

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2024

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CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES (CEA)



Skopje  
January, 2025

## General information about CEA

### Logo:



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### Web page and e-mail:

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<http://tg-web.eu/>  
<https://greenforcetwinning.net/>  
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To: CEA team  
Date: January, 2025

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final report for 2024.

Even in 2024, the global crises related to the rise of the multipolarity, disrupted world trade and world markets, as well as inflation and higher interest rates, continuing to pose risks to both global and national economies.

Domestically, the recent change in the political majority may finally bring a sense of calm to the long-standing political crisis, that could make a better environment for more stable economic developments. Center for Economic Analyses (CEA) has continued its activities, remaining committed to unbiased and independent thinking, within this difficult environment for independent thinkers.

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, 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 Bulevski Zarikj

## Projects: started and still in implementation

- Continued regional activities within the EU Horizon funded project *“GreenFORCE”* promoting excellence in scientific research and innovation for the green transition of the Western Balkan countries.
- Continued activities within the framework of the project *“Strengthening resource mobilization activity”* under the USAID support to North Macedonia, a 5-years project.
- Continued activities with the COST Action of the EU, *“COST IGCOORD”* related to the decentralization and intergovernmental agenda in European countries.
- Presented the results and ranking of the *“IBP OBI Index”* for North Macedonia.
- Completed the activities within the project *“Assessing and Streamlining Potentials of Open Balkan Initiative”*, supported by the OSI. This involved collaborating with national experts to develop tools and instruments for assessing potential cooperation, coordination, and the need for mutual understanding and solidarity.
- Completed the activities with the project *“North Macedonia near border economic activities with Bulgaria: Neglected dimension”* supported by BDAID, promoting socio-economic cohesion and economic cooperation, strengthening good neighborly relations.

## Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency, and transparency

- *“Budget transparency index”* for municipalities in North Macedonia, monitored, measured and published.
- *“Tax transparency index”* for municipalities in North Macedonia, monitored, measured and published.
- *“Open budget index”* publication of the partnership with the IBP presented.

## Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Completed the *“Assessing and Streamlining Potentials of Open Balkan Initiative”*, supported by the OSI. 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”* in networking and research activities

- Continue monitoring the PFM within the working group organized by the Ministry of Finance.
- Continued activities with the Western Balkan Territorial Governance Network TG-WeB for presenting research and networking for common goal for cohesions and regional development in the Western Balkans.

### Department: Economy and environment

- Continue working on the research for Green Agenda within the auspices of project GreenFORCE. Policy brief on governance finished.
- Conducted macroeconomic research on the regional cooperation within different options for the future and scenarios for the Western Balkans as well as North Macedonia.

### 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 changes
Characteristic	Closed type only to experts and clients	More open to general public	Toward policy change

In 2025 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 networks;
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, roundtables, 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.