

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2023

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)



Skopje
January, 2024

General information about CEA

Logo:



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CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)

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<http://tg-web.eu/>
<https://greenforcetwinning.net/>
<https://igcoord.eu/>

info@cea.org.mk

To: CEA team
Date: January 2024

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final narrative report for 2023.

The year 2023 was a challenging year, due to the global crises emerging related to the rising of the multipolarity, disrupted world trade and world markets as well as inflation and higher interest rates.

Domestically, years-long political crisis, require efforts to restore basic democratic standards and values in North Macedonia. Nevertheless, regardless of the environment, 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 Petrovska, Senior Economist
Harbin Veli, Senior economist
Igor Mitevski, Economist
Miroslav Trajanovski, Legal expert
Dragan Gocevski, Legal expert

IT:

Mile Naskovski

Financial accounting:

Saso Bulevski
Adrijana Bulevska 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.
- Continued working on implementation of 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.
- Initiated and worked on Bulgarian Development Aid supported project for near border activities between North Macedonia and Bulgaria: *North Macedonia near border economic activities with Bulgaria: NEGLECTED DIMENSION”*
- Finalizing the *“IBP OBI Index”* for North Macedonia
- Finalizing the *“Assessing and Streamlining Potentials of Open Balkan Initiative”*, supported by the OSF. Working with national experts on Tools and instruments for assessing the potentials for achieving cooperation and coordination and need of mutual understanding and solidarity.

Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency, and transparency

- *“Budget transparency index”* for the municipalities in North Macedonia, published.
- *“Open budget index”* publication in partnership with the IBP prepared.

Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Continue working on the *“Assessing and Streamlining Potentials of Open Balkan Initiative”*, supported by the OSF. Working with national experts in the WB region, on Tools and instruments for assessing the potentials for achieving cooperation and coordination and need of mutual understanding and solidarity.
- Continued with *“RSA activities”*. Organized special session for the RSA Ljubljana event in 2023 within the auspices of EU Horizon project GreenFORCE, titled **Impacts of Just and Green Transition in the Western Balkans Region**

- Continue monitoring the PFM within the working group organized by the Ministry of finance: Ministry of finance public finance monitoring
- Continued the active participation in the **Western Balkan Territorial Governance Network - TG WeB**, hosted the 2023, 6th annual network workshop in Skopje, the theme of the year was "Pathways towards Resilience: Harvesting talents to address demographic transformations that are shaping societies and economies in WB"

Department: Economy and environment

- *Continue working on the research for green transition* within the auspices of project GreenFORCE and the regional and international cooperation for macroregional approach.

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 2024 we continue to implement the prepared Strategic document and the Communication strategy.

All previously mentioned activities will be organized within CEA's departments. 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 (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ceaorgmk>);
4. Outreach to university, college and school students (CEA's products are used as teaching tools: Faculty of Economics – 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.

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.



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