



Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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OUR VISION

Inform, Develop, Motivate

for a democratic and prosperous society.

IDM provides expertise, policy analysis, applied research, and capacity building for key societal actors to drive reforms and engage in evidence-based policy processes.

Our choice of activities to achieve the strategic objectives is an effort to go beyond one time delivery projects. They form part of a continuing struggle to strengthen shared values and efficient interactions across the broad spectrum of societal stakeholders.

OUR MISSION

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.

"The results of your study [on violent extremism in Albania] will help strengthen all of our efforts to counter and prevent violent extremism in Albania. The U.S. Embassy is proud to have been your partner in this effort."

REMARKS BY CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES,
A.I. LEYLA MOSES-ONES,
AT THE CONFERENCE "VIOLENT
EXTREMISM IN ALBANIA"





SOTIRAQ HRONI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year, as we mark the close of two decades, IDM continues to grow as a think tank contributing to the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law and sustainable development. Motivated by the interest and benefit of the public, the organisation has always supported governance reforms through research, publications, public outreach, advisory work, skills development, and other events. I strongly believe that most of our achievements are the result of our commitment to ensure that our work embodies impartiality, quality, and objectivity.

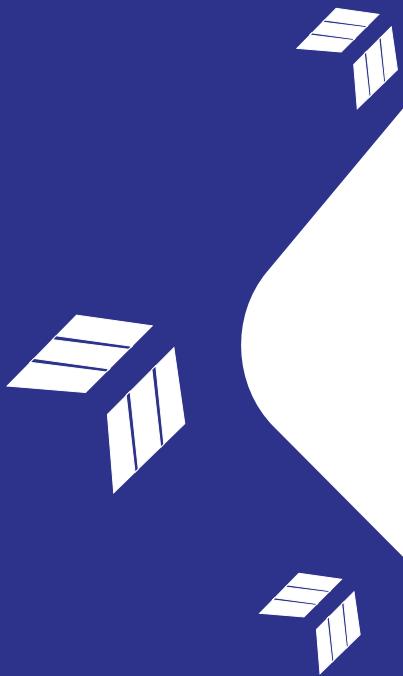
I am delighted to see IDM play a growing role in the process of re-energizing societal transformation in Albania across our work areas; ranging from ensuring civic space, to supporting citizens' empowerment and reporting state capture. Experience in the civil society sector has convinced the institute of the indispensable role that think-and-do tanks have in the Western Balkans to ensure rule of law, promote good governance, fight against corruption, and tackle organised crime.

In the year we leave behind, the institute has successfully developed promising cooperation and two-way communication channels with important public and private stakeholders in EU member states that are visibly interested in furthering stabilization through the democratization of our region. The continuation of these activities in 2019 will lay sound foundations for our journey towards a system based on European values.

Solidly relying on its achievements and identity, IDM enters the next decade with new important work objectives. Heading towards these objectives, as someone who has been in a leading position at IDM, I would like to acknowledge that our achievements would not have been possible without the passion, commitment and expertise of all those who have contributed to the organisation's growth.

Our work, and the sustainability of our relations with our partners and supporters, have well-equipped IDM to meet the challenges ahead and I look forward to our endeavours in 2019 and beyond.

2018
in review





22
projects

In 2018, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation was engaged in the implementation of **22 projects**, of which some lasted a few months and others were multi-year initiatives.



12
donors

12 donor organisations have supported our work in 2018, with a total **annual budget of approximately 730,000 EUR**.

IDM published **34 publications** in 2018; including 6 research studies, 5 monitoring reports, 17 commentaries, 2 policy briefs, 3 blogs and several other deliverables such as handbooks, survey reports and news bulletins.



204
public
events

Over the course of 2018, IDM organized **204 public events**, including national and regional conferences; (policy) roundtables; training workshops; discussion meetings; networking events; and awareness-raising campaigns.

Over **3265 people attended** our events in 2018, among whom participants from local and central government; religious communities; academia; media; local businesses; youth; and civil society.

In 2018, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation was **featured 148 times** in television, radio, newspapers, online news media, academic blogs, and other media outlets.

In addition to IDM experts, associates and partners, **over 50 high-profile speakers** from Albania and abroad presented at our events during 2018.

THE REACH OF OUR PROJECTS

Of the twenty-two projects we carried out in 2018, eleven projects had an international character. Most of these international projects were part of a regional initiative covering the entire Western Balkan region. In other cases, projects included working visits to other countries, such as Germany, France and Belgium.

The institute has established and developed a broad network of associates with extensive knowhow and experience in the region:

TAP – Transparency, Accountability & Participation for 2030 Agenda

SELDI – Southeast Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity

TEN – Think for Europe Network

UNCAC – Civil Society Coalition

BSI - Balkan Security Initiative

OSCE - Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions

BCSDN – Balkan Civil Society Development Network



OVERVIEW OF 2018

The past year has been challenging for the Western Balkan in its path towards consolidation of democracy, good governance, rule of law, civic space, and the region's bid to EU membership. 2018 saw many positive breakthroughs, such as the Prespa Agreement between (now) North Macedonia and Greece. Other countries, such as Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, halted their progress towards Europeanization. In June, Albania's EU accession process also missed an important opportunity when the opening of the accession negotiations was postponed. The country made significant achievements in addressing the five key priorities set by the European Commission, most notably in the implementation of the judicial reform, the fight against organized crime, reform of public administration and upholding human rights. Despite these results, further tangible and sustained reforms are needed – especially in the areas of accountability, public integrity, and good governance.

Despite the extended opening of EU accession negotiations, citizens and civil society in Albania continued to make their contribution to the Europeanization of the country. 2018 was marked by non-political and peaceful protests calling for reforms, democratic principles and more citizen participation in governance. These events voiced that Albania's societal actors stand committed to pursue their role in support of democratization, socio-economic development and Europeanization integration. We at IDM wholeheartedly supported these efforts and will continue to do so in our efforts to improve governance and policy-making processes.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2018, IDM expanded its work towards assisting state institutions at central and local level in order to improve governance, accountability and integrity. The institute started the implementation of the three-year project “Police integrity building”, which for the first time pilots a trilateral model of cooperation between police, local governments and prosecution. This initiative aims to strengthen integrity measures of the state police and sets an example of police integrity plans at commissariat level.

IDM also conducted an extensive governance risk assessment as part of an innovative regional initiative, commonly referred to as WeBER, which sought to improve capacities of civil society in the Western Balkans in monitoring the implementation of public administration reform. At the local level, IDM has developed a transparency program model for local governments and a performance assessment system for measuring transparency and accountability of municipalities. The transparency programme was adopted by the Commissioner on the right to information and personal data protection, making it mandatory for all local government units to comply with the transparency programme.

ANTICORRUPTION AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY

Throughout 2018, IDM produced concrete policy alternatives to further the impact of anticorruption initiatives. Our efforts were aimed at engaging stakeholders in search of an appropriate model on the anti-corruption authority that enjoys the trust of the society. Furthermore, by partnering with regional actors





in the Western Balkans in the framework of SELDI, the institute continued its work in the area of good governance and anti-corruption through evidence-based advocacy, policy monitoring, and dialogue with the governmental partners in the region. Our cooperation with POINTPULSE is another indicator of our continuous efforts to address the integrity and corruption of the police through policy proposals and public advocacy.

Recognizing the challenges of Albanian CSOs in their efforts to hold government officials accountable and fight corruption, we implemented Civil Society Instruments against Corruption: a two-and-a-half-year project focused on capacity-building measures for CSOs at the local level. The project provided CSOs with financial support via a re-granting scheme to promote good governance and fight corruption in the most disadvantaged and remote areas of the country.

SECURITY AND SOCIETAL RESILIENCE

In view of our well-established profile on security issues, the institute was contracted by the UK Government to conduct a comprehensive analysis on serious and organized crime in Albania. The aim of the research was to map patterns and pathways of involvement of Albanian citizens in serious organised crime activities, and to help the design of a preventive strategy that would deter people from becoming involved in Serious and Organised Crime.

2018 was also the year in which IDM extensively investigated the phenomenon of violent extremism. A national assessment of drivers and factors of violent extremism was published in

October, followed by a second study that analysed the resilience to violent extremism factors in communities affected or threatened by the phenomenon. Both reports contribute significantly to a better understanding of the topic and have assisted state and societal actors in their P/CVE efforts.

Finally, IDM launched several initiatives which sought to identify religion and/or religious diversity as a unifying factor that is enriching for the country. A detailed study on one of Albania's most important values, religious tolerance, was published in early 2018. The study offers evidence and advice on the foundations of this societal value and instruments to safeguard it.

EUROPEANIZATION DISCOURSE

Regional cooperation has been a crucial aspect of our work. Many of our projects were undertaken in cooperation with the European Commission or with EU member states. It is for this reason that we try to better align our work with the current policy debates in the European Union by organising high-level meetings with policy actors in Berlin and Paris, including government officials, members of parliament, think tanks and media. IDM also discussed the EU enlargement process and opportunities to embark on meaningful transformation and EU accession process of the WB countries with representatives of EU member states in COREPER (Brussels). As a result of these contacts, IDM senior analysts have been increasingly invited to address events in the EU or in the WB.





LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

2019 will be an instrumental year for Albania and the Western Balkans in their Europeanization efforts. IDM's work will reflect on the challenges and priorities stemming from the national context, but will also incorporate a strong regional perspective. We will increase our exchange with the EU and member states in a number of areas such as governance, security and the Europeanization process. In doing so, the institute will rely on the support of a broad range of existing partners and develop new partnerships with institutional players and supporters of research work.



outreach

PUBLICATIONS

The institute dedicates particular attention and resources to the research component of its program activities and services.

In 2018, IDM has released **34 publications**, including policy research (briefs, papers and commentaries), reports (research study reports, monitoring reports and assessment reports) and other publications such as handbooks, declarations, toolkits, news bulletins, blogs and info graphics. Our diverse publications contribute to current and ongoing policy debates by facilitating policy dialogue and setting the policy agenda. Our publications are tailored to a wide range of stakeholders; from government officials and other policy stakeholder to the general public. They are designed to inform, develop and motivate diverse audiences inside Albania and abroad.



TESTIMONIES

“ “Even though I have participated in many training sessions during these years working in Vora Municipality, I really believe that this has been one of the best and most productive trainings. I appreciated the selection of themes, clear explanations and the organisation of the training overall. I have always believed that group work helps and I liked the fact that in this training we had a several interactive sessions. Sharing of experiences with other colleagues from different municipalities helps us a lot in our daily work.”

ANA THANA, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR, VORA MUNICIPALITY, PARTICIPANT OF THE TRAINING “MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIGHTS TO INFORMATION IN ACTION”

“ “Participation of the Prosecution Office representative in these public accountability meetings serves to gain public confidence in the law enforcement institutions and the municipality, and provides further guarantees that these institutions are ready to listen to, collaborate with, address and solve citizens' problems, and encourage them to be active in the process of preventing and reporting violations of the law.”

DORINA BEJKO,
PROSECUTION OFFICE
PROGRADEC DURING THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING FOR CRIME
PREVENTION

“ “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 a finger on the pulse in Albania.”

BRIAN WILLIAMS, UN
RESIDENT COORDINATOR
IN ALBANIA





Social media audience

Like most organizations in Albania, Facebook is the main online platform on which we communicate to our audience. For many Albanians, Facebook is the primary source of information, whether it is on current affairs, political developments, or updates in the social sphere. Although we tailor our Facebook page to a domestic audience, we also reach a lot of people residing in other countries. Our page is followed by the general public, members of civil society, journalists, policy stakeholders, and by international stakeholders such as foreign embassies and foreign government officials.



590 followers (+68.6% compared to 2017)



27,000
visits

In 2018, our website **www.idmalbania.org** was visited 27,000 times.

17

4823

+13% Likes and followers as compared to 2017

our followers are mostly women and girls



a relatively young audience

25-34 years old

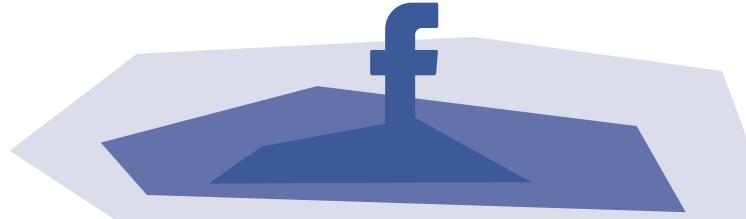
18-25 years
18%

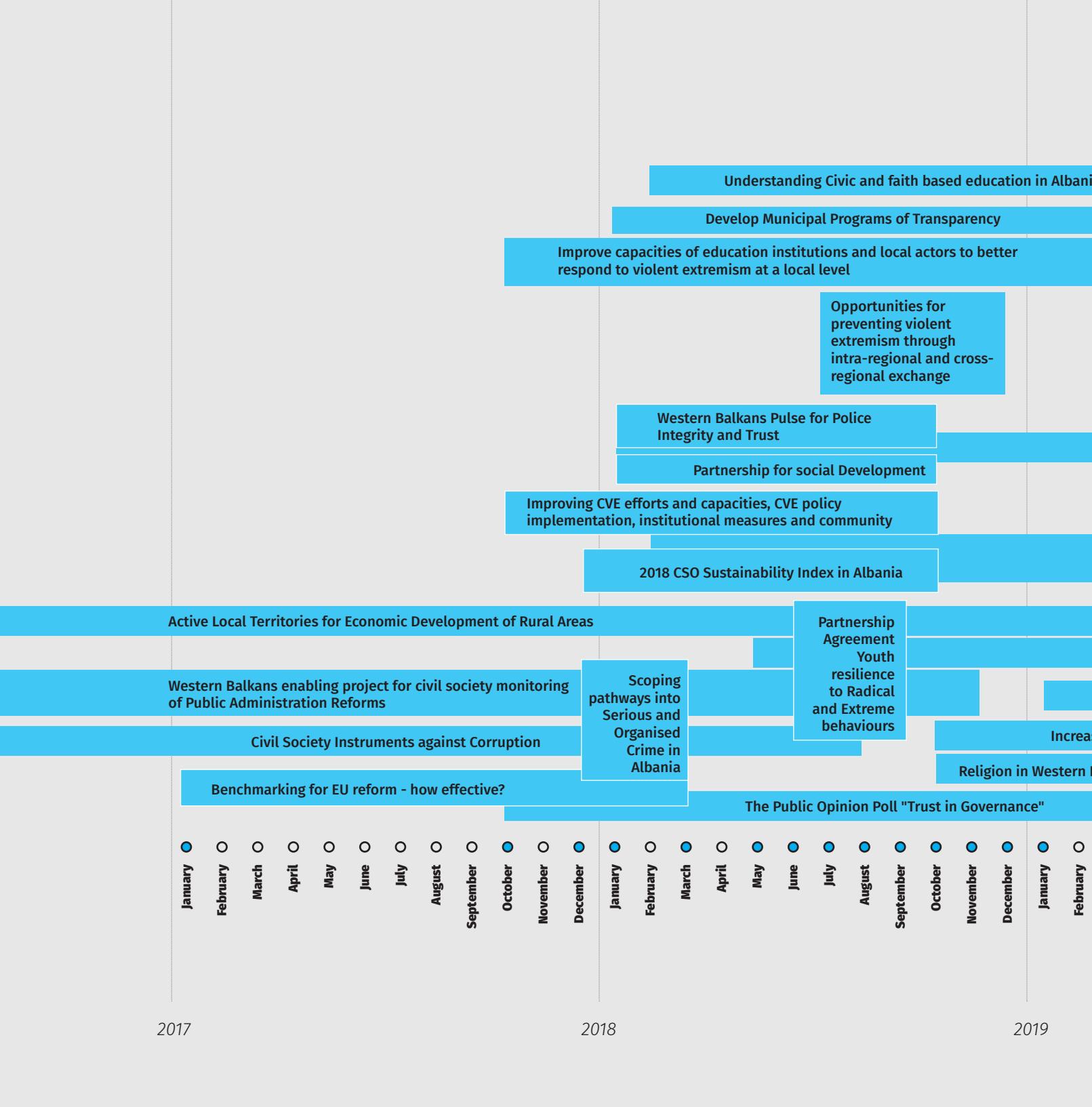
50%

35-44 years old
20%

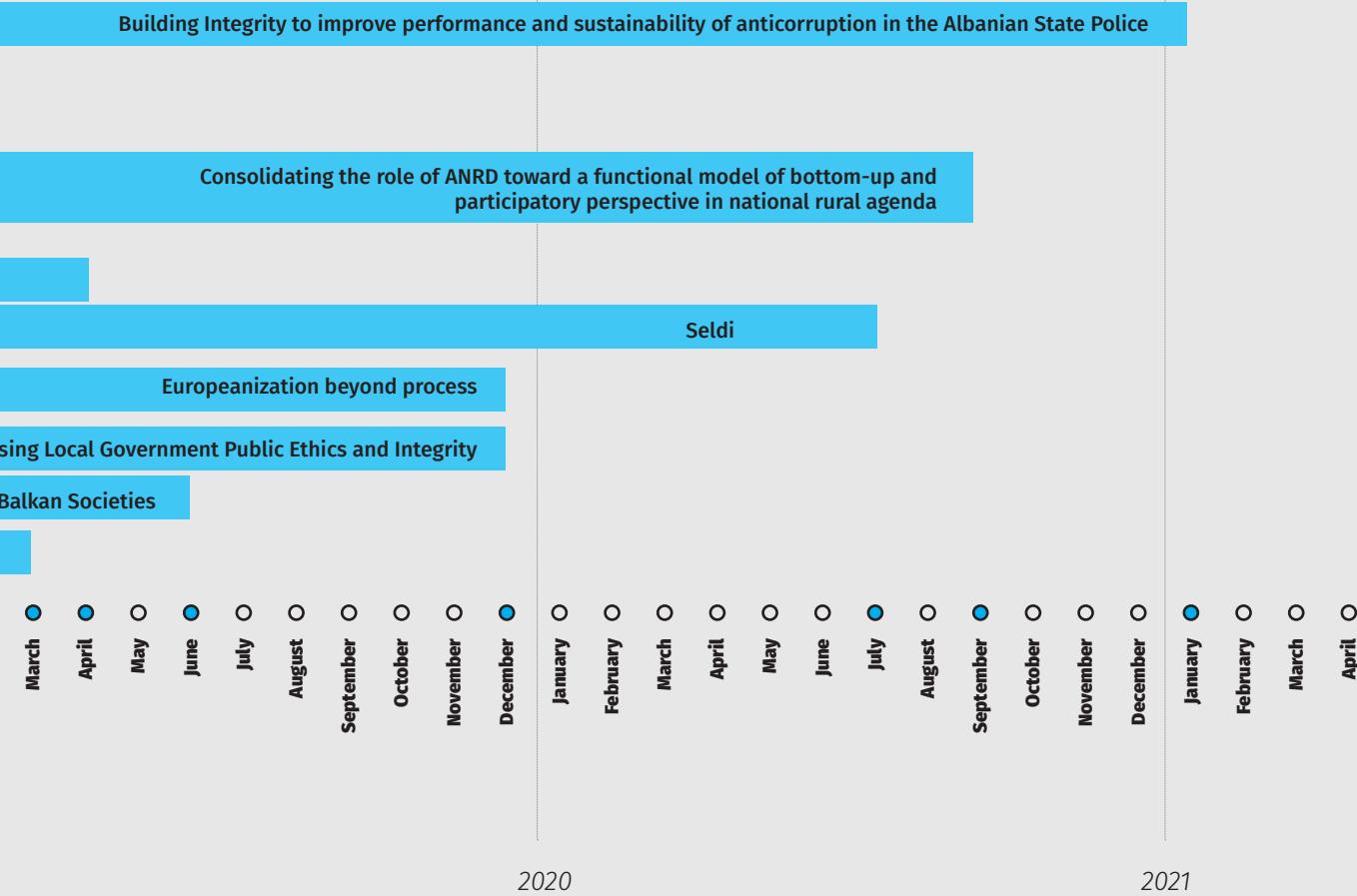


Our followers live in 62 countries worldwide whereas most regular visitors of our FB page reside in Albania, Macedonia, Italy, Serbia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, Belgium and US.





Our projects



our

staff

**Sotiraq Hroni**

Executive Director

Good governance; security; integrity and anti-corruption policies

**Gjergji Vurmo**

Programme Director

Good governance; security; violent extremism; and western Balkan's EU accession

**Evelina Azizaj**

Programme Manager

Local governance; local integrated development; and community empowerment

**Redion Qirjazi**

Programme Manager

National security; defence; violent extremism; integrity and anti-corruption

**Armela Xhaho**

Project Manager

Gender and migration; social inclusion; organised crime; and good governance

**Rovena Sulstarova**

Programme Manager

Anti-corruption; transparency; integrity; and education

**Dalina Jashari**

Project Manager

Civil engagement; civil society development; local good governance; and violent extremism

**Shefqet Shyti**

Project Manager

Civil engagement; local good governance; and democracy

**Besjana Kuçi**

Communication Manager and Researcher

Integrity and anti-corruption policies; communication



Albana Hasmeta

Project Officer

Community mobilization and rural youth empowerment



Leonie Vrugtman

Project Coordinator and Researcher

Religious tolerance; good governance; institutional accountability; and violent extremism



Alban Dafa

Researcher

Governance; security; and integrity



Diori Angjeli

Junior Researcher and Project Assistant

Democratisation; good governance; and civil society development in rural communities



Sheila Hafizi

Project Assistant

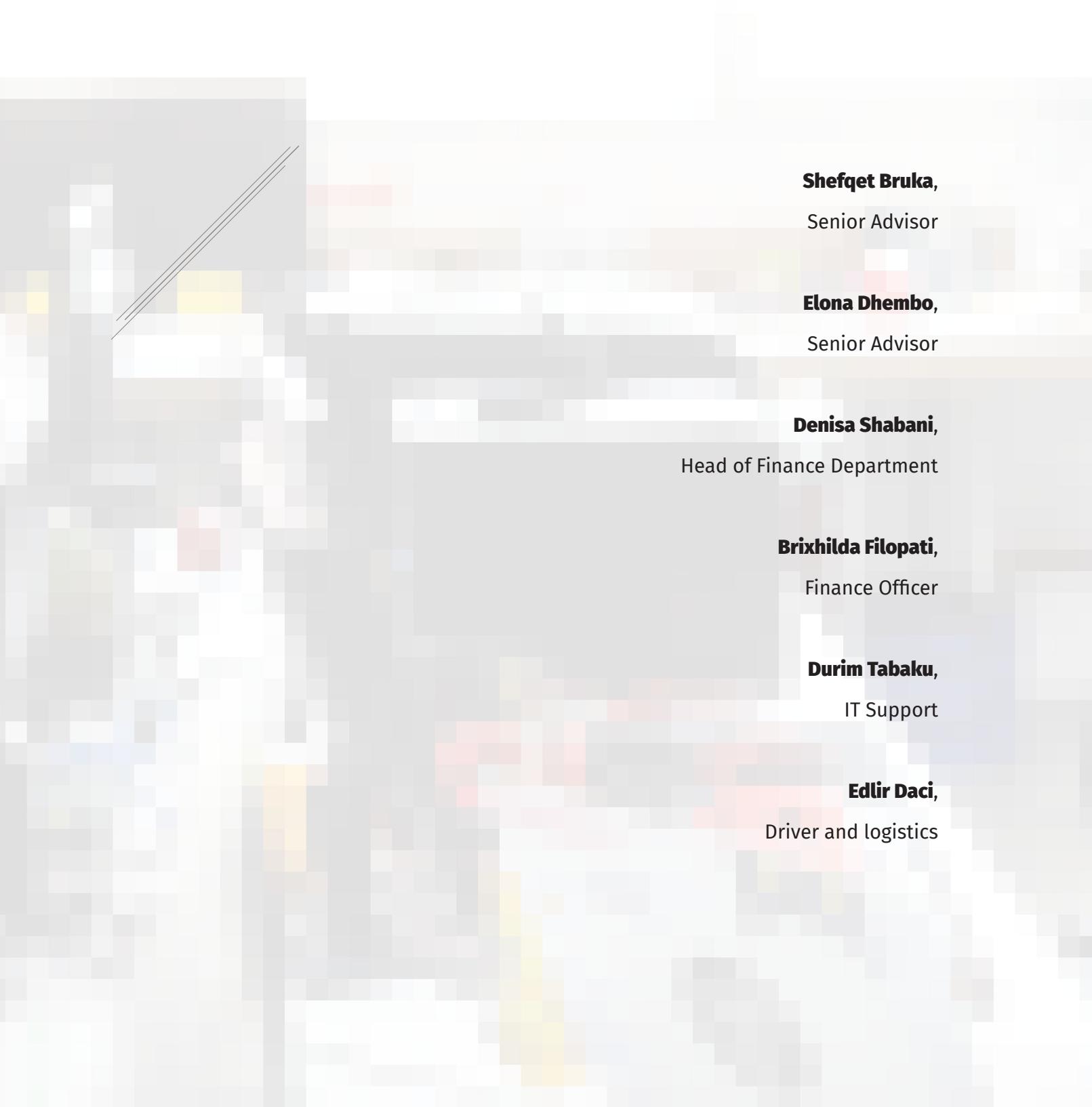
Security; good governance; integrity; and democratisation



Romario Shehu

Junior Researcher and Project Assistant

Security; good governance; democracy; and violent extremism



Shefqet Bruka,

Senior Advisor

Elona Dhembo,

Senior Advisor

Denisa Shabani,

Head of Finance Department

Brixhilda Filopati,

Finance Officer

Durim Tabaku,

IT Support

Edlir Daci,

Driver and logistics

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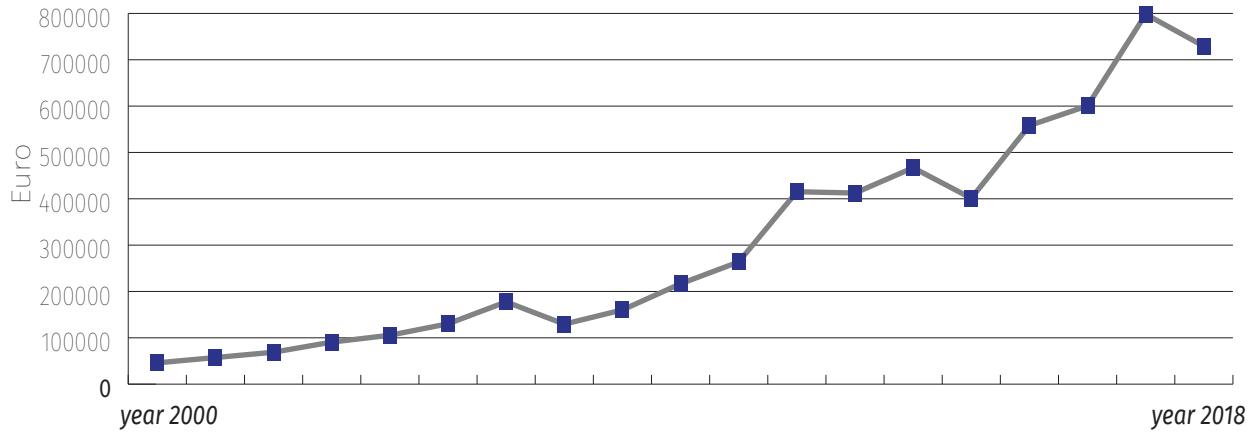
MPA

Matt Dann,

Secretary Gen. of Bruegel (Brussels)

Marsela Dauti,

PhD Marie Curie Fellow, Uppsala University (Sweden)



IDM Finances





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.

Rr. Shenasi Dishnica, Nd.a35, H.1, 1017, Tirana | T +355 4 240 0241 | info@idmalbania.org



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