

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2022

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**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)**



**Skopje**  
**January 2023**

## 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](http://www.cea.org.mk)  
[www.mkbudget.org](http://www.mkbudget.org)  
[www.kbm.mk](http://www.kbm.mk)  
<http://tg-web.eu/>  
[info@cea.org.mk](mailto:info@cea.org.mk)

To: CEA team  
Date: January 2023

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final report for 2022.

The year 2022, much like 2021 was a challenging year, not only due to the post-pandemic recovery, but also the energy crisis, and years-long political crisis, requiring efforts to restore democratic standards and values in North Macedonia. Nevertheless, CEA continued its activities and focused more on regional and international cooperation as you can read in this report.

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 Mitevski, 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

- Continued activities within the framework of the project “*Strengthening resource mobilization activity*” under the USAID support to North Macedonia, a 5-years project.
- Starting and working on the EU funded Horizon project “*GreenFORCE*” to promote excellence in scientific research and innovation for the green transition of the Western Balkan countries.
- Starting and working on the COST Action of the EU, “*COST IGCOORD*” related to the decentralization and intergovernmental agenda in European countries.
- Finalizing the “*IBP OBI Index*” for North Macedonia

## Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency, and transparency

- “*Asymmetric decentralization*” policy brief prepared for the policymakers – USAID SRMA project
- “*Open budget index*” publication in partnership with the IBP prepared.
- “*Budget transparency index*” for municipalities in North Macedonia, published.
- “*Fiscal transparency guideline*” and training for municipalities in North Macedonia, conducted.

## Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Start of the project: “*Assessing and Streamlining Potentials of Open Balkan Initiative*”, supported by the OSIFE. Working with national experts on Tools and instruments for assessing the potentials for achieving cooperation and coordination and need of mutual understanding and solidarity.
- Continue with “*RSA activities*”. Initiative to organize special session for the RSA Ljubljana event in 2023 within the EU Horizon project GreenFORCE.
- **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 and Western Balkan Territorial Governance Network TG WeB.
- Completed activities for National Development Strategy in providing input for the co-design, regulation and empowerment of **institutional set-up for the National development strategy** for the needs of UNDP, North Macedonia

**Department: Economy and environment**

- *“Monitoring and evaluating the effect and impact of the electricity prices on the communal enterprises”*: A GIZ project to support the communal services delivery in North Macedonia.
- *“Developed plan for research for green agenda”* on a national level to be implemented in the following period specific to decarbonization within the auspices of project GreenFORCE

**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**

<b>Stages of development</b>	<b>First stage of development</b>	<b>Second stage of development</b>	<b>Third stage of development</b>
<b>What do we do?</b>	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
<b>Who can really access CEA products</b>	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
<b>Characteristic</b>	Closed type only to experts and clients	More open to general public	Toward policy change

**In 2023 we continue to implement the 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.

## 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](http://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.