

Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Rr. Shinasi Dishnica, Nr. 4, Tirana
Tel +355 42224 241
Fax +355 42224 241
www.idmalbania.org

INFORM

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FOR A DEMOCRATIC
AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

Institute for Democracy and Mediation
2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT



Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim

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ABOUT IDM

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) is an independent, non-governmental organization, founded in November 1999 in Tirana, Albania. It works to strengthen the civil society, analyze and improve Albania's integration processes, and assist reforming and consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy making processes. IDM carries on its objectives through expertise, innovative policy research, analysis and assessment-based policy options.

IDM's choice of activities to achieve its strategic objectives is an effort to go beyond simple one-time delivery projects. They form part of a continuing struggle to strengthen shared values and efficient interactions across the broad spectrum of political and non-political actors in Albania. IDM is dedicated to developing a profound understanding on contemporary challenges to shape sustainable reforming strategies and public policies in key socio-economic and political development pillars, as well as to advance regional cost-effective approaches in support of intra/cross sectoral cooperation initiatives of key actors based on comprehensive research, policy assessment, and multifaceted analysis.

These guiding principles and objectives represent the foundation of our mission, on which IDM forms the framework of its programme priorities, shapes the results of its work, and drives the services and contribution to civil society efforts. IDM structure consists of three core departments.

1. CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN AND SECURITY AFFAIRS

The Center for European and Security Affairs (CESA) represents the IDM's specialized department in the domain of European and security issues. Its mission is to advance European and security studies, research, and analysis related to key reforming processes, thus encouraging both informed debate and improved processes. The Center focuses particular attention to national efforts and regional initiatives aiming to develop sound institutional capacities and qualitative human

resources that will serve to contemporary challenges for reform, integration processes, and cooperation through an educational and problem-solving approach.

CESA's activities are conducted by experienced researchers and experts in an effort to promote excellence of research, studies, and policy options related to "Europeanization" reforming efforts in the country. The strategic programming of the CESA's work is driven by the highlights and challenges of key developments in the respective focus areas, which are shaped and further elaborated by its team in cooperation with IDM senior staff and associates, as well.

2. LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

IDM's vision, as related to the Department of Local Governance and Integrated Development (LGID), is to promote citizen engagement in local governance and local development issues and to increase the accountability of local decision-making actors. With this in mind, LGID has been working together with local government units across Albania in strengthening their capacities to interact better with communities as well as with civic structures in order to raise awareness about their role as key actors in sustainable development. The program area is designed to strengthen local civic players, develop broad community-based partnerships, and build a safer community environment. Work mainly concentrates on IDM's traditional areas of focus, such as decentralization, capacity building of local governance, community empowerment and civic participation as well as integrated development consisting in the promotion of EU policies and instruments in the area of integrated rural and regional development.

3. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Research and Development Center (RDC) aims to promote evidence-based policy-making, socio-economic development and support civil society development. The Center consists of a flexible team of experts and academics who develop program activities and joint research initiatives in cooperation with academic and research institutions in the region and other parts of the world. RDC engages in examining and supporting civil society development, developing synergies with academia, and refining applied research methodologies and knowledge to serve open governance reforms and social development.

IDM CORPORATE CAPABILITIES

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation is a resourceful and highly professional civil society organization with remarkable experience and achievements in all key areas of its focus. In addition to programmatic cooperation with various donors – national, foreign and international institutions supporting Albanian civil society and overall reform processes in the country– IDM expertise and services are regularly hired by public authorities (central and local governments, universities, oversight bodies, and other agencies), foreign assistance missions and international organizations (e.g USAID, OSCE, GiZ, UNDP, and other UN bodies, etc.). Some of the INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS of the Institute over the years include:

US Embassy Tirana; European Commission; University of Fribourg; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ministry Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Swiss Contact Albania; Secretariat Intern Otan (NATO); GMF Balkan Trust for Democracy; Olof Palme International Center; Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pristina; Leviz Albania; Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS); Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); SlovakAid; National Democratic Institute (NDI); European Training Foundation (ETF); Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Office in Tirana (FES); Swiss Agency for Technical Cooperation (SDC); Stiftung Open Society Institute (OSI); Management Systems International-MSI; UN Women; OSCE Presence in Albania; Regional Development Programme Northern (RDP); Albania Local Governance Program (ARD); Democracy for Development (D4D), USAID Planning and Local Governance Project, etc.

IDM activities range from awareness and capacity building, re-granting, applied policy and academic research, assessments, consultancy and advice on issues falling under its focus thematic areas (local governance, EU accession, applied research, security etc.). IDM pays special attention and resources to the research component of its program activities and services delivering a broad range of high quality products including, but not limited to, policy analysis, research studies, needs-assessment, monitoring and evaluation reports. In addition to the expertise of its

fulltime staff and research capacities of all three departments, IDM employs the services of a large network of affiliated researchers and experts in the areas of local governance, integrated development, evaluation and planning, policy implementation monitoring, institutional performance assessments, etc. IDM offers expertise and advice to key PUBLIC, CIVIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS, based on comprehensive analysis and evidence-based data.

QUALITY-CHECK INSTRUMENTS: In the course of the years and given the increased number and broad thematic coverage of IDM research, assessments, and policy products, IDM has set up internal structures in charge of ensuring high quality of its products and activities. To this purpose, a peer-review board composed of senior IDM experts and associates (five permanent plus three associated members) examines the quality of research and makes evaluation and prepares other draft reports, periodicals, and studies. IDM has set also up a methodology-development team within its Research and Development Center to assist evaluation and research activities as well as other activities relying on such components of different IDM departments or other organizations.

IDM PROJECTS IN 2015-2016

1. Regional Research Promotion Program in the Western Balkans (RRPP)

Donor: University of Fribourg and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Duration: February 2014- January 2017

IDM Department: RDC

IDM was selected as Local Coordination Unit (LCU) of the Regional Research Promotion Program (RRPP) in Albania in 2014 and has assisted the program to achieve its objectives and results, including the design and implementation of a newly introduced component entitled “National Policy Dialogue” in Albania. RRPP is implemented by the University of Fribourg with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Started in 2008, the Program aimed at fostering and promoting social science research in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). In the capacity of RRPP’s LCU for Albania, IDM’s responsibilities included:

- Ensure coordination and management infrastructure for Albania; monitor and evaluate implementation of RRPP’s projects and capacity building measures in Albania;
- Organize events (meetings, workshops, conferences etc.) and become a public advocate for social science research; disseminate information, publications and materials; produce contents for the RRPP website; participate in media events; organize human resources and financial management, infrastructure;
- Advocate for a better position of social research in the area of higher education (policy level, see National Policy Dialogue);
- Advise the RRPP management members in the decision-making processes related to cooperation in the specific country and in the region, etc.

Social Science research helps to understand specific needs for reform and to identify the long-term implications of potential policy choices. Researchers were provided support through grants, methodological and thematic trainings as well as opportunities for regional and international exchange and networking. For more information please visit <http://www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net>.

2. Private Security Companies in the Western Balkans

Donor: Swiss National Science Foundation

Duration: June 2014 - June 2017

IDM Department: CESA

Launched in June 2014, the three-year research 'Private Security Companies in the Western Balkans' Project brought together researchers from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and four partner organizations in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe to develop research outputs on private security company (PSC) regulation in Albania (Institute for Democracy and Mediation), Bulgaria (Centre for the Study of Democracy), Kosovo (Kosovo Centre for Security Studies) and Serbia (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy). The major goals of this project included:

- Identify gaps and challenges in PSC regulation in the target countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Serbia) and develop general recommendations on PSC institutional and regulatory frameworks;
- Raise awareness of shortcomings in PSC regulatory frameworks and engage in informed discussions about the regulation of PSCs through outreach events targeting policy-makers, PSCs, civil society organizations and other relevant national and regional stakeholders.

In the course of project implementation, the researchers met for a series of workshops to discuss research questions and progress and to receive supplementary training on PSC regulation, in accordance with their identified needs. A number of outreach activities were held by partner organizations (at the national level) and by DCAF (at the regional level) to engage with stakeholders, publicize research results and promote international best practices. During the reporting period IDM has contributed to the elaboration of the first publication (Mapping the Private Security Landscape in SEE), which explores the origin and current state of the private security sector in each of the target countries, with specific reference to principles of good governance and the protection of human rights. A roundtable discussion on "Legal framework and Modernization Challenges of Private Security Sector" launching recommendations of the study on Albanian Private Security Companies was held with representatives from private security companies, high level officials of State Police, relevant state institutions, business associations and other stakeholders in Tirana on 18 December 2015.

3. Monitoring and Assessment of the Decentralisation Process in Albania

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)

Duration: July 2014 – April 2015

IDM Department: LGID

The goal of this project was to generate and make available real-time evidences that allow for ex-ante actions by involved stakeholders to improve ongoing processes of the decentralization reform. This initiatives sought to serve the needs of the new decentralization strategy development by ensuring inclusiveness of reform processes that rely on informed debate and evidence-based alternatives. The project met three objectives:

- Intensification of the involvement of decentralization stakeholders in the design of the new decentralization strategy;
- Assessment and monitoring of the decentralization pace: political, administrative and fiscal; and,
- Support of the decentralization reform through enabling an informed policy dialogue based on evidence, findings and alternatives.

IDM fueled the policy debate with four policy briefs and a comprehensive monitoring report; promoted engagement of various stakeholders in the design of the strategy; facilitated informed policy debates and enhanced national dialogue on supporting and advancing the decentralization process in Albania.

4. Security Research Forum Belgrade-Pristina-Tirana

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Duration: September 2014- September 2015

IDM Department: CESA

The project sought to enhance understanding of bilateral and trilateral security issues by establishing various links among security policy communities and increasing transparency in security governance. It also fostered balanced debate among think-tank community, academia, public policy, and media in order to provide research-based alternative solutions to ongoing challenges of cooperation among Serbia, Kosovo, and Albania. The project was implemented jointly by the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), the and Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM). Main activities implemented for this project included research, networking, advocacy and capacity building activities of the participating organizations. Research on key topics of common interest related to threat perceptions, gaps in security governance, and accountability caused by lack of cooperation as well as other relevant issues that aimed to increase understanding of political dynamics and security transformation of 'the other'. In cooperation with its implementing

partners, IDM produced two policy briefs: “Albania-Kosovo Defense Cooperation” and “Disaster Management and Emergency in Albania, Serbia and Kosovo and the Potential for Cooperation”. A Summer School on Security Policy targeting prospective members of security communities from all three countries along with other regional event in all three capitals were organized by the project. Lastly, capacity-building of participating organizations included joint trainings in relevant research skills and exchange of researchers among participating organizations.

5. Preventing (Religion-Based) Radicalization among Youth in Rural Areas

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Duration: October 2014 – March 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The overall goal of this initiative was to assess risks and key drivers of potential radicalization, address rising economic concerns and prevent risks of (religion-based) radicalization among youngsters and young families faced with severe socio-economic challenges in remote areas of the districts of Korça, Elbasan, Diber and Kukes. The project employed a participatory approach, relying on continuous exchange and cooperation with religious communities, local governments, youth organizations, education institutions and other state institutions and non-state actors. An inception report serving to guide the research and the project team was finalized at the end of 2014, as work has already started to provide a detailed map of radicalization risks and key drivers of violent extremism in the targeted areas.

6. Advocacy for Open Government PASOS

Donor: European Union

Duration: December 2012-November 2016

IDM Department: RDC

‘Advocacy for Open Government’ is an EU-funded PASOS project to encourage governments in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia to become more transparent. The objective of ‘Advocacy for Open Government’ Project is to increase transparency and integrity in government, enhance public participation and accountability, generate more effective policy-making, and empower CSOs to monitor open government. In the course of the project implementation, IDM carried out a series of advocacy activities, including policy analysis, monitoring, advocacy, and awareness raising. In September 2015, in cooperation with the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration (MIAP) IDM held the Western Balkans OGP Dialogue event in Tirana. Focusing on effective initiatives to further open government in the region, this two-day event brought together nearly 120 international participants, including high level representatives from Western Balkans governments. In addition, the project enabled CSOs in Albania to build and strengthen civil society coalitions around OGP. Hence, as a

result of this project, the foundations for establishing a national OGP forum in Albania were laid helping both government and civil society to promote OGP initiative, facilitate the consultation processes, help draft the national action plans, and monitor the implementation of OGP commitments.

7. Balkan Civil Society Acquis-Strengthening the Advocacy and Monitoring Potential Capacities of CSOs Project

Donor: European Union

Duration: December 2012- November 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The “Balkan Civil Society Acquis” Project was implemented during 2012-2016 by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) with 11 partners from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey, including IDM Albania as one of the local implementers for Albania. The Project’s two overall objectives included:

- Strengthen the foundations for monitoring and advocacy on issues related to the enabling environment and sustainability of civil society at regional-and country-level; and,
- Strengthen the structures for CSO integration and participation in EU policy and accession processes at European and country-level.

Activities implemented include monitoring, advocacy, information-sharing, and grant-making.

8. European and Security Affairs” (ESA) Journal

Donor: NATO Public Diplomacy Division

Duration: January 2015 - December 2016

IDM Department: CESA

“European and Security Affairs” (ESA) Journal constitutes a specialized biannual magazine in the field of security sector reform and European affairs. The added value of this Journal as a periodical publication relates not only with the quality of the studies and research published in it, but also in the tradition it has created in the field of research of security studies by establishing and consolidating its own audience. Some 33 issues of this quarterly have been published by IDM since the launch of this initiative in 2006. During 2015-2016, 4 issues (No. 30-33) were published.

9. Restructuring of Community Liaison Structure

Donor: USAID/Planning and Local Governance Project (PLGP)

Duration: January 2015 – March 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This project aimed to promote good governance practices by strengthening the mechanisms of accountability and responsiveness and by promoting collaboration between community leaders and communities and local governments. Specific objectives included:

- Assess the role and functioning of community liaison structures in Albania;
- Develop alternatives on community liaison structures from South East Europe countries and other international experience; and,
- Develop policy recommendations on how to re-vitalize community liaison structure in the context of the new decentralization strategy and respective legal changes of the organic Law on Local Self-Governance.

As a result of IDM's advocacy efforts, 'Community Structures' were included as an explicit topic under the heading of local structures in the National Cross-Cutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance 2015-2020 (the February 2015 version) and two specific articles on Community structures, including Community Liaison and Council (Articles 68 & 69) were incorporated in the new Law No. 139/2015, "On Local Self-Governance", adopted in December 2015, and entered into force on 30 January 2016.

10. Understanding Civic and Faith-Based Education in Albania

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Duration: January 2015 – ongoing

IDM Department: RDC

This project was successful in introducing the format of Project Citizen to religious communities' non-public schools thanks to the contribution of the Albanian religious communities and other relevant actors. Through Project Citizen Program, the "Understanding Civic and Faith-Based Education in Albania" Project gave an important contribution to promoting and fostering civic values and participation, religious tolerance and understanding. It also encouraged and supported specific efforts to establish cooperation between local stakeholders, including public and non-public educational institutions, religious communities, local authorities, civil society, media, etc. The project engaged thousands of students in 9 religious non-public schools over the years. It built awareness on the importance of concrete civic actions in promoting harmony, understanding, tolerance, and diversity and provided an excellent opportunity to religious community non-public schools as well as public schools in Albania to demonstrate their willingness to become a vital part of their communities.

11. Integrity Building of the Albanian Public Service: An analysis of the Ethical Framework Governing the Conduct of Albanian Public Servants

Donor: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Office in Tirana

Duration: March 2015 - October 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This project aimed to strengthen the integrity of the public administration in Albania through the improvement of the regulatory framework on ethics. The project was built on two main pillars: 1) Conduct an assessment of the ethical framework governing the ethics of Albanian public servants and produce recommendations for improvement. To this end, recommendations and policy advice were provided for improving the approach to ethics and ethics infrastructure accordingly. 2) Advocate for the improvement of the framework on ethics with the targeted institutions and stakeholders.

12. For an Increased Effectiveness of Community Policing in Albania

Donor: Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

Duration: March 2015- March 2016

IDM Department: CESA

This project aim was to advocate for improved implementation of community policing model in Albania through active involvement and effective cooperation between the Albanian State Police (ASP) and the local government units (LGUs). The project assessed the process of interaction of ASP and LGUs as well as the outcome of the interaction, namely, the yearly regional community policing strategies. The advocacy component of the project included the publication and dissemination of the assessment report and the presentation to and discussion with stakeholders in a public event.

13. Social Partnerships at the Local Level to Address the Employment Challenge in Albania

Donor: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Office in Tirana

Duration: March 2015- May 2015

IDM Department: RDC

Under this project, a research report was produced with the aim of assessing the current state of social dialogue and its enabling conditions in view of promoting the Decent Work Agenda in Albania. This initiative focused on the search for new ways to empower workers and engage civil society actors to take a proactive role in promoting social dialogue and addressing employment challenges in Albania.

14. Police Integrity Index

Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Duration: May 2015-November 2016

IDM Department: CESA

This project aimed at strengthening the fight against corruption by addressing the evidence gap on the phenomenon in the State Police and improving legal mechanisms and policy measures and building integrity of police service. Tailored made outputs were designed for the Albanian State Police (ASP), within the framework of sustainable anti-corruption policies and integrity building tools. A series of local workshops on police integrity building were held with representatives of ASP at the regional directorates. IDM designed a “Handbook on Police Ethics and Integrity” for ASP training needs. Moreover, IDM produced a comprehensive assessment of police corruption in Albania to be used as a strategic resource for adopting adequate anti-corruption and integrity-building measures. The findings of the study on “Police Corruption and Integrity 2.0” were shared with representatives of the Ministry of Interior, independent institutions, civil society, media, and international partners supporting Albania’s reforms in the police sector at a national conference on 11 November 2016.

15. South-Eastern European Data Services

Donor: Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS)

Duration: May 2015- April 2017

IDM Department: RDC

SEEDS – South-Eastern European Data Services – is a Swiss-funded project (FORS Grant) seeking to help establish new data services for the social sciences in Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The main objectives of this project are to put partner research institutions on track to serve as national data services, serving their national research communities; to build and expand archiving capacities, know-how, and technical infrastructure; to promote the ideas of data sharing and secondary analyses in the partner countries; to prepare the new data services in South-Eastern European countries to become members of CESSDA – the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives. The project extended the capacities of selected partner institutions and developed knowledge and tools related to data service infrastructures. It brought partner institutions into the fold of an international movement and network that will provide long-term benefits not only to these institutions, but more importantly to the respective national research communities. With viable new data services in these countries, valuable research data was saved, preserved, and made available for secondary analysis for the years to come.

16. Elections Integrity Index: Local Administration Elections in Albania, 21 June, 2015

Donor: OSFA

Duration: May 2015- October 2015

IDM Department: RDC

Election's Integrity Index (EII) is an assessment of the quality of elections by the Albania's civil society organizations (CSO). The aim of the EII Project was to contribute to the improvement of the election in Albania and to strengthen the civil society's role in consolidating the country's democracy. The CSOs increased their role during the local elections of 21 June 2015 through a series of monitoring and advocating activities. Based on the findings of their monitoring of local elections IDM prepared the Election Integrity Index report.

17. Use of Indicators to Improve Accountability and Promote Regional Competition

Donor: Open Society Foundation; the Balkan Trust for Democracy; Think-Tank-Fund.

Duration: June 2015 – November 2015

IDM Department: RDC

This project aimed at encouraging competition among countries in the Western Balkans on the performance of public authorities through the use of a joint online platform (www.ind4dev.scards.com). The collection of data for standardized indicators for six regional countries enabled comparison of their performance, expecting to put in motion public shame in countries lagging behind others. By corollary, instigating competition to the criteria in a fast manner can encourage political leaders to conduct deeper and faster reforms. This project was implemented by the Democracy for Development (D4D) in Prishtina, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in Tirana, the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE) in Belgrade, the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in Skopje, the Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) in Podgorica, and the ANALITIKA-Center for Social Research in Sarajevo.

18. Empowering Women through Economic Clusters Development. Community-Based Agro-Tourism Cluster in the Municipality of Belsh

Donor: UN Women

Duration: June 2015- March 2016

IDM Department: LGID

The overall objective of this project was to ensure economic advancement and better self-employment opportunities for women in the Municipality of Belsh, by

promoting, developing and supporting a cluster of community-based agro-tourism. Within a period of nine-month, the project achieved the following results:

- Comprehensive guidelines for community-based agro-tourism women cluster developed;
- One pilot community-based agro-tourism women cluster established;
- Economic activity and territorial valorization expanded;
- Institutional capacities built among women economic cluster members leading to increased levels of cooperation and networking.

Some of the main outputs delivered and activities undertaken in the framework of the project implementation were the following:

- Preparation of a methodology on community-based agro-tourism women cluster;
- Business environment analysis report relevant to cluster development;
- Capacity building plan aiming at developing knowledge and skills of stakeholders on agro-based clusters;
- Establishment of the community-based agro-tourism cluster;
- Capacity building activities for cluster members (workshops, mini-fair, study visit, etc.);
- Website development for the promotion of the Cluster and the territory (www.ejanebelsh.al);
- Organization of a national conference launching women economic clusters;
- Production a short documentary on the cluster and its activity – aiming at increasing visibility of the cluster to a wider audience and link it to new potential markets.

19. Audit of Political Engagement 2016

Donor: National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Duration: July 2015-January 2016

IDM Department: RDC

IDM conducted an inaugural public opinion study that explores citizens' engagement in democratic processes as an indicator of the health of a society. The study involved interviews across Albania with 1,538 participants over 18 years of age and four focus groups. It examined a range of political engagement indicators grouped in three areas: political knowledge and interest; political participation and action at local and national levels; and efficiency and satisfaction. It also examined participants' perceptions on Parliament and their elected representatives, as a responsive and accountable Parliament is a foundational pillar of democratic governance.

20. Boosting the Immunity of Communities to Violent Extremism

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Duration: September 2015 -May 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The primary objective of this project was to build indigenous CVE capacity and motivate communication and tech-savvy youth in the Western Balkans to develop creative and high-impact digital solutions to undermine violent extremism. This initiative covered Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia target groups as a first step towards the creation of an integrated regional (Western Balkans) network of CVE activists that transcends ethnic divides and operates as an antithesis to the transnational and highly efficient radicalization and recruitment network operating in the region. Key activities to achieve the objective consisted in preparatory actions; developing modules for online training on risks and threats of religious extremism, religious manipulation; identifying and helping to address religious radicalization instances, CVE etc.; organizing a four-day CVE Tech Workshop with teams of technology-savvy university students from three countries who would design and implement electronic CVE campaigns; and a follow up Learn-and-Share forum, which helps the design of the regional network of CVE activists.

21. Opinion Poll Trust in Governance, 2015 and 2016

Donor: UNDP

Duration: 2015- 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The objective of the opinion poll was to explore the level of trust towards public institutions as well as the attitudes towards the performance of public institutions and service delivery in Albania. It provided insights on public beliefs, perceptions and attitudes on issues such as trust in public institutions, institutional transparency and accountability, level of corruption, efficiency and effectiveness of public services, level of citizen engagement in policy and decision-making, and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies. This opinion poll served as an instrument to monitor standards in open government, citizen engagement, and rule of law in Albania on yearly basis. In 2016, the Opinion Poll was conducted for the 4th consecutive year (2013-2016) based on a similar methodology, instrument and national coverage.

22. Elaboration of Local Development Operational Plans for Newly Established Local Government Units in Albania, Mirdita, Has, Bulqiza

Donor: UNDP Albania

Duration: September 2015- January 2016

IDM Department: LGID

Albania's STAR project - a mechanism for financial management of a multi-donor pooled fund managed by UNDP Albania to support development and implementation of Albania's territorial-administrative reform - assisted a selected number of LGUs in the elaboration of local development operational plans (LDOP); provided technical assistance to new municipalities to prepare LDOPs, including projects fiche for capital investments for a short-term period of 3 years. IDM was contracted to assist this process for three beneficial municipalities (Mirdita, Has, and Bulqiza). The preparation of LDOPs came as a challenge and an immediate need to the new municipalities to integrate various plans of action and ensure administrative and territorial cohesion of the amalgamated territory.

23. Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index for Albania

Donor: Management Systems International (MSI)

Duration: 2010- Ongoing

IDM Department: RDC

The Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI) for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia has been used since 1997 to assess the sustainability of the CSO sector. The Index measures the sustainability of each country's CSO sector based on the CSOSI's seven dimensions: legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. IDM has been entrusted with the task of preparing the report since 2010.

24. Think-Tank Young Professional Development Program for MA and PhD Graduates

Donor: Think Tank Fund, OSI

Duration: September 2015- September 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The Think-Tank Young Professional Development Program aimed to attract recent graduates of MA and PhD programs from universities in the OECD countries to selected think-tanks in Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, giving them an opportunity to gain first-hand policy research and advocacy experience at a renowned think-tank in the region. Since 2014, IDM has hosted three (3) young professionals.

25. OPENALB OGP - A Government and Civic Partnership in Fighting Corruption and Promoting Good Governance

Donor: Democracy Commission Small Grants Program of USA Embassy in Tirana

Duration: September 2015- September 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The overall objective of OpenAlb was to foster inclusive, accountable and transparent governance and policy-making through enhanced civil society expertise and strengthened dialogue and structures for dialogue between civil society and government within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (<http://openalb.net/>). The specific objectives of this project were:

- Empower civil society to analyze, monitor, and engage in, more effective and transparent policy-making,
- Foster CSO-government cooperation on Open Government Partnership, including citizens' engagement around setting OGP action plan commitments.

In the course of the project implementation, a variety of advocacy activities and events were organized. In this regard, two studies were conducted on the 'Evaluation of Service Delivery at Local Level in the Municipalities of Shkodra and Fier'. The findings and recommendations were shared through a series of events aiming at strengthening CSO-government dialogue on policy areas that feed into OGP action plans as well as share know-how and expertise between CSOs and government actors. In addition, as a result of this project, Albania officially launched the National Permanent OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum called OpenALB (www.openalb.net) on March 2016. The OGP Forum was jointly created by the Minister of Innovation and Public Administration and the Albanian OGP CSO Coalition as initiators. Through this Multi-Stakeholder Forum, both government and civil society committed to promote the OGP initiative, facilitate the consultation processes and the development of national action plans, as well as monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of OGP commitments. On this note, in June 2016 a set of thematic working groups were organized bringing together government institutions and civil society representatives to discuss each commitment proposed for the Albanian OGP Action Plan 2016-2018 and generate a set of final recommendations.

26. 'Skills for Jobs'

Donor: SDC in Albania

Duration: October 2015-April 2016

IDM Department: RDC

'Skills for jobs' is a SDC -funded project, implemented by Swisscontact in Albania. During the inspection phase IDM was contracted to undertake a thorough analysis

to support with evidence the selection of the sectors and the geographic focus and of the Vocational Skills Development (VSD) system functioning specifically regarding new ways of inclusive learning. The report provides details of the process that led to the selection of the sectors and geography as well as a thorough analysis of the VSD system in Albania, focusing in four sectors of the economy. Following the finalization of the report, a conference was held in April 2016 to present the study findings and recommendations as well as to share skills development challenges and opportunities.

27. Building Integrity in Security Sector through Financial Oversight

Donor: Royal Norwegian Embassy

Duration: December 2015- November 2016

IDM Department: CESA

The project aimed to provide the Parliamentary Committee of Economy and Finances (CEF) with in-depth and state-of-the-art knowledge on the process of budgeting, control and oversight of spending in Albania's security sector, and to advocate for improved capacities and expertise of the State Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) in order to effectively scrutinize the security sector spending and management of resources. More specifically, the project contributed to:

- Improving the capacities and expertise of the SAI to effectively scrutinise the security sector spending and management of resources;
- Improving the relations between the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) and the Committee on Economy and Finances (CEF) in the Parliament; and,
- Strengthening the role of the civil society in the financial oversight of the security sector.

In the final event of the project, the publication of three backgrounders and three case studies on: security sector budgeting, performance auditing and procurements shared with the relevant stakeholders.

28. Project Citizen against Corruption

Donor: USA Embassy in Tirana

Duration: December 2015 – August 2016

IDM Department: RDC

This project raised awareness among youth about corruption and provided skills to them to become active fighters against this negative phenomenon. The ultimate aim was to provide students with adequate knowledge and tools to implement small community initiatives and activities. The project targeted students of 10 and/or 11 grade in public high schools in the cities of Shkodra, Kukes, Elbasan, Berat, and Vlora, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Sports and Minister of

State for Local Issues. A handbook on youth anticorruption tools was designed as an instrument to guide the planning and implementation of youth activities. Youth Integrity Clubs were established in each school. Moreover, youth-led initiatives against corruption were implemented throughout the project in their communities.

29. WeBER (Western Balkans Enabling Project for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform

Donor: European Union & the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration: December 2015-November 2018

IDM Department: RDC

WeBER is implemented by a consortium of seven think tanks under the lead of Center for European Policies (CEP Belgrade), partnered up with Think for Europe Network (ten.europeanpolicy.org). The overall goal of WeBER is to increase the relevance, participation, and capacity of civil society organizations and media in the Western Balkans (WB) to advocate for and influence the design and implementation of public administration reform (PAR). WeBER will accomplish its goals by facilitating civil society monitoring of PAR to be based on evidence and analysis in the WB and by enabling sustainable regional and national government-CSO consultation platforms, policy dialogue and quality media reporting on PAR. In addition, WeBER will enable local watchdog, grassroots organizations, and media to work on local PAR issues and will improve organizational and financial sustainability and transparency of the CSO Think for Europe Network (TEN) and its member organizations.

30. ALTER-Active Local Territories for Economic Development of Rural Areas

Donor: European Commission

Duration: January 2016-December 2019

IDM Department: LGID

ALTER is implemented by a consortium of rural networks in Western Balkan countries and Turkey, encouraged and supported by Prepare – Partnership for Rural Europe (www.preparenetwork.org). The goal of ALTER is:

- Stimulate an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society;
- Empower civil society to be effective and accountable independent actors,
- Improve their capacity to dialogue with governments influencing policy and decision making processes in sustainable development of rural communities and holding them accountable for their performance towards citizens and society at large.

This action has a primary focus on networking, capacity building, and advocacy. Special attention will be paid to crosscutting issues, such as support to vulnerable

categories and marginalized groups, social entrepreneurship, encouraging innovation in rural areas, and environmental conservation. IDM is the Albanian implementing organization, whereas the outputs of the project will contribute to the consolidation of the Albanian Network for Rural Development.

31. CIVILISC- Civil Society Instruments against Corruption

Donor: European Union

Duration: January 2016- August 2018

IDM Department: RDC

The overall objective of the project implemented by IDM (lead partner) and Risk Monitor (Bulgaria) is to empower and develop capacities of civil society in disadvantaged areas in order to promote good governance and to fight corruption. This project targets 12 small and medium municipalities such as: Ura Vajgurore, Cerrik, Divjaka, Tepelena, Libohova, Devoll, Selenica, Prrenjas, Lushnje, Shijak, Belsh, and Vora. CIVILISC aims to provide civil society organizations across Albania, in remote and underdeveloped areas in particular, with resources and skills so they are able to work in a professional and sustainable way to uphold good governance and high integrity in the civic and government sectors. About 70% of the project's budget will be re-granted to civil society organizations' initiatives in the target municipalities to increase their role in strengthening civil society, good governance, and the fight against corruption at local level. The CIVILISC Project activities build on three main pillars: assessment, capacity development, and sub-granting.

32. Regional Hidden Economy Monitoring in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo

Donor: Ballcan Trust for Democracy

Duration: January 2016-July 2017

IDM Department: RDC

The goal of this project is to strengthen the capacity of the civil society and the public institutions in developing evidence and policy solutions to address hidden economy and corruption in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo seeking to uphold democracy, economic rights, and rule of law and to reduce ethnic, religious and class divisions, poverty, and inequality. The Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia, is the lead organization of this project. Co-applicants include the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in Albania and the Development for Democracy (D4D) in Kosovo. The publication of a Policy Brief "The Shadow Worker – Hidden Economy and Undeclared Labor in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo" is among deliverable of the project.

33. Promoting Labour Standards in Albania

Donor: Olof Palme International Center

Duration: February 2016- December 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The project focuses on the Decent Work Agenda in Albania by promoting and supporting multi-stakeholder cooperation, and nurturing the Tripartism Plus principle for fostering protection of labour rights. Its specific objectives include:

- Prepare a thorough understanding on the current state of labour rights in Albania;
- Raise awareness among relevant stakeholders, workers and youth groups on the current state of labour rights;
- Promote and support stakeholders in selected regions or economic sectors in Albania.

A thorough study on the current state of labour standards in Albania was produced. The study looked specifically at 7 aspects of labour rights vis-à-vis the international labour standards as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and was focused on the mining, construction and cut-and-sew sector. The research was followed by awareness activities conducted at the national (Tirana) and local level (Durrës, Shkodra, Bulqiza).

34. Western Balkan CSOs for Global Development

Donor: SlovakAid

Duration: March 2016 – August 2017

IDM Department: RDC

The “Western Balkan CSOs for Global Development” Project is a regional endeavor linking CSOs in the Western Balkans with organizations in the EU13, which recently went through the processes of preparation for the implementation of development projects and educational activities and for building mechanisms for advocacy with local governments and the EU. The overall aim of the project for Albania is to strengthen civil society, their understanding of global development agenda and to enhance their involvement in the efforts towards global poverty eradication and global justice. Activities implemented under this project include research, awareness, and capacity building.

35. Tirana SPEAKS!

Donor: Leviz Albania

Duration: April 2016- May 2017

IDM Department: LGID

The above initiative rely on the provisions of the Law No. 139/2015 on Local Self-Governance (Articles 68 and 69), which stipulates the creation of a new reality of community self-organization. The main goal is to contribute towards the development of participatory democracy and good governance through volunteer community activism of community structures in Albania. The Project's two main components include:

- Awareness activities of local communities and various interest groups about the implementation of the law on local self-government and voluntary community organization; and,
- Capacity building of local authorities and other relevant local institutions for functional partnerships with citizens and regulatory framework of community structures.

The project envisages 12 roundtable discussions in 12 municipalities across Albania to introduce the implications of the law and to provide support to local public and non-public stakeholders. The Municipal Council of Berat is the first local government unit that approved the proposed regulatory framework and started to set up the community structures. A policy brief based on the discussion held on these roundtables has been drafted to identify the challenges to a functional model of community structures.

36. Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in Albania

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Duration: May 2016 -April 2017

IDM Department: RDC

This project has brought together representatives of the six municipalities –Korça, Pogradec, Peqin, Rrogozhina, Shkodra and Vlora– in a series of working sessions to exchange, learn, and develop understanding and capacities, to coordinate and finally to elaborate specific action plans for community resilience against violent extremism (VE) responding to the specific concern and challenges faced by local communities in these municipalities. This initiative has engaged local stakeholders – civil society, religious communities, local government representatives, education directorates and institutions, social welfare and service directorates, etc. – in developing six documents on community resilience (to VE) and public safety for municipalities, in line with the National CVE Strategy (November 2015).

37. The Centre of Expertise on Policymaking Systems in the Western Balkans CEPs Web Project

Donor: Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS)

Duration: June 2016-November 2016

IDM Department: RDC

CEPS WeB project builds upon the previous track record of close cooperation among organizations involved: the European Policy Centre (EPC) from Belgrade, Institute Alternative (IA) from Montenegro, the European Policy Institute (EPI) from Macedonia, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) from Albania, the Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) from Kosovo, and the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This cooperation evolved firstly within the regional network of thinks-thanks - Think for Europe Network (TEN), which was established by EPC, IA and EPI, amid weak regional cooperation in the EU-related policy research. CEPS WeB aims to improve the quality and use of policy research as a basis for policymaking in the Western Balkans, through the development and internationalization of existing network of policy research organizations. Promotion of the need for transparent, accessible, credible as well as scientifically supported data would constitute the very essence of the Centre's work. CEPS WeB is thus a future-oriented, virtual entity, falling under the scope of the TEN network.

38. Support Anti-Corruption measures in Albania

Donor: OSCE Presence in Albania

Duration: August 2016- January 2017

IDM Department: RDC

The "Support Anti-Corruption Measures in Albania" Project, supported by the Italian Government, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Italian School of Public Administration, is conceptualised and implemented by the OSCE Presence in Albania. In the framework of this project, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) was contracted by the OSCE Presence in Albania to conduct a series of 13 local forum consultations with local CSOs and business communities, on the one hand, and the National Coordinator against Corruption, on the other, to help implement and monitor the anti-corruption measures. Forums involving civil society actors, representatives of the business community, and the community at large were used to discuss and assess the progress of the current anti-corruption measures to date, to learn from the best practices, and to identify opportunities for overcoming difficulties and obstacles that CSOs and business community as well as the public at large encounter in implementing, monitoring and reporting on anti-corruption practices. IDM experts produced a local forums' report and a white paper with concrete policy alternatives to improve the anti-corruption framework in Albania.

39. Western Balkans Pulse for Police Integrity and Trust (POINTPULSE)

Donor: European Commission

Duration: January 2016- December 2016

IDM Department: CESA

The POINTPULSE Project was implemented by a network of seven CSOs, including the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), the Centre for Security Studies (CSS), the Institute Alternative (IA), the Kosovo Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), and the Analytica. The projects' goal was to monitor the state of police integrity in law enforcement agencies and advocate for policy changes for tackling police corruption. The overall objective is to contribute to increased trust and confidence in the law enforcement agencies in the Western Balkans by fighting police corruption and promoting police integrity. This project has developed a three-fold approach:

- Implement a methodological framework for analyzing police corruption by providing a coherent, comprehensive assessment of the state of play regarding police integrity;
- Monitor and benchmark police integrity by conducting public opinion survey and producing policy analyses, national reports, and annual reports on the state of police integrity both at national and regional level;
- Influence policy makers and raise awareness on police integrity by organizing panel discussions and conferences, developing online platform, and making active use of the social media.

40. Amplifying Credible Voices

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Duration: September 2016 - September 2017

IDM Department: RDC

As part of its efforts to prevent violent extremism, IDM facilitated the participation of twenty participants from Albania at a workshop in Prishtina (April 2016) organized by Global Engagement Center. Workshop participants developed proposals to support local campaigns. These proposals were reviewed and approved by Global Engagement Center (US). IDM is monitoring and supporting the implementation of these initiatives, which include diverse activities, such as awareness, public debates, trainings, youth activities, ICT tools, etc.

41. Economic and Social Empowerment for Roma and Egyptians - a Booster for Social Inclusion (ESERE)

Donor: UNDP

Duration: November 2016 - June 2017

IDM Department: LGID

The purpose of this project is to design and deliver trainings to local authorities on participatory local planning and budgeting, tailored to address the specific needs of the Roma and Egyptian communities, and facilitate the preparation (revise the existing plans in Tirana, Durrës and Berat and prepare a new plan for Shkodra) of the three-year Roma and Egyptian Local Community Development Action Plans in each of the selected municipalities (Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, and Berat). This project is implemented in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra and Berat. The target group of the project include the municipal staff, Roma and Egyptian communities in four target areas, civil society representatives, and active and engaged citizens.

IDM MAIN ACTIVITIES 2015-2016

Advocacy Meeting on Revitalizing Community Liaison Structures

Tirana, 24 February 2015

IDM Department: LGID



The main objective of this meeting was to bring to the attention of political stakeholders the need to establish community liaison structures as a critical instrument that brings power closer to the citizens and increases government accountability and responsiveness. The meeting was held at the Parliamentary Committee for Legal Issues, Public

Administration and Human Rights with the participation of Mr. Bashkim Fino, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Local Government, Mr. Enea Hoti, Advisor to the Minister of State for Local Issues, Mrs. Voltana Ademi, Member of Parliament, Ylli Asllani, Advisor to the President, and representatives of USAID Planning and Local Governance Project. The establishment of community liaison structures was proposed as a key solution in minimizing the challenges faced at the local level following the administrative and territorial consolidation.

“Civil Protection System in Albania and Its Related Regional Cooperation” Regional Conference

Tirana, 06 March 2015

IDM Department: CESA



The event was held within the framework of a three-year joint research project with the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) and the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference highlighted the fact that Albania is still suffering from natural disasters, with an annual economic cost of about 2.5% of its GDP (much higher than the

regional average losses of about 1% of GDP). So far, the Albanian institutions have paid more attention to response and less to other Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection components. Albania’s civil emergency strategies and plans lack the implementation mechanisms, while capacity development is lagging behind. Regional conference attendees included representatives of civil emergency institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, etc.), scientific institutions (Institute of Geosciences, Faculty of Geology and Mining, Military Meteorological

Service, European University of Tirana, etc.) as well as other stakeholders from the civil society, Albanian Red Cross, academia, media, etc.

Citizen against Corruption 2015 Project

Elbasan, 8 May 2015

IDM Department: RDC



Students of high schools in Elbasan engaged in “Citizen against Corruption Project” carried out anti-corruption awareness activities in various areas, such as healthcare, education, judiciary, etc. Among important attendees at this activity were the US Ambassador to Albania, Donald Lu; Minister of Education and Sports Mrs. Lindita Nikolla and Minister for

Local Government Bledi Çuçi. The students of Elbasan high schools participating in the project proposed the introduction of an anti-corruption module in the civic education curriculum in order to educate responsible citizens that are willing to refuse to engage in corrupt practices and to fight phenomenon.

“Decentralization and Local Autonomy” National Conference

Tirana, 13 May 2015

IDM Department: LGID



The national conference shared the major findings of the monitoring of the drafting process of the “National Cross-Cutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance (2015-2020)” and its analysis, along with the methodological approach and indicators that can be used to evaluate the impact of decentralization in Albania. In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Christoph Graf,

Ambassador of Switzerland, highlighted the fact that IDM’s study brings valuable insights as regards the process of decentralization, and he eagerly invited institutions to convey the issues brought up by the study to the central and local government, associations and other stakeholders. Participants in the event included local officials, representatives of local government associations, civil society, central government, donor-funded programs in the area of local governance, donor community, and the diplomatic corps and missions.

“Religious Radicalism and Violent Extremism in Albania” National Conference

Tirana, 10 July 2015

IDM Department: RDC



foreign diplomatic missions etc.

The key findings of the study “Religious Radicalism and Violent Extremism in Albania” were presented at a national conference, which gathered representatives of the expert community and civil society in the country, experts of state institutions and senior officials, representatives of international organizations,

School on Security Policy

Bar, 4 - 18 September 2015

IDM Department: CESA



methodology – with the concepts in the field of security studies, placing special focus on regional dynamics and the security aspects of Serbian-Albanian relations. After having completed the program, the participants of the School were able to successfully apply the main tools to analyze the security environment and to interpret the relations among Serbia, Kosovo and Albania in the context of European integration and the fast-changing global security landscape.

The School on Security Policy was held from 4 to 18 September 2015 in Bar, Montenegro, and brought together 18 young professionals, representatives of state institutions, civil society organizations and media from Serbia, Kosovo and Albania. The aim of the School on Security Policy was to familiarize participants – through an interactive approach and innovative

The first “Western Balkans OGP Dialogue”: Open Government, Engaged Citizens: A Learn and Show Initiative to Make Open Government Partnership Work

Tirana, 10-11 September 2015

IDM Department: RDC



countries, GP coordination teams from WB governments, Local government representatives/authorities from WB countries, representatives from the private

This two day event focused on effective initiatives to further open government in the region, gathered around 200 Albanian and international participants, including High-level representatives from Western Balkans governments; CSO representatives working on OGP from all WB

sector and businesses from the WB countries; media. The Western Balkans OGP Dialogue agenda was designed to encourage participants to learn from each other about effective efforts to strengthen open government and on the obstacles to open government, and how to overcome them. It facilitated reflection on the results achieved to date, set ambitious new commitments for greater openness, and demonstrate what transparency really means for people on the ground.

“Networking for Rural Development in Albania” National Conference

Puka, 26 September 2015

IDM Department: LGID



This conference was jointly organized by AGRO-PUKA and the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) on behalf of Albanian Rural Development Network (ARDN). The conference gathered, among others, representatives of 12 civil society organizations working in rural development throughout Albania and a representative of the

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MoARDWA). The conference served as a platform for the attending civil society organizations to discuss and agree on establishing and following a 6-month consultation process, the Albanian Rural Development Network.

“Legal Framework and Modernization Challenges of Private Security Sector” Roundtable

Tirana 18 December 2015

IDM Department: CESA



This roundtable launched the main findings and recommendations of the study on ‘Albanian Private Security Companies’ to representatives of private security companies, high level officials of State Police, representatives from respective state institutions responsible for controlling and oversight, business associations and other interested government and non-governments

bodies. Further analysis on the implementation progress of the new legal framework along with constrains were discussed among participants.

Presentation of the Opinion Poll “Trust in Governance 2015”

Tirana, 1 February 2016

IDM Department: RDC



IDM presented the findings of the Opinion Poll “Trust in Governance 2015” conducted during November-December 2015 in the 61 municipalities of Albania. The Public Opinion Poll examined the levels of public trust in government institutions as well as citizens’ attitudes towards the performance of public institutions and service delivery. This Opinion Poll was conducted for the 3rd consecutive year (2013-2016) based on a similar methodology, instrument and national coverage of surveyed citizens.

Launching of the Albanian OGP ‘OpenALB’ Forum

Tirana, 23 March 2016

IDM Department: RDC



The “OpenALB: Albanian Multi-Stakeholder Forum” was officially launched by the Minister of Innovation and Public Administration and the Albanian OGP CSO Coalition. The Forum brought together representatives of national government, civil society organisations and interest groups to enter into a dialogue in securing concrete commitments to drive open government reform and innovation at the national level. Through this Multi-Stakeholder Forum, both government and civil society committed to promote the Open Government Partnership initiative, facilitate the consultation processes and drafting of the national action plans, and monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of OGP commitments. Greeting remarks to this meeting were delivered by the Minister of Innovation and Public Administration, Ms. Milena Harito, who is also the OGP National Coordinator in Albania, US Ambassador H.E Donald Lu, and Mr. Sotiraq Hroni, IDM Executive Director.

“Launching the Community-Based Agro-Based Cluster in Belsh” National Conference

Belsh, 31 March 2016

IDM Department: LGID

The National Conference launched the community agro-based cluster with broad participation of different stakeholders, such as representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Management, UN Women in Albania, local administration of the Municipality of Belsh, University of Agriculture,



representatives of public institutions both at the central and regional levels, international organizations operating in our country, universities, tour operators, local businesses and local organizations interested in such experience. A mini-fair of local products produced by women of the cluster preceded the event along with a short documentary entitled "Visit Belsh". The representative of a tour operator presented to the conference participants a similar community-based agro experience in Albania, as an opportunity to motivate all local residents present at the conference to view the agro-tourism as a real economic opportunity.

IDM Launches Findings of Political Engagement Report in Tirana, Durrës and Shkodra

22 April 2016

IDM Department: RDC



The aim of this roundtable was to launch findings of the survey "Audit of Political Engagement in Albania" and discuss ways to improve political and civic engagement with representatives of CSOs, political parties, international partners, and media. Event organizers presented the findings of the study conducted by means of a poll and focus groups across Albania in early 2016, examining citizens' engagement in democratic processes as an indicator of the health of a society.

Roundtable on Effectiveness of Community Policing in Albania

Tirana, 27 April 2016

IDM Department: CESA



The main highlights of the study on 'An Assessment of Community Policing in Albania 2007-2015' were discussed with representatives of State Police, local and central governments, international partner police organizations, people's advocate, and civil society. Other issues of discussion included strengthening of external accountability mechanisms of the Albanian State Police in order to enhance police integrity and effective policing.

“Corruption and Strengthening State Police Integrity” Conference

Tirana, 11 November 2016

IDM Department: CESA



IDM launched the findings of the study on “Police Corruption and Integrity 2.0” on 11 November 2016 at a conference with representatives of independent institutions, civil society, media, and international partners supporting Albania’s reforms in the police sector. This study is an output of the ‘Police Integrity Index Project’ supported by the Dutch Embassy in Tirana (in the

framework of MATRA Programme for Rule of Law), designed to foster reforms focused on anti-corruption and rule of law in Albania. As the Albanian Ombudsman highlighted in the closing panel, corruption is one of the most severe human rights violations. Therefore, more proactive approach is expected by law enforcement agencies, the police being one of them. Ambassador Dewi van de Weerd took stock of all the good cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Albanian State Police and emphasized the importance of a ‘checks and balance’ system and the important watchdog role civil society plays in mature democracies. The index provides an opportunity to make progress with commitments, also in the light of Albania’s EU integration progress; the fight against corruption being one of the five key priorities.

“Revisiting 2013 Agenda for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society”

Discussion Roundtable

Tirana, 25 November 2016

IDM Department: RDC



As a stocktaking exercise reflecting on IDM’s advocacy efforts towards improving the enabling environment for civil society in Albania, and in the context of the upcoming 2017 general elections, a national meeting gathering civil society, donor community, government representatives and other stakeholders was held. The roundtable

evaluated the 2013-2016 experience of addressing the priorities agreed between the Government and CSOs in December 2013 with the aim of improving the enabling environment for civil society. Additionally, discussions touched upon the opportunities and the need to contextualize the civil society development discourse beyond “optimum” standards for involvement, influence, and impact on EU accession negotiations and other broader development processes in Albania.

Presentation of Findings of the Assessment Report on “Challenges of Local Government Units in the Fight against Corruption”

August- September 2016

IDM Department: RDC



IDM presented the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment report “Challenges of Local Government Units in the Fight against Corruption”. This report shed light on several challenges confronting municipalities and civil society at preventing and fighting corruption at local level.

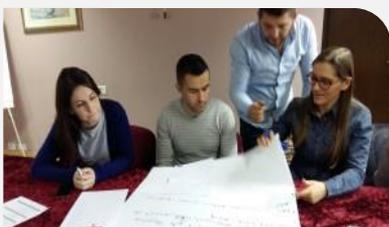
Conclusions and recommendations of this

report have been presented to 12 municipalities: Ura Vajgurore, Shijak, Cerrik, Belsh, Prrenjas, Lushnje, Divjaka, Libohova, Tepelena, Devoll, Vora, and Selenica. These meetings served as an early awareness/communication effort of the CIVILISC Project and its activities, placing particular focus on capacity building of local civil society actors in the fight against corruption and on sub-granting component. Moreover, these meetings helped to identify motivated civil society actors and establish sustainable communication between LGUs and local CSOs.

“Advocacy, Lobbying and Policy Research and Analysis of Local, National and EU Policies and Instruments of Rural Development” National Training

Tirana, 01 – 03 December 2016

IDM Department: LGID



The overall objective of the national training was to improve the role of CSOs and their networks to be capable of being equal, valuable and resourceful partners to national and regional authorities and EU through their increased knowledge related to advocacy and lobbying, research and analysis, with focus on sustainable rural development. About 20

participants, representing different backgrounds of rural development sector, attended the training. The National Training was held following the “Regional Training for National Networks about Advocacy, Lobbying and Policy Research and Analysis”, where 2 representatives from the Albanian Network for Rural Development were trained and later served as trainers of the national training.

“Community Organizations - A Challenge to Governance” Roundtable

Lezha, 5 December 2016

IDM Department: LGID



The ‘Community Organizations - A Challenge to Governance’ roundtable was a topic that brought together various stakeholders and representatives of local government, members of the municipal councils, administrators of administrative units, civil society organizations, media, activists, and groups of interested citizens

in the city of Lezha. This roundtable marked the first meeting of a series of roundtables organized by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation with the support of Lëviz Albania. The meeting aimed to raise awareness among local public and non-public actors about the establishment, functioning, and challenges of community structures in the framework of the new Law "On Local Self-Government" (Articles 68 and 69). It also served to foster a discussion on the roles and capacities of any actor engaged in such a venture.

Roundtable “Enforcement of Labor Standards in Albania through the Lenses of Social Partners”

Tirana, 16 December 2016

IDM Department: RDC



The Roundtable presented the main findings of the study “Promoting Labor Standards in Albania”, which assessed the country’s compliance with labor standards in three selected sectors of the economy: mining, construction, and cut-and-sew. In addition, the discussion focused on the role the social

partners and necessity for their more coordinated and constructive involvement in the promotion and enforcement of labor legislation. The event brought together representatives of social partners at national level, central government, civil society actors, donor community, and media.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2015-2016

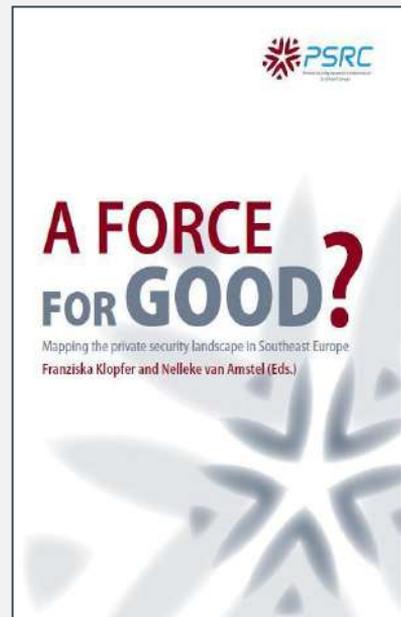
A Force for Good: Mapping the private security landscape in Southeast Europe

Language: English/Albanian/Bulgarian/Serbian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This volume explores and assesses the origins and current state of the private security sector in each of the target countries (Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia and Kosovo), with specific reference to principles of good governance and the protection of human rights. In particular, the authors examine when and how the first private security companies developed and whether and how PSCs, their clients, and other factors, such as relevant legislation, determined the services private security offers today, and which companies were established/have survived in the market. The studies look into the economic importance of private security, especially as a source of employment. They also explore if PSCs are able to provide quality security services by looking at the background and qualifications of managers and employees. This publication is one of the deliverables of the IDM's Project on 'Private Security Companies in the Western Balkans'.



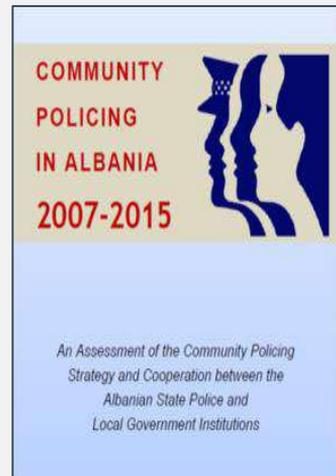
Community Policing in Albania 2007-2015
An Assessment of the Community Policing Strategy and Cooperation between the Albanian State Police and Local Government Institutions

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This study seeks to contribute to the efforts of reviewing the implementation of Community Policing in Albania. It focuses on both the evaluation of the processes of interaction of the Albanian State Police (ASP) and local government institutions (LGI) as well as the outcome of this interaction, namely the annual regional police strategies (ARPS). The processes and outputs are examined in terms of quantity and quality. Thus, the processes are examined by the intensity of interactions between the ASP and the LGI, whereas the ARPS are examined in terms of the regularity and the extent to which they have contributed to improving the communities' safety and security.



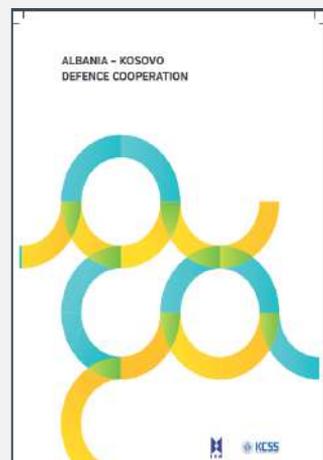
Albania – Kosovo Defense Cooperation

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This study is a product of a series of publications in the framework of the "Security Research Forum "Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana" Project. This particular study is composed of two parts: the first deals with the specificities of politics, security and defense in Kosovo; the second part focuses on the issue of defense cooperation between Albania and Kosovo, analyzing how such cooperation has developed over time, what areas of cooperation have been developed so far, what has gone smoothly, what could be improved and how this can be accomplished.



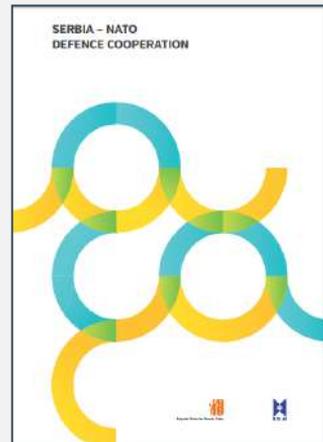
Serbia – NATO Defense Cooperation

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This policy document assesses the legal framework and implementation plans as well as the institutional cooperation in dealing with civil emergencies and disaster management. In this respect, smart choices regarding capacity pooling and sharing with other region and neighboring countries will result in capacity enhancement and significant cost savings. Albania is a disaster-prone country. Disasters' impact is significantly exacerbated by the rapid urbanization, associated with unsafe building and land use practices, lack of infrastructure maintenance, uncontrolled activity against nature and overexploitation of natural resources, as well as other consequences of the transition from a state-controlled economy to a free-market one.



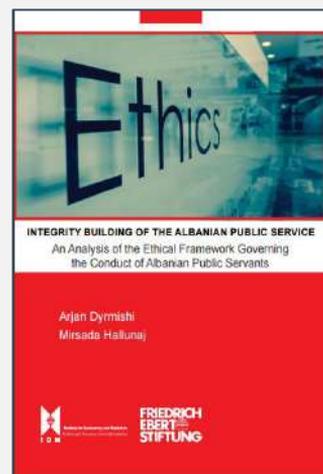
Integrity Building of the Albanian Public Service

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This publication provides an assessment of the ethical framework in the Albanian public administration by examining the international and national setting that has led to the promotion of ethics, the normative and institutional framework on ethics in Albania as well as ethics infrastructure and implementation. The main objective of this publication is to identify the progress made in this respect and the gaps and shortcomings, and to make recommendations for improvement.



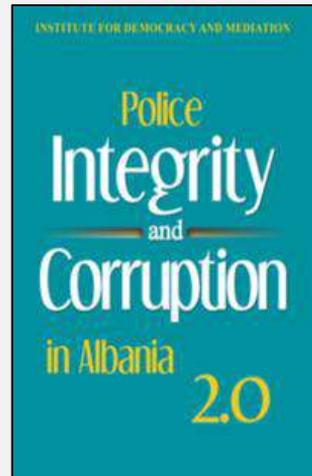
Police Integrity and Corruption in Albania 2.0

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: CESA

The study on “Police Corruption and Integrity 2.0” traces progress and results of police anticorruption measures over the past two years (2014-2016) and offers comparative insights with the findings of IDM’s first assessment of police integrity carried out in 2014. Similar to the first one, this study focuses in measuring the spread of corruption in the State Police, in assessing types of corruption, and in analysis the causes that drive or control police corruption. It also seeks to serve as a milestone for subsequent comparative studies in the area of police corruption.



European and Security Affairs” (ESA) Journal

Security Issues 2015 and 2016

Language: Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

A total of 32 issues have been published by IDM since the launch of this initiative in 2006. During 2015-2016, two issues (30-31) of this quarterly review were published. The ESA Journal targets a specialized audience engaged or interested in the latest developments in the field of security sector reform, regional cooperation, integration processes, challenges of EU’s CFSP and the NATO Defense policy, etc. Major topics of 2015 and 2016 issues included good governance, building democratic institutions, Western Balkans refugee crisis, religious radicalism and violent extremism, and NATO Warsaw Summit 2016.



Whistleblower Protection in Southeast Europe: An Overview of Laws, Practice, and Recent Initiatives

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

IDM is one of the contributors to the report on “Whistleblower Protection in Southeast Europe: An Overview of Laws, Practice, and Recent Initiatives” in 10 Southeast European countries, conducted by Blueprint for Free Speech for the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative. Albania developed a whistleblower protection draft law in 2014 that would cover public and private sector employees; give them the option to contact the media; and pay financial rewards.



Independent analysis and Follow-up of EC country reports on Western Balkan countries

The Western Balkans and Its EU Integration: 2015 Comparative Overview

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

Think-tanks organizations from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia have recently published a comparative analysis of the EU Progress Reports on Western Balkan Countries. This joint initiative is finalized with the realization of an objective analysis of the above-mentioned EU progress reports. This is the first structured attempt to provide an analysis on the basis of a harmonized methodology and unique approach.



Monitoring Report “On Drafting the National Crosscutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance (2015 – 2020)”

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This report presents the results of monitoring the process and content of the drafting of the National Crosscutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance (2015-2020) categorized on three dimensions of decentralization –political, administrative, and fiscal. It builds on experts’ analysis as well as on central and local stakeholders’ perceptions. The main findings of this monitoring are grouped in three sections: a) process of drafting the strategy; b) analysis of strategy; and, c) perception of central and local stakeholders. The purpose of this report is to encourage individuals, groups or organizations involved in the area of local governance in Albania to use these findings to strengthen the local government units and help them acquire the adequate autonomy and capacities in order to promote development and collaboration among them.



Report on Citizen’s Perceptions on Service Delivery by the Municipalities of Shkodra and Fier

Language: Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

The reports were produced in framework of ‘OpenALB’ Project and aimed at evaluating the performance of services provided by the municipalities of Shkodra and Fier. These reports sought to identify challenges and weaknesses and propose relevant solutions to improve the municipalities’ capacities. The report findings emphasized the need for substantial improvement of the social services sector and the social care sector, especially the primary healthcare and waste management sector in both municipalities.



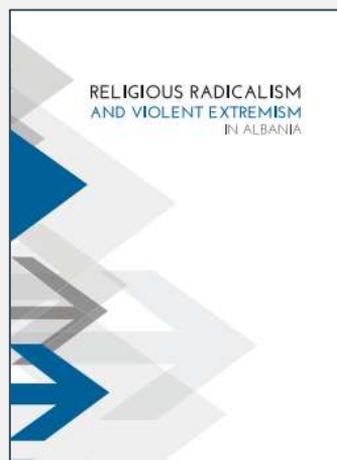
Religious Radicalism and Violent Extremism in Albania

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

Conducted in the framework of the “Preventing (Religion-Based) Radicalization among Youth in Rural Areas” identifies the root causes, this research explores key drivers and risks of potential religious violent extremism and radicalization. The analysis is context-based and examines relevance, magnitude, inter/linkages and consequences of key drivers by looking into a number of “variables” and indicators, such as economic, social, education, cultural, religious, community and state “presence”, etc. This study elaborates on possible mechanisms of intervention by acknowledging the roles and responsibilities of the state actors and religious communities as well as of other non-state actors, such as civil society, media, and academia.



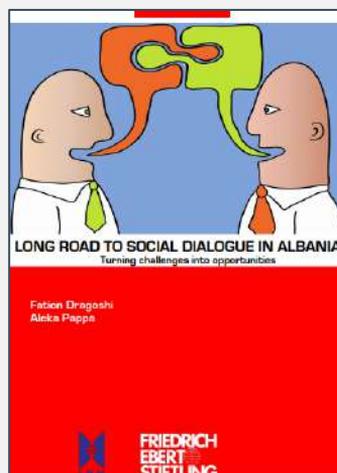
Long Road to Social Dialogue in Albania: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

This publication includes the outcomes of the research carried out by IDM to assess the current state of social dialogue and its enabling conditions at the national and subnational level in Albania. More specifically, the report reviews the history of social dialogue among social partners at the national level, evaluates the current challenges for a functional social dialogue, and appraises the implications of the current level of national social dialogue at the local level. The recommendations drawn in this research focus on the measures required to ensure a more constructive involvement of social partners and other non-state actors and identify future actions in the area of social dialogue and labor market governance, with a special emphasis on the expansion of social dialogue at the subnational/territorial level to achieve the objectives set by the Decent Work Agenda.



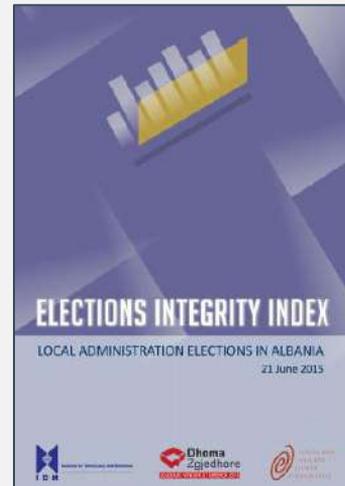
Elections Integrity Index Local Administration Elections in Albania 21 June 2015

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

Elections Integrity Index (EII) is an assessment of the quality of local elections of the 21 June 2015 based mainly on the reports produced by Albanian CSOs that monitored the election. The aim of the EII is to contribute to the improvement of Albania's elections and to strengthen the role of the civil society in the consolidation of the country's democracy. In addition to providing a unified effort by domestic actors in assessing the election process, the EII constitutes an alternative to the international observers' assessment reports but through a more comprehensive approach.



2014/2015 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index for Albania

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2015/2016

IDM Department: RDC

The Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index (CSOSI) for Central and Eastern Europe and Euroasia has been used since 1997 to assess the sustainability of the CSO sector. The Index measures the sustainability of each country's CSO sector based on the CSOSI's seven dimensions: legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. The Index is a useful source of information for local CSOs, governments, donors, academics, and others who want to better understand and monitor key aspects of sustainability in the CSO sector. The Index is developed by the US Agency for International Development in partnership with the local organizations of the countries included in the Index. IDM has been entrusted with the task of preparing the report for Albania since 2010.



Opinion Poll Trust in Governance 2015

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

This survey report presents the findings of the public Opinion Poll carried out during November-December 2015 in 61 municipalities of Albania. The Public Opinion Poll explores the levels of public trust in government institutions and citizens' attitudes to the performance of public institutions and service delivery. It is an instrument to advocate for and monitor standards in open government, good governance, and the rule of law.



Opinion Poll Trust in Governance 2016

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

This survey report presents the findings of the public Opinion Poll carried out during 12- 24 December 2016 in 61 municipalities of Albania. The objective of the Opinion Poll is to explore the level of trust in public institutions and citizens' attitudes to the performance of public institutions and service delivery in the country. Using a quota sampling approach, 1647 surveyed citizens were asked on their perceived levels of trust, transparency, accountability, participating in decision-making processes, and use of technology. In 2016, the Opinion Poll was conducted for the 4th consecutive year (2013-2016) based on a similar methodology, instrument and national coverage.



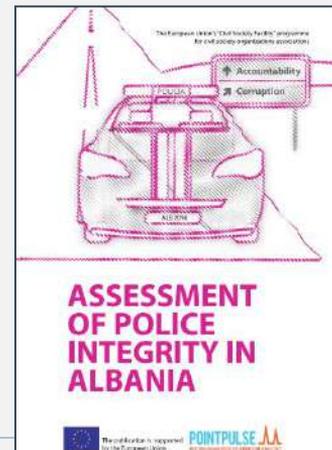
Assessment of Police Integrity in Albania

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: CESA

This report examines the level of institutional integrity of the State Police based on the analysis of the work and results of all the actors in charge of internal and external



control of police work for the period from the end of 2015 to the end of 2016. Five fields of observations are explored: (1) external oversight, (2) internal accountability, (3) human resource management, (4) financial management, and (5) criminal prosecution. The report aims to contribute to the improved functioning of the State Police and oversight of its work.

Private Security in Practice: Case Studies from Southeast Europe

Language: English

Year: 2016

IDM Department: CESA

In this study, researchers assembled eight case studies that explore the impact that private security has on security, human rights, and the democratic order in four Southeast European countries -Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Serbia. The authors specifically looked at how challenges posed by PSCs could be avoided and how opportunities can be seized. By exploring the reasons underpinning private security's positive or negative effect in the specific incidents studied, the case studies also highlight broader structural governance issues in each country. The case studies, therefore, also explore what efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability mean for private security providers in practice.



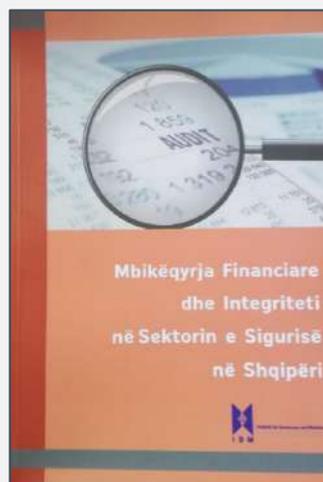
Integrity and Financial Oversight of the Security Sector in Albania

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: CESA

This publication provides an independent assessment and overview of the financial transparency and accountability mechanisms of the security institutions in Albania. The overall objective of this report is to contribute to strengthening the financial transparency and accountability and to building integrity and reducing corruption in Albania's security sector through concerted efforts of the civil society and state institutions. It addresses all the relevant actors in the field of security, including the armed forces, the police, the intelligence agencies and all the security-providing



agencies, the respective ministries, the independent oversight institutions, and, last but not least, the Parliament.

Publication of an Assessment of the Anti-Corruption System in 20 Municipalities of Albania

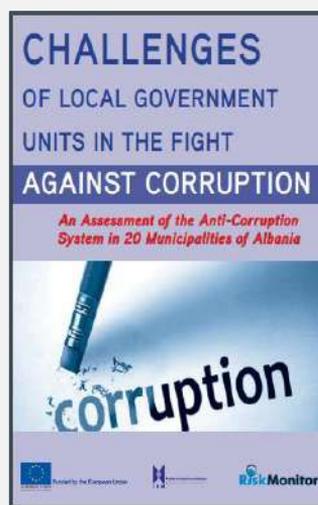
“Challenges of Local Government Units in the Fight against Corruption”

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The aim of this report is to assess the current capacities and preparedness of local government units in the fight against corruption and identify the current capacities and knowledge of the CSOs as regards their contribution to good governance at local level. Initially, it provides an overview of the country’s legal framework, which sets the vision and regulates the fight against corruption at local level. Secondly, it outlines the availability of instruments established by 20 targeted municipalities to fight corruption and enhance/enable citizens’ participation. Finally, it assesses the needs of both LGUs and local CSOs to improve their efforts to combat corruption at local level. This report is published in the framework of the “CIVILISC – Civil Society Instruments against Corruption” Project, which aims to empower and develop capacities of civil society in small/medium municipalities to promote good governance and fight corruption.



Local Development Operational Plan (Mirdita, Has, Bulqiza)

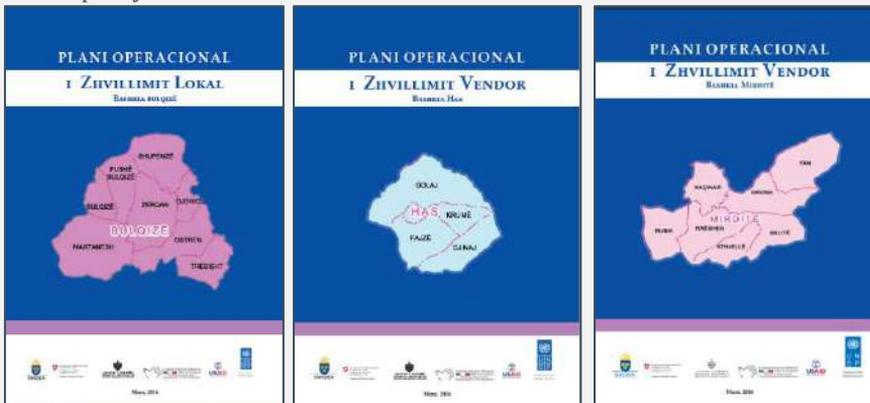
Language: Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: LGID

Local Development Operational Plans for Mirditë, Has, Bulqizë are prepared in the framework of Albania’s administrative and territorial reform under the direct leadership of the Minister of State for Local Issue and supported by STAR project (Support to Territorial and Administrative Reform). The LDOPs come as a challenge and an immediate need to the new municipalities to integrate various plans of action and ensure administrative and territorial cohesion of the amalgamated territory. On the other hand, LDOPs enhance also the process of drafting and approving other planning and development documents in the municipality such as

integrated development strategy, general local plan, agricultural and rural development strategy. LDOPs are strategic documents in the field of local planning and development, defining the vision, operational priorities and projects of the municipality.



Audit of Political Engagement 2016

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The “Audit of Political Engagement 2016” Survey Report is a baseline study conducted for the first time in Albania based on the model of UK’s Hansard Society ‘Audit of Political Engagement’ series. This study examined a range of political engagement indicators grouped in three areas: political knowledge and interest; political participation and action at local and national levels; and efficiency and satisfaction. It also examined participants’ perceptions of Parliament and their elected representatives, since a responsive and accountable Parliament is a foundational pillar of democratic governance. The research findings serve as a platform for debate about how to enhance citizens’ engagement in politics.



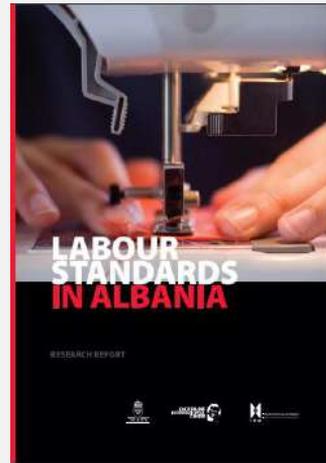
Labour Standards in Albania

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

This research study was undertaken with the general aim of providing an assessment of the country compliance with labour standards, and to draw attention to related policy gaps to be used as reference for policymaking and further research alike. 7 labour standards (equal opportunities and treatment, maternity protection, child labour, occupational safety and health at work, working time, wages and social security) were analysed focusing on the three selected sectors of the economy: mining and quarrying, construction and faon. The research adopts a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. It represents a novel contribution to the policy debate on employment and decent work in Albania, since it complements the debate with empirical data on the levels of non-compliance with minimum labour standards in Albania



Research Report “Skills for Jobs”

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

The main goal of this research report is to serve to the S4J ‘Skills for Jobs’ (S4J) Program in creating a thorough and robust understanding and analysis of how the economic sectors in the country operate, relevant skill needs and jobs’ potential, and how attractive they are to the potential students. It also provides an analysis of the institutional framework and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs currently offered in the country, focusing mainly on recent evidence drawn upon data collected through a sector-level representative survey with TVET students, trainees, teachers, and instructors to shed light on issues related to access to TVET, TVET provision quality, use of ICT learning methods in TVET, employability, future expectations of VET graduates, and relationship with businesses.



Strengthening Police Integrity in Albania

Language: Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This document is based on the main findings of the study conducted by IDM in 2014 on the causes, forms and extent of corruption in the Albanian State Police. The aim of this publication is to generate data in the interest of police officials, who can use the findings to develop a constructive debate and improve the image of police in terms of professionalism, integrity and accountability. Moreover, police leadership must take into account the need to communicate their mission to the public, while placing special emphasis on police integrity and performing their duties in compliance with the principles of the rule of law, protection of human rights, and democratic policing concepts.



Project Citizen against Corruption

Language: Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: RDC

This brochure explores the nature and complexity of corruption in Albania. In addition, it serves as an educative tool offering information and resources for preparing and implementing projects that enhance youth engagement to become active fighters against corruption, which threatens the very existence of a democratic society. It gives a general overview on the nature and ways to measure corruption and Albanian state institutions' fight against corruption. It aims also to enhance youth activism in the fight against corruption.



Handbook on Police Ethics and Integrity

Language: Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: CESA

The handbook on Police Ethics and Integrity aims to assist state police services and training institutions in developing their capacities to develop and deliver integrity trainings to their staff. While it is conceptualized to serve primary to three main audiences: police managers and leadership, trainers and police employees of all ranks, this handbook also serves as a communication tool to ensure that State Police and citizens have a common understanding of what constitutes ethical practice and values related to integrity.



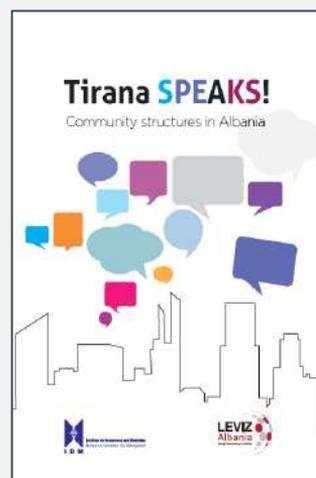
Tirana SPEAKS! Community Structures in Albania

Language: English/ Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: LGID

A product of an initiative supported by Lëviz Albania, this handbook calls for the creation of an enabling environment to establish community councils upon citizens' initiative and willpower in each urban. It seeks to introduce a different alternative to governance, share its common vision, and encourage central and local institutions in their initiative to pursue and establish partnership with citizens as an important subject to change. The handbook addresses approaches to the creation of community structures (Article 68 and 69 of the Law No. 135/2015, "On Local Self-Governance") and citizens' role in giving life to community organizations as civil responsibility. On the other hand, the handbook sheds light on issues relative to normative and regulatory process to be carried out by the local governance.



POLICY DOCUMENTS

Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Development in Albania

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: LGID

This policy brief aims to shed light on the existing situation of participatory rural development, its main stakeholders, their respective roles, capabilities and positioning in relation to the implementation of the LEADER+ approach. It presents the findings, conclusions, and main recommendations from a series of activities organized by the Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD) with the involvement of public and non-public actors, at national and regional level during March-May 2016.



Restructuring of Community Liaison Structure

Language: Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This report presents the findings from the review of the role and functioning of community liaison structures in the region along with the inputs from focus group discussions with local government units at local level. The report provides policy recommendations on how to re-vitalize community liaison structures in Albania in relation to the inclusion of a specific chapter on “Community Self-governance” in the new organic Law “On Local Self-Government”.



Challenges of Democracy at Local Level

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This policy brief in support of the decentralization reform in Albania seeks to analyze the proposed legal amendments to the Law on Organization and Functioning of Local Governance paying special attention to the mechanisms of vertical responsibility and accountability, such as elections and inter-institutional relationship, and to the mechanisms of horizontal responsibility, such as the sharing and control of power and civic participation.



Monitoring the Process of Drafting the Crosscutting Decentralization and Local Governance Strategy 2014-2020

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This brief seeks to present the level of government openness in the course of drafting and consulting the Crosscutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance 2014- 2020. The document is elaborated by dimensions pursued during the monitoring work, specifically, transparency, participation, and cooperation.



Decentralization Strategy 2014 – 2020: Perceptions of Local and Central Stakeholders

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

In the framework of monitoring and evaluating decentralization in Albania, this brief presents the main findings of the surveys conducted to measure the perception of the local and central stakeholders and other interest groups on the process of development and content of the Decentralization Strategy.



Assessment of impact of decentralization: Indicators

Language: English/Albanian

Year: 2015

IDM Department: LGID

This policy brief presents the methodological approach and indicators that can be employed to evaluate the impact of decentralization in Albania. In addition, the document brings to light a variety of methodological difficulties that need to be overcome. The indicators have been designed on three core dimensions: financial, administrative, and political.



The Shadow Worker – Hidden Economy and Undeclared Labor in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo.

Language: English /Albanian

Year: 2016

IDM Department: RDC

This comparative policy brief provides an overview of hidden economy in general, and undeclared labor and tax evasion in particular, in Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo, including its main causes and consequences. Additionally, it offers a macroeconomic overview of the main characteristics considered to incentivize and maintain the hidden economy, while at the same time offering context in the form of processed survey data that also grasps the perceptions surrounding this very important issue.



Building the Albanian Parliament Oversight and Control Capacity towards the Security Sector

Language: English

Year: 2015

IDM Department: CESA

This policy brief takes into account the specific nature, roles, and mission of the security institutions, the deficiencies of the legal framework, the functioning and parliamentary oversight over them, the lack of any consolidated tradition related to security institutions' transparency, and democratic control over them. While they are further exacerbated by a highly polarized political climate, these factors make the parliamentary control of the Security Sector very complex, which calls for a non-partisan and comprehensive approach to be rightly addressed.

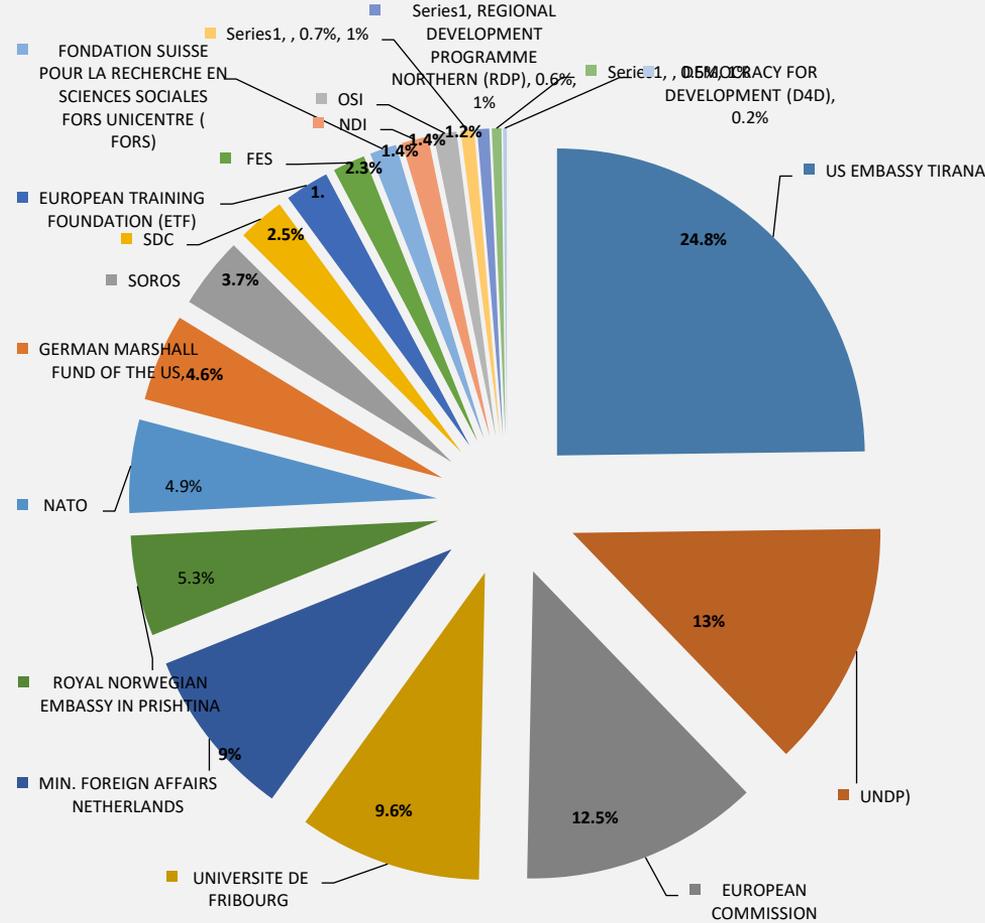


ANNUAL BUDGET IN 2015-2016

IDM is grateful for the partnership and cooperation established with a variety of donor institutions that have continuously supported our work throughout the years.

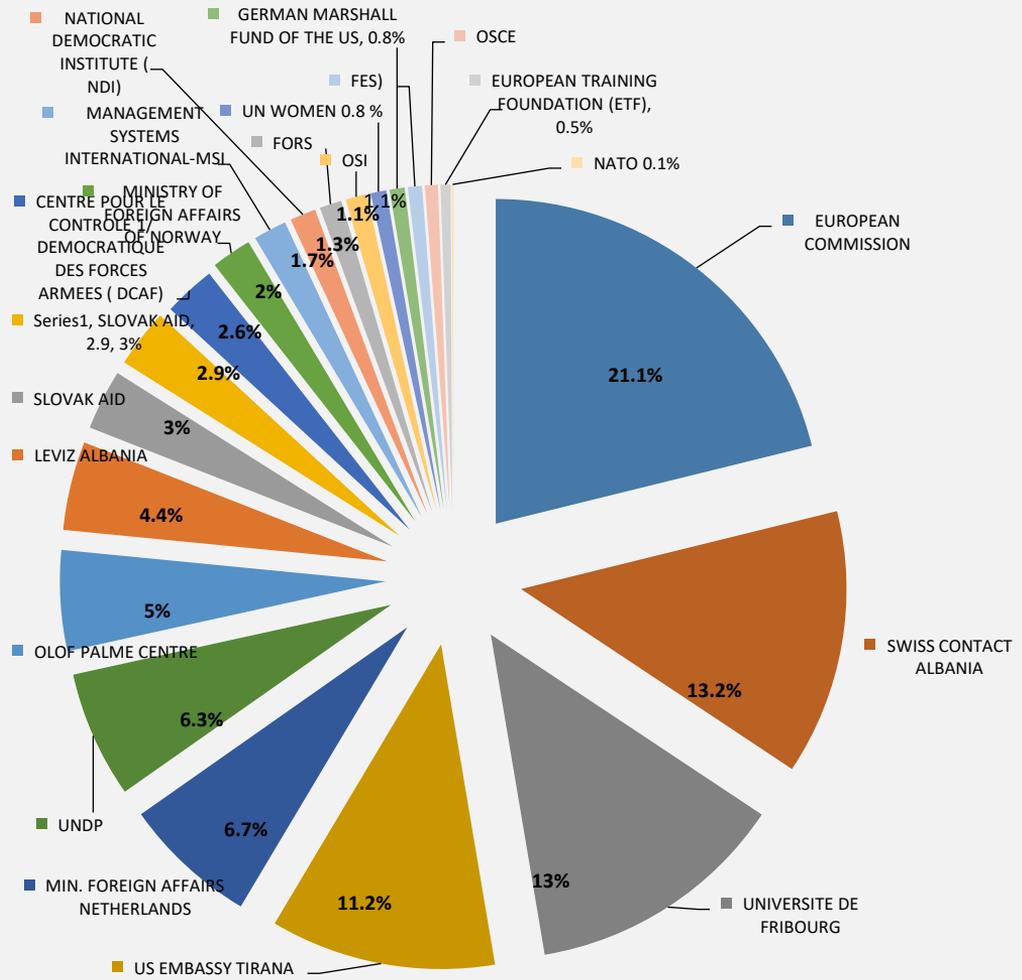
IDM Annual income for 2015 is EUR 558,104

IDM Donors in 2015



IDM Annual income for 2016 is EUR 600,655

IDM Donors in 2016



Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Rr. Shinasi Dishnica, Nr. 4, Tirana

Tel +355 42224 241

Fax +355 42224 241

www.idmalbania.org



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