



ANNUAL REPORT



Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim

contents

- | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Letter from the Executive Director | 8 | 2022 Program areas highlights |
| 2 | Our Network | 9 | Online outreach |
| 3 | 2022 factsheet | 10 | IDM finance & donors |
| 4 | Publications | 11 | Media mentions |
| 5 | Projects of 2022 | 12 | IDM team |
| 6 | Our audience | 13 | List of publications |
| 7 | Sustainable community-based
reintegration of Albanian
nationals returning from Syria | 14 | Online resources |
| | | 15 | About IDM |

Letter from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present the work IDM has been doing in 2022 to promote democratic transformation and good governance. We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to our mission to advance societal achievements in democracy, decision-making, and the rule of law.

Our programs are designed to empower civil society and advance reforms that promote public integrity, transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. During 2022, IDM teamwork covered over 23 different projects, tackling money laundering, anti-corruption, public administration reform, cybersecurity and human rights and promoting a multi-stakeholder approach to improve public safety and community resilience, fight organized crime; improve public consultation, and foster youth and civic engagement. Such work involved the Albanian Parliament, central (8 different ministries, Prime Minister's office) and local government (35 municipalities), independent institutions like the Constitutional Court, the High Prosecution Council, the State Supreme Audit, the Information and Data Protection Commissioner, the State Police, the Ombudsperson and many more.

IDM's portfolio of Smart Balkans project funding covers support for civil society in Kosovo and Albania. Our mission is to make it a success story as well, hoping the years to come will testify to this.

We enter the 24th chapter of IDM's history with a solid background of achievements in all our programmatic areas and more than motivated aiming the largest possible contribution to society. To achieve this, each of our projects is not simply serving short-term goals but remains instrumental to reforms and societal transformation that are part of IDM's long-term strategic goals.



SOTIRAQ HRONI
Executive Director, IDM Albania

Looking ahead to 2023, we aim to build on our strengths, and widen opportunities but also strategically review our work, especially in areas that need attention to further consolidate the organization. As such the following are some priorities for 2023:

- Revisit IDM’s agenda of regional cooperation and EU integration, by piloting **joint regional advocacy activities of Western Balkans six**. This was provoked by IDM’s experience in mentoring one session in the 2022 Summit on “Transforming global uncertainty to regional opportunity” organized in Brussels by Friends of Europe on December 7th, 2022.
- Stronger profile and **comprehensive research** on public finances, money laundering, financial transparency,
- Civic advocacy and scrutiny for public integrity, ethics, and **good governance benchmarks**
- Consolidate the **quality assurance unit** at IDM by matching in-house capacities with associated consultancy.

This report testifies to the dedication, hard work, and unwavering support of our colleagues, partners, collaborators, friends, and supporters. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the immense contributions, which have enabled us to achieve significant milestones along the way. We are enthusiastic about the prospect of another productive year where we reaffirm our commitment to providing quality research that enriches the national, European and public policy conversations.

Our Network

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation is a member of various regional and broader networks.



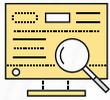
2022 factsheet



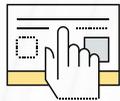
23 projects, were implemented by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in 2022, with durations ranging from 6 months to 4 years.



A total annual budget of **€ 1,331,144.95** from donor organizations has supported our work in 2022.



IDM published **33 publications** in 2022; including research studies, monitoring reports, policy briefs, handbooks and blogs.



164 public in-person and online events were organized by IDM in 2022 including 10 national and regional conferences, 67 training and workshops, 22 consultative meetings, 20 roundtables, 1 policy forum, 2 launching events, 3 networking events, 13 awareness-raising campaigns and 26 video spots.



Over 5200 people attended our events in 2022. Most of the participants were from government, institutions, civil society, youth, and academia, the international community, media, local businesses, and religious communities.



IDM was featured **more than 200 times** on television, online news media, academic blogs, and other media outlets.

Publications

In 2022, IDM published 33 publications dedicated to a wide audience that includes government institutions, civil society, youth, educational institutions and other policy stakeholders. IDM publications aim to inform target audiences, encourage and motivate action and change, and develop skills through expertise, policy analysis, applied research, capacity building and partnerships.

33 PUBLICATIONS

- **3 research studies** related to good governance in cybersecurity, citizens' engagement in decision-making, and intra-party democracy in Albania.
- **4 monitoring reports** on Western Balkans organized crime and civil society empowerment for a reformed public administration.
- **4 blogs** on CSO sustainability index, good governance in cybersecurity in the Western Balkans, fight against money laundering in Albania and resilient communities.
- **12 policy briefs** related to Western Balkans organized crime, capacity, cooperation and culture development in overseeing sectors, citizens' engagement in decision making.
- **4 handbooks** on resilient communities, transparency and good governance, sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria and public integrity.
- **5 reports** on CSOs sustainability index, trust in governance and fight against money laundering in Albania.
- **1 training module** on sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria.



30 ONLINE RESOURCES

- **1 online platform** on the empowerment of Western Balkan Civil Society for a Reformed Public Administration (RAP).
- **3 podcasts**, one on the importance of deliberative democracy and two on the fight against money laundering in Albania.
- **26 short videos** on schools as community centers, public administration reform, training experiences on rehabilitation and reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria, citizens' engagement in parliamentary processes, and a video tutorial on how can civil society and media fight against money laundering & terrorist financing.

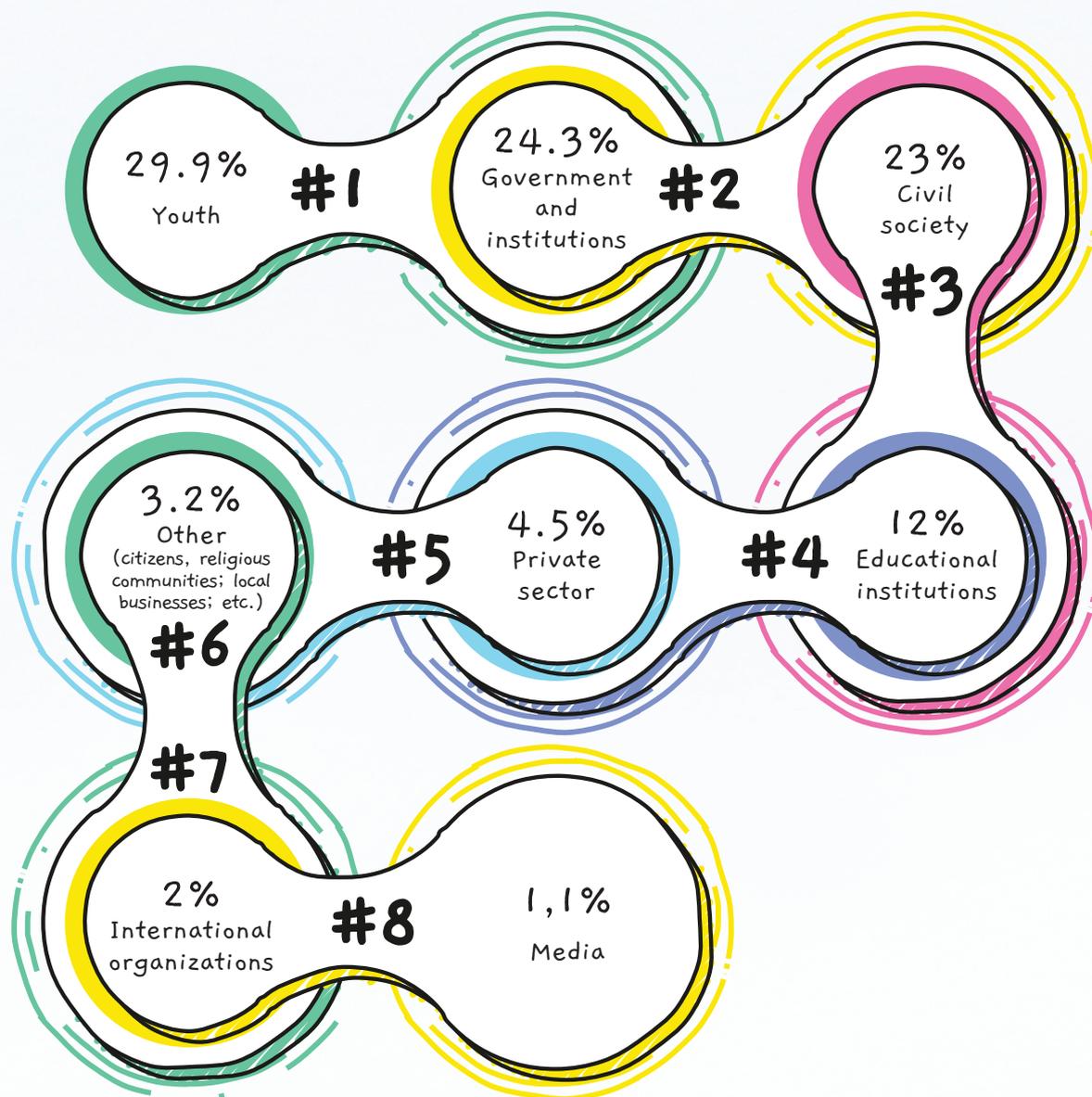


Projects of 2022

1. Standard Municipal Integrity Planning Practice Expanded Across Municipalities	01.06.2021	30.06.2023
2. "School as community Center" – Expanding the network of resilient communities in Albania	01.01.2021	31.03.2022
3. Fostering Transparency and Good Governance	01.07.2022	30.06.2023
4. Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI)	28.02.2022	31.12.2022
5. SMART Balkans - Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans	01.01.2022	12.12.2025
6. Developing a European framework for disengagement and reintegration of extremist offenders and radicalized individuals in prison, including returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families – EUTEx	01.01.2022	30.06.2023
7. "Civil Society for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe: Capacity Building for Monitoring, Advocacy and Awareness Raising (SELDI)	10.05.2018	09.11.2022
8. Enabling Just Change in the International Health Care Governance - COVID -19 Pandemic and Lessons Learned from the Western Balkans	01.09.2022	30.03.2023
9. Western Balkans Organized Crime Radar	01.01.2022	30.06.2023
10. Developing Capacity, Cooperation and Culture in Overseeing Sectors of Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia	01.08.2019	01.07.2022
11. Preventing Violent Extremism in the Balkans and the MENA: Strengthening Resilience in Enabling Environments - PREVEX	01.01.2020	31.12.2022
12. Trust in Governance 2021	27.09.2021	31.05.2022
13. Serving Democracy and citizens through improved public integrity	22.12.2021	21.06.2024
14. PACEP (Support to Parliament and Civic Education Project)	15.07.2020	31.10.2022
15. Western Balkan Civil Society Empowerment for a Reformed Public Administration (WeBER 2.0)	01.12.2019	22.06.2023
16. EU4 Rule of Law: Citizen Engagement for Public Integrity (CEPI) in the Western Balkans and Turkey	01.07.2022	31.12.2024
17. Sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria	01.06.2021	31.11.2023
18. Good Governance in Cybersecurity in the Western Balkans	15.10.2021	31.03.2024
19. Supporting the Fight against Money Laundering in Albania	01.11.2021	15.09.2022
20. Engaging communities in civic education in Albania	01.09.2021	31.08.2023
21. "School as community Center" – Toward a nationwide network of resilient communities in Albania	01.04.2022	31.03.2023
22. Measuring intra-party democracy in political parties in Albania	01.06. 2022	31.12.2022
23. Trust in Governance 2022	18.10.2022	31.05.2023

Our audience

The audience that attended our events in 2022:



Sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria

IDM organised on June 14th, 2022 a workshop on “Strengthening the role of Local Public Safety Councils in the prevention of violent extremism and reintegration of returnees from conflict zones” with the support of the Global Community Engagement and Sustainability Fund (GCERF).

The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the understanding of the role of LPSC, as an efficient multi-stakeholder mechanism, contributing to public safety at the local level as well as fostering community resilience.

So far, the experience has shown that an integrated multi-stakeholder approach at the local level would be effective not only in addressing traditional threats related to law enforcement and public safety, but also further in the process of preventing radicalization and violent extremism. As such, the LPSC is deemed the appropriate mechanism for strengthening social cohesion and addressing the challenges of reintegrating returnees from conflict zones. This



model provides a comprehensive model of crime prevention at the local level, which relies on the interaction among the municipality, police, and prosecution, based on a cyclical model of interaction on the functioning and regulation of the LPSC.

Mr. Zef Laska, Director of Public Order, Albanian State Police highlighted the importance of LPSC as an effective multi-stakeholder local approach for PVE and R&R processes.

Senior-level representatives from the Municipality of Elbasan shared the experience of the municipality regarding the approval of the LPSC regulatory framework and action plan. In order to encourage debate on the importance of this mechanism, representatives of the LPSC from the Municipality of Elbasan simulated the coordination of work for the management of a case that had threatened public safety.

Participants in this workshop were representatives from the Albanian State Police, local institutions from the Municipality of Elbasan and Tirana, senior officials of law enforcement institutions as well as front-line professionals involved in the reintegration process of returnees from conflict areas.

The workshop was welcomed by senior-level officials-members of the GCERF -board, who had the opportunity to offer their feedback and discuss the opportunities of LPSC on public safety issues, including prevention and R&R management processes.



2022 Program areas highlights

Governance

The Governance Program focused on enhancing public integrity and anticorruption processes, monitoring public administration reform and providing reliable quantitative data and trends on major reforms to policymakers and other stakeholders.

On public integrity, we continued our efforts in enhancing the technical capacities of public officials both from central and local government, in drafting integrity plans for six-line ministries, two independent institutions and a subordinate agency and fourteen municipalities of the country. Our expert team provided trainings and developed toolkits for strengthening the capacities of representatives from the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice and anti-corruption focal points in other public institutions. Moreover, we developed additional integrity instruments such as the Code of Ethics for the administration of the Parliament and a Civil Monitoring Instrument for the implementation of the integrity plans. A key milestone of these efforts was the unanimous approval of the Code of Ethics for the body of judges of the Constitutional Court.



We carried on with our commitment to provide trustworthy data through the release of the ninth edition of the public opinion poll “Trust in Governance 2021”. The Opinion Poll has become a reference that generates data that help governmental institutions and civil society actors advocate for the enhancement of major reforms related to good governance, anti-corruption, judicial reform, and cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and social inclusion.



On the public administration reform, the WeBER 2.0 project has consolidated its evidence and civil society-based approach to monitoring the progress of the WBs region’s governments in public administration reform (PAR) based on EU requirements. In 2022, IDM organised a regional conference gathering more than 140 civil society organisations and representatives from the governments of the Western Balkans. The conference contributed to fostering the dialogue between civil society and institutional stakeholders to design and implement inclusive and transparent policies, as well as contribute to the sustainability of citizen - centered administrative reforms.¹

Lastly, in 2022, the IDM researchers began working on a new assignment with Transparency International, which consists of preparing a report on the National Integrity System Assessment. This assessment will evaluate if Albania’s state architecture promotes and operates with integrity in practice, and will identify an anti-corruption reform agenda and approaches to building public integrity.

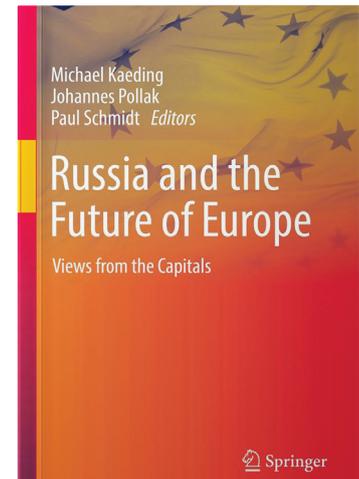
¹ www.reformajone.al – For more information about the project and the participation process of citizens in the monitoring and evaluation of the public administration visit the online platform. This platform was created within the framework of the #EU_WeBER 2.0 project, implemented by the Think for Europe Network and financed by the European Union in Albania and other donors.

EU & the Balkans

2022 brought a much-expected breakthrough in the European Union (EU) enlargement process of the Western Balkans. Namely, accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia were launched, while Bosnia-Herzegovina was granted candidate status.

Through its EU & the Balkans program, IDM continued to contribute to policy debates on EU enlargement, Western Balkan's accession process, and regional cooperation.

IDM curated a panel discussion in December 2022 in the framework of the EU-Western Balkans Summit, a high-profile event that is organized on an annual basis by **Friends of Europe** in Brussels. EU officials, leaders of Western Balkan countries, and representatives of civil society gathered to discuss issues on Western Balkans and European Security, empowering alternate industries, youth participation, and building better democracies and economic prosperity. The debate at IDM's panel focused on how to harmonize efforts in the region to tackle common challenges and prepare for EU accession, based on the experience of previous candidate countries in the Baltic region.



Manuel Sarrazin Jana Soukupová Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga Sotirag Hroni

Before and after the EU: building better democracies and economic prosperity
SESSION III

7 dec
17:00 CET
#BalkansSummit

The panel featured Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, former president of Latvia, Manuel Sarrazin, Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans of the German Federal Foreign Office, and Jana Soukupová, Founder of *Youth, Speak Up!*.

IDM experts have participated in various advocacy missions and official meetings with EU bodies such as Commission and European Parliament, as well as with member states' institutions to discuss Albania's and the WB region's progress in EU accession reforms such as public administration reform, fight against corruption and money laundering, consolidation of civic space, freedom of expression and other criteria which are key to the EU accession as a transformative process and an EU which enjoys the trust and credibility in the eyes of citizens of the region. In March, IDM Program Director took part in ECR's Western Balkans Summit where experts from the region and MEPs discussed the EU enlargement process as an opportunity to counter the challenges in the Western Balkans.

Shaping the public and specialized discourse on EU and Europe in general has been tackled by IDM also through several Op-Eds and articles published in IDM blog, and in other distinguished resources. Namely, as a member of BiEPAG, the IDM Program Director, published a reaction to the **European Commission 2022 Country Report** on Albania where it noted that while the report is useful to assess the annual progress, it does not attract the necessary attention from the public. IDM researchers contributed to the Trans European Policy Studies Association's book on ***Russia and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals*** with a paper on the Russian influence in Albania.

IDM remained present in the meetings of the **National European Integration Council** and participated in the discussion and consultation roundtables of the **Partnership Platform**, notably regarding Chapter 23 “Judiciary & Fundamental Rights”, Chapter 24 “Justice, Freedom & Security”, and Chapter 31 “Foreign, Security, Defense Policy”.

Security

Albania served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2022, where it actively defended the rules-based international order amidst Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which threatened the international order and caused political reverberations in the Western Balkans. The country also faced a new type of hybrid threat through a series of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure. Organized crime remained a key security concern, particularly in the drug trade. Although violent extremism is not a major issue in Albania, preventive efforts focused on empowering local communities and addressing terrorist content online, prison radicalization, and reintegration still require continuous attention.

In 2022, the Security Program continued to address a wide range of issues through research and tailored capacity-building sessions on countering violent extremism, enhancing transparency and oversight in the defense sector, combatting organized crime, addressing concerns related to security procurement and anti-money laundering, and researching Russian influence in Albania.

For several years, IDM has paid significant attention to enhance multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approaches to security issues by advocating for shared responsibility and closer cooperation in the context of public safety. In such backdrop, IDM has worked to improve the **Local Public Safety Council**, a mechanism that aims to bring citizens closer to governance in terms of public order and security, as well as to increase citizens' confidence and cooperation with law enforcement authorities, and prevent crime





through a proactive approach. In 2022, IDM worked to produce a guideline on the establishment and functioning of Local Public Safety Councils in Albania. This guideline aims to provide a work methodology for LPSCs and outline the necessary institutional and procedural steps for their establishment in all municipalities of Albania.

IDM has continued its work in building community resilience against **violent extremism** by focusing on groups that are more conducive to this issue, such as youth, returnees, and violent extremist offenders. IDM continued enhancing long-term collaboration among community actors in Albania by promoting schools as community center. The approach has been implemented in eighteen municipalities and twenty-two communities in Albania, to expand the model to a national scale in the following years.

To ensure sustainable and effective rehabilitation and reintegration of Albanian returnees from Syria, IDM continued its role throughout 2022 in fostering community resilience and enhancing the capacities of central and local institutions and frontline responders to support R&R management cooperation, social cohesion, and empower returnees. In January 2022, IDM started the EUTEx project focused on developing a European framework for the disengagement and reintegration of extremist offenders and radicalized individuals in prison. This project establishes such a framework by building on European knowledge, skills and products and taking them further by summoning the best expertise in relevant fields. Through innovative training methods, EUTEx will roll out this framework Europe-wide.

As part of the Balkan Security Platform, IDM continued its efforts to conduct research and raise awareness on the phenomenon and main characteristics of **organized crime** groups in Albania as part of a regional report. IDM co-produced a policy brief that examined the cooperation needs of Albanian and Kosovar law enforcement authorities in a scenario of no borders between the two countries. To mark the Europe Day for Victims of Crime, on 22 February 2022 the IDM organized a forum focused on the current needs and challenges for victim support and preventing crime recruitment in vulnerable communities of Albania.

IDM paid particular attention to the fight against **money laundering** throughout 2022. The project “Supporting the Fight against Money Laundering in Albania” was implemented during the year, aiming to develop capacity among AML stakeholders, raise public awareness, and enhance cross-sector engagement.

The Security Program has been also focusing on defense and security procurement. As part of a joint initiative with the Centre for European Security Studies, IDM produced its first policy brief on defense and security procurement governance and oversight.

In the upcoming year, IDM’s security program plans to extend its research, advocacy, and capacity-building programs while continuing to build on its present research; and also enhancing multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approaches to security issues, while focusing on vulnerable groups.



Local governance and integrated development (LGID)



LGID advanced the national efforts in strengthening ethics and integrity at the local-self-government level by expanding the standard municipal integrity planning practice in 14 additional municipalities: Belsh, Përmet, Pogradec, Bulqizë, Berat, Tiranë, Lezhë, Kukës, Pukë, Himarë, Kavajë, Maliq, Shijak, Has. To sustain such efforts, IDM also introduced the Integrity Index as an effective monitoring and assessment instrument of anti-corruption measures at the municipal level.

The last year also marked a milestone in LGID's core component of integrated local development. By supporting our Albanian Network for Rural Development, LGID has been a key driver in the bottom up and participatory rural development that advances local communities' interest and priorities. These efforts contributed to the recognition of ANRD as a catalyst for change in the social and economic empowerment of women and girls in rural areas.



Civic Space

The Civic Space program continued its effort towards an enabling environment for civil society on a national scale and empower active citizen participation in decision-making processes through new forms of deliberative democracy.

Under the PACEP project, IDM successfully implemented the deliberative polling methodology. The deliberative polling initiative, “Shqiperia n’Kuvendim,” generated new knowledge and introduced a new practice for citizen engagement in parliamentary decision-making. Additionally, issue-based public hearings were held with MPs to encourage meaningful participation and input from civil society actors.

On the enabling environment of CSOs, the annual Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index provided a comprehensive assessment of the status and development trends of civil society in Albania, serving as a reference document for addressing challenges ahead and for the development and consolidation of the sector.

The program’s research and advocacy efforts also extended to public consultation processes, with IDM assessing current practices and capacities of central government institutions. This work aims to contribute to legislative improvements and increase the effectiveness of public consultation processes. In a new research area, the program focused on cybersecurity, mapping cases of online violations against activists, civil society actors, and journalists. The resulting research report, “Bridging the Gap Between Cyber Policy Fragmentation and Human Rights,” provides recommendations for governing the cybersecurity sector according to human rights standards.

In 2022 Institute for Democracy and Mediation - Albania in cooperation with the Center for Civil Society Promotion (Centar za promociju civilnog društva – CPCD) as the leading partner organization and Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in North Macedonia



started implementing a project named SMART Balkans – Civil society for shared society in the Western Balkans, which contributes to strengthening participatory democracies and Euro Atlantic integrations in the Western Balkans by empowering civil society organizations and CSO networks for stronger and active role in creating peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

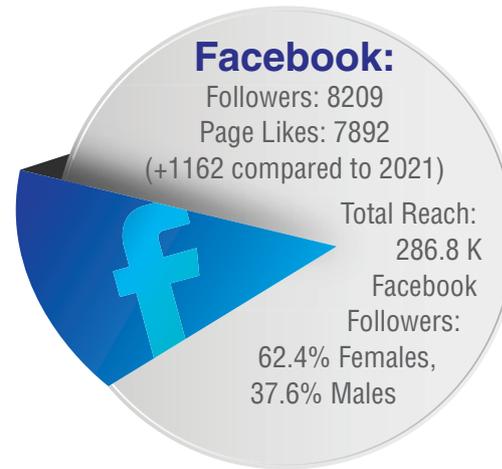
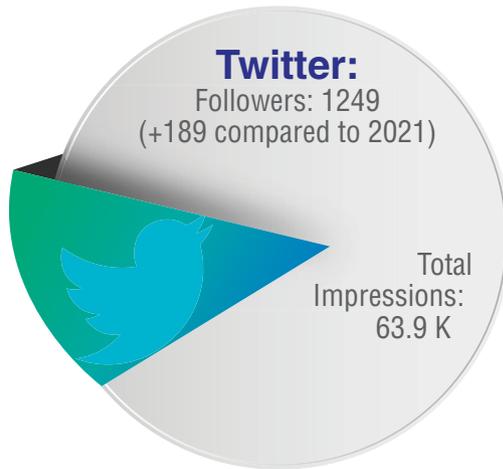
Project is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a grant worth more than 17 million EUR (34 million BAM). Center for Civil Society Promotion (Centar za promociju civilnog društva) signed a contract with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 December 2021. The project has a duration of 4 years until December 2025.

Through the SMART Balkans project, in 2022, IDM awarded eight grants to empower civil society organizations in Albania and Kosovo. Core grants are intended for CSOs that have made an important impact in the areas of security and stability and/or governance and have the potential for an even greater impact in the community. The expected period of support through the core grant is 24 months. Core grants financially support the work of civil society organizations for two consecutive fiscal years. These grants, in addition to financial support, provide organizations with the opportunity to improve the capacities of the organization and staff through customized training and mentoring support, to multiply their strategic impact and be one step closer to the sustainability of the organization. This approach frees CSOs from the pressure created by short-term financing of projects, and enables CSOs to focus on the priorities of users, while at the same time following their mission and working towards the achievement of defined goals.

Additionally, two national conferences were held in Tirana and Pristina in June 2022, to introduce the project to the local stakeholders. Through this sub-granting scheme and related activities, IDM will play a crucial role in empowering civil society organizations and fostering a culture of active citizenship nationally and regionally.

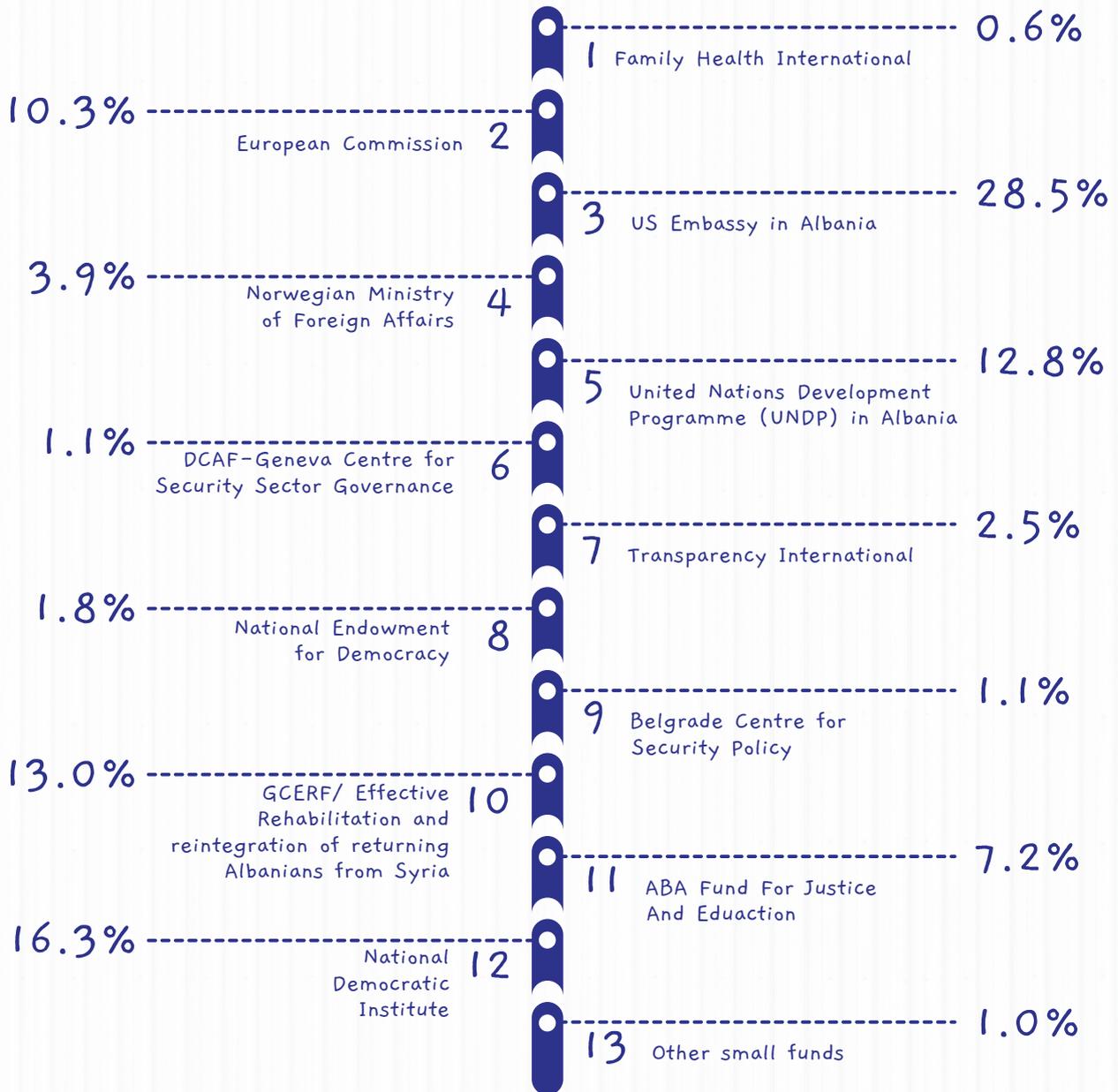


Online outreach



The majority of our audience resides in Albania, but IDM also has a substantial following in France, the United States, Germany, China, Kosovo, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Italy.

IDM finance & donors



Media mentions

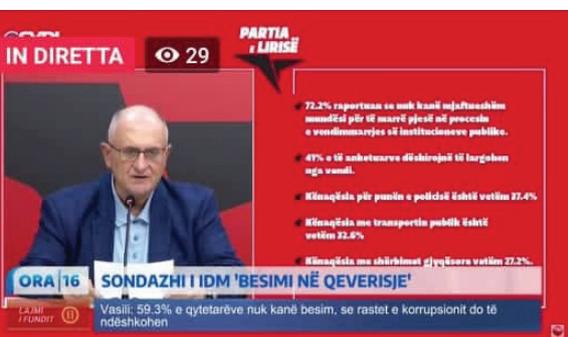
In 2022, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation and its staff, events, and publications garnered a total of 212 mentions across international, national, and local news outlets. These mentions included approximately 52 appearances on television through interviews, videos, and live streaming, along with an additional 160 articles, blogs, and publications. IDM appeared in the following broadcast media: A2 CNN, Voice of America (VOA), RTV Klan, Syri TV, Ora News, RTSH, Euronews Albania, RTK, News 24, ABC News, Top Channel, Scan, etc. Relevant print and online news outlets including Gazeta Panorama, BalkanWeb, Exit News, Reporter, Euronews, Euractiv, KosovaPress, Telegraf, Politiko, Lapsi, Dosja, Faktoje, etc.



Media Mentions Highlights:

The conference “Creating resilient communities through multi-stakeholder approach - School as Community Center” with the participation of the Ambassador of the United States in Albania, H.E. Yuri Kim was one of the most significant events organized by IDM, which garnered extensive media coverage, with over 25 mentions throughout the year 2022. Ambassador

Yuri Kim emphasized the message of self-respect, ambition, and perseverance to achieve one’s goals to the young people attending the conference. IDM is fully committed to expanding the multi-actor experience “Schools as Community Center” throughout the country, to strengthen the resilience of communities by actively engaging young people at the local level.



Twenty-two secondary schools and municipalities of the country have become part of this approach throughout the year 2022.

In September 2022, IDM published the Opinion Poll “Trust in Governance 2021” an annual exercise used to measure citizens’ trust in public institutions. Each year the report attracts substantial national and international media attention and this year it was the most mentioned publication of IDM with more than 50 broadcasts, press

and online media mentions. The Opinion Poll generates data that feeds into the enhancement of major reforms related to good governance, anti-corruption, judicial reform, and cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and social inclusion. Its findings are covered extensively in many media outlets and IDM staff is invited to discuss these findings in various interviews.

After a series of sensitive public events that took place in 2022, a 2016 IDM study



of money laundering became one of the most discussed topics in the media in 2022. These forums brought together representatives from civil society, investigative media, academics, private sector associations, public institutions, policymakers, and international partners to discuss the common challenges of the fight against money laundering in Albania. The objective of these forums is to increase the role, visibility, and influence of non-state actors in anti-money laundering policies.

For the first time in Albania, IDM in the framework of the “School as Community Center” project organized the “My Freedom Day” annual awareness campaign which is initiated and organized internationally by CNN. Representatives from IDM and high school students appeared on different television shows to discuss the concept of freedom and modern-day slavery.

on corruption in the state police conducted by police personnel gained renewed media attention, with over 19 mentions.

In 2022, IDM started the implementation of the four-year regional project, “SMART Balkans - Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans” which is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The primary objective of the SMART Balkans project is to strengthen civil society organizations in Western

Balkan countries to play a more active and influential role in building peaceful and inclusive societies. IDM representatives presented the project in various media outlets in Albania and Kosovo, where they also announced the grant scheme available to CSOs, media, and engaged citizens. Over the next four years, the project will distribute a total of 450 grants throughout the region.

IDM’s multi-stakeholder forums on the prevention

IDM team



SOTIRAQ HRONI
Executive Director



GJERGJI VURMO
*Programme Director
(EU & the Balkans)*



EVELINA AZIZAJ
*Program Manager (Local Governance
and Integrated Development)*



ROVENA SULSTAROVA
Program Manager (Governance)



ARMELA XHAHO
Project Manager (Security)



KLEDIA LIKA
Project Manager (SMART Balkans)



SHEFQET SHYTI
Project Manager (Security)



GENTA HOXHA
*Project Manager
(Security)*



BESJANA KUÇI
Project Manager (Governance)



ALBAN DAFI
Researcher (Security)



ILIADA KORÇARI
Researcher (Governance)



ROMARIO SHEHU
*Project Coordinator / Researcher
(Security)*



IRMA SEMINI
M&E Expert



MEGI REÇI
*Project Manager / Researcher
(Civic space)*



DANIEL PRRONI
Researcher (Security)



SARA KELMENDI
*Project Officer/ Researcher
(EU & the Balkans)*



FJONA DHËMBO
Communication Officer



INA SHËNPLAKU
Project Officer (Security)



ANILA SALIANJI
Project Officer (SMART Balkans)



DIORI ANGJELI
Project Officer (Governance)



DENISA SHABANI
Head of Finance



OLGERTA PUTA
Senior Finance/Administrative Officer



GRETA MEHMETI
Finance Officer



SHEILA HAFIZI
Project Assistant



EDLIR DAÇI
Driver & Logistics



DURIM TABAKU
IT support

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Ardian Isufi, Associate Professor,
Dean of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Arts, Tirana

Member

Kadri Gega, Former Mayor

Member

Pashk Tusha, Former Regional Police Director

ADVISORY BOARD

Enis Sulstarova,

Associate Professor, University of Tirana

Sonja Stojanovic, Ph.D.,

Senior expert and former BCSP Director (Belgrade)

Ilir Ciko,

MPA

Matt Dann,

Consultant to non-profit sector 3In, and former Secretary Gen. of Bruegel (Brussels)

Marsela Dauti,

Associate Professor, University of Tirana

Dr. Arlinda Rrustemi LLM

State and Peacebuilding Expert, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

Dr. Elona Dhëmbo, Ph.D.,

Lecturer, University of Tirana

Dr. Fabian Zhilla,

Lecturer, Canadian Institute of Technology

Kliti Ceca,

Bank of Albania

List of publications

RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Deliberative Polling ‘Shqipëria n’Kuvendim’
Gjergji Vurmo, Besjana Kuçi, February 2022
2. Bridging the gap between cyber policy fragmentation and human rights
Megi Reçi, Sara Kelmendi, September 2022
3. Measuring Intra-Party Democracy in Political Parties in Albania
Anjeza Xhaferaj, November 2022

MONITORING REPORTS

1. Little Black Book of Organized Crime Groups in Western Balkans
Dušan Stanković, September 2022
2. Accountability in the Education
IDM, July 2022
3. Public Service and Human Resource Management in the Agriculture and Rural Development
IDM, July 2022
4. Policy Development and Coordination in Regional Development
IDM, July 2022

BLOGS

1. Resilient Cities – The challenge of municipalities
Ina Shënplaku, August 2022
2. Consequences of money laundering
(available in Albanian only)
IDM, November 2022
3. The Albanian government’s responsive cyber-risk management level: Good, bad, inexistent?
Ilvana Dedja IDM Intern, September 2022
4. The environment for civil society in Albania in 2021: Any notable change?
Dhimitraq Xhacka, IDM Intern, December 2022

POLICY BRIEFS

1. Citizen engagement in parliamentary decision-making
Megi Reçi, February 2022
2. Internal Party Democracy in Albania
Diori Angjeli, February 2022
3. Parliamentary Oversight
Megi Reçi, February 2022

4. Environment and climate change
Daniel Prroni, February 2022
5. Electoral system reform
Daniel Prroni, February 2022
6. Diaspora voting
Daniel Prroni, February 2022
7. Economic Immigration to Albania
Diori Angjeli, February 2022
8. Elusive standards: Governance and oversight of security sector procurement in Albania
Alban Dafa, April 2022
9. Meeting the Security Challenges of Open Borders Law Enforcement Cooperation Needed Between Albania and Kosovo to Combat Organized Crime
Alban Dafa, Donika Elshani, October 2022
10. Challenges that Hamper the Promotion of Integrity Culture in Local Governance
Nadia Rusi, December 2022
11. Codes of Conduct: Benefits and Challenges
Eralda (Methasani) Çani, December 2022
12. Integrity in Central Government Institutions: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward
Nysjola Dhoga, Rovenia Sulstarova, December 2022

HANDBOOKS

1. Guideline for mental health practitioners, social workers and psychologists
(available in Albanian only)
Anita Pilika, Armela Xhaho, January 2022
2. Resilient communities through “School as Community Center” multi-actor approach
(available in Albanian only)
IDM, March 2022
3. A Guide for Public Integrity Risk Assessment Process
(available in Albanian only)
IDM, July 2022
4. Manual for Public Consultations at the Central Government level
IDM, 2022

REPORTS

1. Opinion Poll 2021: Trust in Governance
Irma Semini, Iliada Korçari, 2022
2. 2021 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index,
Megi Reçi, Daniel Prroni, IDM, FHI 360, ICNL, October 2022
3. The Return of Gambling and the Money Laundering Risks
(available in Albanian only)
Ola Xama, November 2022

4. Regulated Professions and Their Role in Preventing and Fight against Money Laundering (*available in Albanian only*)
Hysen Cela, November 2022
5. Construction, the Silent Volcano of the Albanian Economy (*available in Albanian only*)
Dritan Vakaj, November 2022

TRAINING MODULE

1. Training manual for frontliners: Mapping of R&R services for persons returning from conflict areas
Rudina Rama, Armela Xhaho, 2022

Online resources

ONLINE PLATFORM

www.reformajone.al – The online platform of citizens! The platform aims to enable all citizens to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the public administration. This platform was created within the framework of the #EU_WeBER 2.0 project, implemented by the Think for Europe Network and financed by the European Union in Albania and other donors.

PODCASTS

1. AML Podcast Nr.1: The fight against money laundering in Albania and its effects in good governance (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, July 2022
2. PACEP Podcast Nr.1: The importance of deliberative democracy and the implementation of the deliberative polling methodology in “Albania in the Assembly” - Edlira Gjoni, Elona Dhëmbó (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, July 2022
3. AML Podcast Nr.2: The challenges and essential role of investigative journalism in the investigation of money laundering cases (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, September 2022

SHORT VIDEOS

1. Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Parliamentary Oversight (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022
2. Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Public Engagement (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022
3. Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Climate Change and Environment (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022

- 4.** Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Economic Immigration to Albania (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022
- 5.** Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Electoral System Reform (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022
- 6.** Shqipëria n’Kuvendim – Internal Party Democracy (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, March 2022
- 7.** PAR mainstreaming in sectoral policies - Tirana Regional Conference 2022
IDM, October 2022
- 8.** Public Hearing on Improving the Situation of Personal Assistants of Persons with Disabilities (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, October 2022
- 9.** Public hearing on the implementation of the Law on Education for National Minorities – The Case of the Roma Minority (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, October 2022
- 10.** Public Hearing on Economic Empowerment and Property Rights of Women in Rural Areas (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, October 2022
- 11.** Public Hearing: Implementation of Environmental Obligations of Enterprises Engaged in Quarrying Activity (*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, October 2022
- 12.** Highlights National Conference “Citizens’ engagement in parliamentary processes”
IDM 14 October 2022 - Part 1
(*available in Albanian only*)
- 13.** Highlights National Conference “Citizens’ engagement in parliamentary processes”
IDM 14 October 2022 - Part 2
(*available in Albanian only*)
- 14.** How do citizens evaluate the reform in public administration?
(*available in Albanian only*)
IDM, December 2022

- 📍 Address: Rr. Shenasi Dishnica, Nd. 35, H. 1, 1017, Tirana, Albania
- ✉ E-mail: info@idmalbania.org
- ✂ Twitter: [@IDM_Albania](https://twitter.com/IDM_Albania)
- 📘 Facebook: [@IDMALbania](https://www.facebook.com/IDMALbania)
- 📷 Instagram: [/idm.albania](https://www.instagram.com/idm.albania)
- 🌐 LinkedIn: [/company/idm-albania/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/idm-albania/)
- 📺 Youtube: [@IDMALBANIA](https://www.youtube.com/@IDMALBANIA)
- 🌐 www.idmalbania.org
- © IDM Albania - August 2023



Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation – IDM, was established in November 1999 as a non-governmental organization dedicated to the advancement of societal capacities, skills and know-how. IDM generates knowledge and expertise for inclusive policy-making, evidence-based alternatives to bolster democracy, and sustainable development.