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The assessment of research capacities in social sciences in Macedonia

Skopje, June 2008

Prepared by the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in the framework of the Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP), which is run by the University of Fribourg upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

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List of Abbreviations

BEA	Business Environment Activity
CEA	Center for Economic Analysis
CEEOL	Central and Eastern European Online Library
CIPE	Center for Intellectual Property Education
CRPM	Center for Research and Policy Making
EC	European Commission
EIDHR	European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights
EPRI	Economic Policy Research Institute
EUA	European University Association
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FORUM CSR	FORUM-Center for Strategic Research and Documentation
FOSIM	Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia
JRC	Joint Research Centre
IDSC	Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis"
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISPJR	Institute for Social, Political and Judicial Research
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
LGU	Local Government Units
MANU	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
MDW Project	Make Decentralisation Work Project
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
NORMAK	Norwegian Assistance to the Republic of Macedonia
NSBD	National Strategy for Broadcast Development
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSI	Open Society Institute
PASOS	Policy Association for an Open Society
RRPP	Regional Research Promotion Program
SEEU	South East European University
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TEMPUS	Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Students
UGD	University Goce Delcev
UKIM	University Ss. Cyril and Methodius
UKLO	University St. Kliment Ohridski
UNCHR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	The United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	The United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZELS	Association of the Units of Local- Self Governments in Macedonia

I) INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje compiled this report for the University of Freiburg as a part of the Regional Research Promotion Program in the Western Balkans (RRPP), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Report provides a review of the current state of social science research capacities and funding opportunities in Macedonia. For this purpose, data on the following actors were collected:

- The Ministry of Education and Science;
- The Academy of Sciences and Arts;
- 1 public university (Ss. Cyril and Methodius);
- 1 private university (South East European University);
- 3 research institutes (2 public and 1 independent);
- 8 policy research organisations (think tanks); and
- 8 international donor organisations

Recommendations are provided specifically for each type of research institution and generally, on the level of national policies.

Social Science Research Overview

According to the State Statistical Office data, in 2006, there have been 341 ongoing research projects, only 11 (3.2%) of which were from the area of social sciences (see Table 1). Half of them (6) were developmental, 2 were basic and 3 applied. Compared to the projects conducted in other sectors (e.g. 104 in engineering, 91 in medical sciences, 93 in humanities), this number is rather concerning.

Table 1. Ongoing research projects (2006)¹

Sector	Total	Type of research			Subscriber				
		basic	applied	developmental	Business enterprises	MoES	Min. of Agriculture	Other Ministries	other
Total	314	144	138	59	71	118	6	51	96
Natural sciences	7	7						7	
Engineering	104	52	30	22	21	64			19
Medical sciences	91	8	55	28	49	15		10	17
Agricultural sciences	35	13	19	3		21	5		9
Social sciences	11	2	3	6	1	4	1	1	4

¹ The following are responsible for reporting research and development activities: public and private universities, other research institutions and institutes, development units in composition of business subjects in the area of economy (research activities) and business subjects in the area of economy, unregistered for research (development activities)

Humanities	93	62	31			14		33	46
Business	64		52	12		64			
Government	150	84	54	12	1	37	57	50	57
Higher education	127	60	32	35	6	81	38	1	38

Source: SSO, Statistical Yearbook, 2007

Moreover, an interesting paradox can be noticed if we have in mind the number of MAs and PhDs in social sciences (see Table 2). While their number is on a constant rise and twice higher than the number of individuals with such degrees from the other scientific fields, **the number of research projects conducted (i.e. financed) in the social science sector is among the lowest.** This may mean that the social science topics are not considered a public interest, or that these researchers more frequently tend to finance their projects on their own (since they typically cost less than the ones in technical, technological and medical sciences).

Table 2. Doctors, Masters and Specialists of Sciences according to the scientific area

Sciences	Doctors			Masters			Specialists		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Total	67	92	85	106	189	184	4	9	19
Natural	9	11	8	23	21	21		4	7
Technical and technological	17	11	10	33	24	42	1		
Medical	19	14	10	6	24	6	3	3	4
Biotechnical	2	6	8	6	7			1	
Social	18	26	28	24	83	74		1	8
Humanities	2	24	21	14	30	41			

Source: SSO, Statistical Yearbook, 2007

This low representation of the social science research within the country causes Macedonia to be poorly represented in the international on-line social science networks. Namely only three social science research publications can be downloaded from the CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library²: Balkanalysis.com; Economic Development, issued by the Economics Institute at UKIM and Identities: Journal for Politics, Gender and Culture, semi-annual publication of the Euro-Balkan Institute. In comparison with the neighbouring countries, this is an insignificant number considering the 12 social science journals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17 from Serbia and 13 from Bulgaria.

As for the 'Knowledge Base Social Sciences: Eastern Europe'³, only four Macedonian social science journals can be found: EthnoAnthropoZoom, published by the Department of Ethnology, UKIM; Identities, published by Euro-Balkan Institute; Modern Macedonian Defence, Ministry of Defence and New Balkan Politics, published with support of Ministry of Culture – Macedonia; OSI – Macedonia, Office

² <http://www.ceeol.com>

³ www.cee-socialscience.net

of Public Affairs - Skopje (USA) and Freudenberg Stiftung (Germany). Hence, Macedonia is in the group with Albania (3 journals) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 journals), but lags behind Bulgaria (10 journals) and Croatia (32 journals).

The data presented indicate that **Macedonia needs to intensify the activities related to social science research projects and improve its visibility on an international level.** In this regard, the 2007 EC Progress Report on Macedonia concludes that the development of research needs to be strengthened by improving the institutional capacities and overcoming the budgetary constraints for research activities.

In this report, the current social science research capacities are presented, followed by a discussion of the positive and negative aspects of their functioning and recommendations on how to overcome the main deficiencies.

II) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data for this report were collected by **reviewing relevant documents** (policy papers and legislatives) and conducting **structured interviews** with the relevant stakeholders.

The main data-collection instrument was a **questionnaire** (see Appendix 1) which was adapted according to the type of institution surveyed (i.e. academic department/faculty, research institute, think-tank organisation). It covered the following main areas:

- structure of the institution in terms of organisation and staff
- main interest areas
- more important research projects conducted and published
- sources of funding
- cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions
- problems encountered in their work on social science research projects
- upcoming activities/plans of the institution

Since the previous report on the social science research capacities compiled by Stanislava Dodeva from the Swiss Development Cooperation (2004) referred to the period until 2004, the questions mainly referred to the activities conducted/implemented since 2005.

Even though the intention was to meet one representative from each institution in person to conduct a face-to-face interview, where this was not possible, the questionnaire was emailed with a request to complete it and send it back to CRPM. Communication was established with all contacted parties, even though the depth of the information provided varied.

III) ACTORS

1. Ministry of Education and Science

Address: Education Sector: Dimitrie Cupovski No.9, 1000 Skopje

Science Sector: Ilindenska bb, 1000 Skopje

Web-site: www.mon.gov.mk

Tel: 389 2 3117 277; Fax: 389 2 3118 414

Contact person: Jelena Dimitrievic, Adviser, Department for Technological Development and Technical Culture

Tel: 389 2 3166 736

E-mail: jdimitrievic@mn.gov.mk

Profile of the institution

Research and development in the Republic of Macedonia are performed within a system that operates on the basis of specific structure of organized research. The main actor on national level is the **Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)**, responsible for the science policy in the country.

The importance of the Ministry lies in its influence in proposing and carrying legal provisions in the education and science sectors. Additionally, the main international cooperation in the area of education and science is carried out through the Ministry, as well as the distribution of information regarding internationally sponsored projects. It also manages and allocates the funds for education and science activities to the relevant institutions. Specifically, in the area of science, it decides on the state universities' and research institutes' budget as well as the research projects that are going to be funded by the state. Most importantly, the Ministry carries the four-year **National Program for Research**, on the basis of which the priority areas for scientific research are determined. In the Program carried in 2008⁴, a strong emphasis is placed on the technical and technological disciplines, accompanied with a concrete programme for technological development. In contrast, the humanistic and social sciences are only briefly mentioned, and the focus is placed on the areas contributing to the international promotion of the country, such as folklore, archaeology, history and language.

⁴ See: Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia No. 27 from 25.02.2005

Within the MoES there is a **Science Sector** with 50 employees and a sector manager. The Sector for Science is subdivided into three departments: for Technological Development and Technical Culture, for **Scientific and Research Projects** and for International Cooperation. These departments are supporting and financing different types of projects proposed by the scientific organizations, and industry in cooperation with the scientific organizations. They also provide scholarships for master and doctoral studies, for participation on international conferences and workshops, financial support for publishing scientific books and magazines, etc.

The main interests and activities of the Science Sector are the following:

- Financing of the scientific and research activities of: domestic and international projects, programs for institutes, scientific staff, scientific assemblies, publishing, study-visits, equipment for scientific research etc.
- Supporting the development of human resources in the research sector
- Providing scientific infrastructure (space, equipment, libraries, archiving and publishing activities).
- Scientific information (informatics infrastructure, data-base)
- International cooperation in the scientific activities
- Institutional network (MANU, public scientific organizations, state and private higher educational institutions, research centres, innovation, centres, centres for technology transfer etc.)

International cooperation

The Ministry has established by-lateral and multy-lateral international cooperation with numerous countries. In the frames of by-lateral collaboration, the Macedonian MoES has signed agreements with: The Russian federation, Slovenia, Turkey, USA, China, Serbia, Montenegro, Egypt, Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Albania, Bulgaria, Israel, Spain, Hungary and UNMIK (Temporary mission of the UN in Kosovo). The signing of by-lateral agreements with the following countries is in the procedure: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, Catar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Mexico. The most productive cooperation has been established with Slovenia and Japan.

As regards to the **multy-lateral** cooperation, the MoES has established collaboration in the frames of the 'Seventh Framework Program for Research and Development'.⁵ This is perhaps one of the most fruitful areas of scientific cooperation, having in mind

⁵ see more at: www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7

that under the Sixth Framework Programme, national researchers from Macedonia were involved as third country participants on a project basis and in total obtained about 2.7 million EUR.

In addition, the COST (Collaboration on Science and Technology) Programme is being realized through activities in 16 scientific areas through coordination of the national research, sharing the results and enabling each country to focus the problem in accordance to their specific needs.⁶

The Ministry is also a member of the SEE ERA NET network that connects the SEE countries with the European research area (ERA) through coordination and support of research projects. Its aim is to strengthen the cross-regional cooperation of the EU and Western Balkan countries.⁷

Still, the majority of these programs enable cooperation is in the area of natural and technical sciences, with only SEE ERA NET providing an opportunity for certain projects from the sphere of economy. Hence, the opportunities for cooperation among social science researchers are rather scant and un-promoted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

National funding possibilities

Regularly, each year the MoES prepares Annual Programmes for financing research projects and submits it to the government as a request to the national budget. All activities, financial support etc. are conducted according to the approved Annual programme. Unfortunately due to the limited available funds, many applied projects are not financed. However, the fact that the funds allocated for research activities are increasing is encouraging. Specifically, from 80 mill MKD (about 1,3 mill EUR) in 2004 and 103 mill MKD (about 1,7 mill EUR) in 2005, they have risen to 180 mill MKD (3 mil EUR) in 2008 (see Table 3). Still, this amount, which is less than 1% of GNP is by far lower than the 3% of GNP proposed to support research in EU countries.

⁶ see more at: www.cost.esf.org

⁷ see more at: www.see-era.net

Table 3: Expenditures predicted for research activities and research institutions for 2008 (in thousand denars)

	Expenditures from the Basic Budget for 2008	Expenditures for self-financing activities	Expenditures -loans	Expenditures - donations	Total expenditures for 2008
Research-education	358,800	384,000	0	55,500	798,300
Scientific and research work	180,100	0	0	0	180,100 ⁸
Scientific institutes	190,400	325,000	0	26,000	541,400

Source: Budget for 2008 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.190/2007)

Despite this rise, the question is which types of projects are going to be funded. If the trend of unequal distribution of funds typical for the previous period continues (see Table 4), the unflattering position of social science research in Macedonia is unlikely to improve.

Table 4. Projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (1995-2003)

Sciences	No. of projects	% by scientific areas	Funds (in EUR)	% by scientific areas
Natural sciences	142	15,23	1 455 703.9	17,95
Technical	302	32,40	2 448 525.5	30,19
Medical	130	13,95	1 203 616.6	14,84
Biotechnical	137	14,70	1 366 517.1	16,85
Social	94	10,09	520 059.32	6,41
Humanistic	127	13,63	1 115 675.4	13,76
Total	932	100,00	8 110 097.8	100,00

Source: EU questionnaire-Macedonia

Financed Research Projects (2005-2008)

In the period 2005-2008, only one open **competition** for financing social science research projects has been realized in the frames of the Ministry of Education and Science. In this period, the following projects from the field of social sciences and humanities have been financed:

- The region of Prespa in pre and proto-history (Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje)
- The history of Albanian literature (Faculty of Philology – Skopje)
- Ethnographic research of the television audience in the Republic of Macedonia (Faculty of Communication Sciences and Technologies at SEEU in Tetovo)

⁸ During the preparation of this report, the Macedonian Government has done a budget rebalance, allocating additional 26 million denars to the previously allocated funds of 154 million denars for scientific and research work. At the same time, the budget of the Scientific Institutes was reduced from 644 to 541 million denars.

In the same period, at the institutes of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, 9 projects have been financed:

Institute of National History – Skopje

- The Albanian-Macedonian uprising in September 1913
- The industrial cultures in Vardar Macedonia in the period between the two world wars
- The cultural relations of Macedonia with the Yugoslav Federation, 1945-1974

Institute of Folklore “Marko Cepenkov” – Skopje

- The poetics in prose folklore
- Live folklore tradition

Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research – Skopje

- The political identities in the Republic of Macedonia;
- The changes in media regulations in the Republic of Macedonia in accordance to the EU processes;
- The role of citizens in the decision-making process in the areas of local importance;
- Unemployment – risks and reactions.

The afore-mentioned projects have been financed by the Ministry in the amount of 6.750.000 MKD (1.096.956 EUR).

Since 2006, the institutes of the University ‘Ss. Cyril and Methodius’ are financed in accordance to the work programs for the current year for which they apply to the Ministry for project support. In 2007, no research projects of the institutes have been financed. In the period 2005-2008, the realization of several **international projects** has been co-financed through the Ministry, as a result of signed memorandum of cooperation. In this way, the following 3 projects from the area of social sciences have been co-financed:

- The human values of sports in the function of promoting the inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia (part of UNESCO program);
- Structures of the archaic religious culture in Slovenia and Macedonia and their relations (Institute of History of Arts and Archaeology in cooperation with an adjacent institute in Slovenia);

- The position of the Roma women in Slovenia and Macedonia (Institute of Sociology – Skopje in cooperation with an adjacent institute in Slovenia).

Legal framework regulating scientific and research activities

The work of the Ministry of Science is regulated through the following laws and regulations:

- Law on Scientific and Research Activities, which has received its last modification this year (2008) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 46/08);
- Law on Supporting and Assisting Technological Development (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 98/2000);
- Law on Supporting and Assisting Technical Culture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.53/2000);
- Regulation for determining the conditions and criteria for awarding means for supporting and assisting the scientific and research activities Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No 3/2005);
- Regulation for determining the conditions and criteria for awarding means for realization of the annual programs for work and development of the public scientific institutions (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia. No 3/05);
- Regulation of the conditions, criteria and the way of using means for supporting and assisting technological development (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia. No.49/2001);
- Regulation of the criteria for awarding means for realizing the work plans, i.e. projects in the area of technical culture. (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia. No.31/2001).

As it can be seen, apart from two documents that relate both to the field of social and technical sciences, the rest of the regulations refer to the area of technical and technological sciences.

Several aspects of the Law on Scientific and Research Activities (2008) will be reviewed here, focusing on their impact on supporting research activities.

Article 3 from the Law defines the **scientific and research activity** as based on the following principles of:

- freedom and autonomy of the scientific work;
- relatedness with the educational system;

- ethics of the scientific workers in performing scientific research, use and application of the results;
- diversity of the scientific opinions, methods, theories and doctrines;
- use of European standards for recruitment of researchers and their behaviour;
- application of the results;
- protection of the intellectual ownership etc.

Part V of the Law regulates the ways of supporting the scientific and research activity of public interest. This is enabled by providing financial means for realizing the activities of public interest, planned with the **Program for Scientific and Research Activity**. The Program is typically carried for a four-year period, by the Macedonian Parliament, on a suggestion of the Macedonian Government. The document defines the basic aims, content and range of tasks to be performed in the area of scientific activities; the methods for coordinating, monitoring and financing the activities; the relatedness with the economy and the institutional network etc. (Article 6)

The following are considered as research activities of public interest for the state:

- contribute to the development of the scientific thought and rising the scientific level in all scientific areas;
- contribute to the transfer of the world's knowledge, technologies and skills;
- represent a precondition for the general development of Macedonia;
- belong to the area of historical and cultural identity of the Macedonian people, as well as the citizens living in its borders and being members of other ethnic communities;
- offer a presentation of the achieved scientific results in the world and in the Republic of Macedonia;
- are from the sphere of defence and security. (Article 5)

The means for financing the scientific and research activities are primarily provided by the Budget of Macedonia, but also from other sources, such as international programs and funds, the LSG Units, legal subjects etc. (Article 49). The financial means are awarded by a means of public competition (Article 50).

In this regard, in accordance to the 'Regulation for determining the conditions and criteria for awarding means for supporting and assisting the scientific and research

activities' the Ministry of Education and Science opens **public announcements for research projects**⁹. The **main criteria for project applications** are the following:

The applicants must be at least three persons, one of which holds a PhD and two (or more) with a status of researchers or research associates. They all need to be registered in the MoESs' registry. One researcher can only lead one domestic and one international project, and in the case this happens, the two projects can be financed only if their content is different. *The leader of the research team is required to have published at least four peer-reviewed papers, two of which must have been published in international magazines.*

Provided that the applicants possess these competencies, the project proposal they are applying with is being assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- its contribution for deepening the scientific knowledge
- originality of the aims and the content
- competency of the leading researcher
- relevancy of the project and its goals
- its competitiveness for international cooperation
- feasibility of the project proposal (regarding the financial construction, possibility for application of results etc.).

Many social science researchers find the requirements referring to the professional achievements of the team members impossible to be achieved, especially having in mind the insufficient opportunities for conducting social science research and the difficulties of publishing the research in international peer-reviewed journals. In addition, the researchers interviewed for the purposes of this analysis generally stated that it is extremely difficult to receive funding from the Ministry, because of the nepotism involved (primarily caused by the political affiliation), which discourages them to apply for financial assistance. Specifically, since the body that decides on the research priorities and evaluates the project applications - The Council for Scientific and Research Activity is consisted of members (one from each scientific field) assigned by the Minister of Education and Science, there is a high risk that they will be politically assigned and politically motivated in their assessment. At the same

⁹ Note that while the public announcement for funding research projects from the natural sciences is published each year regularly, during the past four years, there has been only one competition for funding social science research projects.

time, bearing in mind that The Ethical Board formed for the purpose of 'monitoring' the ethical principles during public competitions is composed of members assigned by the Government, their 'objectivity' can also be put in question.

Institutions undertaking scientific and research activity

The Law on Scientific and Research Activity regulates different ways in which a scientific and research activity can be performed.

The traditional method of conducting scientific and research activities is by establishing a public scientific institution, upon a decision from the Government (Article 16). It can be established provided it has determined the specific areas of scientific research, has at least 6 full-time employees, 3 of which with a PhD and 3 with MA degree; performs primarily scientific and research activities and has an equipment and space for work.¹⁰ This includes the Faculties, Academy of Sciences and Research Institutes.

The 2008 Law (in contrast to the previous Law from 1996 and 2002) also incorporates principles for establishing a mixed scientific institution and private scientific institution. The former can be jointly established by the State or the Municipality and a domestic or foreign legal or physical subject; and financed by the state Budget and private funds. (Ar. 17) The private scientific institution can be formed by a domestic or a foreign legal or physical subject and be financed by the subject's own funds. (Ar. 18) The staff requirements for the mixed and private institutions are the same: at least 5 employees, 3 of which with PhD and 2 with a Masters Degree.

Additionally, scientific activity can be performed by a physical subject as a professional activity (being an individual researcher), considering s/he has at least five scientific projects from a certain area; holds a PhD and has a program with determined area of scientific research (Ar. 22).

¹⁰ The Law from 1996 was much 'stricter'. The prerequisite was 12 full-time employees, 5 of which with a scientific title and 7 with research associates' title.

2. Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU)

Address: Bul. Krste Misirkov, 2,

P.O. Box 428

1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Web-site: <http://www.manu.edu.mk>

Tel. ++389(0)2 32 35 400

Fax. ++389(0)2 32 35 500

E-mail: manu@manu.edu.mk

Contact person: Natasha Markovska

Profile of the institution

The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts was established in 1967 as the highest scientific, scholarly and artistic institution in the country with the aim to monitor and stimulate the sciences and arts. The Academy's objectives are to survey the cultural heritage and natural resources, to assist in the planning of a national policy regarding the sciences and arts, to stimulate, co-ordinate, organize and conduct scientific and scholarly research and to promote artistic achievement, especially where particularly relevant to the Republic of Macedonia.

The activities of the Academy are undertaken under the auspices of its five departments: Department of Linguistic and Literary Sciences, Department of Social Sciences, Department of Mathematical and Technical Sciences, Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, Department of Arts and the Centre for Strategic Research. MANU currently has 59 employees.

The Centre for Strategic Research was established on 28 September 2000. Its assignments include stimulation, organisation and carrying out research, holding talks and public discussions on strategic issues of national and international significance to the Republic of Macedonia. The Centre researches into issues, phenomena and relations of a historical, geopolitical, economic, social, cultural and security nature from the aspect of their long- and middle-term significance to the development of the Republic of Macedonia as an independent and sovereign state. The work of the Centre is carried out by one professor, one scientific and scholarly associate, one candidate for a master's degree and one technical secretary. In addition, the Centre has ten distinguished external associates from various scientific and scholarly fields who are continuously engaged in scientific and scholarly research work and consultative activities. Since its founding, the Centre has worked on the following projects:

- Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and sources and forms of threats to it;

- The Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic integrations;
- Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of Macedonia's relations with its neighbours (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia);
- Population of Republic of Macedonia
- De-coding the Roseta Stone symbols
- Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of the relations between Macedonia and Turkey

Some of the more important research projects undertaken by the **Department of Social Sciences** include:

- Fiscal Factor in the Future Development of Macedonia
- Modern Trends of the Microeconomic Science and the Implications to the State Regulation;
- Harmonization of the Legal System in the Republic of Macedonia with the Law of the European Union
- The relevance of the latest macro-economic theories for the economy of Republic of Macedonia
- The relations between Macedonians and Albanians (1878-1913)

One **internationally-financed project** was conducted in the period between 2005-2008, entitled '*Towards a dynamic and sustainable growth of Republic of Macedonia: Implementation of policies for economic growth enhancement*'

Although trying to maintain its balance between the research activities in all scientific disciplines, the Academy is much more recognised for its achievements in the area of arts, humanities and natural sciences, then in the area of social sciences. The social science research projects are mainly theoretical by nature and focused on economic, legal and historical issues, as a result of the professional expertise of the academics¹¹. Hence, an expansion of the Academy's staff with members from other social science disciplines is much needed for increasing the impact of their scientific work.

¹¹ Out of 8 Academics - members of the Department of Social Sciences, 4 hold a degree in economy, 2 in history and 2 in law.

International Cooperation

The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts collaborates with a number of other Academies from: Slovenia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, Russia, Australia, Austria, Serbia, Belarus, China, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Estonia, Ukraine, Hungary, Montenegro, Britain, the Royal Society of London, etc. The agreements on inter-academy scientific and scholarly collaboration which have been made encompass cooperation on the level of joint research projects, participation in scientific and scholarly conferences and symposia and artistic events and presentations, study visits, and an exchange of scholarly and scientific experience, publications and other information. MANU also collaborates with the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg, is a full member of the Association of European Academies (ALLEA), the Union Académique Internationale, the Academy of the Mediterranean, International Council of Science Unions (ICSU), the Inter-Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP), the Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN).

3. Universities

The work of the Universities is regulated with the **Law on Higher Education Institutions** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 45/08). According to this Law, 'performing fundamental, developmental and applied research' is defined as one of the main roles of the Universities (Ar.3). In accordance to the fundamental principle of autonomy of the higher educational institutions, the members of the academic community are guaranteed intellectual freedom during the research and educational process. (Ar. 11)

The autonomy also means freedom to establish funds and other organisations from the incomes, donations and other sources of finances for the purpose of conducting the scientific, research and educational activities (Ar.13).

The bodies most involved in creating the scientific and research strategy of the Universities are The Educational and Scientific Council and the Agency for Evaluation.¹² While the former carries a program for scientific and research activities,

¹² The Evaluation Agency has nine members who are academics proposed by the Inter-University Conference and elected for a four-year term by a secret ballot. They represent proportionally the number of faculties and scientific institutions involved in higher education at all levels. Once every five

suggests measures to the Deanery and makes decisions on advancing the educational, scientific and applied work (Ar. 63); the latter follows and assesses the quality of the activities every five years and proposes continuation or taking away of the accreditation to the Board of Accreditation. (Ar.75). Since the Council is a newly established body (predicted with the provisions of the Law on Higher Education from 2008), its functioning is yet to be seen. However, bearing in mind that the structure of the University is quite fragmented and individual faculties and departments are treated as individual entities, the research activity is expected to remain rather decentralised and primarily carried out on the level of institutes or departments, while the abovementioned bodies are expected to deal with the more general issues of education quality.

Additional regulations that influence the development of the higher education institutions come from the **provisions of the Bologna Declaration**¹³ that Macedonia has signed in 2003. The aim is to finalize the higher education reform by 2010, which is going to be a challenging process, since the implementation of the requirements at most faculties is done rather provisionally.

3.1. Public Universities

The majority of research activities are conducted by the largest and the oldest public university 'Ss. Cyril and Methodius'. Newer public universities (University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'-Bitola, State University in Tetovo and University 'Goce Delcev' – Shtip) do not have a developed research activity on the level of faculties and will not be included as a part of this report.

A) University Ss. Cyril and Methodius (UKIM)

Three Faculties of social sciences will be presented from the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius: Faculty of Philosophy (with five Institutes), Faculty of Economy and Faculty of Law.

years, it assesses the quality of higher education institutions; it gives recommendations for improvement and publishes its reports on assessment results.

¹³ The Bologna Declaration calls for the harmonization of Higher Education qualification systems in Europe, mutual recognition of degree qualifications and increased staff and student mobility within Europe. It includes provisions relating to introduction of European Credit Transfer System, student mobility, research activities, Diploma Supplements, quality assurance and monitoring etc.

3.1.1. Faculty of Philosophy

The Faculty has been formed in 1946 and it initiated the process of constituting the first Macedonian University. The scientific and research activity is considered as an inseparable component of the Faculty's activities. For this purpose, 10 years ago, the Faculty has established a surveying centre that is open for use for all Institutes and Departments working in the frames of the Faculty. The purpose of the centre is for it to be used by all staff members from the Faculty of Philosophy, mainly for joint (interdisciplinary) projects. However, it has not been much utilized for conducting research projects, since the usual practice is to manage the projects on the level of Institutes. Specifically, the fact that there are no employees strictly employed in the surveying centre is perceived as the main problem, since the regular university staff members (professors and assistants) are primarily occupied with their teaching activities and individual projects and do not have the time to coordinate each other for the purpose of doing joint research. In the frames of the faculty of Philosophy, 4 Institutes will be presented (Social Work and Social Policy, Defence and Peace Studies, Psychology, Sociology) and one Department (Gender Studies).

3.1.1.1. Institute of Social Work and Social Policy

Address: St. Petre Georgiev 74/76
1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site: www.isrsp.mol.com.mk
Tel: +389 2 26 22 491
Contact person: Marija Donevska
E-mail: maria.donevska@fzf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The beginnings of the institute were in 1957 with the establishment of Secondary School for Social Workers, continued with forming an Upper secondary two-year program in 1960 and finally with the establishment of a four-year study program (together with specialist, master and doctoral studies) in 1988 in the frames of the Faculty of Philosophy. At the moment, the Institute has 12 staff members, 9 of which PhD's, 2 MA's and 2 BA's.

About 10 years ago, a research centre was formed under the name – **National Centre for Continuous Social Development**, under the auspices of UNDP. However, the work of the centre is currently stagnating. Regardless of that, the professors at the Institute have been active in many research projects, either as individual experts or as a team formed by Institutes' members.

The main **research interests** of the Institute include:

Social Work: social work skills, supervision in social skills, system approach in social work, mapping of local capacities for social development, prevention of addictions etc.

Social Welfare: protection of children and families at risk, street children/children on the streets, social status of Roma population, educational and social services for elderly, legal aspects of child protection etc.

Social Policy: Europeanization of social policies on regional and national level, poverty reduction and social exclusion analysis, sustainable human development, pension reforms, deinstitutionalisation and decentralization etc.

Research projects

Some of the bigger **research projects** undertaken by the institute in the past three years include:

- 'Social Protection and Social Inclusion in FYROM', sponsored by the European Commission and coordinated by Euro-Balkan Institute, 2007
- 'From Social Benefits to Employment', a joint project with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, sponsored by Spark-Netherlands, 2007
- 'Efficiency of the measures implemented towards juveniles', which represents an analysis of the law on junior juvenile justice and its realization, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Justice; sponsored by UNICEF, 2007
- 'Public opinion assessment of the social security', supported by UNDP
- 'Assessment of the policies, conditions and programs for children on the streets' (with a special focus on the Roma population); sponsored by UNICEF, 2005

The results/findings of each of these projects is published and being promoted and sent to the relevant stakeholders. The Institute has just begun publishing a **magazine** called '**Social Policy**' with the financial support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The first issue, on the topic 'Social Inclusion' is about to be published, and the aim is for the magazine to be published twice a year. The OSI Foundation also financially assists the institute when it comes to publishing research materials.

Sources of funding

The major **foreign donors** were already mentioned above. The main **domestic donor** is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, with which the Institute has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation, which binds them to participate in the creation of strategic programs of the Ministry, but also to receive financial means for publications.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute has a fruitful academic collaboration with universities from around the world, among which: The Evangelic University - Nurnberg, The Catholic University – Paderborn, Germany, Department of Social pedagogy of the University of Lodz, Poland, SWEBIH project (faculties of Social work from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and Sweden) etc.

In addition, collaboration with domestic academic institutions and NGOs is also established, among which: UNICEF, Save the Children, OSI, First Children Embassy-Medzasi, Center for Assistance of Children with Learning Disabilities-Poraka, Economic Institute-Skopje, Institute for Sociological, Political and Judicial Research-Skopje etc.

Future activities

The aim of the institute is to deepen its research activities by engaging more in theoretical (basic) research and slowly leaving the applicative research to other institutes working in the field of social policy. They feel that as a scientific institution they need to work on expanding the theoretical base of the subject. In addition, the Institute intends to establish stronger links with businesses and individual philanthropists in order to provide additional funding sources for their projects.

3.1.1.2. Institute of Defence and Peace Studies

Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje
Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
1000, Skopje, R.Macedonia
Web-site: <http://odb.fzf.ukim.edu.mk>
Tel: +389 2 3066 232
Contact person: Zoran Nacev
E-mail: zoran@fzf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Institute has started its work in 1975, as a part of a study program at the Faculty of Philosophy, but went through significant structural changes in 1995 and 2002, when it got its current name 'Institute for Defence and Peace Studies'.

Currently, it organises undergraduate and graduate studies according to the credit-transfer system and the Bologna process for equalising the study programs between the European Universities. The three main research areas of the Institute include: **defence, peace and security**. The Institute does not have a specialized research centre, but performs most of the research through the post-graduate studies. Currently, it employs 13 people, 9 of which with a PhD, 1 with a Master degree and 3 Master students.

Research projects

Most of the research is conducted by staff members individually, as experts in their field and the Institute is not necessarily acquainted with all of their engagements. However, the Institute as such has also conducted numerous research projects during the past several years, with the most significant ones being:

- Conflict Prevention, financially supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation; published in 2004
- Perspectives of the Republic of Macedonia on its way towards NATO and EU; presented on a round table in 2005 and published by the Faculty of Philosophy in 2006
- Globalisation of Peace and Security; published in 2008, with the financial assistance of the Faculty of Philosophy and the Ministry of Defence
- Joint external and Security Policy of EU; financially supported by the Ministry of Science and published in 2008

All projects are finalised when a publication is being issued. In addition, a journal called 'Contemporary Macedonian Defence' is being issued twice a year since 2002. It represents a joint collaboration between the Institute and the Ministry of Defence and an opportunity for most of the professors to publish their work.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute has established partnership relations with numerous Universities from abroad. The main collaboration occurs between the Institute and three universities from USA (two from Florida (from Fort Pierce and Miami) and one from Missouri) and involves students from the four institutions in joint practical classes.

Through the post-graduate studies, the institute has established collaboration with Universities from Zagreb and Ljubljana, mostly expressed in engaging professors in lecturing to the graduate students. In this regard, they also collaborate with NATO. The other most important partners include: The Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, ARM (Macedonian Army), several Embassies, The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, NATO, EU, OBSE and the TEMPUS-PHARE program.

Future activities

The Institute intends to do a joint project for planning curricula with the Center for Peace from Washington and Indiana University.

3.1.1.3. Institute of Psychology

Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje
Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia
Web site: <http://psi.fzf.ukim.edu.mk>
Tel: +389 2 3124029 ext.: 104; +389 2 3116520 (104)
E-mail: psi@fzf.ukim.edu.mk
Contact person: Mihajlo Popovski
E-mail: mihajlo@fzf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The institute of Psychology has been established in 1974 and currently has 14 staff members, of which 9 PhDs, 3 MAs, 3 Master students. The **research topics studied** are related to the expertise fields of the staff, and include: social psychology, educational psychology, psychology of conflict resolution, psychology of creativity, psychology of personality, psychology of gender, clinical psychology etc.

Research projects

The most important research projects, conducted in the past several years include:

- **CONNECT**: Components, organization, costs and outcomes of health care and community-based interventions for people with posttraumatic stress following war and conflict in the Balkans'. The project has been funded by the European Commission and is being conducted since 2004, with the aim to finish in 2008. The research is a joint project between the Institute of Psychology with institutions from UK, Germany, Italy, Serbia and Croatia aimed at identifying the relative contribution of medical care and community based interventions to recovery from posttraumatic stress in different groups and contexts. It is expected to provide empirical evidence to design effective health and social care policies for people with posttraumatic stress, including the particularly challenging group with persistent symptoms.

- Currently, the Institute is conducting a research project called **European Values Study** in collaboration with the Institute of Sociology. This is a wide project including almost all EU countries. The funds are provided from the Faculty of Philosophy and FOSIM.¹⁴

- **TEMPUS** is another joint European project aimed at restructuring of the psychology curriculum according to the Bologna Declaration. It has begun in 2007 and should be finished in 2009. The project involves collaboration between several other Institutes of Psychology from: UK (University of London), Ireland (Dublin), Germany (Munich), Serbia (Belgrade and Novi Sad). In addition, the professors continuously undertake individual research projects as experts in their field and publish papers and books.

¹⁴ See more in the part presenting the projects of the Institute of Sociology

However, there are no publications on a level of the Institute during the past several years.

3.1.1.4. Institute of Sociology

Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje
Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia
Web site: <http://soc.fzf.ukim.edu.mk>
Tel: +389 02 3116-520 ext: 211
E-Mail: soc@fzf.ukim.edu.mk
Contact person: Antoanela Petkovska
E-mail: antonela@fzf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Institute has started its activities in 1975 and from then on it has continuously developed in staff and scientific activities. It has a license for a research centre. All employees are considered as a part of the Institute and any project initiated by a staff member can be implemented under the auspices of the Institute. The staff is consisted of 11 PhDs and 3 MAs.

Research projects

The research projects are mostly conducted by the Institute of Sociology on its own, but there are some interdisciplinary ones, implemented in cooperation with the other Institutes at the Faculty of Philosophy.

The main research areas include: sociology of culture, sociology of ethnic groups, urban sociology, economic sociology, political sociology and sociology of religion.

The most important current research projects include:

- **‘European Values Study’**, conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Psychology. It represents is a large-scale, cross-national and longitudinal survey of moral, religious, political and social values and aims to explore the nature and inter-relationship of value systems, their degree of homogeneity, and the extent to which they are subject to change across time.

- **‘Innovative Sociology’** in cooperation with the Faculty of Sociology from Bulgaria.

This is a joint program aimed at providing an innovative perspective in terms of contents and teaching methods (learning by doing) in such fields as:

- Globalization, European integration and regional partnership
- New research methods with emphasis on qualitative analysis and techniques for visual information analysis
- Comparative analysis of social life restructuring;

- Rethinking classics of sociology in the context of contemporary societies and development of sociology of sociology

The Institute has not issued any publications, except for a collection of papers from the symposia conducted (e.g. symposia initiated by the death of Emil Durkheim, The Problems of Transition etc.). In this part, there is collaboration with the University from Krakow, Poland. Although it does not publish its own magazine, the Institute collaborates with the Association of Sociologists on the magazine 'Sociological Review'.

Partners and collaborators

Apart from the already mentioned partner institutions, the Institute conducts its projects with the financial support of the Ministry of Education and Science; FOSIM; EU funds and the Norwegian Embassy

3.1.1.5. Department of Gender Studies (in the frames of the Institute for Humanistic Studies)

Address: Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje
 Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
 1000, Skopje, R. Macedonia
 Tel: +389 02 3116 520, ext. 218
 Contact person: Slobodanka Markovska
 E-mail: slobodanka@zf.ukim.edu.mk

The Department of Gender Studies is in the process of forming and is going to officially begin its activities in 2008/2009 academic year. However, in the frames of the Institute for Humanistic Studies, the gender issues were approached in a special manner. Hence, the presentation here will mainly refer to the activities of the Institute.

Research projects

The Institute has implemented two major projects:

- **Education in the area of humanities at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje** (finished 2005), funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Macedonia; and
- **The curricular presence of religion in specific social and humanistic subjects in the elementary and secondary education (reformed general and vocational secondary education)** – 2007, funded by Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute collaborates with other institutes of the Faculty of Philosophy, as well as other faculties and universities in Macedonia; faculties and universities from other

countries, The Open Society Institute; The Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Macedonia etc.

Future activities

Currently, the Department awaits a response to a TEMPUS project about curricular reform for which they have applied. They are also about to commence with the implementation of a part of the Regional Research Promotion Programme of the SDC, for which they have been selected as a potential partner.

3.1.2. Faculty of Economy

Address: Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
1000, Skopje, R.Macedonia
Web site: <http://www.eccf.ukim.edu.mk>
Tel: (02) 3286-800
Fax: (02) 3118-701
Contact: Ljupco Eftimov
E-mail: eftimov@eccf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Faculty of Economy has been founded in 1950. It is consisted of the following departments: Marketing, Financial Management, Accounting and Revision, External Trade, Management, Economy and E-business. In the frames of the faculty also exists the **Centre for Professional Development and Research**. Primarily, scientific-research and applicable activities are organized in the frames of this centre. All members of the academic staff take part in the research activities of the Faculty. The staff consists of 80 people, 50 of which PhDs in Economic Sciences, 7 Masters in Economic Sciences and 20 with Bachelor degrees in Economics.

The **main fields of research** are the issues of macroeconomic politics, strategy of social-economic development, economical relations of our country with other countries, management, marketing, economy of enterprises, accounting business finances, transforming of the accounting and business finances, transformation of the state-owed companies, the market and the prices, finances, banking etc. The Consulting activity consists of activities for the needs of enterprises and their management.

Research projects

Among the more significant **domestic** research projects are:

- Evaluating/assessing the price of 'Gradski Apteki' (City Pharmacies), where the Faculty of Economy was hired by the Ministry of Economy (2006)
- In depth analysis of 'FOD' Novaci

The **international** projects are numerous and include:

1. Projects of the **PHARE-ACE program**:

- Local Financial Systems and Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Transition Countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe
- Isolation Overcoming, Development Strategy and Policy for Cross-border Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe- Agenda 2000
- Privatization, Corporate Management and Industrial Policy in Slovenia and Macedonia

2. Projects of the **TEMPUS-PHARE program**:

- Eurodimension of Accounting Education in the Republic of Macedonia; (Faculty of Economics, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, coordinator, University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain; University of Gent, Belgium).
- European Union Institutions and Economics: Developing of Common Curricula in European Studies; (University of Florence, Italy – coordinator; Faculty of Economics and Faculty of Law both from University of Cyril and Methodius; Karl – Franzens University, Graz, Austria; University of Athens, Greece; University of Tirana, Albania; Università degli studi di Bari, Bari, Italy; Università degli studi di Trieste, Trieste, Italy).

The result of the educational and scientific- research work are available in the form of: **publications, books, journals, collections of studies, monographies**. With the longest traditions is The Annual of Faculty which exists since its founding in 1950. The biggest part of publication activities are realized independently by the faculty realizes and part are done with other publishers in country.

Sources of funding

The main sources of financing come from the Faculty's own budget. However, for the international projects funds are granted for the specific purpose.

Partners and collaborators

Since its existence our Faculty developed good and various cooperation with numerous foreign universities and academic centres in Germany, USA, Australia, Japan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Great Britain, Canada, Poland, China, Slovakia, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic. The negotiations for signing contracts with other eminent universities from abroad are ongoing (for more information see: http://www.eccf.ukim.edu.mk/za_sorabotka.aspx).

The cooperation it provided directly through Univeristy "Ss.Cyril and Methodius"-Skopje. However, part of the cooperation is established with the help of state institutions (ministries, establishments, agencies).

Upcoming activities

Strengthening the research capacity at faculty and CEF as well as improving the cooperation with domestic and international institutions and organizations.

3.1.3. Faculty of Law 'Iustianus Prima'

Address: Blvd. Krste Misirkov bb
1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Web site: www.pf.ukim.edu.mk
Tel: +389 23 117 244
Fax: +389 23 227 549
Contact Person: Sasho Gorgievski
E-mail: icvd@pf.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Faculty of Law is the oldest faculty in Macedonia. It has been formed in 1949 as a first University in the country. Currently, it consists of 5 institutes: for legal and political sciences, for criminal law, for property law, for legal and economic sciences, for international law and international relations; as well as 3 departments: for legal and historical sciences; political sciences and journalism. The main topics of interest for the faculty include: development of legislatives, implementation of the European legal standards in the Macedonian legal system etc. For several years, the project 'Euro-integration of the social, legal and political system of the Republic of Macedonia' has been focusing on different issues related to the Macedonia's aspirations for joining the EU. Some of these topics include: constitutional changes, transition and transformation of the social system, European legal standards and their implementation in the Macedonian legislative, the challenges of the Macedonian legal system in the upcoming period, the civil society etc. However, in most cases, the research activities are usually multidisciplinary oriented, with the aim to look at the legal phenomena through a wide spectrum of approaches from different social sciences.

The faculty's teaching staff is consisted of 50 PhDs 8 Masters and 7 Bachelors. Although the Faculty has officially established a Research Center, it is not functioning on a regular basis. Hence, the research projects are typically conducted on the level of institutes or more often, by professors as individual projects.

Research projects

Since April, 2008, the Faculty is a member of a large network of 30 leading Faculties of Law in Europe. Hence, the Faculty is prepared to engage in a more intensive

cooperation with the EU Universities in the frames of the European programs: Erasmus, Socrates, Erasmus Mundus etc.

In order to realize these ambitions, the Faculty has initiated and partnered in several projects in the frames of the TEMPUS - CARDS programme and other European funds, including: TEMPUS Project “EU Industrial property Right-Building Institutions” (in cooperation with the ‘Macedonia’ University from Thessaloniki, ‘Robert Schuman’ University from Strasbourg and the Faculty of Law from Maribor, Slovenia); TEMPUS Project ‘Creating Training Center for EU integrations’ (in cooperation with the Faculty of Economy, Skopje, College of Europe from Bridge, Belgium) ; TEMPUS Project ‘Developing Joint Curriculum for European Studies – EU Institutions, law, history and human rights’ and ‘Developing Joint Curricula for European Studies – EU Institutions and Economy’ (in cooperation with University of Florence-Italy) etc.

In order to realize some of its goals, the **Center for Intellectual Property Education (CIPE)** was established in 2006, as specialized unit of the Faculty of Law; aimed at: education, research and advice in the field of Intellectual Property Law. Among its pedagogical goals, it also aims at conducting scientific, developmental practical research in the field of Intellectual Property Law. In the frames of the Project: **“Towards EU Standards for Authorship and Related Rights”**, the Center has so far published the following publications:

- Authorship right and Related rights –International Sources, 2006
- Authorship right and Related rights - Commentary and Supplements, 2007

Sources of funding

Most of the Faculty’s projects are implemented in the frames of the European programs such as, TEMPUS, Jan Monnet, GTZ etc. On certain occasions, there is cooperation with the Embassies in Macedonia. The journalism studies have so far conducted projects with the financial assistance of: ‘Press Now’ from Netherlands, OSCE, Norwegian People’s Aid, The European Commission and Council of Europe. However, these projects mainly refer to modernising the educational process and the curricula and are not research oriented.

Partners and collaborators

The faculty has an indirect cooperation with over 80 foreign faculties and universities, with which the University has established contracts for cooperation. Besides that, the Faculty itself has signed numerous contracts, protocols and cooperation programs with institutions from the region, Europe and the world. The longest cooperation is with all Faculties of Law from the region, such as Zagreb, Maribor, Sofija, Belgrad, Novi Sad, Ljubljana, Kragujevac, Nish etc. On a wider level, the cooperation is established with the

following faculties: Faculty of Law - Lomonosov University, Moscow, Russia, Robert Shuman, France, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Ankara University, Turkey, Gratz University, Austria, University of West Bohemia (UWB) in Pilsen etc.

3.2. Private Universities

In the past 5-6 years a number of private higher educational institutions have been established. The following have received accreditation from the Ministry of Education and Science for performing educational activities: The South East European University (SEEU), European University, New York University, FON University, American College University, MIT Faculty, New Balkan Faculty, European Film Academy ESRA, Faculty of Business Economy-Skopje, Faculty of Tourism-Skopje, International Faculties for Law, Economic Sciences and Political Sciences in Struga.

Out of these institutions, only the SEEU has a research centre and is actively involved in social science research, part of which will be presented here. The rest of the private higher educational institutions are rather new and many are still working on equipping the teaching staff, thus placing the research activities at a rather low level of importance.

B) SEEU - South East European University

Address: St. Ilindenska bb
1200 Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia
Web site: <http://www.seeu.edu.mk/english/research/index.asp>
Tel. +389 44 356 000;
Fax. +389 44 356 001
Contact person: Diturije Ismaili, Head of Research Office
Tel: +389 44 356 119
Fax: +389 44 356 111
E-mail: d.ismaili@seeu.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The SEE University is the oldest private university, established in 2001. Currently it has 6 departments: Business Administration, Public Administration, Law, Communication and Technologies and Teacher Training Faculty.

Each of the departments has a research centre, with the main topics of interest being: socio-economic sciences, environment, law, economy, public administration, IT and communication sciences. Additionally, there is the Centre for Human Rights and the Institute of Environment and Health. All these Centres are lead by Directors of Research Centres and managed and administrated by the Research Office of the University. The highest level is the Academic Committee for Research composed by Directors of the Research Centres, Vice-rector for Research and Head of the Research Office.) All University staff members are members of the research centre. Their educational structure is as follows: 101 PhDs, 103 MAs and 74 BAs.

Research projects

The University allocates funds for research projects compiled by researchers from each faculty at SEEU, who obtain a PhD or an MA degree. The quality of research projects is assessed first through submission of proposals according to a template based on formal regulations which set out clearly the required criteria. The implemented and ongoing research projects are presented below by departments:

1. Law Department

- "Legal aspects of Human Trafficking" (2006/07)
- "Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia: Research and Report Proposal" (2006/07)
- "Organized crime: theoretical analyses and practical implications, with special emphasis on the Republic of Macedonia" (2007/08)

2. Business Administration Department

- "Tetovo, economic status and development" (2006/07)
- "Sukuk – interest – free (muslim) bonds and their possible application in the Republic of Macedonia" (2006/07)
- "Role of the institutions for Economic Development of Countries with special accent in the Republic of Macedonia" (2006/07)
- "The relevance of the direct marketing in the development of small and medium enterprises, especially in the region of Tetova" (2006/07)
- Living standards measurement survey (LSMS) in the Republic of Macedonia" (2006/07)

3. Public Administration Department

- "Students perception of global political and religious phenomena" (2006/07)
- "Personal and public security and multiethnic policy" (2006/07)
- "Rule of law and reforms in public administration"(2006/07)
- "Legal status of ex-participants of National Liberation Army"(2006/07)
- "Socio-economic development of the rural municipalities of Pollogu i Poshtëm" (2007/08)

4. Teacher Training Department

- "Integrated bilingualism in Public Administration of the local level"(2006/07)
- "Influence of the communication teacher-student upon the dedication of university students" (2007/08)
- "Measuring cultural awareness in foreign language teaching" (2007/08)

5. Rector

- "Research on the treatment of prisoners" (2007/08)

When a Research project is finished, a dissemination of the findings is practiced through publishing booklets, books, leaflets, CDs etc. In addition to this, The University Research Office regularly publishes the **scientific review titled SEEU Review** twice a year where papers in relevant fields of research from both internal and external researchers are included. Until now, 5 issues of the review have been published and the call for the next issue is opened.

Sources of funding

The activities carried out by the Research Office and Research Centers are funded through the University's budget and allocated especially for the research activities such as research projects, publication of the SEEU Review and the publishing fund. Additional sources of funding are provided by the European Commission funds, embassies, UNDP etc.

Partners and collaborators

The University has a fruitful collaboration with many domestic institutions/organizations, such as the State Universities in the Republic of Macedonia (UKIM, UKLO, UGD), NGOs (Loja, ADI etc.); as well as foreign ones: UNDP, USAID, OSCE, SDC, NDI, Foreign Embassies in MK, European Commission projects as Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, FP6 and FP7.

Upcoming activities

SEEU's plans for the future are to continue with the successful trend, compiling and implementing research projects and working on becoming part of international research projects.

3.3. Conclusion-Universities

The University Ss. Cyril and Methodius and the SEE University have staff with degrees in various fields of expertise. Both universities collaborate and exchange experiences with numerous domestic and foreign academic and non-academic institutions. However, the main difference is that the research activity at the public University is quite dispersed (with the exception of the Faculty of Economy) while at the private one it is concentrated in the university research centre. In the former case, this makes the cooperation between the separate institutes and departments difficult, since they do not have an insight into what others are doing. Moreover, it does not permit for certain staff members to dedicate

themselves completely to conducting research, because of the everyday educational activities.

This was especially accentuated by the professors from the Faculty of Philosophy. Specifically, they emphasised that one of the major obstacles for conducting more research is the fact that every employee is primarily involved in educational activities (i.e. teaching) and has a rather busy schedule, which leaves them with little time for scientific work and successful coordination among individuals. In their words, they typically act 'reactively' instead of 'proactively' (i.e. wait to be invited) when it comes to applying and participating in research projects. In order to overcome this 'crisis', all stressed the need for **establishing a functioning research centre at the level of the Faculty** that will consist of staff members specifically (or predominantly) dedicated to research activities. This would enable more interdisciplinary projects and increase their status as a contemporary scientific institution. It would also encourage the faculty staff/researchers to conduct their individual research projects under the auspices of the University and assist them in gaining external research funds. According to the external evaluation¹⁵ conducted by the EUA (European University Association) *'these funds could then be dispersed efficiently throughout the university to academics performing the best research in areas relevant for teaching and societal and economic needs'*. Additionally, to promote the education of young researchers the University could **establish a research fellowship programme** where fellows could utilise the centre for their own research and at the same time coordinate the activities when it comes to interdisciplinary projects.

Additional setbacks for conducting research projects identified by some University professors were:

- Lack of finances for doing research, especially from the state funds;
- Unbalanced funds provided for research projects in the social and natural/technical sciences by the Ministry of Science;
- Complicated project application procedures for funding from the Ministry of Education and Science and disloyal competition (i.e. political factors that influence the project approval and receiving funds);
- The Ministry of Education and Science's criteria for project application, which are very strict and very difficult to be satisfied even by the most distinguished scientists;

¹⁵ See: <http://www.ukim.edu.mk/files/EUARviewer.pdf>

- Small number of projects open for application by institutions that do not belong to EU member countries.

It is worth mentioning that in the UKIM's self-evaluation report¹⁶ it is assessed that the University has not shown any initiative in the matter of more complex research projects linked to the economy and the public sector, research which would not only help the society but would also provide the UKIM with a better level of equipment and more stable sources of funding.

In order to overcome some of these problematic aspects, the following recommendations are proposed in the University's self-evaluation report:

- Re-examination of the existing funding and the definition of new standards and criteria for financing research activities;
- Increase in the allocation of the social product to science as well as identification of other domestic and foreign sources for funding this activity;
- Strengthening the links between the faculties and institutes in scientific and research projects, as a basis for quality research and formation of research centres within the UKIM;
- Improving the level of the material basis for the successful conduct of research, projects and the financial stimulation of staff in the matter of scientific research;
- Providing adequate scientific and research infrastructure, contemporary equipment, literature and development of publishing activity;
- Development and stimulation of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research at UKIM level;
- Establishing particular projects for inclusion and participation of young, professional staff and students in scientific and research work.

4. Research Institutes

Three Research Institutes will be presented in this part, two of which function within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius (Institute of Social Work and Social Policy and Economic Institute) and one independent Institute – Euro-Balkan.

¹⁶ Available on: <http://www.ukim.edu.mk/files/Selvaluation%20Report.pdf>

4.1. Economic Institute

Address: Prolet, No.1
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: 389 2 3115-076
Fax: 389 2 3226-350
Contact person: Biljana Angelova, Ph.D.
Tel: 389 2 3115-076, ext.107
E-mail: angelova@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Economic Institute has been established in 1952, as an independent scientific and research institution in the frames of the Economical Council of the Government. Currently, it functions as one of the institutes in the frames of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius. At the moment, the Institute has 27 employees of which, 10 PhDs, 7 with Master degree, 4 with Bachelor degree and 5 technical staff with high school or less. Large numbers of external associates are also involved in its work.

The **fields of research** are rather diverse and include:

- Macro-economical topics: economic and regional development, human development, economic system and economic policy, labour force and demographics, international economic relations, economic and development of different sectors, mobility and allocation of production factors, living standard of the population, production and economic re-structuring etc.

- Micro-economical topics: economics, organization and development of enterprises, investments, marketing, business policy and business finances, information systems, company management etc.

Research projects

- Some of the more significant research projects include:
- 'Assessment of pharmacies', ordered by the Agency for Privatization, 2005
- 'Preparing a study and assessment of the property of GTC (City Shopping Centre), 2005
- 'Strategy for Development of the Textile Industry in the Republic of Macedonia', 2006
- 'Assessment of ELEM companies', 2007
- 'Assessment of Olympic pool', 2007
- 'Key competences for lifelong learning', 2007;
- 'Assessment of the Property and Capital of the Public Company 'Vodovod'', 2008

In addition to the numerous projects, since 2004, the Institute also publishes a journal entitled '**Economic Development**'. So far, four issues have been published (one each year).

Sources of funding

The main financing source is the Ministry of Education and Science, under whose auspices the Institute functions. Additional sources are provided through self-financing (by organizing graduate and doctoral studies), domestic and international projects.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute has developed a strong collaboration with many state institutions, faculties (public and private), Local municipality organs, economic subjects, institutes, NGOs etc. On an international level, it cooperates on projects with various donors, such as: UNDP, USAID, Tempus, Foundation Institute Open Society, Friedrich Ebert Foundation-office Skopje, ACE Phare, Bankakademie Frankfurt/M, Germany etc.

Upcoming activities

The plans of the Institute are to continue its scientific activities with the following projects:

- 'Financing and institutional support of small and medium enterprises in the Republic of Macedonia';
- 'The meaning of marketing activities for appearance at the regional and European markets';
- 'Basic determinants and sources of financing of the balance of payment in the Republic of Macedonia';
- 'Institutional efficacy in the function of the economic development of the Republic of Macedonia'.

4.2. Institute for Social, Political and Judicial Research (ISPJR)

Address: Blvd. Partizanski odredi bb
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: 389 2 3065-195
Fax: 389 2 3061-282
E-mail: isppidir@isppi.ukim.edu.mk
Contact person: Dijana Stojanovic
E-mail: stojanovic@isppi.ukim.edu.mk

Profile of the institution

The Institute was founded in 1965 by the "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University Council. At present the Institute consists of 2 departments (Department of Sociology and Department of Political Science) and 8 Research Centres (for Management and Human Resource Development, for Ethnic Relations, for Communications, Media and Culture,

for Criminology, for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies, for Human Rights, for Public Policy and Public Administration.

The Institute is a member of the: International Political Sciences Association, European Consortium for Political Research, International Society of Political Psychology and International Studies Association.

ISPJR conducts projects and studies in the field of Political Sciences, Sociology, Law, Management and Communications. More specifically, its activities regard: Elections; Political Institutions; Public Opinion; Interethnic Relations; Local Government; Public Policy; Public Administration; Strategic (National Security) Studies; European & Balkan Studies; Human Rights; Gender Studies; Social Pathology and Criminology; Forced Migrations and Refugees; Communications and Media. Currently, it has 31 employees, 12 of which hold the title of scientific advisors, 2 higher scientific associates, 5 assistants, 2 junior assistants and the rest-technical staff.

Research projects

The Institute has extensive research activities and some of its most important research projects (apart from the ones already mentioned as financed by the Ministry of Science) conducted in the period 2005-2008 include:

- Capacity building of NGOs in Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo, 2005-2006, CARDS programme;
- Juvenile criminality in the transition of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, conducted in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation;
- De-secularization of Macedonian society;
- Management capacities and human resources in the units of local self-government;
- The position of family in the transitional period of Macedonia.

The Institute regularly publishes '**Annual Report**'. Other publications include:

- The Distribution of Population and Sustainable Development
- Juvenile Criminality in the Transition of the Republic of Macedonia
- The Functioning of the Local Institutions
- Management in Macedonian Business Environment

Sources of funding

Even though the Institute receives funding from the state Budget, its main sources are the post-graduate studies. They also cooperate with foreign clients (international foundations or institutions commissioning projects to the Institute, individual research grants) and provide additional funding from there.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute cooperates with the other domestic research institutes, faculties, ministries, the Civil Servants Agency etc. When it comes to foreign partners, they include: The University of Nebraska, University of Macedonia – Thessaloniki, universities in Paris, Ljubljana, Belgrade, London and Cambridge, The World Bank, UNHCR, UNDP etc.

Upcoming activities

The ongoing projects are planned to be completed, in addition to organizing and participating in academic conferences, summits, etc.

4.3. Euro-Balkan - Institute for Social and Humanitarian Research

Address: No. 63, "Partizanski odredi" Blvd
1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Tel/Fax: + 389 (0)2 3075 570
Web-site: www.euba.org.mk
E-mail: ebalkan@snet.org.mk; eurobalkan@gmail.com
Contact person: Ana Mukoska
E-mail: amukoska@yahoo.com

Profile of the institution

Euro-Balkan is a non-profitable scientific research institute established in 1999, as institution from the sphere of culture. In 2006, according to the decree Nr. 13-2393/2-05 (25.07.2006) from the Ministry of Education and Science, "Euro-Balkan" got status of scientific research institution in the field of humanitarian and social sciences and became a part of the scientific research institutions in Macedonia. The Institute is dedicated to development of the most modern programs for scientific research and inter-disciplinary learning in the social and humanistic sciences, especially in the areas of gender studies, Balkan cultural studies, and political studies about South-Eastern Europe. Its main **departments** are:

- School for Regional studies, in the frames of which are: Department for Postgraduate Studies; Department for Gender Studies; Department for Knowledge Based Development; Department for Contemporary Political Thought; Department for Visual and Cultural Research;
- Division for Applied Policy Research (composed of Centre for Public Administration and Public Policies and Resource Centre for Democracy and Security);

- Library Department and Electronic news Archive and
- Ohrid Summer University.

Euro-Balkan has 14 employees, 6 of which hold a PhD (4 full-time employees, 2 assigned on regular bases on author's honorarium bases); 1 holds a Master degree and is currently obtaining PhD (full-time position), 2 hold a Master of Science degree (in full-time position), 4 currently obtaining their Master degree (1 full-time position, 3 part-time positions) and 1 student (full-time position).

Research projects

The most significant research projects of the Institute are described below:

(2003- 2005) – Euro-Balkan conducted research programs in the field of **fight against human trafficking**

- (2003/2004) “Gender perspective of human trafficking “
- (2005) “Gender perspective in building (implementation and promotion) of a national strategy for the fight against human trafficking”
- **(2005) “Model for Healthcare Budget Watch – Macedonia”** Research aimed at constructing effective mechanism control from the public in spending the local health care funds”.
- **(2004- 2006)** academic project called: „**Regional Seminar in Excellence in Teaching Gender/Women’s and European Studies**“. In the frames of the project five international teams of interdisciplinary researches participated with **five research topics**.
- (2006) Thematic evaluation through qualitative and quantitative research of four projects for interethnic dialog and cooperation, funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Thematic evaluation of the projects: 1) Bridges for the New Balkans, 2) Mozaik-Bilingual Kindergartens, 3) Safe Schools in Community at Risk and 4) Children, Theatre, Education.
- (2006) Euro-Balkan was a consultant of the European Secretariat at the Government of Republic of Macedonia and provided the following services:
 - National program’s revision of the Government of Republic of Macedonia for acceptance regulations of EU 2006;

- Analysing the press media coverage in relation to the processes of euro integration;
- Document for recommendations at applied policies for development of “IT society” in the Republic of Macedonia.

Since 1999 (until now) Euro-Balkan creates daily **news, analyses and policy papers from the field of international relations and security**, focused on several key regions and countries (EU, Balkans, USA, Russia, Middle East etc.).

Since 2001, **The Research Center for Gender Studies** of Euro –Balkan publishes **international journal “IDENTITIES”** – professional journal for politics, gender and culture. 4 issues have been published and the fifth one is on its way.

Some of the more important lately issued **publications** are the following:

- The Exodus of the Macedonians from Greece: Women’s narratives about WWII and their Exodus, 2008;
- Macedonia between the Byzantine Concept and the EU, 2008 – miscellaneous papers from the scientific symposia held in the frames of the manifestation “Days of Justinian”, Skopje, 11-12 May, 2007;
- Conversations With Judith Butler: Notes from the seminar „The crisis of subject“, 2007;
- The Real and I: On the Limit and the Self, 2006;
- Managing with conflict in past: Why and how to do so?, 2006;
- The world in 2005 – edition compiled by The Center for Research and Analysis at the Institute Euro-Balkan dedicated to yearly trends in world politics.

Partners and collaborators

The main domestic financing partners are: Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, Secretariat for European Affairs, Government of Republic of Macedonia, City of Skopje, Cultural Informative Centre etc.

The foreign partners include: The Balkan Trust for Democracy, UNDP, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, Next Page Foundation. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Commission-Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG, OSCE, OSI

ZUG via LGI, European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Freedom House etc.

In terms of **academic collaboration**, the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius is the main domestic partner. The Institute has also established partnership with educational institutions in the frames of the CEEPUS network consortium CII-RO-0014-04-0809, Ro130 /Borders and Borderlines in Cultural Anthropology in the university education and in frames of FP7 consortium Ge.M.I.C, "Gender, Migration, and Intercultural Interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe. From 2008-2001 Euro-Balkan is going to be a member of international academic consortium in frames of FP7 Program of the European Commission.

Upcoming activities

The major upcoming research activities are:

- Research in frames of FP7 consortium Ge.M.I.C in 2008 – 2011 period; and
- Preparations for the research period in 2008-2011 on the topic: „Knowledge, Power and Social Change “, within the framework of the Regional Research Promotion Programme – Western Balkans coordinated by the University of Fribourg/Switzerland.

4.4. Conclusion-Research Institutes

The research institutes possess the human resources and the expertise needed for conducting social science research. Their expertise is also used for organizing post-graduate studies in specific fields, which enables educating young researchers, but also represents an additional source of income for the institutes.

The national institutes sometimes utilise the funds gathered from the educational activities to financially support the research activities. However, the impression is that the educational activities are sometimes put in front of the research activities, even though the latter being the institutes' main purpose. Hence, the human resources at the national institutes appear not to be utilised properly, especially when it comes to conducting innovative social science research of strategic interest for the state as well as research aimed at theoretical development of certain social science disciplines. In addition, since the state does not use incentives to promote these types of research, the Institutes primarily function on a market basis.

While the representatives of the Euro-Balkan institute did not report having any major setbacks in performing their research and related activities, the representatives of the

national institutes emphasised the following issues, primarily related to lack of finances:

- Not getting sufficient funds from the Ministry of Education and Science for employing young researchers in order to enhance the scientific and research activity of the Institute;
- Problems in receiving the payment for the services they have provided;
- Not getting sufficient state funds for research activities.

In this regard, the self evaluation report of the University 'Ss. Cyril and Methodius' in its assessment of the research institutes notes that '***the allocation of finances for scientific work relating to social product is insufficient while other sources of funding for such activities are negligible***'.

Of course, the amount of funds received is not automatically related to the quality of the research conducted. Since the standards for quality research are rather vague, they need to be precisely developed and mutually agreed by researchers. According to the external evaluation of the Universities¹⁷ carried out by the EUA (European University Association) '*the quality of research should be evaluated through publication in international peer-reviewed journals*'. However, since this practice is rather rare when it comes to Macedonian researchers, **for the beginning, alternative standards may need to be employed (e.g. publications in domestic peer-reviewed journals, quotations of the study by other authors, presentations in international conferences, impact on societal change etc.)**. The raised quality standards would hopefully encourage researchers to intensify their efforts to publish in international journals, and hence raise the social science research at the level of natural science research in Macedonia.¹⁸

¹⁷ See: <http://www.ukim.edu.mk/files/EUARviewer.pdf>

¹⁸ Currently there are five 'Centres of Excellence' (all in the area of natural sciences) identified in Macedonia on the basis of their scientific results: Institute of Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Research Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Nephrology Clinic at the Faculty of Medicine; Research Centre for Energy, Informatics and Material Science at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology. They are recognised not only in the country, but also internationally due to their publications, citations and international cooperation.

5. Policy Research Organisations (Think-Thanks)

During the past 5-6 years, there has been a rising trend of policy research organizations being established. This speaks of the increased awareness of the domestic experts as well as the donor organisations of the need for strengthening the sphere of public policy research. In this report, eight think thanks with various fields of expertise will be presented: Analytica, CEA, CRPM, EPRI, Ohrid Institute, Studiorum, IDSC and FORUM-CSR. All of them (with the exception of EPRI) are organised in a so-called 'Think-thank' network, aimed at facilitating joint activities and thus gaining a stronger voice in the public.

5.1 Analytica

Address: Dame Gruev No:7-8/3, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site: www.analyticamk.org
Tel: +389.2.312.1948
Fax: +389.2.312.1948
Contact person: Turker Miftar
Email: info@analyticamk.org, tmiftar@analyticamk.org

Profile of the institution

Analytica was founded in 2005 with a mission to help individuals and institutions with the aim to foster lasting improvement in the democracy and governance in Macedonia and elsewhere in the region of South Eastern Europe. Its main interest areas include: EU approximation, security, public administration reforms, energy and environment. The organization currently has 5 full-time employees, 3 of which with MA degree in social sciences, 1 BA in Law and 1 BSc in Biology.

Research projects

During the period between 2005-2008, Analytica has completed 12 Policy Reports and Briefs mainly on political topics, among which:

- A threshold for European aspirations. NATO membership, 2008;
- Of Homework and Roadmaps: How to Speed up EU Integration of Macedonia, 2008;
- Has regional cooperation led to the establishment of Balkania: Europe's Southeastern Dimension?, 2007;
- Grassroots Europeanisation in the Western Balkans is just starting: Visa facilitation, 2007;
- Evaluation of Public Administration Reforms in Macedonia, 2007;
- Human Resources Management and Practices in Macedonian Civil Service, 2007;
- Conceptualizing decentralization trends in Macedonia., 2006

In addition to these occasional papers, **Enlarge EU Newsletter** and 1 issue of the electronic journal '**Analytical**' were published.

Partners and collaborators

The main collaborators of Analytica are foreign institutions including: The Balkan Trust for Democracy, Center for Civil - Military Relations CCMR, Belgrade; Hertie School of Governance, Berlin; University of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik; Austrian Institute for European Security Policy - AIES, Vienna, Austria; Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Upcoming activities

Analytica's programme for the period 2007-2009 is thus concentrated on the issues of EU approximation, EU integration advocacy, Public administration reform and Governance, Decentralization, Trade and Investment, Education Policy, Energy and Regional Cooperation.

5.2. CEA -Center for Economic Analysis

Address: Blvd. Jane Sandanski 63/3
1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site: www.cea.org.mk
Tel/Fax: +38922444766
Mobile: +38970834636
Contact person: Marjan Nikolov
E-mail: makmar2000@yahoo.com, info@cea.com.mk

Profile of the institution

CEA was established in 2004 with a mission to 'continuously research the economic development and economic policy in the Republic of Macedonia and offer policy relevant recommendations and solutions'. It consists of 16 people, 1 of which with a PhD, 4 with MSc degrees and others with bachelor degrees in economy.

The main topics they are interested in include: local government, fiscal decentralization, fiscal policy, monetary policy, real and trade sector, finances, accounting, banking, macro economy and environmental management.

Research projects

Numerous research projects have been conducted, where CEA was mainly contracted on a consultant basis. The major ones are:

- **Research on the determinants of raising capital through credit and/or equity in Macedonia** - study on the determinants of the decision making at firm level on raising capital, USAID, 2007. IDSCS a partner company conducted the survey and statistics analyses.

- **Upgrade of the CEA Macro model with sub-national data level and simulating macroeconomic stability** - Further 'operationalization' of the FPM Macro model for Macedonia, integrating the local level fiscal data and public debt at local level data to the model. Simulations done by using financial and fiscal data from the strategic documents of the LSG in Macedonia, 2007.
- **System engineering in the area of financial management and tax administration at LGU level** - system engineering of the financial management – tax administration, UNDP, 2007.
- **Evaluation of the process of decentralization and financial analysis of the LSG financial statements** - CEA developed methodology for evaluation, was involved in survey preparation, field and desk research, OSCE, 2007.
- **A study on remittances in Macedonia** – aimed at understanding and quantifying the: sources of remittances in Macedonia, main determinants for sending remittances, channels through which remittances are transferred, methodology of calculation of official statistics on remittances. Sponsored by USAID BEA project, 2007.
- **Preparation of methodology for assessing creditworthiness in Macedonian Local government units.** The objective to develop a methodology for assessing a creditworthiness of the Macedonian LGU by assessing the fiscal capacity of identified sample of Macedonian LGU. Sponsored by USAID BEA and MDW project, 2007.
- **Identification and measuring transaction costs in the Macedonian economy**, OSI, 2004-2006.

CEA regularly issues publications from the research projects conducted, such as:

- Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in Kosovo, 2007;
- The Future of Local Government Finance: Case studies from Romania, Bulgaria and Macedonia, LGI/OSI, 2006;
- Measuring openness of the capital market in Macedonia, 2005.

CEA also publishes the ***Journal of Economics (electronic and printed version)*** which provides a forum where economists can practice technical quantitative analyses of economic problems. Other journals include: the Quarterly Economic Monitor and the Monthly Economic Monitor.

Partners and collaborators

CEA's main funding partner is USAID, which has provided them with a grant for sustainable development as a thank you. Other partners (apart from the ones mentioned above) include: Macedonian Connections - The World Wide Business Directory, OSI, Financial Services Volunteer Corps, Policy Documentation Center, Micro Macro Consultants (Hague, Netherlands), Center for Social and Economic Analyses, MACEF, World Learning etc.

5.3. CRPM - Center for Research and Policy Making

Address: S. Mirche Macan bb
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site. <http://www.crpm.org.mk>
Tel. +389 2 3216 645 (6)
Contact person: Riste Zmejkovski
E-mail. crpm@europe.com, crpm@crpm.org.mk

Profile of the institution

The Center for Research and Policy Making is an independent, non-profit policy research institute founded in March 2004. The standpoint from which it approaches certain issues is principled. The organization considers peace and stability as the first principles that should reign in the Balkan countries, and believes that the major political goal of Macedonia is the integration with the European Union.

CRPM has been formed by a multi-disciplinary team bringing together people with different backgrounds and professional and research interests, and includes considerable experience of the way the Macedonian policy process works. Currently, it employs 8 full-time employees, 1 of which holds a PhD, 4 hold a Master degree and 3 a Bachelor degree. The team cooperates with a number of external associates, experts in different fields of research.

Research interests are diverse and include: Local Socio-economic Development of Municipalities; Macedonian Politics; Education System; Health and Health Care; Social Security; Good governance and budget monitoring; Youth policy; European Integration of Macedonia; Regulatory Impact Assessment etc.

Research Projects

The CRPM team has conducted numerous research projects since its establishing, the more significant of which are:

- **Diagnosis related groups and unpaid care work of women** - study financially supported by UNIFEM-Bratislava, published in May 2008;

- **Budget Watchdogs** – analysis of the public budget spending in five sectors prepared in cooperation with local NGOs that were previously trained by CRPM in budget monitoring; financed by USAID, published in February 2008;
- **Rationalisation of the Hospital Services in Macedonia: Case Studies:** Skopje, Tetovo, Sveti Nikole, Negotino; February 2007; financially supported by LGI (Local Government Public Service Reform Initiative) Budapest;
- **World Bank Recipe for the Macedonian Pension Reform-** Too expensive and overregulated; July 2007;
- **Macedonian Clothes for Europe;** February 2006;
- **How to Make the Economy of Gostivar a Champion?;** July, 2006.

Apart from these larger projects, published in the form of Policy Studies, over 30 Policy Briefs and Occasional Papers have been prepared, among which:

- **Strengthening cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkan regarding migration management:** Macedonia; April 2007;
- **The Status of “Incitement Of Ethnic, Racial And Religious Hatred” Offense Under The Criminal Code of Macedonia after the Vranishkovski Case;** March 2006;
- **Political Economy of the Judiciary Reforms in Macedonia;** June, 2006;
- **Sport Betting as a Social Phenomenon in Republic of Macedonia;** July 2006;
- **Project Religious Education 2006: How to Escape the Mistakes from 2002?;** August 2006;
- **To Study (Abroad) Or Not? The Problem Of The Recognition Of Diplomas Issued - By Foreign Universities;** September 2006;
- **Flying Cheap To Macedonia- A Mission Impossible?;** September 2006; etc.

All analyses conducted are published and posted in an electronic form at the CRPM's web site. CRPM team members are also contracted as consultants for different research projects and evaluators of implemented projects.

Partners and collaborators

The main partners of CRPM are: The Open Society Institute, The German Marshall Fund of the United States of America; NORMAK; UNIFEM; EAR; Friedrich Ebert Foundation, USAID, The World Bank, Olof Palme International Center, European Stability Initiative, Libertas Institute, The Institute for Sustainable Communities etc.

In addition, the organisation has established collaboration with the major state institutions (Ministries, Units of local self-governance, State Statistical Office), as well as with a number of NGOs dispersed in different parts of Macedonia, which act as CRPM's partner organisations in larger projects. CRPM is a member of the Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS).

Upcoming activities

The organisation is currently working on finalization of several ongoing projects:

- **'Kumanovo Market Analysis'**, for the purposes of IOM's Programme for Social and Economic Stabilization of Vulnerable Social Groups in Kumanovo;
- **Analysis of the process of creating public policies in the Macedonian Ministries**, project supported by NORMAK;
- **Assessment of the EC's consultative process** for preparing the progress reports on Macedonia.

From August 2008, CRPM is going to start a large policy analysis and field research aimed at improving several aspects of the secondary and tertiary education in Macedonia.

5.4. EPRI- Economic Policy Research Institute

Address: Puskinova 11-3/12
1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Web site: www.epri-macedonia.org
Tel: +389 02 3122543
Fax: +389 02 774355
Contact person: Yordanka Gancheva
E-mail: yordankag@gmail.com

Profile of the institution

EPRI was founded in 2005 with the aim to make policy research in different (mainly economic and social) areas aiming to ascertain the current state of a problem, its sources and possible solutions. The organization has 4 full time employees, but tends to hire additional staff members on a contract base depending on the project need. The educational structure of the employees is: 1 with a Master degree in economics, 1 with a Bachelor degree in business administration, and 2 seniors at University.

Research projects

The most significant research projects conducted include:

- **Measuring the Costs of Domestic Violence against Woman in R. Macedonia** – A research project financed by UNIFEM and aimed at

measuring the costs of domestic violence against women in Macedonia for the year 2006. A publication 'The costs of domestic violence against women in FYR Macedonia: A costing exercise for 2006, will be soon available on the EPRI and UNIFEM website.

- **Child Poverty Study in the Republic of Macedonia**, conducted in 2007. A research project financed by UNICEF aimed at receiving as much as possible information on the determinants and recent trends in child poverty in R. Macedonia. The multidisciplinary analyses made under that project led to practical policy recommendations aimed at bettering the situation of children living in poverty and deprivation.
- **Model for Healthcare Budget Watch** – Macedonia – Project financed by OSI ZUG. The overall project goal was to enhance the public awareness and public participation on local level through developing effective mechanisms of public control over health care spending.

Sources of funding

EPRI relies strictly on foreign sources of funding, such as UNIFEM (Bratislava office), UNICEF (Skopje office), OSI ZUG (Budapest).

Partners and collaborators

The organisation collaborates with many domestic institutions, such as: The Center for Strategic Research and Documentation-Forum; Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in the Republic of Macedonia – ESE; Association of Citizens Akcija Zdruzenska; Center for Psychosocial and Crisis Action, SEE University, Center for Research and Policy Making, Institute for Democracy, Solidarity and Civil Society, Transparency International-Macedonia; as well as individual experts from the State Statistical Office and from the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy. However, the cooperation with state institutions has not been very successful so far.

Upcoming activities

The future of the organizations is put in question, and will be discussed in September, 2008 since the core staff of the organization (2 Bulgarian nationals) after 4 years spent in Macedonia, are going back to Bulgaria because of bureaucratic difficulties in continuing their working permits. The plan is for the local staff to take over the organization.

5.5. IDSC - Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis”

Address: Kraguevacka St. 2
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site: <http://www.idscs.org.mk>
Tel. +389 2 3094 760
Fax: +389 2 3094 760
Contact person: Vladimir Misev
E-mail: misev@idscs.org.mk, contact@idscs.org.mk

Profile of the institution

The Organisation was established as Institute for Democracy, Solidarity and Civil Society in 1999, and was renamed Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” in 2004. Currently, it is consisted of three main centers: for Euro-Atlantic integration, political system and scientific research. The Institute has 4 full-time, and 5 part-time employees. 6 of the analysts have MAs in political science (3 of them currently working on their PhDs) and 3 have BA degree. Correspondingly to the three research centers, the main areas of interest for IDSC include: the Macedonian Euro-Atlantic integration, political system and local self-government, and public opinion.

Research Projects

The Institute conducts diverse types of research projects, the most significant of which include:

- **Inter-ethnic Relations, Education and Economic Perspectives of the Municipality of Jegunovce.** In partnership with the Nansen Dialogue Center, IDSCS conducted the research project which was published in 2005.
- **Strategic overview of armed violence data collection and analysis mechanisms (South Eastern Europe).** In 2006, with the Small Arms Survey from Geneva, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion and UNDP-Macedonia IDSC conducted a research on the threats of firearms to the Macedonian citizens in times of peace and provided an analysis on the situation in Macedonia.
- **Kavadarci Market Research** – the World Bank has sponsored two research projects implemented in 2005 and 2006. Under the auspices of the International Finance Corporation and the Southeast Europe Enterprise Development, IDSCS provided economic consulting which resulted with the “Kavadarci Market Research” publication which presented viable ideas for local SME development.
- **Tertiary education in focus: studying the reasons for low graduation rates in Macedonia, 2006.**
- **Youth aspiration survey in the Republic of Macedonia.** The survey was conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung)

Macedonia, in partnership with the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” Skopje between April and June 2006. The complete research was published in January 2007.

- **Quarterly Public Opinion Surveys on the process of Macedonian EU integration and on the European Union**, conducted quarterly in cooperation with the Secretariat for European Issues within the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.
- **Election public opinion surveys** - DSCS has conducted very successful and accurate telephone surveys in the face of all elections happening in Macedonia.

Some of the IDSC’s **publications** include:

- ‘Political Informer’ 1/2005, Decentralization in Republic of Macedonia – The Last Step over the Abyss
- Political Study 1/2005, Inter-ethnic relations, education and economic perspective of Jegunovce municipality
- Political Study 1/2005, Macedonian decentralization in between the ethnic relations and the economic development
- Political Study 2/2006, The process of decentralization in Macedonia: Perspectives for resolving the ethnic conflicts, enhances representation, institutional efficacy and responsibility
- The journal ‘Politicka Mislá’ (Political Thought) is a quarterly thematic magazine on political and social issues. 12 editions have been issued so far.

Sources of funding

Some of the bigger funding partners of the Institute include: the Secretariat for European Issues – Government of Republic of Macedonia, OSCE, Balkan Trust for Democracy, EastWest Institute, and European Commission.

Partners and collaborators

Apart from them, the Institute collaborates with numerous domestic and foreign organizations, including: The Association of the Units of Local- Self Governments in Macedonia (ZELS), Citizens’ Association MOST - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, the Think-Thank network, University St Cyril and Methodius, Republic of Macedonia, Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, University St Kliment Ohridski, Republic of Macedonia, Open Society Institute – Skopje; European Institute - Sofia, Bulgaria; Konrad Adenauer Foundation; Germany, University of Bologna, Italy; World Bank,

Macedonia; Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica, Universita di Bologna, Forli, Italy; USAID-Macedonia etc. [For more information see: <http://www.idscs.org.mk/donors>].

5.6. FORUM-Center for Strategic Research and Documentation

Address: Kosta Novakovik 16
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Web-site: www.forum-csrd.org.mk
Tel/Fax: +389 (0)2 23 12 11 00
Contact person: Aleksandar Matovski
E-Mail: forumcsrd@forum-csrd.org.mk

Profile of the institution

FORUM CSRD has been established in 1997 with the mission to 'research the strategic aspects and political solutions of the current and innovative national, regional and European issues'. At the moment, it has 17 employees, intellectuals from the areas of journalism, political sciences, law, etc., holding BAs, MAs, and PhDs.

The major **research areas** are in the fields of: democracy, security, politics, economy, EU integration and multiethnic dialogue.

Research projects

- **Analyzing Macedonian political, economic, and social context** (independent context watch), conducted from March 2006-August 2006, funded from the Swiss Development Cooperation. The analysis aims to make an annual intersection of the political, economic and social context in the Republic of Macedonia, its regional implications and the implications for the other countries from the region.
- **Analysis for conducting and budgeting policies** - as one of the founding members of the coalition "Public Budget Watchdogs," Forum-CSRSD stands for the transparent spending of the public finances and for strengthening the awareness for program budgeting. As part of this coalition, we did an analysis for the conducting and budgeting of the policies for adequate involvement of the non-majority communities (in cooperation with CRPM and ARKA Consulting).
- FORUM CSRD publishes the journal entitled "**Forum Analitica Quarterly**" which intends to present to the Macedonian and international public an analytical approach in treating relevant geopolitical, economic and social topics. The periodical offers analyses, academic papers and articles at expert level concerning the issues that are of utmost importance for the Republic of Macedonia and the region.

Partners and collaborators

Some of FORUM's major partnership organizations include: Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Balkan Trust for Democracy (GMFUS), Council of Europe, The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Embassy of the United Kingdom in the Republic of Macedonia, European Commission, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Norwegian People's Aid, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNDP Bratislava, the World Bank etc.

5.7. OHRID Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs

Address: Dimitrije Tucovic 24,
1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Web-site: www.oi.org.mk
Tel: + 389 2 3224 457
Contact person: Biljana Janeva
E-mail: b.janeva@oi.org.mk, info@oi.org.mk

Profile of the institution

The OHRID Institute was established in 2006 with the aim to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations. It currently consists of 22 people, although not all on a full-time basis. They are all intellectuals holding BA, MA, and PhD in the areas of economics, political science, law, culture and arts, etc. The main research interests concern areas of: international affairs, international security, peace studies, conflict management, economic strategies, with special attention to Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic aspiration and the economic and political circumstances and effects.

Research projects

Some of the more significant research projects conducted include:

- **Leadership Monitoring Reports**, carried out in order to provide the Macedonian citizens with objective and expert monitoring of the work of their Government. The monitoring consists of benchmarking the achievements of the Macedonian Government, having in mind its pre-election promises included in the Program for Work of the Government for 2006-2010 as well as the election Programs of the political parties in power. The program so far resulted in three report issues, in August 2007, December 2007, and March 2008.

Public opinion pools:

- **Priorities in political culture and economic development**, March 2007;

- **Transparency of the Government and Public Institutions**, telephone survey conducted in June 2007 and February 2008. The purpose of the research was to see the public opinion the topic of the availability of information concerning the work of local and central governmental institutions.

Other more important publications include:

- **Report on Macedonia's Foreign Trade**, published in 2006 in cooperation with USAID and the Ministry of Economy.
- **Global magazine**, a quarterly edition for political and economic issues; issues no. 1 and 2 in July 2007 and January 2007.

Partners and collaborators

The Institute collaborates with numerous domestic and foreign partners, with the main financial supporters being: The International Republican Institute, Heritage Foundation, ATLAS – Foundation for Economic Research, Friedrich A. v. Hayek Institute, International Policy Network, German Marshall Fund of the USA, National Fund for Democracy, Center for Liberal Strategies – Sofia. Some of the more important domestic partners are the Macedonian Ministries and USAID-Macedonia.

5.8. 'Studiorum'- Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation

Address: Nikola Parapunov bb
 POB 484, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
 Web-site: www.studiorum.org.mk
 Tel/fax: +389.2.3065-837
 Contact person: Neda Milevska-Kostova
 E-mail: milevska@studiorum.org.mk; office@studiorum.org.mk

Profile of the institution

Studiorum was formed in February 2002 and currently employs 6 full-time (2 MAs and 4 Bas) and about 15 part-time employees (number of experts in roster – 35). Their main research interests include: public health; environmental care; social inclusion and poverty reduction; and the new media and society.

Research projects

The most significant research projects implemented lately are:

- Patient rights in South-East Europe (2005-present);
- Public-private partnership in healthcare (2006-present);
- Mechanisms and best practices of cooperation between the local self-government and the non-governmental organizations (2007-2008).

All projects have resulted in publications. Additionally, Studiorum publishes the magazine for European questions 'Evrodijalog' (Eurodialogue), a magazine for theoretical and applied directions of the Euro-integration processes (from 2002-2004 it has been issued quarterly, and 2005-2008 semi-annually).

Partners and collaborators

The funding partners are diverse and include domestic and foreign institutions, such as: Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation, UNDP, European Commission, USAID. Studiorum cooperates with several relevant actors in the areas of its work. The domestic partners are diverse and include scientific and research institutions at the universities in Republic of Macedonia, local governments and private or state institutions. Among the foreign partners are: The European Public Health Alliance, International Association of Patients' Organizations, Active Citizenship Network (ACN)-Italy.

Upcoming activities

The future plans include expanding and developing the network of experts in the program areas of work, through systemizing the data of the individuals and through starting a program for training young researchers.

5.9. Conclusion: Policy Research Organisations

The rising trend of policy research organisations being founded is very encouraging for the future development of the applicative and developmental social science research. Most have already established themselves as expert organisations in certain fields and are being regularly invited by donors to participate in specific projects. Still, the main method of getting projects is by applying to a specific public announcement (call for proposals).

Some feel that this restricts them to a certain extent to follow an independent program of research since they need to adapt to the donors' needs. Specifically, the donors usually finance the research they believe would support their own agenda in the country. Although their agenda is based on the country's needs, these needs are typically identified by the donor. Moreover, there is seldom interaction between the donor communities and the researchers in the process of deciding on the priorities.

However, think-thanks offered thought-provoking ideas on how this problem could be overcome. Some of them are:

- **Increased communication between the policy research organisations and donors** with the attempt to influence their 3 years plans at the stage of their formation. This could be achieved by organising a yearly conference of donors and researches in R. Macedonia, for exchanging experiences and attitudes and a possible joint formulation of priorities. Another way is the creation of a yearly plan of priorities of the think-thank network of Macedonia, and sending this plan to all donors.
- **Giving a wider frame and general indicators for the research** by the donors and leaving the specific research topic to be determined by the think thank itself.
- **Balancing the donor influence** by setting up the research and adjusting it to fit those aspects and questions of special aspects for the organisation (perhaps through innovative methodological and theoretical approach)
- **Engaging in more independent fund-raising** by the think thanks. Specifically, through gathering and targeting finances and donors, an institution would be able to conduct research with a theme that the institution itself has decided upon. This method gives better final results, the researches are more creative and quite often methodologically stronger, but requires more time and dedication bearing in mind the unsure future of securing enough resources to realize the research.

Other more significant problems and set-backs faced by think-thanks include:

- **Project implementation** some feel that it is extremely difficult to implement a research project in Macedonia because of the fundamental lack of information. In most of the areas there is no statistical data available and in the areas where such data exists it is hardly accessible by the researchers. Moreover, there is a fundamental lack of transparency of public information in the country. Even information such as state budgets and budget balance sheets are not publicly available despite the legal obligation for that.
- **Subjectivity in the process of the donor's evaluation** of a project and the lack of sufficiently explained goals and activities.
- **Inaptitude by the donors** or aggressive insisting on bureaucratic formalities and giving detailed reports, which slows down the implementation of the projects.
- **Lack of responsiveness from the government institutions** - in general, there is a low awareness of the need for evidence based policy analysis

among the Macedonian state institutions. Often they do not see the need for such activities in the process of creating public policies and are rather inflexible in providing support to independent research organisations.

Recommendations on how some of these challenges could be overcome are offered in the **General Conclusions** section.

6. Donor Organisations/Foundations

The donor community is well represented in Macedonia mostly through international organisations. They usually function as partner organisations of the local research institutions and collaborate with them on developing and implementing research activities. The research projects financed are rarely a purpose on their own, but typically represent a part of a wider project that the donor organisation has interest in pursuing. Hence, financing social science research per se is not their main aim.

Eight of the most active donor organisations working in Macedonia will be presented here: FOSIM, European Commission, Fridrich Ebert, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, USAID, World Bank, OSCE and UN.

6.1. FOSIM- Foundation Open Society Institute-Macedonia

Address: Bvd. Jane Sandanski 111
POBox 378, 1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: +389 2 2444 488
Fax: +389 2 2444 499
Web-site: www.soros.org.mk
E-mail: osi@soros.org.mk

The mission of the Foundation Institute for Open Society Macedonia is to realize and support a wide spectrum of initiatives aimed at the promotion of an open society through influencing the governmental policies and through supporting the sectors of education, media, public health, human rights and gender rights, and also through supporting the social, legal, and economic reforms. The main mission of the Institute in Macedonia is the inner integration of the country, as a pre-condition for the integration to the European Union. For this purpose, numerous projects have been implemented, a number of which included research activities. Some of the research projects supported by FOSIM in the period 2006-2008 are:

- **Assessment of Good Governance Potential in Macedonia**, lasting 2006-2008, which is aimed at raising awareness for further promotion of public interest and good governance concepts

- **EU Policies and Macedonian education** - FOSIM invests in monitoring the national education policies, research and analysis, policy papers and policy briefs, advocacy and lobbying on educational issues arising from educational reform and its implementation.
- **Policy-Oriented Research and Debate about Economic Reforms** aimed at addressing the transaction costs incurred by businesses in Macedonia; improving the functioning of the institutions of the system that daily interact with business and to improve their mutual coordination and relations affecting the business environment.
- **National Strategy for Broadcast Development (NSBD)** - conducting several comprehensive researches to serve as a ground for drafting the Strategy Document that will be adopted by Parliament and implemented by all relevant institutions.
- **Monitoring Decentralization** – a project aimed at supporting transparent effective and efficient process of decentralization through monitoring the implementation of the competences in the area of financing and urban planning in 12 municipalities by the local authorities.

6.2. European Commission (EC)

Address: Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin 52v
 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
 Telephone: (+389 2) 3248 500
 Tel/Fax: (+389 2) 3248 501
 E-mail: Delegation-FYRMacedonia@ec.europa.eu
 Web-site: <http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

The Delegation of the European Commission's main focus is to facilitate the development of political, economic and trade relations between the European Union and Macedonia, and promote the EU values. Since 2001, the main framework of this relationship is the Stabilization and Association process. One of EU Mission's key tasks is to inform the authorities, institutions, media and citizens of Macedonia about the pre-accession process and about the EU institutions and policies. It also maintains regular contacts with academic institutions, business community and representatives of the civil society.

Among other projects, the Delegation has supported and coordinated the following:

- **Eurobarometer** - the 67th research of the Standard Eurobarometer (EB67) was carried out for the first time in Macedonia in the period from 23 June to 4 July 2007, covering political, economic, cultural, and other topics concerning the latest developments in Macedonia and EU.

- **Research Framework Programme (FP7)** is aimed at supporting the activities with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's scientific and technical laboratories. JRC's activities are for scientific and technological support to the EU policymaking process, and list the priority sectors concerning Macedonia, such as environment, food and agriculture. The intention is to encourage dialogue, to identify potential opportunities within FP7 and the possibilities for participation of Macedonian scientists in the specialized workshops and advanced training courses organized by JRC.

6.3. FES-Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Address: Bul. "Sv. Kliment Ohridski " 21/1
 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
 P.O.Box. 423.
 Tel: + 389 2 3232 656; + 389 2 3232 637.
 Web-site: www.fes.org.mk
 E-mail: contact@fes.org.mk

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Macedonia supports the transformation process of the state in the areas of: socio-political dialogue (democratization), implementation of the peace agreement, conflict prevention, minority policy, Euro-Atlantic integration, regional and international cooperation, social dialogue and labour relations. The following research projects have been supported by the FES:

- **Youth aspiration survey in the Republic of Macedonia** in partnership with the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" Skopje between April and June 2006.
- **Decentralization processes: Citizen's views.** Two researchers, from the Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research and from the Economic Institute conducted a public opinion survey on citizens' views on the decentralization process and the beginning of the functioning of the local self-government.
- **The organisation publishes the journal 'Barometer'** – a bi-yearly report on the current events, political parties, and development in the Republic of Macedonia.

6.4. KAS-Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Address: St. Maksim Gorki 16 / floor 3
 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
 Tel: +389 2 323 11 22
 Fax: +389 2 313 52 90
 Web-site: <http://www.kas.de/proj/home/home/42/2/index.html>
 E-Mail: kas@kas.com.mk

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Skopje supports Macedonia's approximation to the Euro-Atlantic structures with according projects. The Foundation's work is primarily directed at promoting the dialogue between people of different ethnic origin and religious orientation. The main goal is to support the development of a civil society in which everyone's interests are respected, in which the strongest member is considerate of the weakest and everybody understands that the state is the frame within which every individual can develop according to his/her possibilities.

The organisation publishes the quarterly **journal 'Politicka Mislá'** (Political Thought), which deals with the most important political, social, and economic topics in Macedonia and Europe, such as religious freedom and dialogue, social market economy, EU and NATO partnership, etc., done by researchers and analysts from Macedonia and abroad.

6.5. USAID-United States Agency for International Development

Address: Jurij Gagarin 15/III
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: + 389-2 308-0446
Fax: + 389-2 308-0449
Web-site: <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>
E-mail: vkoteska@usaid.gov

USAID-Macedonia is implementing projects that support economic growth, democratic modernization and educational reform. The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. These initiatives are aimed at improving the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. The USAID BEA (Business Environment Activity) has provided a three-year grant to the Center for Economic Analysis to support its development as an independent and unbiased think-tank that plays a key role in public policy debates and generates high quality macroeconomic analysis. Under the terms of the grant, CEA provides statistical data and reports needed for the development and implementation of USAID programs in Macedonia.

6.6. The World Bank

Address: 34 Leninova St.
1000, Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: +389 2 3117 159
Fax: +389 2 3117 627
Web-site: www.worldbank.org.mk
Contact person: Denis Boskovski
E-mail: dboskovski@worldbank.org

The World Bank in Macedonia aims to support the government's program around two core pillars: i) fostering economic growth, job creation, and increasing the living

standards of all; and (ii) improving the governance and transparency of public service delivery to support the market economy.

Some of the more important studies conducted with the support of WB include:

- **Economic Sector Reports** - macroeconomic analysis of Macedonia's economy, analyses of major economic sectors and other reports on specific issues, such as poverty assessments, etc.
- **The Macedonia community development project:** empowerment through targeting and institution building, where monitoring and analysis have been conducted in the areas of poverty, civil society, population policies, etc.
- **Doing Business 2008: Macedonia:** comparing regulation in 178 economies. *Doing Business 2008* is the fifth in a series of annual reports investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it.

6.7. OSCE- Spill over Monitor Mission to Skopje

Address: 11 Oktomvri str. 25, QBE Building
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: +389-2 323 4000
Fax: +389-2 323 4234
Web-site: <http://www.osce.org/skopje/>

Currently, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje has three main areas of activity: monitoring; police training and development; and other political activities related to the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. In order to realize its aims, different research projects have been conducted and supported, among which:

- **Surveys on Decentralization** -these surveys are the result of field research conducted by the Public Administration Reform Department of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje. Reports on the decentralization survey have been published with the topics of the implementation of the process of decentralization and on the fiscal decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia. In cooperation with the Center for Economic Analysis, Decentralization – Our Goal, a quarterly edition has been published.
- **External oversight of the law-enforcement bodies** - report consisting of analysis of the international standards, domestic legislation, mechanisms, institutions and practice; presented in March 2008.

6.8. UN-United Nations

Address: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, 8-ma Udarina Brigada.2
1000 Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: +389 2 3249 502
Fax: +389 2 3249 505
Email: rc.mk@undp.org
Web: www.un.org.mk

UN and its family of organizations work to promote respect for human rights, protect the environment, improve global security, fight disease and reduce poverty throughout the world. 11 organizations from the 'UN family' are working in Macedonia,; UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, FAO, IOM, World Bank¹⁹, IMF, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNMIK. All of them are engaged in a broad range of activities aiming to benefit all persons living in the country

Numerous research projects have been implemented by or with the support of the UN organisations. Some of them include:

UNDP:

- **People-Centered Analysis Report (2008)**, a thematic report including analysis of domestic and foreign experts, as well as a poll conducted by Brima Galup, on the topics of social inclusion and inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia.
- **Report on Fiscal Decentralization (2007)**, compiled by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Self-Government,
- **International and national legal framework for human rights – Macedonia (2007)**. Document commissioned and supported by UNDP Macedonia and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and completed in cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, and the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Skopje.

UNICEF:

- **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey**: monitoring the situation of children and women (2005-2006), carried by the State Statistical Office in cooperation and with technical and financial support from UNICEF.
- **Children in FYR Macedonia**: A Situation Analysis, commissioned by UNICEF in late 2007, assesses key child-related dimensions of national development and suggests priority actions.

IOM: **Protection of witnesses, collaborators of justice and the victims in domestic and international law** .

UNHCR: **Global Refugee Trends, 2005**

¹⁹ The World Bank activities have been presented separately

IV) General Conclusion and Recommendations

It can be concluded that in general there is a sufficient number of professionals trained in conducting social science research and a will among organisations for conducting research. However, the number of research projects conducted (i.e. financed) in the social science sector is among the lowest. This may mean that the social science topics are not considered a public interest, or that these researchers more frequently tend to finance their projects on their own (since they typically cost less than the ones in technical, technological and medical sciences). Also, the existing structures (although in place) insufficiently promote and encourage social science research, which causes Macedonia to be **poorly represented in the international social science research networks** (journals, international projects etc.). This situation has the danger of affecting the quality of the research conducted, because the standards for what constitutes a good research are not clearly defined.

The research topics are dependent on the field of expertise of the researchers, but also very much reliant on the topics assessed as **priority issues by the international donors**. The main types of research funded by international donors include: issues related to NATO and EU integration (laws, regulations, economic preconditions, system of defence etc.); social protection and inclusion; assessment of public policies in the areas of: health, economy social policy and labour market; local socio-economic development of municipalities; development of certain industry sector; conflict prevention and management; gender issues etc. In addition, the economic institutions are financed to conduct financial assessment of enterprises. **Topics which are less included are: budget monitoring and issues of transparency; human rights; youth issues; education policy; cultural policy; environmental policy; interethnic relations; in-depth media analyses** etc. There also appears to be a rather small number of innovative social science research aimed at the theoretical development of a certain scientific discipline. This is a concerning fact which indicates that Macedonian researchers do not conduct much relevant research which could be of interest to the wider scientific community.

The Ministry of Education and Science, on the other hand, tends to fund projects which are considered to be of national interest. These are primarily related to the Macedonian history, language and folklore and tend to have theoretical, rather than applicative value. Moreover, there appears to be a lack of sense on the side of state institutions for the need of social science research, even when it comes to research aimed at analysing and/or developing a public policy. The priorities are strongly

placed on the sphere of natural, technical and technological sciences, which although a positive trend, can not support the development of the country on its own.

In addition to this, many social science researchers find the requirements referring to the professional achievements of the applicants for state funding impossible to be achieved, especially having in mind the insufficient opportunities for conducting social science research and the difficulties of publishing the research in international peer-reviewed journals.

The lack of public funds especially affects the research activities of the state universities and institutes.²⁰ Hence, they tend to additionally apply for funding from international donors in order to be able to realise their research activities. However, this prevents them to always conduct the studies they believe are important, but instead need to adapt to the requirements set by the funding institution.

From the above said, the following conclusions can be drawn, along with recommendations for overcoming the problems detected:

- There is sufficient number of professionals in Macedonia educated to conduct social science research, although in this study we cannot assess the level of their skills and the quality of research conducted. However, there are indications that **only a small number have published their research in international peer-reviewed journals**, which is an activity which should be encouraged by the University. In addition, efforts should be made to **employ more young researchers** at the faculties and research institutes and encourage study visits to foreign universities aimed at upgrading social science research skills.

- Only two Universities have developed research activity in the area of social sciences. This is a concerning fact, having in mind that the research activity should be among the primary functions of the University. The recently established higher education institutions need to be motivated to **combine their educational and research activities** and in time form specialised research institutes/departments.

²⁰ Note that during the writing of this report, the MoES has expressed initiative for increasing the budget for the science sector and rising the research activities to a higher level, resulting in allocating additional 26 million denars for research and development activities. It remains to be seen how these funds are going to be managed.

- Despite the fact that there is a developed research activity at the oldest state University, the funds for social science research projects are not sufficient, which in many cases results with **donor-driven projects** and projects conducted by faculty staff outside of the University's auspices. Thus, establishing a **centralised research body at the Universities** (consisted of staff from different institutes and departments)²¹ and allocating a special fund for its functioning is expected to encourage cooperation and conducting of interdisciplinary research. At the same time, the university professors should be encouraged to realise the individual projects under the auspices of the faculty/university and engage young research staff as research fellows.

- Establishing a **national data-base of research projects** conducted individually and on the level of institutions is of crucial importance, along with information on whether they have been presented at conferences and published in scientific journals. The data-base should be easily approachable by individual researchers, which should be able to upload information and use the available data.

- The international cooperation of the Universities included in this report is on a high level, but there is a **need of greater initiative on behalf of the Macedonian institutions for initiating and leading projects**. Also, more international **basic research projects should be initiated**, since this type of research was detected to be rather neglected by Macedonian researchers.

- The number of policy research organisations is growing and they are establishing themselves as experts in certain fields. However, though their research activities have been fruitful, they often appear not to be recognised and accepted by the state institutions. Moreover, despite the recently adopted 'Law on Open Access to Information of Public Interest', **accessing certain information** often appears to be quite a **challenging** endeavour. Therefore, **signing of memorandums between public institutions and research organisations** could enhance their cooperation and increase the understanding of the position and the needs of the other party.

²¹ One of the objectives predicted with the 'National Strategy for Development of Education 2005-2015' is a transformation of the public universities into integrated universities by 2010.

- The **cooperation between the research institutions is irregular** and often does not go beyond informal relationship. A programme for establishing formal and regular communication between them is very much needed for determining the research priorities, the expertise of each institution and developing a joint plan for approaching and influencing the donors' programmes.
- On the national level, there is **smaller allocation of funds for social sciences, compared to other scientific fields**. This problem needs to be raised as an issue of state interest and research institutions should jointly vouch for the need of greater funds from the **state budget for social science research** as one of the preconditions for the social and economic development of the country.
- **Commissions deciding on the approval of projects financed by the MoES need to be established independently from the Ministry** and include the most prominent scientists with a reputation outside of the country. Foreign scientists may also be consulted during the selection process and may even take part as members of the evaluating committee. This would be necessary if aiming to **establish an objective evaluation system and a constant strive towards increased quality of research**.
- Only institutions that work in the field of economics have established a market-based cooperation with the businesses.²² Hence, there is a greater need of **establishing cooperation with businesses and individual philanthropists** to participate in funding social science research. A joint conference of the research community and the business community could be organised to present the needs of the relevant parties and potentially form partnerships.
- Only a small number of faculty institutes/departments issue regular **publications (journals, magazines)**. Thus, researchers from certain social science areas have limited opportunities for publishing their research papers. Funding such projects would encourage the faculty staff and other researchers from related fields to engage in more research activities, which would afterwards be published.

²² The market research surveys conducted for the needs of certain enterprises are not counted here.

- The issue of quality of the research conducted, although extremely important, could not be thoroughly examined in this analysis. Still, the need for **defining and promoting clear quality standards for social science research** and the practice of professional advancement on the basis of the amount and quality of the research work was recognised. Further analyses should specifically focus on examining the issue of quality of research and the potential methods of raising the international profile of the Macedonian social science institutions.

Appendix 1: Sample Questionnaire (Policy Research Organisations)



Questionnaire – Regional Research Promotion Program

The following questions are related to the structure of your organization, main areas of operating and cooperation with domestic and foreign organization. We kindly ask you to briefly answer the questionnaire and send it back via e-mail to mickovska@crpm.org.mk by 6th June, (Friday).

1. What year was the organization founded?

2. How many employees does it have?
 - Educational structure of the employees:

3. Which are the main research areas of interest for the organization?

4. Which are main research projects conducted during the period 2005 - 2008 year?

5. Are there any published materials during the period of 2005-2008 year? (please circle)

Yes	No
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 - If - Yes , please name some of them?

6. Which are the main financial sources (donors, market based consulting services)
 - Domestic:

 - Foreign donors:

7. Do you typically apply for projects or are being invited by donors /clients?

8. What are the main barriers you are facing in your work? (for example, project approval, receiving financial support etc.)

9. Do you have the feeling that the process of research or actual themes that are imposed to you as organization are e “donor driven”? (yes /no, please provide a wider answer to this question).

- If the answer is “yes” – how would you avoid or at least balance this situation?

10. Do you cooperate with other institutions? If yes, please name some of them.

- Domestic:

- Foreign:

11. Which are the upcoming plans (projects) of your organization?

Thank you for your cooperation!

Appendix 2: List of topics researched and implementing institutions²³

Topic ²⁴	Implementing institution	Funded by: ²⁵
EU and NATO approximation and integration		
Of Homework and Roadmaps: How to Speed up EU Integration of Macedonia	Analytica	
Grassroots Europeanisation in the Western Balkans is just starting: Visa facilitation	Analytica	
A threshold for European aspirations. NATO membership	Analytica	
National program's revision of the Government of Republic of Macedonia for acceptance regulations of EU 2006	Euro Balkan	
Analysing the press media coverage in relation to the processes of euro integration	Euro Balkan	
The Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic integrations	MANU, Centre for Strategic Research	
Perspectives of the Republic of Macedonia on its way towards NATO and EU	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	
Joint External and Security Policy of EU	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	MoES
The changes in media regulations in the Republic of Macedonia in accordance with the EU processes	ISPJR	MoES
Harmonization of the Legal System in the Republic of Macedonia with the Law of the European Union	MANU, Department of Social Sciences	
Social Policy in Macedonia: Progress with EU Approximation	Analytica	
Eurobarometer	Brima Gallup Surveying Agency	EC
Social protection		
CONNECT: Components, organization, costs and outcomes of health care and community-based interventions for people with posttraumatic stress following war and conflict in the Balkans	Institute of Psychology	EC
Social Protection and Social Inclusion	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	EC
Public opinion assessment of the social security	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNDP
Assessment of the policies, conditions and programs for children on the streets	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNICEF
Local socio-economic development		
Kavadarci Market Research	IDSC	World Bank

²³ Note that the research projects stated in this list include only the most significant projects conducted on the level of institution, and not studies conducted by individual researchers for their personal needs.

²⁴ A number of topics are interdisciplinary. However, they were placed in one category based on the assessment of the primary topic.

²⁵ Where the funding partner is not stated, it is either unknown, or the institution has conducted the project utilizing its own funds.

How to Make the Economy of Gostivar a Champion	CRPM	Olof Palme International Center and OSI Macedonia
Kumanovo Market Research	CRPM	IOM
Tetovo, economic status and development	SEEEU, Business Administration Department	
Socio-economic development of the rural municipalities of Pollogu i Poshtëm	SEEEU, Public Administration Department	
Inter-ethnic Relations, Education and Economic Perspectives of the Municipality of Jegunovce	ISDC	Nansen Dialogue Center
Discovering the Hidden Opportunities of Delcevo and Blagoevgrad	CRPM	European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)
Conflict prevention and security		
Strategic overview of armed violence data collection and analysis mechanisms (South Eastern Europe)	IDSC	Small Arms Survey from Geneva, Bonn International Centre for Conversion, UNDP
Globalisation of Peace and Security	Institute for Defense and Peace studies	Faculty of Philosophy and Ministry of Defense
Conflict Prevention	Institute for Defense and Peace Studies	FES
Personal and public security and multiethnic policy	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Health policy		
Patient rights in South-East Europe	Studiorum	
Public-private partnership in healthcare	Studiorum	
Model for Healthcare Budget Watch – Macedonia	EPRI and Euro Balkan	OSI
Rationalisation of the Hospital Services in Macedonia: Case Studies: Skopje, Tetovo, Sveti Nikole, Negotino	CRPM	LGI-Budapest
Assessment of companies		
Assessment of pharmacies	Economic Institute	
Preparing a study and assessment of the property of GTC (City Shopping Centre)	Economic Institute	
Assessment of 'ELEM' companies	Economic Institute	
Assessment of 'Olympic pool'	Economic Institute	
Assessment of the Property and Capital of the Public Company 'Vodovod'	Economic Institute	
Evaluating/assessing the price of 'Gradski Apteki' (City Pharmacies)	Faculty of Economy	Ministry of Economy
In depth analysis of 'FOD' Novaci	Faculty of Economy	
Gender issues		
Measuring the Costs of Domestic Violence against Woman in R. Macedonia	EPRI	UNIFEM
Diagnosis related groups and unpaid care work of women	CRPM	UNIFEM
Gender perspective of human trafficking	Euro Balkan	

Gender perspective in building (implementation and promotion) of a national strategy for the fight against human trafficking	Euro Balkan	
The position of the Roma woman in Slovenia and Macedonia	Institute of Sociology – Skopje and adjacent institute in Slovenia	MoES
Bio/technoscience and Gender: the Strange Hybrid of the Intersection between the Natural and Social Sciences	Euro Balkan	
Mapping the key concepts in gender studies and creating ‘cartography’ of their Balkan specificity	Euro Balkan	
Teaching the Gender Studies: Questions of Efficaciousness, Excellence and Innovativeness through Teaching	Euro Balkan	
The Question of ‘Europeanism’: Situatedness within the Balkan Identity in the Light of the European Prospects and the Issue of Gender	Euro Balkan	
The Challenges of the Interdisciplinary Character of the Gender Studies	Euro Balkan	
Labour issues		
World Bank Recipe for the Macedonian Pension Reform - Too expensive and overregulated	CRPM	
From Social Benefits to Employment	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	Spark-Netherlands
Unemployment – risks and reactions	ISPJR	MoES
Employment: Progress with EU Approximation in Macedonia	Analytica	
General political and economic issues		
Leadership Monitoring Reports	OHRID institute	
Analyzing Macedonian political, economic, and social context (independent context watch)	FORUM	SDC
Fundamental long-term interests of the Republic of Macedonia and sources and forms of threats to it	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	
Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of Macedonia's relations with its neighbours (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia)	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	
Balkan studies: historical, political, economic, cultural and demographic aspects of the relations between Macedonia and Turkey	MANU, Center for Strategic Research	
Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement	ISJPR and FES	FES
Priorities in political culture and economic development (public opinion survey)	OHRID institute	
Has regional cooperation led to the establishment of Balkania: Europe's Southeastern Dimension?	Analytica	
Assessment of Good Governance Potential in Macedonia	Various authors	OSI
Education		
Tertiary education in focus: studying the reasons for low graduation rates in Macedonia	IDSC	
To Study (Abroad) Or Not? The Problem Of The Recognition Of Diplomas Issued - By Foreign Universities	CRPM	BTD

Religious Education 2006: How to Escape the Mistakes from 2002	CRPM	
The curricular presence of religion in specific social and humanistic subjects in the elementary and secondary education	Department of Humanistic Studies	OSI
Influence of the communication teacher-student upon the dedication of university students	SEEU-Teacher Training Department	
Children/Youth		
Child Poverty Study in the Republic of Macedonia	EPRI	UNICEF
Youth aspiration survey in the Republic of Macedonia'	IDSC and FES	FES
Juvenile criminality in the transition of the Republic of Macedonia	IPSJR	
Students perception of global political and religious phenomena	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Study of Child Trafficking in the FYR of Macedonia	Institute for Social Work and Social Policy	UNICEF
Migration		
Study on remittances in Macedonia	CEA	USAID BEA
Strengthening cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkan regarding migration management	CRPM	BTD
Migration and Development: Creating regional labour market and labour migrants circulation as response to regional market demands	CRPM	BTD
Global Refugee Trends		UNHCR
Media analysis		
Ethnographic research of the television audience in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU - Faculty of Communication Sciences and Technologies at	MoES
Budget transparency and monitoring		
Budget Watchdogs	CRPM	USAID
Inter-ethnic relations		
The human values of sports in the function of promoting the inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia		UNESCO
The relations between Macedonians and Albanians (1878-1913)	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Integrated bilingualism in Public Administration of the local level	SEEU – Teacher Training Department	
Economic development		
Fiscal Factor in the Future Development of Macedonia	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Modern Trends of the Microeconomic Science and the Implications to the State Regulation	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
The relevance of the latest macro-economic theories for the economy of Republic of Macedonia	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Towards a dynamic and sustainable growth of Republic of Macedonia: Implementation of policies for economic growth enhancement	MANU, Department for Social Sciences	
Local Financial Systems and Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Transition Countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe	Faculty of Economy	

Privatization, Corporate Management and Industrial Policy in Slovenia and Macedonia	Faculty of Economy	
Sukuk – interest – free (muslim) bonds and their possible application in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Business Administration Department	
The relevance of the direct marketing in the development of small and medium enterprises, especially in the region of Tetova	SEEU-Business Administration Department	
Strategy for Development of the Textile Industry in the Republic of Macedonia	Economic Institute	
Role of the institutions for Economic Development of Countries with special accent in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU- Business Administration Reform	
Isolation Overcoming, Development Strategy and Policy for Cross-border Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe	Faculty of Economy	
Analyses of specific economic issues		
Research on the determinants of raising capital through credit and/or equity in Macedonia	CEA and IDSC	USAID
Upgrade of the CEA Macro model with sub-national data level and simulating macroeconomic stability	CEA	
System engineering in the area of financial management and tax administration at LGU level	CEA	UNDP
Evaluation of the process of decentralization and financial analysis of the LSG financial statements	CEA	OSCE
Identification and measuring transaction costs in the Macedonian economy	CEA	OSI
Macedonian Clothes for Europe	CRPM	Olof Palme International Center and OSI Macedonia
Legal analyses / Evaluation of legal reforms		
Legal aspects of Human Trafficking	SEEU- Law Department	
Rule of law and reforms in public administration	SEEU- Public Administration Department	
Legal status of ex-participants of National Liberation Army	SEEU – Public Administration Department	
Evaluation of Public Administration Reforms in Macedonia	Analytica	
The Status of “Incitement Of Ethnic, Racial And Religious Hatred” Offense Under The Criminal Code of Macedonia after the Vranishkovski Case	CRPM	
Political Economy of the Judiciary Reforms in Macedonia	CRPM	
External oversight of the law-enforcement bodies	OCSE	OSCE
Organized crime: theoretical analyses and practical implications, with special emphasis on the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Law Department	
Human resources		
Management capacities and human resources in the units of local self-government	ISPJR	
Human Resources Management and Practices in Macedonian Civil Service	Analytica	

The role of citizens in the decision-making process in the areas of local importance	ISPJR	
Decentralisation		
Decentralization processes: Citizen's views	ISPJR and Economic Institute	FES
Conceptualizing decentralization trends in Macedonia	Analytica	
Surveys on Decentralization	OSCE - Public Administration Reform Department	OSCE
Human rights		
International and national legal framework for human rights – Macedonia	ISPJR and Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights	UNDP
Research on the treatment of prisoners	SEEU-Rector	
Protection of witnesses, collaborators of justice and the victims in domestic and international law	Various authors	IOM
Miscellaneous topics		
Sport Betting as a Social Phenomenon in Republic of Macedonia	CRPM	BTD
Flying Cheap To Macedonia - A Mission Impossible?	CRPM	BTD
Mechanisms and best practices of cooperation between the local self-government and the non-governmental organizations	Studiorum	
De-secularization of Macedonian society	ISPJR	
The position of the family in the transitional period of Macedonia	ISPJR	
Measuring cultural awareness in foreign language teaching	SEEU- Teacher Training Department	
European Values Study	Institute of Psychology and Institute of Sociology	Faculty of Philosophy and OSI
Living standards measurement survey (LSMS) in the Republic of Macedonia”	SEEU - Business Administration Department	
Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia	SEEU-Law Department	
Population of The Republic of Macedonia	MANU-Centre for Strategic Research	
The political identities in the Republic of Macedonia	ISPJR	
Structures of the archaic religious culture in Slovenia and Macedonia and their relations	Institute of History of Arts and Archaeology and an adjacent institute in Slovenia	MoES
People-Centred Analysis Report	Brima Gallup and various authors	UNDP