



IDM BI-ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008

I. INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND MEDIATION (IDM)

Founded in November 1999, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) is an independent, non-governmental organization working to strengthen the civil society, to analyze and improve Albania's integration processes, to assist reforming and the consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy making processes through expertise, innovative policy research, analysis and assessment-based policy options. IDM's choice of activities to achieve its strategic objectives is an effort to go beyond simple one time delivery projects. They form part of a continuing struggle to strengthen shared values and efficient interactions across the broad spectrum of political and non-political actors in Albania. The Institute has continuously contributed to the advancement of achievements in the following KEY AREAS:

- ⇒ Consolidation of civil society and promotion of inclusive policy-making processes
- ⇒ Security Studies and Security Sector Governance
- ⇒ Regional cooperation and integration processes
- ⇒ Decentralization, Local Governance and Community Participation

IDM structure consists of three core departments / programme areas:

- ⇒ Local Governance and Community Development

IDM's vision under this programme area is to promote civic partici-

MISSION

IDM is dedicated to develop a profound understanding on contemporary challenges to shape sustainable reforming strategies and public policies in key socio-economic and political development pillars, as well as to advance regional cost-effective approaches in support of intra / cross sectorial cooperation initiatives of key public and civil stakeholders based on comprehensive research, policy assessment and multifaceted analysis. These guiding principles and objectives represent the foundation of our mission, on which IDM forms the framework of its programme priorities, shapes the results of its work and drives the services and contribution to civil society efforts.

pation in the local decision-making processes and to increase the accountability of decision-making actors at local level vis-à-vis the citizenry. Since the inception of the organization in 1999, the efforts have focused on the improvement of local governance through community development, capacity building for community-based groups and contribution toward decentralization processes and to increase the accountability of decision-making actors at local level vis-à-vis the citizenry. Since the inception of the organization in 1999, the efforts have focused on the improvement of local governance through community development, capacity building for community-based groups and contribution toward decentralization processes.

- ♦ **Center for Security Studies (CSS)**

CSS represents IDM's specialized research unit, whose activities are conducted by experienced researchers and scholars in an effort to promote excellence of research, studies, policy options and security sector reforming processes. CSS mission is to advance security studies & research and develop human capacities at the national and regional level that will serve contemporary challenges for reform, integration processes and cooperation of the security sector through an educational and problem-solving approach to encourage informed debate on security sector developments. Security sector governance & oversight, challenges to integration processes as well as opportunities of regional cooperation constitute the core focus of the Centre.

- ♦ **Research and Innovation Initiative (RII)**

The Research and Innovation Initiative (RII) represents a cross-cutting scheme involving in permanent consultations and joint efforts the Institute's policy analysts, program managers and selected associates with the purpose to develop innovative proposal advancing IDM's performance and quality of services under the existing areas of expertise and to expand the focus of work responding to forthcoming challenges. In addition to these tasks, RII provides guidance, support and expertise to the Institute's efforts to influence policy agenda / policy making processes through the preparation of various policy documents and the design of the framework of instruments which are necessary for successful advocacy of policy options among decision makers, expert community, interest groups and the public at large.

II. IDM TEAM AND ASSOCIATES

The work of the Institute for Democracy and Mediation is guided and carried out by a team of eight full time employees and a wide network of associates. In addition, the statute of the Institute has established the Board of Directors as IDM's supervising authority.

IDM Staff



Gjergji Vurmo
Program Director



Erisa Çela
Program Manager



Rovena Sorra
Program Assistant



Besnik Baka
Researcher



Ermela Hoxha
Finance Officer



Marjola Qesaraku
Program Officer



Sotiraq Hroni
Executive Director

Mikel Papazisi

Eduard Cani

Support Staff

IDM Associates

Name	Position
Gen.Lt. Pellumb Qazimi	Ambassador (former Chief of Gen. Staff of Armed Forces)
Mr. Arshi Çela, Ph.D.	Associate (Security issues)
Dr. Giovanni Ercolani	Associate (UN Peace Operations Training Institute)
Mr. Arjan Dyrmishi	Associate (Security Sector Reform & Governance)
Mr. Erjon Alikaj	Associate (Security Issues)
Mr. Geron Kamberi	Associate (Security and Euro-Atlantic integration)
Mr. Tomi Treska	Associate (Community mobilization)
Mr. Zyber Beci	Associate (Local governance and Decentralization)
Mr. Artan Karini	Public Policy Consultant
Mrs. Albana Spiro	Institutional Development Consultant
Mr. Enis Sulstarova	State University of Durres Aleksander Moisiu
Dr. Christopher Farrands	Associate (Nottingham Trent University, UK)
Dr. Velizar SHALAMANOV	Chairman of “George C. Marshall” Association (Bulgaria)
Dr. Rexhep Meidani	Former President of the Republic of Albania
Dr. Saso Ordanovski	FORUM, Center for Strategic Research & Documentation
Dr. Dusan JANIC	University of Belgrade

III. IDM PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

The IDM's strategy in Albania centers around organizational willingness – demonstrated in the IDM's strategic framework – to engage in strategic and visionary partnerships with a variety of organizations and institutions, both to foster new relationships and to meet the standards of advocacy patterns that ensure structural, systemic policy changes. Particular emphasis is being placed upon developing linkages with organizations, networks and institutions in order to jointly engage in addressing Albanian and regional challenges. A novelty for Albanian civil society - IDM has established partnerships with private sector operators which are intended not only to ensure increased funding, but also to create the sense of ownership, encourage local philanthropy and to demonstrate potential for successful public-private partnership practices.

In the course of its eight years of existence IDM has succeeded to establish close cooperation links and partnerships with:

1. National Partners

- ◆ Institute for Development Research and Alternatives (IDRA)
- ◆ European Movement in Albania
- ◆ SMEI Project (Support to the Ministry of European Integration, EC funded project)
- ◆ OSCE Presence in Albania
- ◆ Albanian Atlantic Council
- ◆ Albanian Association of Municipalities
- ◆ Institute for Contemporary Studies

- ◆ Albanian Human Rights Group
- ◆ Albanian Media Institute
- ◆ Citizen Advocacy Office
- ◆ Albanian Coalition Against Corruption
- ◆ Other think tanks and CSOs
- ◆ Albanian Parliament & Parliamentary Commissions
- ◆ Albanian Government
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Ministry of European Integration
 - Ministry of Defense
 - Ministry of Interior
 - Ministry of Education & Science
- ◆ University of Tirana, Faculty of Social Sciences
- ◆ European University of Tirana
- ◆ Local Government Units (Municipalities and Communes)
- ◆ Albanian State Police
- ◆ Police Academy
- ◆ General Staff of Albanian Armed Forces
- ◆ State Intelligence Service

2. Regional Partners

- ◆ International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS - Greece)
- ◆ George Marshall Center (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- ◆ Forum for Ethnic Relations (Belgrade, Serbia)
- ◆ RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
- ◆ FORUM Center for Strategic Research and Documentation (Skopje, Macedonia)
- ◆ Institute for International Relations (Zagreb, Croatia)
- ◆ Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (Skopje, Macedonia)
- ◆ Kosova Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED)

- ◆ Center for Research and Policy-Making (Skopje, Macedonia)
- ◆ Center for Civil Military Relations (Serbia)
- ◆ The Monitoring Center (Podgorica, Montenegro)
- ◆ Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (Podgorica, Montenegro)
- ◆ Kosovo Action for Civil Initiative (Kosovo)
- ◆ Other regional think tank and policy institutes

3. International Partners

- ◆ DCAF - Geneva Center for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (Switzerland)
- ◆ SIPRI – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sweden)
- ◆ Centre for European Security Studies (Netherlands)
- ◆ PASOS: Policy Association for an Open Society (Czech Republic)
- ◆ Center for EU Enlargement Studies (Hungary)
- ◆ EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy (Czech Republic)
- ◆ European Institute for the furtherance of Democracy (Austria)
- ◆ CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)
- ◆ Institute of Public Affairs (Poland)
- ◆ International Center for Democratic Transition (Hungary)
- ◆ Slovak Foreign Policy Association (Slovakia)
- ◆ Institute for Central Eastern, and Balkan Europe (Italy)
- ◆ University of Bologna (Italy)
- ◆ UN Institute for Training and Research, Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations (UNITAR POCI)
- ◆ University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, US)
- ◆ University of Oklahoma (USA)
- ◆ Hungarian Rural Parliament (HRP)
- ◆ All Sweden Shall Live (HSSL), Sweden
- ◆ Other European and international institutions

IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

Regional Conference “Cost and Benefit Perspectives of NATO Membership: Albanian & Regional Challenges after the Bucharest Summit” Tirana, 5 – 6 May 2008

The conference was designed as a consultative and discussion forum among high officials of state institutions in charge of NATO integration process and representatives of civil society, academia, business sector, independent experts and analysts, media and other stakeholders from Albania, as well as with representatives of civil society from Macedonia, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



IV. IDM ACTIVITIES 2007 - 2008

Core and Institutional Support for an increased impact on policy making

Duration: December 2007 – December 2010

Donor: OSI Think Tank Fund (Program of the Open Society Institute)

Following an almost 8 years experience and continuous involvement in Albanian civil society's efforts to consolidate democratic institutions, governance and policymaking, in December 2007 IDM was awarded a three year Core and Institutional Support Grant by the OSI Think Tank Fund. The purpose of the institutional support is to strengthen inclusive policy making in the country through encouraging more active involvement and an enhanced impact of the Institute's policy and research work in the policy making processes. Under this programme IDM is focusing on five key thematic areas including local governance and decentralization, security sector reform & proactive law enforcement, community mobilization, tripartite partnerships and local ownership, and challenges of the European integration process. The implementation of the institutional support grant is following a carefully designed strategy which was prepared during IDM **retreat** (February 2008) and in the first year it delivered the following products / activities: six **policy briefs** on specific policy issues; one **policy paper**; three issues of “**EU Home Affairs Review**”; interactive web-based **forum**; four **consultation meetings** with independent experts; two **policy forums** (on specific policy products); three **local round tables**, etc. Furthermore, the institutional support has enabled IDM to better structure its work, resources and impact of its programme activities.

Leader approach, capacity building & networking for development of rural areas in Albania

Duration: 2008-2009

Donor: Irish Aid

Partners: Rural Workshop Foundation (RWF) and Hungarian Rural Parliament (HRP)

The project strategy was formulated based on extensive local and national knowledge of problems in Albania and comprehensive analysis of the political, social and economic context. The up to now and future interventions as previewed in the project shall test and adapt methods and models on mobilization, involvement and participation of citizens in integrated local development work and on raised local capacity of local population, citizens' organizations, and private sector and local/regional governments in three pilot regions in Albania. The strategy focus shall "lay the table" to enhancing sustainable local development work put in a national context, using the EU mainstreaming program LEADER experience. A mobilization and awareness campaign shall be implemented; capacity building program for local government will raise awareness, knowledge and capacity. A training of trainers-activity will spread the lessons learned to other parts of Albania and that way give sustainability of the Project intervention. An Albania Rural Network shall be established to spread the lessons learned from international cooperation and exchange of experiences.

Pro-AdriaS – Protecting the Adriatic Seaways project

Duration: April – June 2008

Partners: Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG, Italy), Central European Initiative (CEI), Hellenberg International Ltd (Finland), European Maritime Partnership (EMP, Italy), Institute for International Relations (IMO, Croatia)

This project is based on the notion that Adriatic seaways, with their

IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

**Regional Summer School on
Security Studies '08
Dures,
8 – 19 September, 2008**

The event gathered a group of 25 carefully selected participants – scholars and researchers, governmental experts and officials, representatives of think tank institutions etc. – from various European countries (Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, Turkey, Italy, Albania, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and France) in a two week training which focused on various aspects of the security studies area and contemporary challenges of security sector.



IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

National Workshop “Developing National Security Strategy 2008 – 2010” Tirana, 21 September 2007

The importance and the challenges to the new Strategy (NSS) were discussed by a selected audience of experts based on the Albanian experience and other countries' best practices which was brought by DCAF (main partner in the project). The workshop was not only aimed at raising awareness amongst Albanian policy makers, but also to offer a valuable contribution to the Governmental Working Group in their work to draft the new NSS.



commercial and civil maritime routes, are being considered as one of the crucial infrastructural and logistic foundations for the wider European development. The aim of this project is to contribute to the development of a common framework for the protection of the Adriatic Sea as a whole and its maritime infrastructures in particular through identifying SWOT variables necessary to successfully manage emergency situation in Adriatic Sea. A specialized team of IDM experts were involved in the implementation of this initiative by focusing particularly on the following tasks:

- ◆ Contribution to the conceptual development of context specific notions of threats and communication strategies in Albania.
- ◆ Background research and data collection focused on identification of existing Operational-Strategic Plans (OSP) in Albania and identification of the Critical Infrastructure and its protection (CIP).
- ◆ Preparation of the acquired data as a prerequisite for definition of the model for risk analysis.

Securing the community: reconciliation, trust and integration in the Western Balkans

Duration: April – July 2008

Donor / Partner: University of Oklahoma (USA)

The IDM's specialized department, Center for Security Studies, was contracted by the University of Oklahoma (USA) under a regional initiative involving Western Balkan countries, to carry out a national survey aimed to find tendencies among Albanian citizen about their perceptions and feelings towards the other Balkan states as well as international organizations and further, to discover indicators of the past's impact. The survey findings have been included in a detailed report which will be included in the final publication of the regional research work.

Costs and Benefits of NATO Membership

Duration: January – May 2008

Donors: NATO PDD, Albanian Parliament, local businesses

The overall aim of this initiative was to offer an analysis on the costs and benefits that these countries encounter to successfully coordinate and reform their policies on regional security issues and to face the challenges of NATO membership. The publication prepared under this project comprises summaries of the speeches held during the Regional Conference as well as recommendations of the Working Groups emerged in relation to Albanian and regional challenges.

Regional Summer School on Security Studies

Duration: April – October 2008

Donors & Partners: CEI, DCAF, General Staff of Albanian Armed Forces, International Centre for Black Sea Studies, UNITAR POCl, Start Sicurezza and Albanian businesses.

Upon its own initiative and as a highlight of its successful activities for 2008, the Center for Security Studies of the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) under the support of CEI (Central European Initiative) has successfully completed the 1st Regional Summer School on Security Studies (RSS 2008), which took place in the premises of Joint Force Command, Durrës, Albania during the period of September 8 – 19, 2008. Through this intensive two week programme designed as a continuing learning process ranging from in-classroom modules/lectures to production of case studies, IDM intended to create an academic environment which would provide researchers and practitioners from the European Continent interested in security issues in the Southeast European region) with an updated perspectives of contemporary security challenges.

The RSS roster of participants included graduate and post-graduate

IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

**Press Conference
Launching the findings of the
National Survey
“Albanian Perceptions on
NATO Integration”
Tirana, 8 June 2007**

The key findings of the national survey “Albanian Perceptions on NATO Integration” were launched in a press conference on 8th June 2007 (two days ahead of the US President’s visit), while the public and media attention was particularly focused on Albania’s NATO membership bid.



IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

Cooperation Agreement between IDM and the Center for Civil Military Relations (CCMR), Belgrade Tirana, 18 September 2008

The cooperation agreement between the two think tank institutes was signed by the respective Executive Chiefs during the visit of CCMR team in Tirana. IDM and CCMR have accordingly agreed to cooperate in the design and implementation of various programme activities in the area of security sector.



students, mid to senior level security sector officials, practitioners, researchers, graduate students as well as staff of security sector corporations from as many as eleven Balkans and European countries including Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, France, Germany, Italy, Kosovo, Austria, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey. The RSS required the know-how and expertise of international, regional and national academics, senior officials and lecturers from Europe and North America who supported IDM in this initiative. The key purpose was to not merely instruct summer school participants but to also enhance their capacities to better understand Balkan, European and global security challenges through five courses focusing on Introduction to Security Studies and Human Security; Research and Analysis in the field of security studies; Security in the Balkans & the Role of Euro-Atlantic Integration; Global Terrorism; Peace keeping and International Conflict Resolution.

Towards Sustainability of Participatory Governance and Public Private Partnerships in the City of Shkodra

Duration: 2008-2009

Donor: Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)

This project aims to transform the until now IDM's undertaken community actions in the city of Shkodra into a self-sustainable reality, by further developing social cohesion through concrete empowerment of both citizens and local government, through building institutionalized public-private partnerships, consolidating the already existing structure of the Community Liaisons (Village Elders) in the city of Shkodra and establishing a Local Trust Fund with the contribution of both public and private actors.

**Sharing Albanian best practices on community participation:
Promoting participatory (local) governance through Community
liaison and Community based groups**

Duration: January 2008 –June 2008

**Donor: East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program; US
Embassy in Tirana.**

**Partners: Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation
(MCIC) and Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Develop-
ment (KIPRED)**

The aim of the project was to promote best experiences and practices of community mobilization and community participation at the regional level (Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia); raise awareness among local actors and decision-makers in the target countries on the necessity of and benefits from community participation schemes and enhance capacities of the target group (through information and training) to develop and utilize best practices of community mobilization and citizens' participation in local governance. After a regional round table and two regional advocacy tours a publication was finalized in May 2008 on "Regional Best Practices on Community Participation in the Local Governance Decision-Making Process", published in Albanian and Macedonian together with an English Summary.

Training of Trainers for Health Mediators

Duration: 2008

**Donor: United Nations Development Program
(UNDP) - Program Empowering the Vulnerable
Communities in Albania**

The Project aimed to train 10-15 mediators, members of the Roma and Egyptian communities. The mediators are expected to act as a net-

**IDM Main events
2007 – 2008**

**National Conference
Moving Towards Consolidated
Interactions between the Local
Government and Central
Institutions at Local Level
4 September, 2008**

This event notes the finalization of the monitoring process carried out by IDM and IDRA on the cooperation between local government and central institutions at the local level as regards their shared competencies in the areas of environment, civil registry service, education, public security, etc.



IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

Community Policing Academy Three year programme 2006 - 2008

The conference was designed as a consultative and discussion forum among high officials of state institutions in charge of NATO integration process and representatives of civil society, academia, business sector, independent experts and analysts, media and other stakeholders from Albania, as well as with representatives of civil society from Macedonia, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina.



work of volunteers training community members on relevant health issues as well as mediating conflicts arising out in community as well as those involving local government and health institutions. The training programme included a three-day Training of Trainers; five field level trainings and an evaluation and follow-up planning session.

Expanding best practices of community mobilization in Shkodra city

Duration: January – July 2008

Donor: World Learning

The project focuses on an extremely important condition for an open, transparent and accountable local government – the involvement of citizens in the system of local governance. It follows the best practices and the experience established by IDM and the Balkan Trust for Democracy in Shkodra city (2006 - 2008) through supporting the community based groups and the community center as an active tool for strengthening participatory governance. The main goal of this proposal was to improve governance at the local level through strengthening the role of citizens in local decision-making processes, as well as through building an innovative model of co-operation between local authorities and the community in Shkodra city through the Community Center.

Moving toward good governance in Shkodra city

Duration: July 2007 – June 2008

Donor: Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)

This project was designed to stimulate intensive citizen's engagement in the decision making by creating new CBGs and Community Centers and by making sustainable the existed ones. Also it aimed to create more active collaboration between the local Government of Shkodra and Law Enforcement Agencies. Through this endeavor IDM has established a model of citizens monitoring the local government's

performance and ensure its accountability.

Modeling Practices of Good Governance through Community Liaisons

Duration: 2007 – 2008

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

IDM has started the implementation of a one year project focusing on efforts linking the community of citizens with the system of governance at the local level and building (self) sustainable structures that will struggle to fill in the communication gap between the local government units / agencies on one side and the citizens on the other. This initiative portrays the current trends and priorities of decentralization of power and bringing governance closer to the citizens. In order to address these priorities IDM employs a genuine model of participatory governance – the community liaison (CL) structure that stands between the community and the local government

Assessment and monitoring of the interaction between local government and the central government devolved agencies

Duration: August 2007 – July 2008

Donor: OSFA Soros Foundation (Albania)

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) and the Institute for Development Research & Alternatives, financially supported by Soros Foundation (Albania) have carried out a one year project on decentralization with special focus on the interactions between local government and the central government's devolved agencies in four cities – Shkodra, Durres, Korca and Fier. The joint initiative focuses on the relations and the interacting mechanisms of local government structures and the central level devolved agencies in six target areas. IDM and IDRA have prepared an assessment report of the legal and administrative framework, as well as the overall performance of cooperation

IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

**Conference
“Towards a Community
Coordinative Centre for
Shkodra”
Shkodra, 28th March 2008**

The ultimate goal of the conference was to bring together in consensual frame public institutors, community of citizens and private sector so that developmental and democratic goals of the local government can be reached through community engagement and civic participation.



IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

Regional Round Table Sharing Albanian Best Practices on Participatory Governance Durrës, 10 May 2008

The Round Table's goal was promotion of best experiences and practices of community mobilization and community participation at the regional level and raising of awareness among local actors and decision-makers in Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania on the necessity and benefits of community participation schemes.



between the local government (municipalities) and central level devolved agencies (prefecture, local offices of governmental agencies and ministries). Based on the report's findings our experts have designed specific recommendations that will enhance the target institutions' performance, cooperation and thus the decentralization pace. Based on the report's findings our experts have designed specific recommendations that will enhance the target institutions' performance, cooperation and thus the decentralization pace.

Translation and publication in Albanian of "Recognizing value in policing: The challenge of measuring police performance"

Duration: November 2007 – April 2008

Donor: NISPAcee, Raiffeisen Bank Albania

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a US think tank institution based in Washington, granted IDM the right to translate and publish in Albanian one of its most valued research works – "Recognizing value in policing: The challenge of measuring police performance". Through this initiative IDM aimed to bring international best practices and contribute to the Albanian Police reforming processes. In addition, the publication (in Albanian) was disseminated also among interested institutions in Kosovo and Macedonia.

Security Policy and Capacity Building for SS institutions

Duration: 2007 – 2008

Donor: DCAF, Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation has continued its partnership with DCAF – Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces and in the past two years has delivered a series of trainings and workshops in the area of security. Particular attention has been dedicated to security sector reform, the national security strategy, institu-

tional capacities, as well as democratic control of security sector institutions. DCAF support and expertise has been particularly essential and has therefore largely contributed to the success of a number of programs and initiatives of IDM – Workshop on the National Security Strategy, Regional Summer School, series of trainings with State Police, Intelligence Services etc. Through the support to the newly established IDM Center for Security Studies (2008), DCAF has enabled also the success of a number of publications such as Security Issues Quarterly, EU Home Affairs Review, a series of policy briefs on security related matters etc.

Relations of Albania with the EU 1992 – 2007

Duration: December 2007 – July 2008

Partner: Center for EU Enlargement Studies and the Central European University

This study was prepared under the regional project “Integration perspectives and synergic effects of European transformation in the countries targeted by EU enlargement and neighborhood policies”. The Center for EU Enlargement Studies (CEUENS) at the Central European University in Budapest (Hungary) assigned IDM the task to prepare an analysis of the Albania’s relations with the European Union and the overall progress of the country’s EU integration process. The study offers an assessment of the key development of the EU integration process since the early 1990s up to date, with special emphasis on – Institutional Structure of EU-Relations; Contractual and Political Relations with the EU; Economic Relations; Approximation of Legislation; EU conditionality. The research also aims to draw conclusions regarding the achievement of systematic change and European integration perspectives of Albania.

IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

IDM Retreat Korça, February 2008

IDM vision, medium and long term objectives, public relations strategy, human resources and the implementation of the 3 year Core and Institutional Support grant (OSI Think Tank Fund) were the main topics which were discussed in the retreat with IDM team and associates in Korca.



IDM Main events 2007 – 2008

IDM Policy Forums Series of Expert Debates on IDM Policy Briefs

A series of Policy Briefs have been prepared by IDM during 2006 which have attracted the attention of the academic society, media, policy makers and the general public. A particularly successful event has been organized on the occasion of the Policy Brief “Timing Albania’s application for EU membership” which suggests that Albania should submit its EU membership application under the Czech EU presidency (first half of 2009).



Albanian Perceptions on NATO Integration

Duration: March – June 2007

Donor: NATO Public Diplomacy Division

The project consisted of a survey on Albanian Perceptions on NATO integration. It was conducted in the period March-May 2007 in 10 main cities of Albania and the sample of respondents was concentrated into 6 categories: central government administration, local government administration, NGOs, business, academia and citizens. This was the first time that such a survey of the public perceptions on NATO and the integration process of the country was considered within the wider problematiques of the threat to security, integration reforms and accountability of institutions to achieve the standards, the participation of Albanian Armed Forces in operations outside the country, strategic alliances, the support and expectations from the membership, etc. The findings of the survey were debated in a round table with distinguished public personalities, such as members of the parliamentary commission on NATO integration, experts from the security sector, academicians, media analysts, civil society representatives and military attaches of NATO countries in Albania. Concluding remarks on the need to coordinate the efforts of state structures with civil society in the framework of integration processes were made by the co-chairs of the ad hoc parliamentary commission for NATO integration, Mr. Pandeli Majko and Ferdinand Xhaferri.

Empowering citizen groups for Police Accountability (Citizens Police Review Boards)

Duration: January - June 2007 Donor: Casals/USAID

The State Police is the main institution that provides public safety and order in Albania. As it happens with other state institutions in the country, certain elements of the State Police reportedly are corrupted, abuse with their positions and power to attain underserved or illegal privileges. This project was developed in partnership with Citizen

Advocacy Office (CAO) and Albanian Coalition against Corruption (ACAC) as an attempt to fight these phenomena through public accountability of State Police to communities of citizens. The goal of the project is reduction of corruption and abuse of law in the State Police through the rise of public awareness and organization of citizens.

“Civil Alliance 08: Together towards NATO”

Duration: 2007 ongoing

Partner: FORUM Center for Strategic Research and Documentation, Skopje; Institute for International Relations, Zagreb

Donors: Businesses and various donors

This is an initiative for opening up the processes of NATO integration to our societies and region at large, for stimulating the non-for-profit sector in A3 countries to take relevant responsibilities and to be active partners of governments in the integration processes and for engaging in lobbying in Brussels and Washington D.C for the acceptance of A3 countries in NATO. Civil Alliance 08 has found support from the Ministers of Defense from the A3 countries.

Community Policing Academy III

Duration: 2007 – 2008 (finalization of a three year programme)

Donor: US State Department

(Lead) Partner: University of Pittsburgh

A three year programme of the University of Pittsburgh (PA, USA) and the Institute for Democracy and Mediation designed to improve institutional capacities on community policing was successfully concluded in 2008. Three Study tours in Pittsburgh (US) of Albanian State Police and Ministry of Interior officials, local government representatives and civil society organizations have been organized by IDM since 2006 (the last one in June 2008), as well as a number of training workshops conducted by IDM experts and US trainers. The programme had a sig-





nificant impact on the implementation of the community policing objectives of the State Police and particularly in view of the cooperation with local government units and the community of citizens.

Publication of the quarterly journal ‘Security Issues’

Duration: Ongoing (since 2006)

**Donor: Public Diplomacy Division of NATO;
Albanian businesses**

The Security Issues journal was launched by IDM in 2006 with the purpose of promoting a well informed, academic and expert debate on security matters. It provides comprehensive analysis, research papers and articles related to security, integration processes, regional, European and international security challenges, etc.

Main highlights of IDM work in 2009

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation remains committed to promote good governance practices and to design sound policy options which are regarded as beneficial for Albania's development, regional co-operation and its ambitions under the integration processes. In order to meet its objectives in the respective programme areas and with the purpose to assist capacity building efforts and to enhance performance of local, national and regional public actors, civil society partners and other private stakeholders, IDM will deepen the impact of its existing programme activities through independent and comprehensive research, technical assistance, institutional capacity building, policy analysis and monitoring, sound policy options and innovative approaches to good governance and inclusive policy making.

While its "traditional" programme areas – security, local governance, community mobilization, civil society etc. – will continue to be part of IDM focus in 2009, particular attention will be paid to the newly developed initiatives (such as mainstreaming Rural Development within its Local Governance Department's activities and research) and especially efforts to consolidate the Institute's think tank profile in EU policies and integration challenges. Accordingly, some of the key initiatives to be carried by IDM team in 2009 include:

Active involvement in policy-making processes

Under the Institutional Support grant awarded by Open Society Institute think Tank Fund, IDM will intensify its involvement in the policy processes not only through assessment and monitoring of current policies, but particularly through the design of policy alternatives and advocacy with key stakeholders. IDM's presence in the policy forums and public debate will be ensured through various activities – round tables, media appearances, policy brief, policy papers, and other publications.

CIVICUS, Civil Society Index (CSI) in Albania

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation was licensed by CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation to implement the Civil Society Index (CSI) in Albania. CSI is an action-research project that aims to assess the

state of civil society in countries around the world. Between 2003 and 2006 the CSI was implemented in over 50 countries worldwide. The CSI methodology is designed to measure the following core dimensions of civil society: Civic Engagement; Level of Organization; Practice of Values; Perceived Impact; and External environment. The Civil Society Index will be carried out for the first time in Albania in 2009 under the guidance of IDM experienced team of experts, who have been additionally trained by CIVICUS (September 2008).

Policy Paper & Regional Conference: “Inter-parliamentary cooperation in the Balkans”

(Regional Advocacy for Cooperation in the Balkans via European Best Practices)

The overall goal of this initiative is to develop a perspective of institutionalized inter-parliamentary regional cooperation that would support different initiatives from various public or private actors by offering selected examples of best practices of successful cooperation from the VISEGRAD, Nordic and also Baltic countries. The project is partially financed by the International Visegrad Fund and will be jointly implemented with the Institute of Public Affairs (Warsaw), International Centre for Democratic Transition (Budapest), Institute for European Policy (Prague) and Slovak Foreign Policy Association (Bratislava), while significant support is expected also by IDM regional partners in the Western Balkans.



these areas.

Security Forum

Security matters will remain one of the key focus areas for IDM also in the next year. Based on the achievements and the experience of the Institute, particular attention in 2009 will be

Promoting EU policies for Rural & Regional Development

The year 2008 has marked the beginning of quite an active involvement of the Institute in the efforts to build institutional capacities to absorb EU policies and to best utilize (future) assistance instruments in the area of regional and integrated rural development. IDM has initiated a series of consultations aiming to design capacity building and research activities in this context. While IDM will continue to work with its Swedish and Hungarian partners to promote the Leader Approach, new initiatives are expected to be designed and implemented with the purpose to respond to Albania’s challenges in



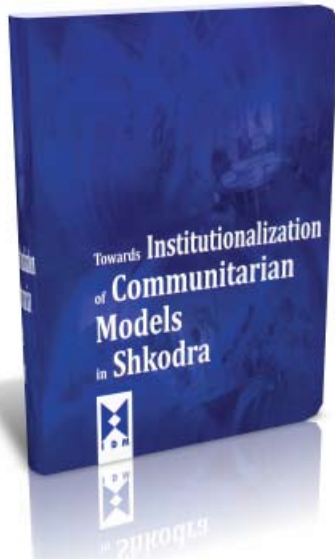
dedicated to monitoring, capacity building and policy design in this sector not only from a national, but also from a regional perspective. In addition to the quarterly review “Security Issues” which is now entering its fourth year of publication and the “EU Home Affairs Review” (2nd year of publication), IDM will introduce new titles such as monitoring reports, policy analysis, handbooks and other useful literature to be prepared by IDM experts. Furthermore, the Center for Security Studies (IDM specialized department) will launch the Security & NATO Resource Center which will enable access to research and other publication in the area of security to scholars, researchers, experts and other interested actors. Capacity building activities for research skills, early warning reports and analysis of security aspects will represent another priority for IDM which will take place under joint initiatives with international / regional partners (DCAF, CCMR etc.) and also under the Regional Summer School on Security & Development. Through these initiatives IDM will struggle to enhance institutional capacities and independent expertise not only in Albania, but also in the region (as more attention is being dedicated to regional security).

IDM’s strategy to streamline its role in the security area developments will be guided by the following key objectives:

- (1) advancing security studies and promoting regional academic capacities in the area of security
- (2) assisting national and regional institutional actors to address cooperation & security challenges (particularly in view of “NATO / EU Eastward Enlargement”)
- (3) consolidate IDM’s influence in security related policy making processes (based on research, monitoring & assessment)
- (4) establish a security early warning unit offering well-focused analytical reports and analysis of key developments with implications in the national / regional security situation

take place under joint initiatives with international / regional partners (DCAF, CCMR etc.) and also under the Regional Summer School on Security & Development. Through these initiatives IDM will struggle to enhance institutional capacities and independent expertise not only in Albania, but also in the region (as more attention is being dedicated to regional security).





V. IDM PUBLICATIONS 2007 - 2008

Regional Best Practices on Community Participation in the Local Governance Decision-Making Process

Year: 2008

Language: Albanian and Macedonian, with an English summary

The publication represents one of the outcomes of a regional project implemented by IDM in cooperation with KIPRED (Kosovo) and MCIC (Macedonia), aiming to initiate a regional forum of exchange of experiences on community participation and mobilization. The publication brings IDM success stories in the implementation of the structure of community liaison and the community mobilization experience, as well as the best practices in Kosovo and Macedonia

Towards Institutionalization of Communitarian Models in Shkodra (2008)

Year: 2008

Language: Albanian and English

The publication offers the main highlights of IDM's work with community mobilization and citizens' participation in local governance and policy making in Shkodra area. In addition, it includes also the opinion and views of local / central governmental officials and citizens on the communitarian models introduced by IDM in Shkodra.

Njohja e vlerave në policim: Sfidat në vlerësimin e rezultateve të punës së policisë

(English title: “Recognizing Value in Policing: The Challenge of Measuring Police Performance”) Year: 2008

Language: Albanian

The publication is one of the most esteemed research works of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), one of the US leading think tanks in the area of police related problematique. This work is brought in Albanian for the institutions, researchers and experts in the country through a contribution of IDM and the financial support of NISPAcee and Raiffeisen Bank.

EU Justice and Home Affairs Bulletin

Year: 2008

Language: Albanian

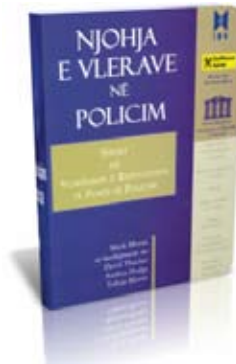
The bulletin is a product of IDM's specialized department - Center for Security Studies, which aims at advancing security studies, consolidating institutional capacities and supporting security sector reforms. The bulletin's target audience involves civil servants and officials, scholars, experts, researchers and other individuals who are striving to expand their knowledge on EU's policy on home affairs.

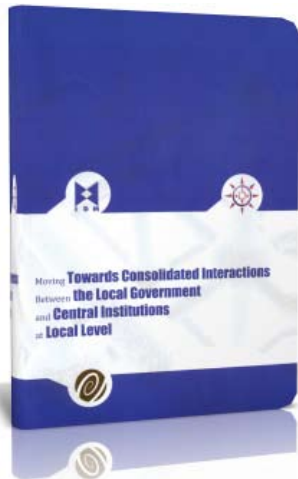
Costs and Benefits of NATO Membership: Albanian and Regional Challenges after the Bucharest Summit

Year: 2008

Language: Albanian and English

This publication offers a summary of the main proceedings, findings of the working groups and the recommendations outlined at the regional conference which was organized by IDM on 5 – 6 May 2008 (Tirana). The event was designed as a regional consultation forum on the challenges of A3 countries following the Bucharest Summit.





Moving towards consolidated interactions between the local government and central institutions at the local level

Year: 2008 (Vol I, 3 issues)

Language: Albanian and English

This study is a product of a one year research work carried out by expert teams of IDM and IDRA on the monitoring and assessment of the cooperation between the local government and central institutions at the local level in key areas such as environment, civil registry, education, public security etc. The report's findings and recommendations for each of the target institutions (local government, prefect, police, civil registry service, education, environment protection service and the water supply & sewage service) have been discussed at a national conference (4 September 2008, Tirana) which gathered representatives of central and local level institutions and independent experts.

Building Citizen Centered Policy-Making: Global Perspectives and Best Practices

Year: 2008

Language: Albanian and English



This work targets Albanian policy makers and other key actors – NGOs, citizens / community structures, private sector operators – with the purpose to explain and advocate for the policy option of supporting participatory governance as directly benefiting effective policy-making, better government-citizen relations and enhanced transparency based on the respective roles of actors responsible not only for supporting, but also institutionalizing participatory governance. The policy options presented in this paper and the policy debate it intends to promote demonstrate not only the organization's commitment to enhancing its research capacities in public policy analysis but most importantly its commitment to support policymaking in partnership with many governmental institutions at national or local level.

Security Issues Quarterly

Year: 2007 – 2008

Language: Albanian

Ten issues of this quarterly have been published by IDM since the launch of this initiative in 2006. The publication targets a specialized audience, which is involved or interested in the latest developments in the field of security sector reform, regional cooperation, integration processes, challenges of EU's CFSP, Defense policy, etc.

Developing National Security Strategy

Year: 2007

Language: Albanian

This publication is a result of the National Workshop on the “National Security Strategy, which was organized by Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), in coordination with the Government and the Parliament of Albania, on September 21st 2007. The publication includes the comments and suggestions of local and foreign experts on the importance and the multiplicity of dimensions of the Strategy, thus offering a valuable contribution to the Governmental Working Group in their work to draft the new NSS.

Albanian Perceptions on NATO Integration

Year: 2007

Language: Albanian and English

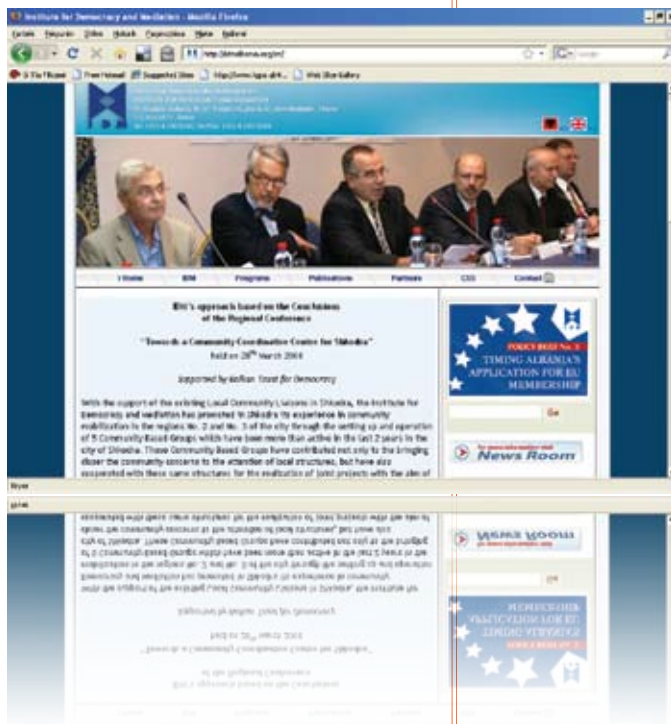
The publication includes the findings of a survey carried out by IDM on NATO integration which was conducted in the period March-May 2007 in 10 main cities of Albania with a sample of respondents divided into 6 categories: central government administration, local government administration, NGOs, business, academia and citizens. This was the first



time that such a survey of the public perceptions on NATO and the integration process of the country was considered within the wider problematiques of the threat to security, integration reforms and accountability of institutions to achieve the standards, the participation of Albanian Armed Forces in operations outside the country, strategic alliances, the support and expectations from the membership, etc.

Online reports, studies, policy papers and publications

- o Albania - EU Relations: 1992 – 2007 (IDM, June 2008). The study offers an overview of the 15 years relations with the EU, with an analytical approach focusing on the developments of Albania's EU integration process and future prospects with a set of recommendations (membership application, negotiations, administrative capacities etc.) to be taken in this regard.
- o Policy Briefs (IDM, 2008): With the support of the OSI Think Tank Fund, IDM initiated in 2008 a series of policy briefs focusing on crime prevention, local governance, police – local authorities' cooperation, EU visa policy, Albania's integration process etc.
- o Capacity Building for Good Participatory Governance (online report, IDM 2008)
- o IDM's approach based on the Conclusions of the Regional Conference: "Towards a Community Coordinative Centre for Shkoder" (online report, IDM 2008)
- o Security Issues quarterly (IDM 2006 – 2008, a total of 10 issues)



IDM BUDGET AND DONORS (2007 – 2008)

Annual budget (Charts according to donors & programme areas)

IDM is grateful for the partnership and cooperation established with a variety of donor institutions that have continuously supported our work throughout the years. During 2007 - 2008, IDM has implemented a large number of program activities, with a total financial support amounting at approximately USD 333,000.

IDM Donors

