



Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim

annual
report
2017



“ IDM Vision

Inform, Develop, Motivate for a democratic and prosperous society

Our Mission is to advance capacities of societal players, generate and share knowledge, skills and expertise for inclusive and evidence-based policy making to strengthen democracy, rule of law and sustainable development.

“

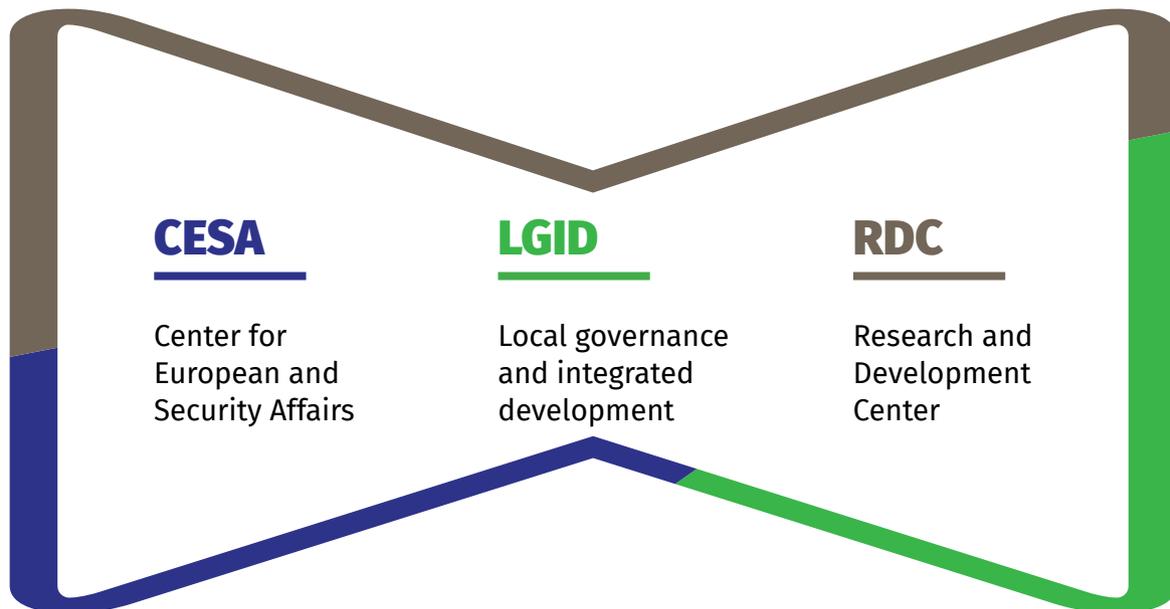
IDM is one of UNDP Albania’s critical partners, engaging in sensitive but fundamental work. IDM undertakes sophisticated surveys, including on issues touching on democratic practice, trust in government, municipal transparency, and religious tolerance. It’s fair to say that IDM has its finger on the pulse of Albania”

Brian J. Williams
UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative in Albania

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation – IDM, was established in November 1999 as a non-governmental organization dedicated to consolidate participatory governance and democratic institutions, Euro-Atlantic integration processes, civil society development, regional cooperation and security through independent research, capacity building and engagement of societal players.

Starting as a relatively small organization in the first years, from 2005 onwards IDM has increasingly developed as a think tank organization actively contributing to reforms and development processes in six key areas – Governance and public integrity; Security; EU accession process; Local governance and integrated development; Civil society development and advancement of applied research.

IDM contribution is channeled through the work of three departments, a dedicated 18 full time member team and a broad network of associates.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Chairman
Prof. Asc. Ardian Isufi
Dean of Faculty of Fine Arts,
University of Arts, Tirana



Member
Pashk Tusha
Former Regional
Police Director



Member
Kadri Gega
Former Mayor

IDM TEAM



Executive Director
Sotiraq Hroni



CESA Manager
Armela Xhaho



LGID Manager
Evelina Azizaj



Program Director
Gjergji Vurmo



RDC Manager
Aleka Papa



Redion Qirjazi,
Researcher



Dalina Jashari,
Researcher



Rovena Sulstarova,
Researcher



Besjana Kuci,
Researcher



Shefqet Bruka,
Senior advisor



Albana Hasmeta,
Junior researcher



Elona Dhembo,
Senior advisor



Shefqet Shyti,
Project manager



Artela Mitrushi,
Project coordinator



Romario Shehu,
Junior researcher

Finance & Admin



Denisa Shabani
Finance Director



Brixhilda Filopati
Finance & Admin. Assistant

Durim Tabaku
IT support

Edlir Daci
Driver & logistic support

ADVISORY BOARD

IDM Advisory Board is composed of longstanding associates of the Institute from the academia and the think tank sector. Its primary objective is to advise IDM policy research work, programmatic development and strategies to advance our impact.

Members:



Prof. Asc. Enis Sulstarova,
University of Tirana



Sonja Stojanovic, BCSP
Director (Belgrade)



Ilir Ciko, MPA



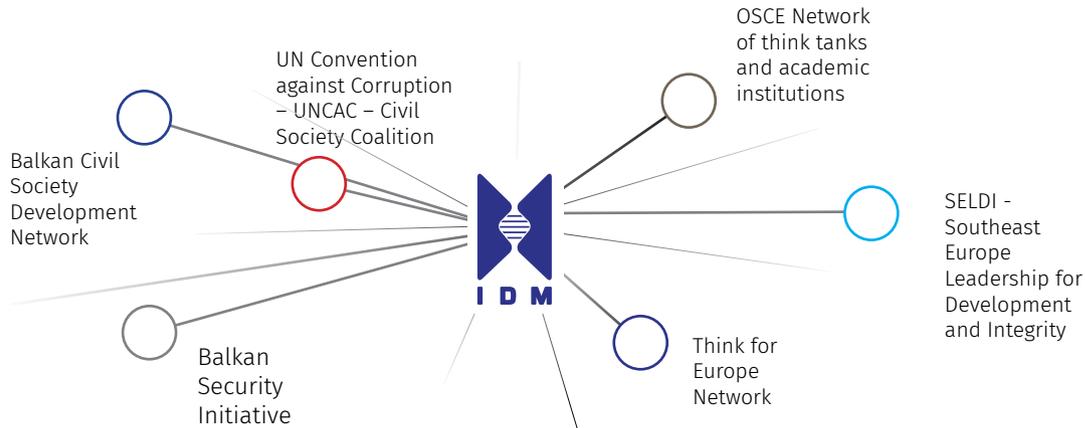
Matt Dann, Secretary Gen. of
Bruegel (Brussels)



Marsela Dauti, PhD
Marie Curie Fellow, Uppsala
University, Sweden

Regional engagement

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation is an active member of the following regional and wider networks:



Quality work

IDM expertise, deliverables and services are employed by a broad range of actors, such as decision makers, central and local state actors, international organizations, civil society, media and academia.

By combining the advantages of a knowledgeable think-tank and a resourceful operational non-governmental actor, the Institute offers capacity development tailored for specific audiences, needs and thematic interest; Policy analysis, applied research and advocacy for evidence-based policy options; Expertise and institutional assistance for stakeholders involved in IDM focus areas.

IDM in 2017

In 2017, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation **was engaged in the implementation of over 30 projects ranging from single to multiyear initiatives.**

Over 20 donor organizations have supported IDM work in 2017 **with an annual budget of approximately of 800,000 EUR**, which is 25% up from IDM 2016 budget.

IDM published **30 publications** in 2017 including policy analysis (brief, papers), research studies, assessment reports and other deliverables (articles, handbooks).

95 public events have been organized by IDM in 2017 including press conferences, roundtables, national and regional conferences, training workshops and study tours, local forums and awareness raising events.

Approximately 2000 participants have physically attended IDM events in 2017, **over 60% of which coming from civil society, decision-makers and academia.**

“

“I want to thank all of you for the leadership you have shown in Shkodra, Kukes, Elbasan, Berat, Vlora, Lezha, Gjirokastra and Tirana. I want to thank your brave teachers for their support and I want to thank the Institute for Democracy and Mediation...
...Times are changing. Corrupt politicians, government officials, judges and prosecutors are afraid. Do you know who they are afraid of? They are afraid of you!”

**H.E. Donal Lu,
US Ambassador in Albania (May 2017)**

▲
25% **800K** EUR
total annual budget

30
publications

30
projects

95
public events

2000
participants

“

“The establishment of the Albanian rural parliament represents a concrete step towards policies encouraging the sustainable development”

Gramoz Ruci,
Speaker of the Parliament

PROJECTS



Out of a total of 30 projects implemented in 2017, half of them were regional initiatives carried out in partnership with think tanks and partner organization from the western Balkan region, EU member states and the US.

IDM projects remain predominantly focused on policy analysis and research, monitoring, advocacy and capacity development.

Following successful experiences in re-granting small funds to local CSOs in the previous years, IDM was engaged for the first time in 2017 in sub-grating EU funds to Albanian CSOs focusing on anticorruption (CIVILISC), public administration reform (WeBER) and integrated development (ALTER). A total of 25 projects of Albanian CSOs ranging from EUR 5,000 to EUR 20,000 have been financed by IDM in 2017.

Governance risks assessment in public procurement – Country report for Albania

Western Balkans Pulse for Police Integrity and Trust – POINTPULSE

Amplifying Credible Voices

Raising capacities and advocacy potential towards more substantive involvement of CSOs of V4 and WB6

Scoping pathways into Serious and Organised Crime in Albania

Project Citizen Against Corruption/Youth engagement in solving community problems

Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in Albania

Albania SPEAKS!

Capitalizing on peaceful religious co-existence for preventing violent extremism

Egyptian Local Community Development Plans

Support to Anti-Corruption measures in Albania

Annual Survey “Public trust in Governance”

USAID Annual CSO Sustainability Index – Country report for Albania

South-Eastern European Data Services- SEEDS

Understanding Civic and faith based education in Albania

Private security Companies in the Western Balkans

Towards a new model of Albania’s anti-corruption effort

BENCHER: Benchmarking for EU reform

Opportunities for preventing violent extremism through intra-regional and cross-regional exchange

WeBER: Western Balkans enabling project for civil society monitoring of Public Administration Reform

CIVILISC: Civil Society Instruments against Corruption

ALTER: Active Local Territories for Economic Development of Rural Areas

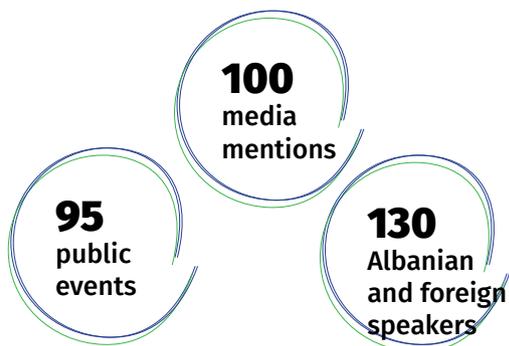
Improve capacities of education institutions and local actors to better respond to the challenges of countering violent extremism at local level

IDM 2017 events

95 public events have been organized by IDM in 2017 including press conferences, roundtables, national and regional conferences, training workshops and study tours, local forums and awareness raising events. The majority of IDM events are public while only few of them are closed-door or invitations only meetings.

Over 100 media mentions of our public events have been recorded during 2017, by Albanian and regional media.

Over 130 Albanian and foreign speakers have addressed participants and conference proceedings including senior government officials, MPs, diplomats, university professors, civil society leaders, representatives of international organizations, leaders of religious communities, journalists and other influential speakers.



“There is no room for fear, because no pressure shall hold back Albania to develop its democracy.”

H.E. Romana Vlahutin, EU Ambassador in Albania commenting on IDM’s “Trust in Governance” annual report (February 2017)

Highlights of IDM Events



Seminar for CSOs in Albania on SIGMA Principles of Public Administration



Night Owl Session “Credible Voices on Preventing Violent Extremism”



National Conference “Public trust in Governance 2017”



First Albanian Rural Parliament



IDM audience 2017

Approximately 2000 participants have physically attended IDM events in 2017. The majority of them come from civil society sector, academia and international organizations (45%), Albanian state institutions and intergovernmental organizations (35%), media and the private sector (10%), and other (10%) societal groups such as religious communities, activists and community groups.

Policy stakeholders

IDM engages regularly with a broad range of state institutions such as Parliament and its standing committees on European Integration, security and legal affairs, General Prosecution, Ombudsman, the State Supreme Audit, Ministry of Interior, Albanian State Police, Albanian Intelligence Service, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Local government institutions and other bodies where IDM is an active member – National Council for European Integration, National Council for Civil Society.

Cooperation with civil society and academia – public and private universities – remains high in IDM networking efforts, as well as the consolidation of cooperation with regional / European think tanks. The Institute engages regularly with international organizations and partners supporting Albania's reforming processes – EU, US agencies, UN agencies, Regional Cooperation Council, OSCE Presence and other actors.





4245

+1000 Likes and followers as compared to 2016

Social media audience (FB)

As IDM is increasingly using various social media platforms to boost its engagement particularly with audiences abroad during 2018, Facebook remains the main social media used by Albanians. We have broadcasted our work regularly on IDM Facebook Page, including our public events, media appearances, reports, studies, policy documents, survey and other research data.



A relatively young audience



62

Our followers live in 62 countries worldwide whereas most regular visitors of our FB page reside in Albania, Macedonia, Italy, Serbia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, Belgium and US.

IDM 2017 Publications

Quarterly Review
“European and
Security Affairs”

Monitoring
report “CSOs
Sustainability
Index for Albania”

Assessment
“Internal and
external control
mechanisms in
the State Police”

Annual Survey
Report “Trust in
Governance”

Policy paper
“Reintegration
difficulties and post-
mission adjustment
of Albanian military
personnel”

Commissioned Research

In 2017 the Institute has carried out commissioned research for the UK Government and the OSCE Presence in Albania in the areas serious and organized crime, and anticorruption respectively.

1. “An Assessment of the Albanian Serious & Organised Crime”

2. White paper “IDM proposal for an alternative National Anticorruption Model in Albania”



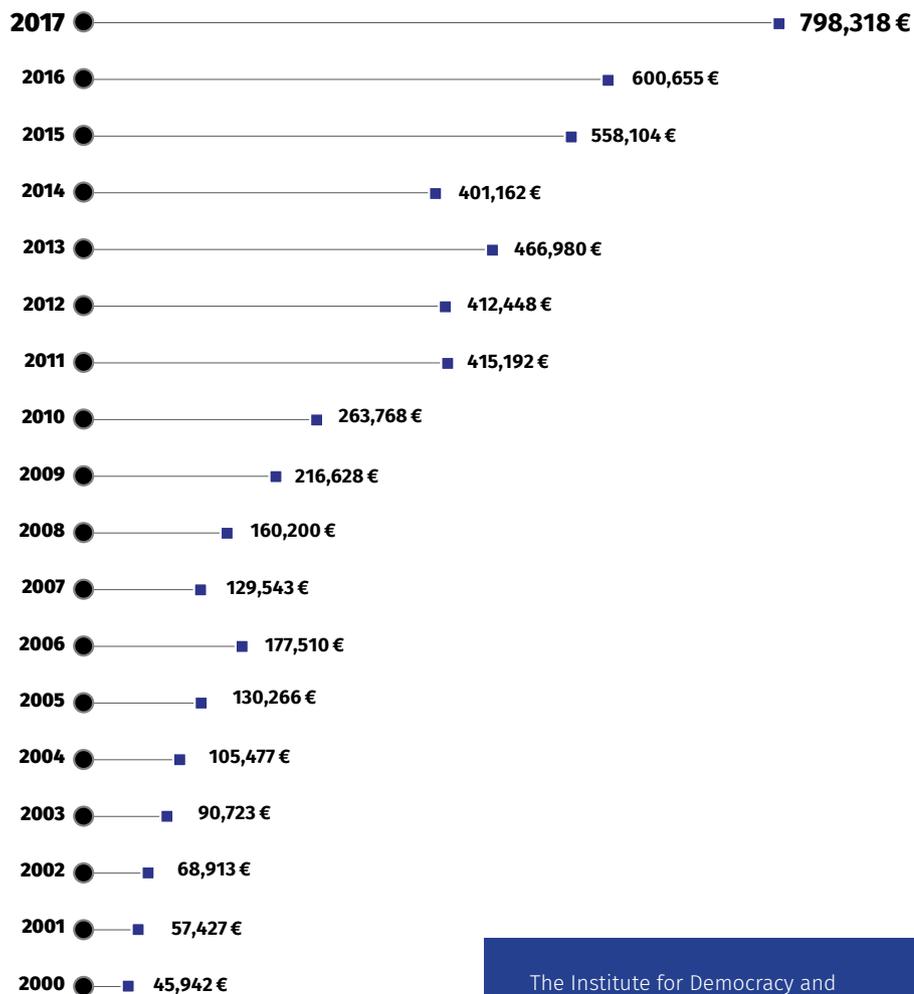
“Berat municipality has integrated IDM’s suggestions on the functioning of community structures and I take this opportunity to invite and appeal to other municipalities to follow this example.”

Valbona Kuko
Director of Leviz Albania



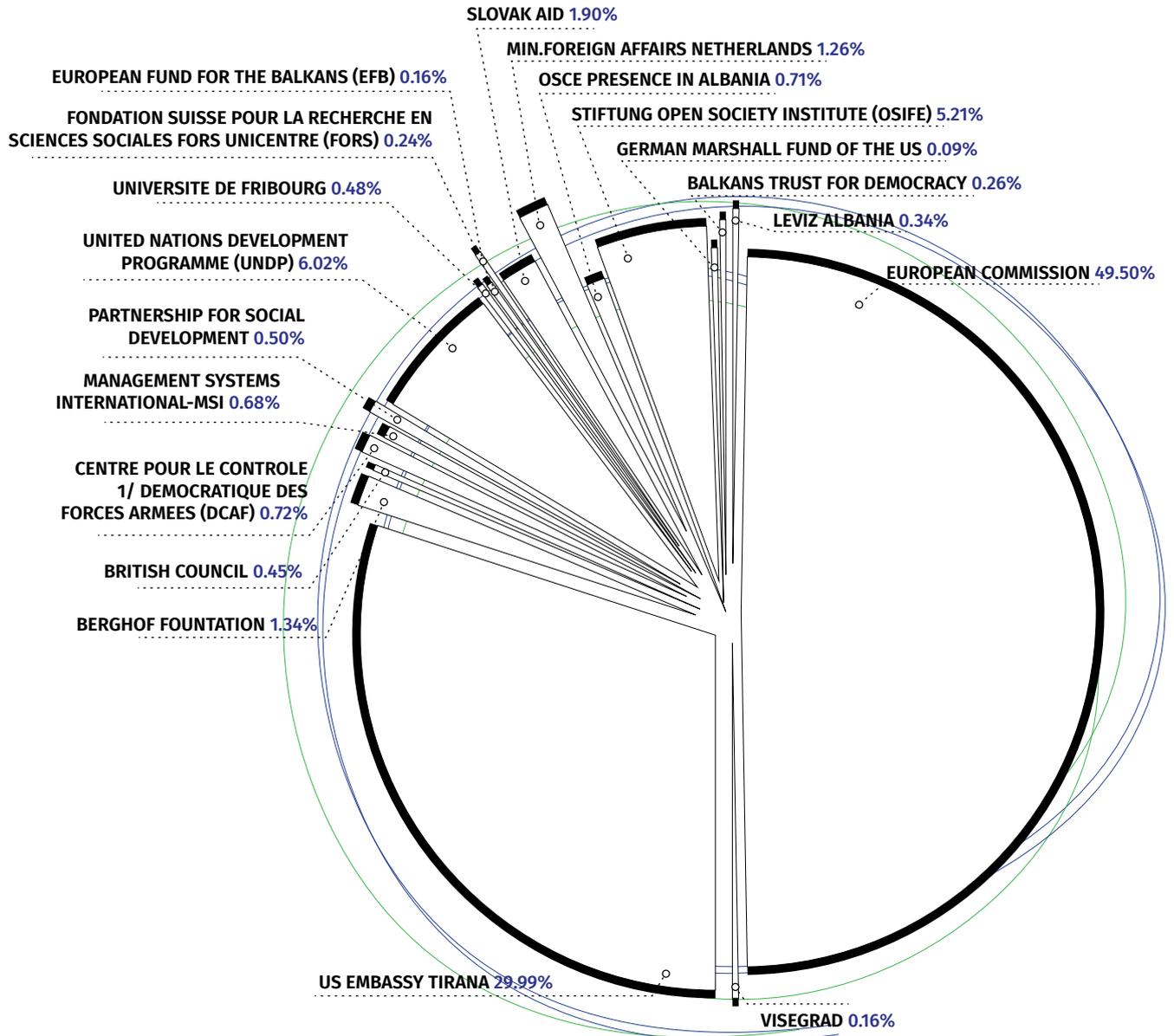
IDM Finances and Donors

IDM expanded workload, regional partnerships and the increased number of projects with a re-granting (to local CSOs) component have resulted in a nearly EUR 800,000 annual budget for 2018, the largest annual budget since the establishment of the organization.



The Institute for Democracy and Mediation would like to express its deep gratitude to long-term partners and other donor organizations who have supported our work in 2017.

IDM 2017 Budget



IDM focus in 2018

1. Study “Religious tolerance in Albania” UNDP Albania

Fieldwork and extensive research was carried out during 2017 by IDM researchers to analyze one of the most important values of Albanian society – religious tolerance. Findings of the study, which was commissioned by UNDP Albania, will be presented in early 2018.

2. Police Integrity Index

Following an impactful two-cycle implementation of the “Police Integrity” project (2013 – 2014 and 2015-2016) which fueled the Police Vetting law and reform in 2017, IDM will continue its work to assist Albanian State Police integrity building and anticorruption measures, through monitoring of the Vetting process and assistance to consolidate ethics and management culture.

3. Albania’s EU accession: Developing capacities and negotiating structures

As the country is expecting a positive recommendation to open accession negotiations with EU, the Institute in 2018 will intensify its work to develop capacities and encourage the policy discourse on the negotiating structures, and the role of civil society in this process.

4. Study “Religious radicalism and violent extremism in Albania 2.0”

Almost four years since the first baseline assessment of the phenomenon of violent extremism in Albania and following a number of C/PVE actions, IDM with the support of the US embassy in Tirana will carry out a second assessment of the state of affairs, threats and challenges of violent extremism in Albania.

5. Governance risk assessment (GRASP) and Governance Integrity

Based on the success piloting of a successful piloting of Governance risk assessment in public procurement in 2017, IDM with the support of PSD Croatia will analyze the social capture phenomena in Albania, as part of a regional initiative covering the WB accession countries. Additionally, good governance and public integrity will remain at the center of our research focus in 2018.