



Center for Research and Policy Making

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

Hi There !

What we at the Center for Research and Policy Making do is enlightening! In 2010 so far we did trainings for citizens, NGOs, civil servants and the business sector. In patriarchal, macho Macedonia we worked on raising awareness to gender issues. CRPM also began research on the role of the elites in the political processes now as in the democratization years. Fully aware that good quality education is a key to the success of any nation we also focused on analyses of the state educational policies. Our members have participated at various conferences, seminars and workshops, publishing numerous articles in journals and magazines. Meanwhile The consolidation of Macedonia, is under question due to increased interethnic tensions between the majority Macedonians and minority Albanians, exacerbated by the de facto blocked Euro-Atlantic integration of the country. First, in 2008, Macedonia was not invited to join NATO because of Greece's objections to the country's name, and in 2009, although the European Commission recommended opening negotiations for EU membership in October, the EU Council summit in December postponed deciding on a date for entry negotiations, again due to objections from Greece. Additional delay of the Europeanization of Macedonia risks further antagonizing interethnic relations as Macedonian Albanians do not want to be left out of Euro-Atlantic integration processes. Nationalism could become a dominant force in a country that already once experienced a warlike conflict in 2001 when government forces battled ethnic Albanian guerrillas. We will keep an open eye and follow these issues and continue alarming the international audience of the Greek chauvinistic policy against Macedonia and Macedonians. In this newsletter read also on the role of documentary film making as part of our policy work, a contribution by one of CRPM's members.

follow us:



Sincere greetings,

Dr. Zhidas Daskalovski
President of CRPM



TRAININGS

ONE STEP TOWARDS STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR ABSORPTION OF IPA FUNDS

During March and April, CRPM organized and delivered two trainings on IPA funds, aiming to strengthen capacities of potential applicants for absorption of the available funds. The participants came from different sectors, from NGOs, to local and central public administration and the business community. They had the chance to participate in a day and a half hands-on training which included elaboration of the main phases of application for EU funds, from writing a successful application, to budgeting and finally implementing an EU project. The participants especially enjoyed the interactive approach and the tips and "tricks of the trade" they have become acquainted with, related to CRPMs experience applying and implementing EU funded projects. The aim - everyone to leave the training with a drafted project idea which they could latter on develop and eventually apply with was quite successful and some of the participants have already applied for funding after the training.





This picture is part of the strip made for the needs of the campaign "My vote- my decision!"

AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN AGAINST FAMILY AND PROXYVOTING LAUNCHED

Under the project ‘‘My vote-my decision’’ stop family and proxy voting’, awareness raising campaign against family and proxy voting has been launched in the 1,2, 5 and 6 national electoral districts, focusing on municipalities where this phenomenon has been present on continuous bases in previous elections. CRPM, together with its project partner Women Civic Initiative ANTICO, are conducting the campaign, consists of educational trainings for women; distribution of promotional materials; and producing and broadcasting a documentary film tackling this issue. In parallel with this activity, we worked on the preparation of a National Strategy against Family and Proxy Voting together with the State Electoral Commission, which will be presented at a donor conference in December 2010.

SKOPJE- CITY OF GENDER EQUALITY

The city of Skopje in partnership with the Centre for Research and Policy Making, started implementing the project “Skopje- City of Gender Equality”. The aim of the project is to develop Strategy for Gender Equality for the City of Skopje (including all municipalities within the city and the stakeholders and policy makers at local level) and to raise the awareness for gender sensitive policies. The project will also promote the City of Skopje as a “city of gender equality” through various types of promotional materials related to the Strategy; information about the legal and institutional framework that regulates the gender issues in Macedonia and abroad, and will include the basic gender terms and definitions such as: What is gender? What are gender stereotypes? What is gender equality?, What are gender neutral policies?

blog with us:

policy.mk

coming soon:

My Vote, My Decision

official weblog

MAPPING THE LEADERS IN MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA: ELITE POTENTIAL FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

Since March 2010, the Center for Research and Policy Making has been carrying the research phase of the project "Mapping the leaders in Macedonia and Albania: elite potential for promoting positive social change", together with its partner, Institute for Democracy and Mediation from Tirana. The project goal is to provide scientific analysis of the process of elite transformation in Macedonia and Albania and the other Western Balkan countries from the late 1980s onwards. In this phase, CRPM's researchers are completing the desktop research which aims to map and identify political, economic and cultural elites. In mid July, the CRPM and IDM team alongside with regional experts and researchers from Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, will assemble in Ohrid to review the progress and set detailed agenda for the period to follow.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY MECHANISMS IN LOCAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

CRPM, in partnership with Global Integrity, is producing an assessment of information transparency issues in the delivery of local health and education services. The study is focused on identifying the strengths and weaknesses of information transparency mechanisms that ideally enhance the ability of citizens and service beneficiaries to hold providers to account and demand improved service delivery.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICIES IN EDUCATION

CRPM in partnership with SEEU is producing credible and inclusive governance assessment according to the Methodology on Governance Assessment on social inclusion policies in education sector. Within this project, CRPM in particular, will write a report and provide recommendations for short to long-term policy reforms to strengthen social inclusion policies in education.



COMMENTARY

| By: Riste Zmejkoski

WHY MAKING DOCUMENTARIES IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR THINK TANKS AND NGO'S

Presenting a final product to the public is one of the most important processes for the corporate managers in the business society. Even though the “final products” in the civil society are different from those of the free market, the need of great presentation to the public is the same. They should, and they must be presented in a proper way if we want to have some impact with our work. No matter what product we have to promote, the media world offers us a variety of techniques and methods how we can promote our work. From basic audio interview broadcasts, to real time web documentaries, there is a big media world that is open for all creative project managers and offers them millions of creative ways how they can present and promote their projects. Some of these opportunities can cost you a fortune, but some of them are there for free.

It is more than clear that a Video, as a media that can be used and broadcasted on TV and web platforms, is one of the most important tools for promotion. We all know that since the television was invented until today it is still the most influential medium that exists. Even in the internet world, videos and web videos are one of the most used media. The “moving pictures” can be more convincing for your audience than your product itself. In the same time, you can use them for very different purposes and take the advantage on your social agenda. Officially TV broadcasters in Europe air around 2000 documentaries annually. However the docs actually produced exceed this number many times. There is no statistics how many of them are financed or produced by think tanks or NGO's but one thing is very clear, that the video can be very useful for achieving the goals of civil society organizations [...]

The full article is available at policy.mk

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CRPM'S MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

CRPM President Dr. Zhidas Daskaloski, participated at a number of local and international conferences and published the following articles and reports: "Mostovi Koji Dijele: Mediji i Manjine u Makedoniji[The Bridges that Keep us Apart: Media and Minorities in Macedonia]", in Bosnian, in Edin Hodzic and Tarik Jusic (eds.) Na Marginama: Manjine i Mediji u Jugoistocnoj Evropi, Media Centar: Sarajevo, 2010; "Macedonia: a Country Report" in Jeannette Goehring, (ed.), Nations in Transit 2010: Democratization from Central Europe to Eurasia, Freedom House: New York, 2010; "Quality of Social Services" in William Bartlett (ed.) People Centered Analyses, SEEU/UNDP: Skopje, 2010; "Open Parliaments-the Case of Macedonia", in Daniel Smilov (ed.) Open Parliaments: Transparency and Accountability of Parliaments in Southeast Europe, Friedrich Ebert Foundation: Sofia, 2010.

Marija Risteska on May 10th in Zagreb attended the LSEE IFRI Research conference organized together with the Institute for Foreign relations - IMO in Zagreb. The Conference focused on Regional development and effects of decentralization. It provided venue for presentation of research work from SEE academics. Dr. Risteska presented a paper of the effects of decentralization in Macedonia on policy entrepreneurship.

Marija Risteska from May 11th to May 15th in Warsaw attended the NISPACee 18th Annual International Conference on Public Administration. The Conference focused on Public Administration Reform in time of crises. It provided venue for presentation of academic work in 5 working groups: PA reform, local government, public finance, e-governance, and policy analysis. Dr. Risteska presented a paper on the framework for Regulatory impact assessment as a policy analysis tool with which policy outcomes are enhanced.

Marija Risteska on May 20th in Skopje attended the 5th Annual International Conference organized by the American Colleague Skopje. The Conference looked at The Effects of the Lisbon Treaty. Dr. Risteska presented a paper on EU conditionality after the Lisbon Treaty.

Marija Risteska participated at the OSI Think Thank Fund Communications workshop where she presented the CRPM communication strategy and acted as mentor to the participating think-tanks from CEE and SEE region.

From 1-6 of July, CRPM's advocacy officer Riste Zmejkoski was participating at the workshop of the Balkan Documentary Center in Sofia. As an observer at the workshop he presented what CRPM have made until now in the field of social documentaries and in the field of video and campaign promotion. He also shared his experience in new media project promotion with the participants giving them ideas how they can promote their documentaries on line and how can they cooperate with NGO and donors society.

In spring, Anatas Vangeli of the CRPM attended the 15th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities took place at Columbia University in the City of New York, from 15-17 April. This year's convention title was "Nations and States: On the Map and in the Mind". He participated in the panel "New Politics - Old Mental Maps in the Southern Balkans" presenting a paper on the discursive conflict between Greece and Macedonia, titled "Quest for the Glorious Past Reconsidered. Alexander the Great between Greece, Macedonia and the Liberal Democratic Perspectives".

In June, Vangeli attended two more conferences. On June 24 and 25, he participated at the conference organized as part of the Research Project "Europeanization of Citizenship in the Successor States of the Former Yugoslavia" at the Edinburgh University School of Law. During a panel on citizenship in divided societies, Vangeli presented a paper on the semantics of belonging in the Republic of Macedonia. In the period June 27-30, Vangeli attended the conference "Ethno-Politics and Intervention in a Globalised World" organized by the Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies at the University of Exeter, presenting a paper on diasporic nationalism.

CRPM INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CRPM is providing increased internship opportunities to international students.

This month we are happy to welcome Iga Grabowska from Poland. Iga is a 5th year sociology student from University of Wrocław, and she is also doing her research on students' attitudes toward Macedonian accession to the European Union, and the character of their citizenship.

Prepared by the CRPM team. For more information's, news and updates visit our web page www.crpm.org.mk or send us an e-mail at crpm@crpm.org.mk. Please send us your comments about the newsletter editions at zmejkoski@crpm.org.mk. Thank you for your attention.

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