The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) is dedicated to consolidating participatory governance and democratic institutions, EU integration processes, civil society development, regional cooperation and security through independent research, capacity building and engagement of societal players.
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A renewed commitment

In the dynamic realm of Albanian democracy, where the events of 2023 highlighted the struggles of democratic governance and institutions, the Institute of Democracy and Mediation (IDM) remains steadfast in the pursuit of its mission.

Albania continued its path toward European integration, emphasizing the need to align with EU standards. After completing the screening process meetings, the Albanian government initially expected to start accession negotiations on the first cluster by the end of 2023. It remains uncertain whether this will materialize. Civil society actors such as IDM have a crucial role to play in pushing forward efforts to promote a shared vision of EU integration while ensuring that the country is well-prepared for EU membership.

Corruption remained a persistent challenge, despite ongoing efforts, exerting a significant impact on various aspects of society and governance. The lack of effective accountability mechanisms contributed to the continued presence of corrupt practices within government institutions, undermining public trust and confidence in the rule of law. During 2023, IDM made concrete contributions leading the efforts to provide guidance to institutions to draft integrity plans as a commitment to the anti-corruption fight, as well as strengthening the engagement of civil society through evidence-based monitoring of the implementation of these integrity plans. So far 11 line ministries have drafted and approved this instrument, 6 of which were finalized with the assistance of IDM. At the local government level, 24 municipalities out of the 61 municipalities in the country currently have an integrity plan drawn up and approved.

Despite legal frameworks protecting freedom of speech and association, during 2023 we continued to witness instances of government interference and limited media independence. While efforts were put to address these issues, concerns persist particularly on expression of dissenting views. Civil society organizations continued to face hurdles to meaningfully participate in decision-making. IDM’s contribution this year focused on supporting civil society organizations through funding and mentorship, promoting public debate and awareness of threats posed to civic space, and advocating and raising capacities for an enabling environment for civil society which guarantees opportunities for impactful participation in decision-making.

The cybersecurity threats faced by the country in 2023, including cyberattacks attributed to foreign entities, posed additional challenges to safeguarding democratic processes and citizen rights. IDM publicly reacted by calling for good governance and oversight of the security sector and measures to strengthen parliamentary supervision of security institutions.

In 2023 Albania navigated a complex landscape, highlighting the need to address the vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of its democratic system. This is why IDM was created 25 years ago. We remain an independent and trustworthy interlocutor, providing expertise and actionable solutions to the very real and daunting challenges facing Albania in the years to come.

Regardless of what the future holds, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation will continue to provide independent and critical analysis and serve as a platform for dialogue and debate on the most pressing issues aligned to the strategic priorities of IDM’s programmes: Governance, Civic space, Security, and EU and the Balkans. We will also celebrate our 25th anniversary throughout 2024, most importantly by “Thinking Governance” and with a series of exciting events stressing our renewed commitment.

IDM Management Team
Our Network

- TEN – Think for Europe
- Balkan Security Platform
- UNCA Coalition
- OSCE Network
- On Think Tanks
- BCSDN
- SEE Digital Rights Network
- TAP Network

2023 factsheet

> **25 projects**, were implemented by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in 2023.

> A **total annual budget of € 2,342,418.78** from donor organizations supported our work in 2023. From this budget, **36.48% was allocated as subgrants for civil society organizations** under projects such as SMART Balkans, SCC, GCERF, etc.

> IDM released **28 publications** in 2023; including research studies, monitoring reports, policy briefs, guidelines, training modules, and blogs.

> **91 in-person and online events** were organized by IDM in 2023 including 48 workshops and trainings, 18 roundtables, 8 briefings, 5 information sessions, 3 national and regional conferences, 2 awareness campaigns, 2 grant awarding ceremonies, 1 youth debate, 1 Hackathon, 2 official visits of U.S. Embassy, and 1 social experiment.

> Almost **3,150 people attended our events** in 2023. Most of the participants were civil society organizations, government, institutions, youth, and academia, the international community, media, and private sector.

> IDM was featured **58 times in national and international media outlets** including television, online portals, radio, and other media outlets.

> IDM’s **research and advice was referred to and used in 15 instances** during 2023, including academic working papers, governmental official documents, policy briefs, reports and studies by international and civil society organizations.
Publications

In 2023, IDM released **28 publications and online resources** aimed at various audiences, such as government representatives, non-governmental organizations, young people, educational institutions, and other stakeholders involved in policy matters. These publications serve the purpose of informing, inspiring action and transformation and enhancing capabilities by offering specialized knowledge, policy analysis, practical research, skill and capacity development opportunities, and collaborative efforts.

- **4 study reports** related to reform to public consultation Law, challenges of women activists in online spaces, money laundering schemes, and pandemic management lessons on security.
- **2 monitoring reports** on public administration reform and implementation of the UN convention against corruption.
- **4 blogs** on EU progress report on Albania, Italy’s immigration deal with Albania, ethical considerations of media reporting on violent extremism cases and the role of vocational training on the reintegration of those convicted of crimes related to violent extremism.
- **2 policy briefs** related to assessing the decision of Albania to transition to online only service delivery and on gender-responsive approaches to prevent violent extremism. **2 survey reports** on trust in governance and mapping of violent extremism threats.
- **1 roadmap** on establishment and functioning of Local Public Safety Councils.
- **4 training modules** on public consultation for central government institutions and ethics and integrity in public administration and local government units.
- **1 curriculum** on addressing violent extremism and radicalization in educational institutions.
- **9 short videos** and spots on interreligious harmony, misinformation challenges, implementation of social experiments, training on multidisciplinary approach, contribution of CSO to EU integration process of the Western Balkans, etc.
## 2023 Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Year / Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Balkan Civil Society Empowerment for a Reformed Public Administration (WeBER 2.0)</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Preventing Violent Extremism in the Balkans and the MENA: Strengthening Resilience in Enabling Environments - PREVEX</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Standard Municipal Integrity Planning Practice Expanded Across Municipalities</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria</td>
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<td>Good Governance in Cybersecurity in the Western Balkans</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Serving Democracy and citizens through improved public integrity</td>
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<td>SMART Balkans - Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans</td>
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<td>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</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Western Balkans Organized Crime Radar</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>EU4 Rule of Law: Citizen Engagement for Public Integrity (CEPI) in the Western Balkans and Turkey</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSII)</td>
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<td>UNCAC Civil Society Parallel Report</td>
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<td>Fostering Transparency and Good Governance</td>
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<td>School as Community Centre</td>
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<td>Engaging communities in civic education in Albania</td>
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<td>Trust in Governance 2022</td>
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<td>Civic oversight capacities for Budget Accountability and Transparency: BAT-Civil Society</td>
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<td>Western Balkan Enablers for Reforming Public Administrations – WeBER 3.0</td>
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<td>Cultivating the future generation of public policymakers</td>
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<td>School as Community Center approach</td>
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<td>Increase parliament’s responsiveness to citizens’ concerns</td>
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<td>Trust in Governance 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Component: Strengthening community resilience through the School as Community Center (SCC) model and evidence-based research in Albania</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towards more meaningful, informed, and effective public consultations (NED 2.0)</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Compliance in Eastern Europe</td>
<td>2023</td>
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Our Audiences

Who attended our events in 2023?

- **52%** Civil Society
- **32%** Government institutions
- **24%** Youth and educational staff
- **3.4%** Media and journalists
- **1.7%** International organizations and foreign representations
- **0.6%** Private sector

Audience of Schools as Community Centre Project

**Over 1,670 students and educational staff reached.**
Activity highlight

Empirical research on ethics and integrity in public administration

Three social experimental designs

How can we study in practice the behaviour of public administration employees towards cases of corruption in their daily work? For the first time in Albania, on October 27, 2023, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation conducted empirical research through three social experiment designs. Experimental designs aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of public service employees of the public administration regarding ethics and integrity rules, silencing corruption, and tolerating it during everyday work practices. The research focused on understanding the role that ethics and integrity play against corruption practices in public administration.

63 employees from 11 crucial state institutions participated in our empirical study. Employees came from the Assembly of Albania, the High Prosecutorial Council, the Information and Data Protection Commissioner, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Public Administration, the General Directorate of Taxes, and the Institute of Public Health.

Participants’ age and gender were heterogeneous. They were divided into two separate groups that did not communicate with each other: the experimental group and the control group. Both groups faced hypothetical situations during everyday work practices and, through different stimuli, answered our various questionnaires.

The selected experimental designs enable a dynamic tracking of the phenomenon of corruption in the daily practices of state administrative procedures. They serve as an alternative approach to gathering empirical data on corruption. Collected data will be used to draft three research reports which will provide us with an analysis of the attitudes and behaviours of public administration employees regarding corruption, ethics, and integrity rules in the workplace. Understanding this dynamic through evidence-based experimental research design, benefits the formulation of strategies against corruption in public institutions, with a particular focus on raising awareness and promoting ethical behaviour in public institutions.

“Serving Democracy and Citizens Through Improved Public Integrity” project is implemented by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation and funded by the Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA).

Sharing Experiences in Police Reform

IDM in cooperation with the Kosovar Center for Security Studies organised on November 24th, 2023 a roundtable discussion on “Sharing Experiences in Police Reform”.

The event brought together 25 representatives from the Kosovo Police, the State Police, relevant parliamentary committees, senior officials from relevant ministries, experts, independent organizations, and foreign partners supporting security institutions in Albania and Kosovo.

The discussion highlighted the following topics:

(i) Mechanisms for the selection of officials in security institutions should be based on competition (criteria and skills) rather than relying on political appointments.

(ii) The need for further improvement of internal police mechanisms for strengthening integrity.

(iii) Monitoring the implementation of integrity plans should be a priority in order to ensure their effectiveness.

(iv) Strengthening external police oversight contributes to good governance.

(v) The reforming experience of the Kosovo Police makes this institution one of the most trusted in the country.

This roundtable discussion served as a platform for constructive dialogue, with valuable insights and recommendations emerging from diverse key stakeholders.
2023 Program areas highlight

GOVERNANCE

Throughout 2023, significant strides were achieved across various facets of the “Serving Democracy and Citizens Through Improved Public Integrity” project. A notable milestone includes the approval of Integrity Plans for both the High Prosecutorial Council and the Institute of Public Health. These plans represent a pivotal advancement in fostering a culture of integrity within these institutions, particularly within the healthcare sector. Concurrently, efforts by IDM experts persisted in finalizing integrity instruments for the Parliament’s administration: the Code of Conduct and Integrity Plan. At the local level, along with three newly established municipalities, integrity plans were approved, totaling 24 municipalities that have endorsed these instruments since 2019. The collaboration between IDM Albania and the Albanian School of Public Administration has borne fruit by successfully tailoring training sessions for public administration employees. These sessions, centering on “Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration: Development of Integrity Plans,” have significantly contributed to capacity building and raised awareness among public servants.

Progress was achieved in the advancement of the Civic Monitoring Framework which was finalized and consulted with different public institutions. The Integrity Index of Public Institutions has been meticulously prepared to be implemented by civil society actors and experts engaged in combating corruption and promoting good governance. Its purpose is to monitor the implementation of integrity plans within public institutions and assess the impact of these measures on enhancing institutional integrity.

Additionally, the IDM expert team has carefully planned and successfully conducted three social experiments with public officials of the public administration. These experiments aimed to explore integrity paradigms in the public service, by researching on strict and lenient integrity rules, tolerance of corruption, and the culture of silence surrounding corrupt behavior of public administration employees.

We carried on with our commitment to deliver reliable data through the release of the Public Opinion Poll “Trust in Governance 2022” 10th Edition. The annual Trust in Governance Opinion Poll, first launched in 2013, presented its milestone tenth edition. The Trust in Governance Opinion Poll explores public perceptions and attitudes on issues such as trust in public institutions transparency and accountability of public institutions, prevalence of corruption, level of citizen engagement in policy and decision-making, satisfaction with public service delivery, and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies. It generates data that can be utilized to enhance major reforms related to good governance, anti-corruption, the judiciary and cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and social inclusion.

IDM published the third consecutive monitoring report of the Public Administration Reform (PAR) – “National PAR Monitor Albania 2021/2022”. Results provide evidence-based data on crucial PAR areas that track the reform progress through 2017-2022 in Albania and within the Western Balkans states. This regional assessment shared the standpoint of civic actors on the reform, strengthening CSOs-governance policy dialogue on PAR.

To continue empowering CSOs and citizens’ role in PAR, IDM launched the third consecutive WeBER 3.0 project. This project’s highlight for 2023 was the dissemination of the Call for Proposals for CSOs interested in the PAR which introduced the design-thinking method, an innovative citizen-centered tool to tackle challenges at the local level.

These achievements reflect a concerted effort to advance governance, integrity, and accountability within Albania, fostering a more transparent and participatory public administration system.
EU & THE BALKANS

Following the start of the accession negotiations, Albania completed the screening process and currently awaits the start of negotiations on the fundamentals cluster. In October, Tirana hosted the annual summit of the Berlin Process, during which the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans was unveiled.

IDM remained active in advancing policy discussions on EU enlargement, the accession process of the Western Balkans, and fostering regional cooperation through its EU & the Balkans program.

In June, IDM partnered with the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group to convene a policy forum in Tirana, focusing on regional cooperation initiatives in the Western Balkans. The forum gathered representatives from civil society, regional and international partners, as well as policymakers from the region. The forum centered its discussions around a publication by BiEPAG, which examines regional initiatives to assess how economy-focused strategies could bring the region nearer to the objective of EU membership by tackling the primary challenges confronting the region, including corruption, state capture, and authoritarian tendencies. The panel featured Richard Grieveson, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Jovana Marović, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs in Government of Montenegro, Odeta Barbullushi, Advisor to the Prime Minister and National Coordinator for Regional Economic Area, and Prof. Selami Xhepa, Doctor of Economic Science at the University of Tirana.

After the European Commission released its 2023 Enlargement Package, IDM published a blog post analyzing the report’s assessment of progress and creating infographics for wider public understanding. IDM Senior Advisor published a reaction to the European Commission 2023 Country Report on Albania in the BiEPAG platform. Moreover, IDM collaborated with partners from the TEN – Think for Europe Network to evaluate the Enlargement Package and the status of democratic institutions in the Western Balkans. This collaboration provided an opportunity to scrutinize the EU Commission’s methodology for evaluating the functioning of democratic institutions. In November, a webinar was organized, featuring representatives from DG NEAR and IDM staff as discussants.

IDM has engaged in advocacy missions with EU bodies, including the Commission, European Parliament, and member states’ institutions, addressing progress in EU accession reforms in Albania and the Western Balkans. These reforms span critical domains like public administration, anti-corruption measures, civic space consolidation, and freedom of expression.

IDM maintained its presence within the national structures overseeing the EU accession process, notably within the National Council on European Integration and the Partnership Platform convened by the relevant working groups on negotiation chapters.
SECURITY

In 2023 Albania completed its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, where it played an active role to preserve peace, security and development at the regional and global level. Organized crime remained a key security concern, operating on both national and international levels, with a tendency to expand their activities in diversified areas of businesses. Although violent extremism is not a major issue in Albania, the dynamic landscape of violent extremism continues to create challenges in the country that require continuous attention. The country continued to be a target of a series of cyber-attacks throughout 2023, underscoring the imperative to enhance and develop state capabilities for defending against hybrid threats.

In 2023, the Security Program continued to address a wide range of issues through research and tailored capacity-building sessions on P/CVE, enhancing security sector governance, researching organised crime developments, and building community resilience through multi-agency and citizen-centred approaches.

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 – LPSC, a mechanism that provides a sustained involvement of local communities and citizens-driven safety policies at the local level, fostering open discussions among local stakeholders 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 2023, IDM prepared a roadmap on the establishment and functioning of the LPSC, organized several policy level workshops on the establishment and functioning of LPSC, and provided evidence-based recommendations to inform the preparation of the draft law on LPSC.

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 30 high schools across 10 out of 12 regions of Albania, and will be further expanded in the following years.

To ensure sustainable and effective rehabilitation and reintegration of Albanian returnees from Syria, IDM continued its role throughout 2023 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 2023, IDM completed the EUTEx project which developed a European framework with three modules for the disengagement and reintegration of extremist offenders and radicalized individuals in prison. This project established such a framework after collecting and assessing numerous practices from European countries. In May 2023, IDM organized the third EUTEx training in Tirana in a two-day session for prison and probation officials from several European countries.

As part of the Balkan Security Platform, IDM continued its efforts to conduct research on the phenomenon and provide a comprehensive analysis of organised crime developments in Albania through a horizon scanning method. IDM co-produced a sub-regional analysis report that examined the illegal firearms trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans.

The Security Program has been also focusing on the good governance of the security sector. As part of a joint effort with the Kosovo Center for Security Studies, on November 24, 2023, IDM organized the Roundtable Discussion: “Sharing Experiences in Police Reform.” This roundtable discussion served as a platform for constructive dialogue, with valuable insights and recommendations emerging from diverse key stakeholders.

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.
CIVIC SPACE

Recognizing the need for an enabling legal and policy environment which guarantees opportunities for impactful participation in decision-making, a study titled "A Decade of Public Consultation Law in Albania: Advocating for Reform" was released. It aimed to expose systemic shortcomings in the public consultation process, prompting advocacy aimed at legal reforms, improved practices, and meaningful involvement of stakeholders in public consultations. Advocacy endeavors based on the study’s findings were directed towards the government, members of the parliament, and independent institutions, and also included civic actors, and the private sector. Some of these stakeholders publicly endorsed recommendations made by IDM, and governmental policy documents recognized the need for legal amendments in public consultation legislation, highlighting the impact of advocacy efforts. IDM also focused on enhancing the administrative and technical capabilities of public administration in public consultation processes. A dedicated training module was developed by IDM for the central government. After successfully training over 40 civil servants, the module was incorporated into ASPA’s ongoing training programs for civil servants, ensuring the sustainability of the efforts beyond a project’s duration.

To bolster civic participation in legislative processes, IDM embarked on a new project focusing on fostering public interest and trust in the parliament. The initiative involves utilizing innovative and participatory deliberative tools to engage civil society, media, academia, and youth, empowering them to participate in and monitor parliamentary activities, as well as strengthening parliamentary capacities for the involvement of these groups. A variety of capacity-building activities were conducted for civil society, journalists, and parliamentary staff, and an extensive assessment of civil society organizations’ capacity gaps was carried out. This resulted in the creation of a toolkit for monitoring state budget and public expenditure, alongside budget oversight legislation, and the delivery of tailored training on this matter. Furthermore, a public hearing with Members of Parliament was arranged to discuss specific public concerns.

Recognizing the online realm as an integral part of civic space, and its importance for the exercising of civil and political freedoms, IDM remains committed to advancing digital rights and cybersecurity. A study titled “The right to protect rights in Albania: Challenges of women defenders of human rights on the Internet” was published, unveiling obstacles of human rights defenders in the digital sphere, employing an intersectional perspective, and seeking to influence decision-making on digital rights violations. Drawing on the insights from this study and collaborating with digital security experts, IDM facilitated interactive training sessions imparting practical skills in digital security to civic actors and fostering partnerships among human rights defenders, journalists, and the technology community.

Dedicated to supporting civil society sustainability, IDM through SMART Balkans, provided support to 48 civil society organizations in Albania and Kosovo through 6 different grant schemes during 2023. 8 organizations were granted core support, while the remaining 40 developed significant projects focusing on security, stability, and governance. The total value of grants distributed in 2023 surpassed 13 million Norwegian Kroner (approximately 1.2 million Euros). Alongside financial and core support, the SMART Balkans project conducted continuous assessments of the organizational needs of grantees to bolster their capacities, and provided tailored training programs, tutorials, and mentoring support. Fostering dialogue with pertinent stakeholders, IDM also organized two national conferences in Albania and Kosovo on security challenges and shrinking civic space in the Western Balkans region.

To encourage youth engagement and strengthen ties between the civil society sector and young professionals, IDM collaborated with the Faculty of Social Sciences on an initiative designed to enrich students’ academic journeys. The goal was to expand their understanding of public policy, cultivate problem-solving skills, and equip them with project management proficiency to enhance their employability prospects. IDM delivered a training program for Master’s students, addressing anti-corruption strategies, EU integration, cybersecurity, and human rights. As a result, students produced and published 6 articles on these public policy issues, and received mentorship.
Online outreach

1,249 followers, +189 compared to 2022,
Total Impressions of the X account during 2023: 63.9 K.

9,500 Followers, 8696 Page Likes,
+804 compared to 2022, 338.5 K - Total Reach
Our Facebook followers are 62.1% Women, 37.9% Men

970 followers, +247 compared to 2022
35.074 Reach, +22.968 compared to 2022

The IDM website was visited 44,793 times,
with 12,053 publication downloads during 2023.

Most of our audience resides in Albania, but IDM also has a substantial following in the United States, Kosovo, Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands.

Media mentions

In 2023 the Institute of Democracy and Mediation staff, events, and publications were mentioned 58 times in international, national, and local news outlets with around 14 appearances on TV through interviews, videos, live streaming, and 60 articles, blogs, and publications.

IDM appeared in the following broadcast media: VoA, Panorama, A2CNN, Reporter.al, Citizens Channel, Syri, News24, CNA, MCN. Relevant print and online news outlets including Balkan Web, Gazeta Epoka e Re, Gazeta Shqiptare, Lapsi.al, Dosja, Kosova Press, Vox News, Polisiko, etc.

Media Mentions Highlights

Monitor.al 18/01/2023. In 2023, IDM under the SMART Balkans project started funding projects in Albania and Kosovo. The overall goal of the SMART Balkans project is to contribute to the strengthening of participatory democracy and Euro-Atlantic integration processes in the countries of the Western Balkans by empowering civil society organizations (CSOs) and their networks for a stronger and active role in creating peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Under the SMART Balkans programme, IDM organized the conference “Promotion of Stability and Sustainable Peace in Kosovo”. Mr. Sotiraq Hroni, IDM Executive Director, stressed the need for communities, civil society, and the media to be actively involved in achieving sustainable peace. Kosova Press 22/06/2023

With support from the US Embassy, the national project “Schools as Community Center” (Shkolla Qendër Komunitare, SH.Q.K) of IDM Albania organized a meeting in Cërrik and Belsh where US Ambassador H.E. Yuri Kim met with community members, teachers, and students at the “Tomorr Sinani” high school. Lajme.al 15/02/2023

IDM Albania hosted the national conference “Claiming Back our civic space” in June 2023, which brought together academics, journalists, civil society actors, and engaged citizens to discuss the challenges facing society today and how to address them. Gjergji Vurmo, IDM Senior Advisor, highlighted the importance of how civil society engages with the government. He suggests that while civil society can develop a positive, cooperative approach, it shouldn’t shy away from challenging the government to ensure transparency and upholding democratic principles. SYRI TV 13/06/2023

Following the reported interference in the State Police’s TIMS systems in October 2023, IDM expressed its concern and urged the Assembly of Albania to take the required actions to enhance legislative oversight of the security institutions. BalkanWeb 25/08/2023

In 2023, IDM published a research report on public consultations under Albania’s Law on Notification and Public Consultation. The report assesses the current state of consultations at the central level, analyzing the legal framework and identifying shortcomings. It covers all stages of the process, from planning to reporting, and examines the involvement of both public and non-public actors. A2 CNN 23/10/2023

The freedom to protect the digital rights of women activists is the subject of a study published by IDM in December 2023. Among the activists surveyed, 83% reported having at least one experience with violations of their digital rights while working. The study emphasizes how violence against female activists in the digital sphere is fueled by misogyny and false information. Reporter.al 6/11/2023
IDM Funding overview

Other small funds 0.4% (€ 10,205.80)
DCAF-Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance 0.5% (€ 12,248.00)
Transparency International 0.9% (€ 20,180.00)
ABA Fund For Justice And Education 1.0% (€ 23,410.90)

National Endowment for Democracy 1.5% (€ 35,356.98)
European Commission 2.8% (€ 64,784.45)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Albania 3.2% (€ 74,031.08)
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) 4.5% (€ 104,487.54)
Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) 7.1% (€ 165,907.11)
Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA) 9.7% (€ 227,228.59)
US Embassy in Albania 24.0% (€ 562,279.33)
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 44.5% (€ 1,042,299.00)
List of publications

Monitoring Reports

Policy Briefs
1. Gender-responsive approaches to prevent violent extremism & counter-terrorism. Armela Xhaho
2. Digital revolution – assessing Albania’s decision to transition to only online service delivery. Alban Dafa

Training Module
1. Training Module for Public Consultation for Central Government Institutions. Prof. Dr. Erilda (Met-Hasani) Çani
2. Training Module on Ethics and Integrity in Local Self-Government Units. Rovena Sulstarova
3. Training Module on Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration. Nadia Rusi, Nysjola Dhoga, Rovena Sulstarova
4. Curriculum: Identification, treatment and prevention of radicalization and violent extremism in educational institutions of the pre-university system. Dr. Erinda Bllaca, Dr. Anita Pilika, PhD. c. Armela Xhaho

Study Report
1. Pandemic Management – Lessons learned for a more secure future. Romario Shehu
2. A Decade of Public Consultation Law in Albania: Call for Reform. Megi Reçë, Besjana Kuçi
3. The freedom to defend rights in online spaces: Challenges for women human rights defenders in Albania. Megi Reçë, Sara Kelmendi
4. Money Laundering Schemes in Albania, Overview of the most widespread typologies. Dritan Vakaj, Daniel Prroni

Survey Report
1. Opinion Poll 2022: Trust in Governance. Irma Semini, Besjana Kuçi, Marsela Dauti

Blog
1. Reintegration of those convicted of crimes related to violent extremism in Albania: The role of vocational training. Romario Shehu
2. Ethical Dilemmas on Media Reporting of Issues Related to Violent Extremism and Persons Returned from Conflict Zones. Armela Xhaho
3. All quiet on the enlargement front. Daniel Prroni, Endrita Shehu
4. Italy’s deal with Albania on migrant camps. Why offshoring asylum obligations might not work? Armela Xhaho

Roadmap
1. A roadmap on the Establishment and Functioning of Local Public Safety Councils. Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Audiovisual Materials
1. Video: How can civil society & media contribute to the fight against money laundering & terrorist financing? Institute for Democracy and Mediation
2. Video: About 200 frontline professionals and representatives of local institutions attended a training cycle on the multidisciplinary approach to the rehabilitation and reintegration of persons returned from conflict areas. Institute for Democracy and Mediation
3. Video: How can CSOs contribute to the European integration process of the Western Balkan countries. Institute for Democracy and Mediation.
4. Video: What do citizens say about the services they receive from the public administration? Institute for Democracy and Mediation and Think for Europe Network.
5. Video: Code Connect. Albanian ICT Academy and IDM Albania
6. Video: How to write a press release? CPCD, Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) and Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM)
7. Video: Implementation of 3 models of social experiments developed with 8 institutions. Institute for Democracy and Mediation
8. TV spot: Religious communities in Albania represent a positive example in society in terms of harmonious coexistence. Institute for Democracy and Mediation
9. TV spot: Interreligious Council of Albania. Institute for Democracy and Mediation
The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) is dedicated to consolidating participatory governance and democratic institutions, EU integration processes, civil society development, regional cooperation and security through independent research, capacity building and engagement of societal players.

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