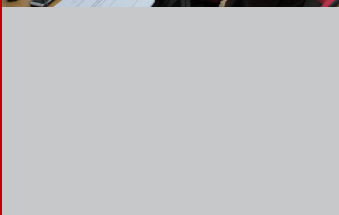




Center for Research and Policy Making

## NEWSLETTER

Summer  
2011



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### ***Developing Brain Gain Policies in the Western Balkans***

This year CRPM continues to work on policy projects that aim at alleviating the effects of the outflow of the highly skilled (also known as “brain drain”). In early 2011, the CRPM team has concluded the work on the regional project **“Developing Brain Gain Policies in the Western Balkans.”** Grupa 484 Beograd was the coordinating the project, while several other organizations from the region took part in its implementation: the European movement Albania, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (ACIPS) from Bosnia, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights from Montenegro. The final product of the project came in the form of a policy study, authored by Anastas Vangeli of the CRPM. The study was originally presented at an international conference in Belgrade in late 2011 and is included into a volume covering all the participating countries of the Western Balkans.

The study identifies the crucial problems regarding the process of brain drain in Macedonia, and provides suggestions for alleviating the negative effects in the future. The findings in the paper justified the assumptions by previous scholarly and policy analyses that the structural problems, such as the unfavorable economic conditions, the problems regarding rule of law, the lack of meritocratic values and the uncompetitive science and research industries are the major push factors when it comes to the outflow of the highly skilled. The CRPM formulated several sound arguments and recommendations about the directions in which brain gain policies in Macedonia should develop, ranging from gathering exact statistical data to diaspora mapping to providing incentives for returnees to establishing cross-sectorial cooperation in the field of brain gain.

In spring 2011, the CRPM joined Group 484 and the partner organizations for a second consecutive project on brain gain policies, titled “Advocating for Brain Gain Policies aimed at Reintegration of High-skilled Return-

ees in the Western Balkans. The project focuses primarily on the process of adaption of highly educated and highly skilled individuals who have returned to their home countries. So far, we have conducted focus groups and have commenced with disseminating the questionnaires that will help us assess the challenges and potential obstacles for successful reintegration of the highly skilled returnees. The following phase of the project has commenced recently as well. It foresees several advocacy activities. The project is to be concluded by the end of 2011.

### ***Mapping the leaders of Macedonia and Albania: Reproducing or circulating elites***

The project **“Mapping the leaders of Macedonia and Albania: Reproducing or circulating elites”** has been finalized. We have conveyed more than forty in-depth interviews with representatives of the political, economic and academic elite; we have also conveyed a national telephone survey within the framework of the project. In 2011 we have concluded the research in Macedonia and presented our progress at the annual RRPP conference, held in May in Montenegro. We will produce a join publication and plan to hold a conference together with our Albanian partner the Institute for Democracy and Mediation in course of September/October.

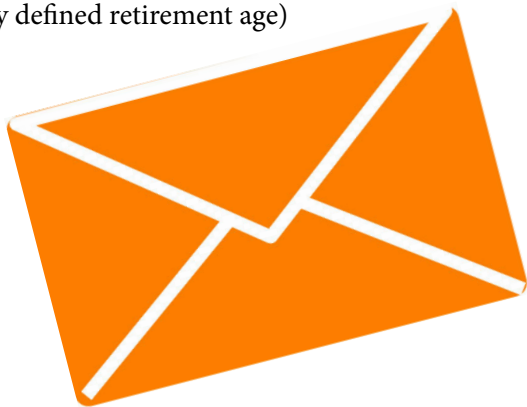
Our findings have shown that even though the processes of the circulation of the elite in the late communist days was still contingent to the approval party leadership, other factors have contributed to the emergence of the elite in the period 1985-1990, in the first place good education. We have also found out that often people from the academia had political careers. We mapped the democratic breakthrough in Macedonia as a process accompanied with the takeover of the lower ranks of the Communist Party, while the communist leaders and the promising reformers were ousted during the immediate years of the transition. The political elite 2005-onwards, on the other hand, are comprised of people who have made names in various fields. Factors such as education and hard work were crucial for their recruitment. It is intriguing that the establishment of economic elite from both periods seemed to be dependent on political developments.

## Baseline study on rural women

Another pioneering work of CRPM this year has been the **Baseline study on rural women produced on behalf of UN Women**. The study combined the methods of analysis of secondary data and gathering primary data (through focus groups and a field survey on a representative sample of rural inhabitants) to assess the condition and the problems of rural women in Macedonia. The findings generally confirm the traditional values of the inhabitants from Macedonian villages, especially with regards to the inheritance of property, performing of domestic tasks, driving a car, employment (in Albanian and Turkish households). However a shift in some of the perceptions is evident, especially when it comes to decision-making influences of ethnic Macedonian women, and decisions regarding education and marriages within ethnic Albanian and Turkish women. The study concludes with a number of policy recommendations in different areas.

## “The Orange envelope”

We have also won a tender and provided policy advice for developing a communication model with citizens on behalf of the Pension and Disability Fund of Macedonia. The model we have developed is called **The Orange envelope**. It aims at increasing the citizens' trust and promoting good governance of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund through increasing its transparency. The project puts into function the existing capacities of the Fund to generate data on all people insured in order to provide information to them regarding: the funds available on their retirement benefits account, the total value of contributions, and possible increases of the pension if the beneficiaries are to stay in employment for longer than 62 or 64 years (which is the legally defined retirement age)



## School of Public Policy |Mother Theresa|

Finally, after many efforts, we have established the **School of Public Policy |Mother Theresa|**. The general goal of the School is to raise capacities for good governance/public policy analysis and policy making of future leaders of Macedonia. We expect the participants to be fully involved in the whole educational process. We see them as future partners, who will together with the lecturers and guests, build a new political and governmental culture.



So far, three sessions have been conducted, with the following topics:

1. **First national session:** *Freedom of expression- Contemporary issues and debates with relevance for Macedonia / Hotel Continental - Skopje, 28-30 January, 2011*
2. **Second national session:** *Ethics and Politics (Political Marketing, Communication, Electoral Campaigns) / 9-12 June/ 9 June – FON University, Skopje; 10-12 June, Hotel Toni – Ohrid*
3. **6th Summer University for Democracy, Strasbourg, 27-29 June 2011 / subject: “ETHICS AND POLITICS”**

Supporters and donors of the School for 2011 are: Council of Europe, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), FON University, Centre for Research and Policy Making.

The school director and the project coordinator together with the Board, selects the annual intake of 20 participants and draws up its program of activities. This year The plan of the School of Public Policy”Mother Theresa” is to start with new generation of students from October 2011.





### *Visa liberalization in the EaP countries*

As a member of the PASOS network of policy institutes CRPM is implementing partner of the Project **Visa liberalization in the EaP countries**. The goal of the project is to create a tipping-point for the achievement of visa-free relations between the Eastern Partnership countries and EU member-states, and in the process to upgrade the legal and policy processes in the EaP countries and promote closer integration and people-to-people exchange and contacts between the Eastern Partnership countries and EU member-states. In its frames, a policy brief was prepared, accompanied by a workshop on “Transfer of Macedonia NGOs experience on visa liberalization” in the city of Chisinau, Moldova. Similar trainings are planned for partners in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

### *Conference: One Decade after the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Lessons (to be) Learned from the Macedonian Experience*

For the first time CRPM organized an International scientific conference on the **10 years anniversary of the Ohrid Framework Agreement: Lessons (to be) Learned from Macedonia**, was held from 24-26 June, 2011. The conference encompassed a total of 7 panels, and more than 20 presenters, most of whom from Macedonia, but also from UK, Poland, the Czech Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Austria. Over 120 visitors were registered at the opening, and 90 guests were registered for the three days as conference participants.



Each of the panels discussed the different perspective of the OFA and the implication of the agreement for Macedonia and the Balkans in the past ten years. You can see the list of panels below.

- Panel 1:** *The conflict, the agreement and the reconciliation: 2001 then and now*
- Panel 2:** *Political belonging in post-2001 Macedonia: the authority of “ethnic identities”*
- Panel 3:** *The Ohrid Framework Agreement in the Southeast European context*
- Panel 4:** *Decentralization reform after OFA: towards greater power sharing or effective and efficient service delivery?*
- Panel 5:** *Equitable representation for “non-majority communities” in Macedonia – Until when?*
- Panel 6:** *The future of Macedonia and the region*
- Panel 7:** *Lessons learned*
- Special panel** *on the initiative for RECOM*

The official Conference Program, the narrative report, podcasts and photo gallery is available at CRPM’s policy blog: [www.policy.mk](http://www.policy.mk) and conference’s web site [www.policy.mk/ofa11](http://www.policy.mk/ofa11)

## *Impact in several policy fields*

Last year CRPM experts offered solid policy advice based upon our research to the State Electoral Commission and the City of Skopje. Based on this two strategies were adopted in the course of this year – the Strategy against Proxy and Family Voting and the Strategy for Gender Equality of the City of Skopje. The prior document produced results! The parliamentary elections 2011, first after the Strategy was adopted, proved that the participation of the political parties in the making of the Strategy does raise awareness and ownership over the product and has effect on the final outcome-decreasing the trend of family and proxy voting in Macedonia. We are proud to inform you that only 120 cases of family and proxy voting were observed.

In addition, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy adopted the Strategy for fight against social exclusion in October 2010, which encompasses long term care – an issue for which CRPM advocated in 2009. The same Ministry adopted bylaws that regulate the standards for home care provision based on which the City of Skopje in its 2011 work Program initiated introduction of home care services, another issue CRPM analyzed in the course of 2007-2008 and advocated for in 2009.

## *Forthcoming activities*

## ***Save the date! Conference: '20 years of independence' 15-16 September 2011***

The Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) from Skopje, and the School of Public Policy "Mother Theresa" are organizing an international and interdisciplinary academic conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Macedonia titled "Twenty Years of Macedonian Independence: mirroring economic, political and policy developments". The conference will be held from 15-16 September 2011 and will bring together renowned international speakers.

The conference will include five panels covering various aspects of the political and social developments in Macedonia in the last twenty years. The panels will focus around the following themes:

- 1) Twenty years of democratic development in Macedonia: politics and policies of democratization and consolidation
- 2) Nation-building / nation branding in Macedonia
- 3) Lessons from multicultural policies in Macedonia for the region and beyond
- 4) Macedonia and the EU: love at second sight
- 5) Twenty years of economic development in Macedonia: issues and challenges

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## ***How to eliminate discrimination in the public sector? Assessing the implementation and the effectiveness of anti-discrimination policies in the public institutions in the Republic of Macedonia.***

The project aims to explore how relevant and effective are the anti-discrimination strategies, legal acts and policies in terms of meeting the needs and addressing everyday struggle of public workers who are exposed to various kinds of discrimination.

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## ***Promotion of Common Values in Schools: Workshops and a Contest for Promoting Tolerance in Multiethnic Schools in Skopje.***

The project involves working with students from five multiethnic secondary school in Skopje, by training them in non-violent conflict resolution and giving them the opportunity to create short films with the content of non-violent conflict resolution.

## ***Five years of decentralized governance: creating public values?***

During the second half of 2010, the Center for Research and Policy Making has conducted national survey on the decentralization process in Macedonia for 2010. Based on this research a policy study is going to be developed which reflects the main progress as well as challenges with the decentralization process. The study focuses on the: status of decentralization, progress in municipal administration reform fiscal decentralization, interethnic relations, local economic development (LED), decision making of municipal council, education reform at local level and local public services. The survey was conducted with a questionnaire that encompassed 135 questions targeted to the municipal administration, the political parties represented in the Municipal council, the Mayor and the business community in 65 municipalities.

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## ***Going International: Assistance to Policy Centers in Egypt***

During the upcoming months two CRPM analysts are going to be involved in a project (led by PASOS) on assistance to policy centers in Egypt. Through partnership with the Egyptian Organization – NAZRA Center for Feminist Studies, we are going to provide assistance in building their capacities in the field of gender equality and political participation of women. For that purpose, a training needs analysis is first going to be prepared, followed by delivering a tailor-made training and developing a guidebook on measures to be undertaken in Egypt.

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS *at the School of Public Policy |Mother Theresa|*

The call for participants for the second generation of the School of Public Policy |Mother Theresa| is now open. The School is organized by the Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje ([www.crpm.org.mk](http://www.crpm.org.mk)), with supporting funds from the Council of Europe. The School is consisted by three weekend sessions and one study visit, as a summer university, in Strasbourg. Highly renowned experts, professors and diplomats are guest lecturers on the sessions which are held in English and Macedonian language.

The candidates should be mid-career professionals, on age between 24 and 40 years. Last generation of the School of Public Policy we have had group of 20 professionals coming from several fields like: academia, public administration, media, business, NGOs, junior universities, political parties. Schools like |Mother Theresa| are also organized in other European capitals: Baku, Belgrade, Bucharest, Kiev, Moscow, Pristina, Sarajevo, Sofia, Tirana, Tbilisi, Erevan and Zagreb.

For applying for the second generation of the School you will need to submit the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of motivation (not longer than one page)
- Two recommendations (optional)

Please send required documents to: [crpm@crpm.org.mk](mailto:crpm@crpm.org.mk) not later than 1st of September, with subject: Application for the School of Public Policy |Mother Theresa|. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Please note that during the selection of the candidates we will pay special attention to the regional, ethnical, and gender balance of the group.

For more information visit:  
[www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu](http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu).

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