022

General information about CEA

Logo:



Address:

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)

Bld. Jane Sandanski 63/3,
1000 Skopje Macedonia

Tel/Fax: + 389 (0)2 24 44 766
Mob: + 389 71 310 974

TIN: 4030003479278
Reg. No. 5763061

Account number:

Halk Banka AD Skopje
Account no.: 270-0576306101-78

Web page and e-mail:

www.cea.org.mk
www.mkbudget.org
www.kbm.mk
<http://tg-web.eu/>
info@cea.org.mk

To: CEA team
Date: January 2022

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final report for 2021.

In 2021 CEA was awarded Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures as per the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report of the University of Pennsylvania by being placed 37 out of 75 think tanks globally in 2020. More you can find here: https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=think_tanks. This was a well deserved reward for CEA for the more than 16 years of dedicated work and independent thinking.

Please let us 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
Vesna Garvanlieva Andonova
Gabriela Dimovska
Ana Marija Petrovska

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
Ana Marija Petrevska, Economist
Igor Mltevski, Economist
Miroslav Trajanovski, Legal expert
Dragan Gocevski, Legal expert

IT:

Mile Naskovski

Financial accounting:

Saso Bulevski
Adrijana Bulevski Zarikj

Projects: started and still in implementation

- Finalizing the project **“Tax Responsibility Project – Towards civic responsibility and responsible tax”** under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2018-2019 Supporting a civil society through Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS), 24 months implementation period.
- Finalizing the OBI Index for North Macedonia

Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency, and transparency

- **“Tax Responsibility Project – Towards civic responsibility and responsible tax”**
– EU Project – finalized
- **Open budget index publication in partnership with the IBP** was in April 2020.
- **Budget transparency index in municipalities in North Macedonia**, published in June 2021.
- **Tax transparency intensity in municipalities in North Macedonia**, published in October 2021

Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Finalizing the project: **“Europeanization beyond the process”**, supported by the OSIFE. This project redresses the shortcomings by building the capacity of CEA’s policy research into broaden scope of CEA engagement with the EU as a whole and its member states beyond the traditional European integration paradigm.
- **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. **NOTE: The CEA Journal of Economics is on hold.**
- Continue with **RSA activities.**
- **Members of several policy makers’ Government working groups as expert CSO representatives** for regular or occasional feedback such as: Ministry of finance public finance monitoring, Western Balkan Territorial Governance Network TG WeB.

Department: Economy and environment

- **Monitoring of the institutions in the field of hydrological activity:** How to make more efficient hydrological monitoring and monitoring of water quality of lakes and reservoirs? published in August 2021

COVID-19 activities:

- CEA Study contributed to the discussion of the local effects of covid-19 on the local - municipal finances through a research, analysis and discussion with LSGUs: **The Implications of Covid-19 over the local budget finance in North Macedonia, detailed analysis over the three quarters of 2020.** Study, Policy Brief, Online Discussion. (Published January, 2021).
- Transparency and accountability during the Covid 19 – (Report published in May, 2021).

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMS APPROACH FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Our research, studies and analyses 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, public. Press conferences. Policy change
Characteristic	Closed type only to experts and clients	More open to general public	Toward policy change

In 2022 we continue to implement the externally prepared Strategic document and the Communication strategy.

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 (reports, analyses, position papers);
2. Continue 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 media 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, Faculty of law – Skopje etc.);
5. Conferences, round-tables, expert discussions, seminars, workshops, direct meetings;
6. Direct meetings and close cooperation with policy makers.
7. Design of new web site for CEA

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.

