

FINAL REPORT 2018

Center for Economic Analyses (CEA)

**Skopje
January 2019**

General information about CEA

Logo:



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COVER LETTER

TO: CEA team
DATE: January 2019

Dear CEA Team,

Please, find attached the CEA final report for 2018. 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
Igor Mitevski
Vesna Garvanlieva
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
Igor Mitevski, Economist
Ana Marija Petrevska, Economist
Ivana Velkovska, Intern

IT:

Mile Naskovski

Financial accounting:

Saso Bulevski
Igor Bulevski

EU projects: on going

- 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, 36 months implementation period.

EU projects: finalized

- Implementation and finalization of the Project **“Creating Employment Pathways for the Rural Youth”** in partnership with the FFRM, financed under the IPA HR Social Inclusion Grant Scheme, 20 months implementation period
- Implementation and finalization of the project **“Employment for Roma youth”** in partnership with Svetla Idnina Kocani, Sumnal Bitola and Sonce Tetovo, under the IPA Human Resources Development, Social Inclusion through Labor Market on a Local Level Grant Scheme, through CFCD, 12 months implementation period

Department: Fiscal policy, efficiency and transparency

- Finalized the project **“Preparation of Handbook for the newly elected Mayors and counselors”** granted by CIVICA MOBILITAS, SDC program, Ad-hoc grants.
- Implementing the project **“From state audit to parliamentary oversight”** in partnership with Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and support by Foreign Commonwealth Office.
- Finalized the project: **Decentralized civic initiatives for more efficient fiscal decentralization**, a project grant under the CIVICA Mobilitias - Macedonia Program.
- Implementation of the project **“Monitoring of the Budget Expenditures in the Pre-election and Election Period”**. CEA continues with the production of the Monitoring reports on monthly basis.
- Monitoring of the measures from the Emergency Democratic Reforms and the Plan 3 6 9 in the Republic of Macedonia in the area of public finances

Department: Socio-Economic prospects and challenges

- Finalized the project: **Creating employment pathways for rural youth**, in partnership with Federation of Farmers of RM. Project supported by the European Commission through CFCD. Outputs achieved: 116 Unemployed youth from the NEPR trained, 48 undertook two-month job club trainings, 45 young undertook business sector on-the-job trainings for three months, strategic document for youth

employment prepared and given the mayors and the Center for regional development, etc.

- Finalized the project: “**Civil Society for Roma Integration - In the Shadow**”, in partnership with **Romalitico**, supported by the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), Civil society fund for Roma integration.
- Implementing the project: “**Europeanization beyond the process**”, supported by the OSIFE. This project will redress these shortcomings by building the capacity of CEA’s policy research into broaden the 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.
- Preparation for the **International RSA Conference in Lublin, Poland, RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference 2019**.
- Became **members of several policy makers’ Government working groups as expert CSO representatives** for regular or occasional feedback such as: Civil society council, Ministry of finance public finance monitoring, Western Balkan Territorial Governance Network WB TGN, CIVITAX network etc.
- Preparation for the conference on the WB TGN.

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMS APPROACH FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Our research, 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
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In 2019 we will finalize the externally prepared Strategic document and the Communication strategy.

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, 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.

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