



Center for  
Research and  
Policy  
Making

*... policy impact since 2004*

Annual Report 2020

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This document summarizes the activities undertaken by the Centre for Research and Policy Making in the course of implementation of its 2020 work program. It reports on outputs and impact the CRPM work has on policy making in Macedonia and South East Europe.

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## 1. Academic activity

### RAISINA DIALOGUE



Raisina Dialogue 2020 is in organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India and the biggest think tank in Asia the Observer Research Foundation - ORF. The theme for this edition is “21@20: Navigating the Alpha century”.

The Director of CRPM and the CRPM President were delegates at the two-and-a-half days of deliberation at Raisina Dialogue 2020 based on five pillars:

- 1) Coalition Inc.: Era of Nativist Politics and Fluid Ideologies;
- 2) Exclusionary Economics: Is a ‘New Deal’ Impossible?;
- 3) Geo-Tech: A New War of IPR;
- 4) Reclaiming Development: Desecuritize, Decentralize and Democratize; and
- 5) The State and the iAge: Identities, Incomes and Outcomes.

The Dialogue fostered discussions on institutional and conceptual responses to contemporary transitions. Dr. Risteska spoke on the panel “In Search of Purpose- Why do Europeans Radicalize?” together with the Director, International Security Studies, Royal United Services Institute - RUSI, Raffaello Pantucci. The dialogue was moderated by: Erin Marie Saltman, Policy Manager, Europe and MENA, Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, Facebook “Why Europeans radicalize”



## IES Summit EU - Western Balkans and the issue of enlargement

Western Balkan EU Summit: Enlargement issue was a webinar in March on which Marija Risteska spoke about the challenges and expectations in the country about the March decision of EU council on opening accession negotiations with Albania and Macedonia.

## Freja Forum 2019, Skopje 8-10 November



**FREJA**  
FOUNDATION

The 14th Freja Forum took place on line. The CRPM director Dr. Risteska presented the CRPM research on the impact of Covid 19 response measures on gender equality within the panel discussion about Democracy and equal opportunities during and after Covid-19. Other panelists were: Ms Ermira Danaj – Albania PhD in social sciences, visiting researcher sociology /gender studies, CIES-IUL, Lisbon; Ms Diana Sehic, Bosnia- Hercegovina, Director, Prava za sve (NGO - Rights for All); Ms Dusica Semencenko, Serbia,

Doctor / PH.D. Institute “Mihailo Pupin” (IMP) and Ms Emine Perviz Erdem. Turkey, President of KAGIDER Expert, Sweden, Gender equality, Ms Julie Ward, Member of the European Parliament (MEP for the North West of England July 2014 - Jan 2020) Ms Alessandra.Viezzer European Commission Deputy Head of Unit, Western Balkans, Regional Cooperation and Programs. The discussion was moderated by: Ms Asihan Tekin, European Women's Lobby.

## Using data to advance gender equality

On the

**USING DATA TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY**

**GEN  
DER**

**WEBINAR**  
4 NOVEMBER  
15:30 - 17:00 CET

Moderated by **Pascal Lavoie**  
Director of Programmes FCM

**Sarah Vieux**  
Data on the gendered impact of the pandemic

**Marija Risteska**  
Learning from disaggregated data

**Tom Aston**  
Impact and outcome measuring

Click here to

UCLG CIB Working Group  
Capacity and Institution Building

## Publishing

Daskalovski Z. “Liberal Neutrality and Multicultural Justice” in Raul Fornet- Betancourt (ed.) *Europe in dialogue with its own diversity*, Verlag Mainz, 2020.

## 2. CRPM policy research and analysis work

CRPM managed to maintain the reputation of being a leading Macedonian think tank offering original, excellent quality studies and briefs. The organization developed different products such as policy studies, policy briefs that are following the internationally accepted standards, but CRPM focused on the context and environment in Macedonia. The CRPM for the seventh time is ranked on the Global Go To Think Tank Index. The 2020 Report ranks CRPM 46<sup>th</sup> on the List of Top 100 Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe. This is the policy work that was accounted in the ranking process:

### 2.1. Macedonian politics

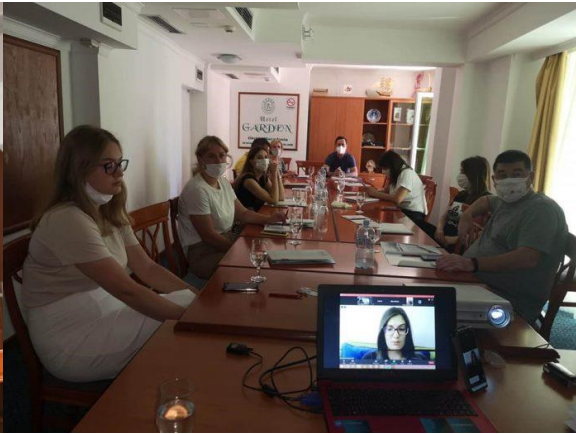
#### School of Public Policy IMother TheresaI



Funded by: Council of Europe, and NATO

All the activities at the [School of Public Policy Mother Teresa](#) went smoothly at the start of the 2020. However, with the advance of the covid-19 pandemic the academic year for the Generation 2019/2020 abruptly ended in March. After a hiatus, a selection of new candidates for participation was conducted and the [new generation 2020/1](#) started its academic year in the summer. So far three weekend sessions were held respecting the health restrictions and undertaking hybrid lectures and discussions. The general aim of the school is to improve the knowledge of the participants in the field of public policy and give them practical insights into political processes. They are future leaders of our country. As such they need to have skills and knowledge to improve the policy making process. The topics of the weekend sessions were: Public Policy Analysis, Preventing and countering violent extremism and Liberal multiculturalism and public policy. Here are some photos from the seminars.





Furthermore, the School of Public Policy Mother Teresa together with Schools of Political Studies from the Western Balkans, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) organized the Western Balkan Environment Forum 2020 held in Hotel Hilton, Podgorica 8-11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. The Forum was held the 9th edition of the [World Forum for Democracy: Can Democracy save the environment?](#) The following topics were discussed at the Forum:

- National governments, international organisations or the citizen: who is setting the pace?
- Public, private and nongovernmental: what role for which sector?
- Sustainable Use of Energy in the Western Balkans and climate protection

For each of these topics an introductory session with experts presenting was organised. Following their opening remarks, a discussion followed. After each of these sessions, participants were divided in groups according to their professional backgrounds. One group was made of MPs, another of civil servants/public administration and the last one was made of members of non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The working groups reflected on the ideas presented in the introductory panels and drew from their own experiences to present unified and coherent statements on the topic by regional sectors. A plenary discussion was held following the presentations of each group.

Overall, many issues were raised and elaborated including, without ordering them in regards of their significance: Are national and international authorities' moving more slowly than public opinion, or is public opinion actually holding them back? What is preventing governments from taking more radical steps? How can democracies and international organisations manage such competing factors and demands? Has the public or private sector done the better job in the area of prevention and mitigation of environmental damage– and which is best placed to provide meaningful change in the future? If we need the best of both sectors to fix the problem, then what form might new public/private partnerships take? What is the role of the nongovernmental organisations here? Are they mediators between business and governments? Should they follow their own agenda and how? How should the Western Balkans countries tackle issues of reducing energy consumption in energy-intensive sectors in times of Covid-19? How can they meet the goals for climate protection and sustainable energy use of the Paris Climate Agreement?

All expert sessions and working groups presentations and discussions were held live at the premise and online. Interested participants from the Schools of Political Studies from the Western Balkans were invited to follow and participate at the Forum online. The Forum was an opportunity for policy makers, civil servants, NGO activists and experts, from the Western Balkan region to meet and exchange opinions and ideas. Despite the extreme difficulties in organising the event due to the covid-19 pandemic the Forum as a satellite event of the 9th edition of the World Forum for Democracy: Can Democracy save the environment? was successfully implemented.





## EU Integration

### *Regional study on implementation of the Berlin Process in Western Balkans*



The project **“Together for EU Enlargement- V4 and WB Strengthening Cohesion of EU Integration and Berlin process”**, and it relates to assessing capacities and achievements of the institutions, approaches, priorities, regional and national mechanisms and funding specifications that have been either created or improved in relation with the Berlin Process dynamics. Special attention was paid to the connectivity argument with reference to the contribution of concrete projects to growth and prosperity in the country, and related funding opportunities –including available and potential ones. Finally, specific recommendations have been drowning for each category of the involved stakeholders, in order to take out the most from the Berlin Process. Special attention was also paid to the contribution of connectivity to the engaged WB6 reforms and to the advancement of the WB6 countries in the EU membership path.

The policy study **“Implementation of Berlin process in the Western Balkans countries”** is a result of deep and committed work of all our partners and colleagues within the project, and it represents general overview of major facts within the analyzed area.

Donor: Vishegrad Fund

### *Poland - Western Balkans. Together Towards the Future*

The paper discusses the need for exchange of experiences and knowledge between Macedonia and the strong think tank scene in Poland that informed the policy transformation of the Polish society and stirred economic reforms, contributed to capacity building, implementation and monitoring of investments and thus development. It reinforces that through the right knowledge management can be of great benefit to the Berlin Process. It will address the scarcity of economic think tanks and / or economic policy analysis and ideas relevant to inform the Berlin process in the Western Balkans and Macedonia. Providing incentives for economic analysis, related to the connectivity agenda, MAP REA and overall economic development through regional cooperation and facilitating knowledge

sharing, lessons learning and inspiration opportunities between Poland and the Western Balkans will contribute to the Europeanization of the region and step-up regional cooperation under the Berlin process.

Donor Polish MFA's Public Diplomacy Fund

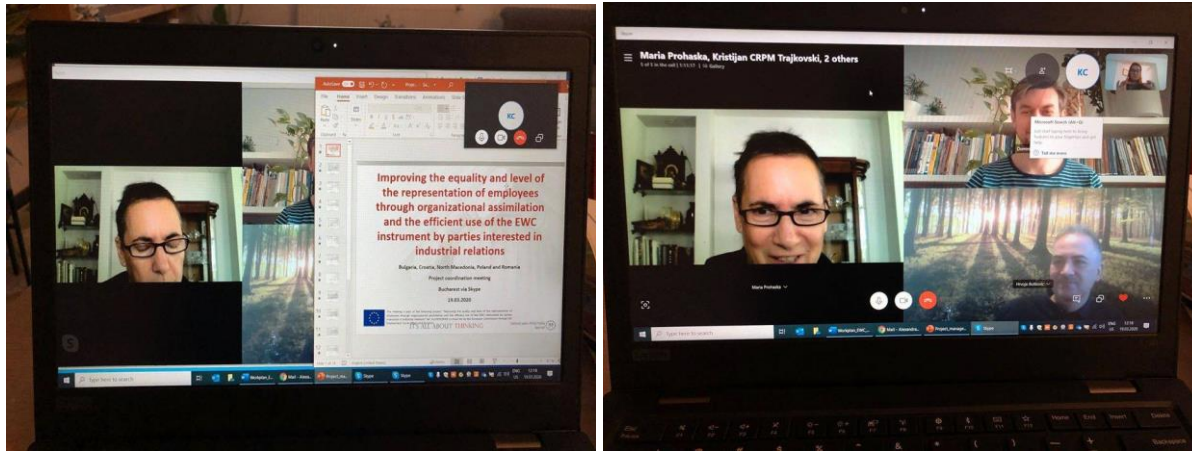
## **2.2. Labor**

### **Improving the quality and the level of the representation of employees through organizational assimilation and the efficient use of the EWC instrument by parties interested in industrial relations EWC**

CRPM extends its Industrial relations program portfolio and continued in making efforts in strengthen capacities of the social partners in the country, especially in the manner of better representation of workers' interests and rights in process of bargaining with employers, through training of the trade union representatives to apply new skills and encourage new forms of workers' association within Macedonian enterprises (including enterprises with foreign capital), such as the EWC.

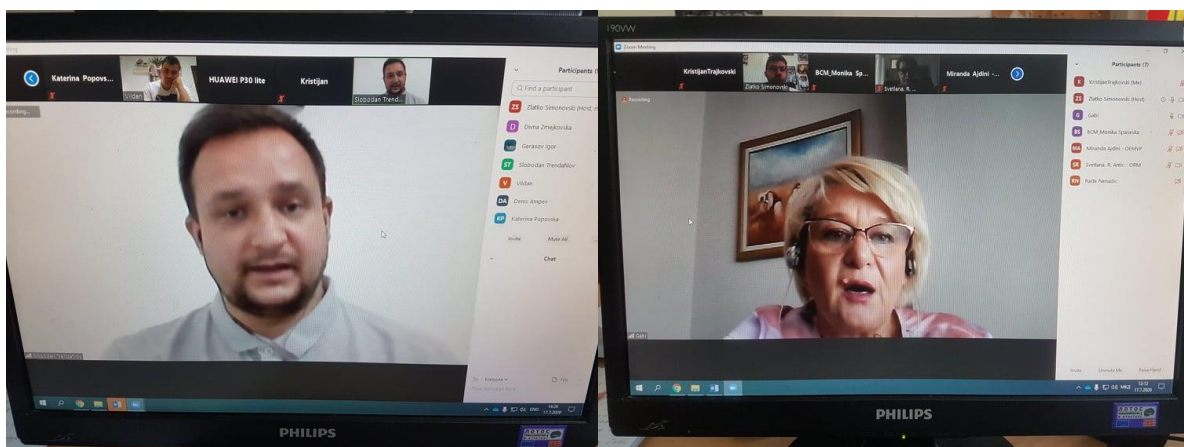
At the beginning of 2020, CRPM started with implementing the new project entitled: "Improving the quality and the level of the representation of employees through organizational assimilation and the efficient use of the EWC instrument by parties interested in industrial relations", financed by the European Commission. The project is being implemented in four other countries from the SEE region including cooperation with four other partner organizations: Institute for Public Policy from Romania (Lead partner), Institute for Public Affairs from Poland, Center for Economic Development from Bulgaria and Institute for Development and International Relations from Croatia.

The project partners adapted to the new situation caused by the pandemic of Covid-19 and the coordination meeting instead of in Bucharest, was held through the use of digital tools. Representatives of partner organizations decided to continue their activities and try to carry out all activities online. The work plan and timeline of activities for 2020 included conducting several research activities including desk research and analysis of the legal framework, but also conducting two focus groups and more than 15 in-depth interviews with relevant industrial relation actors.



The activity aims to identify the level of knowledge and awareness regarding the EWC of the social partners and stakeholders involved in the process. Additionally, the activity aims to analyse the manner in which the EWC Directive has been transposed into the national legislations of the partner countries and the manner in which its implementation has been monitored, as well as to measure the level of involvement of national trade unions in its implementation. The first main output will be the National assessment report for which the CRPM team researched the level of transposition, implementation and management of the EWC Directive into the national legislation. The report also seeks to identify the main problems perceived by the unions as obstacles in the creation of bodies for workers representation at enterprise level and more EWC bodies in the multinational companies.

The draft-version of the National report was created in December 2020, based on the information gathered through the 2 focus groups and the in-depth interviews that as participants involved representatives from relevant employee and employers' organizations such as trade unions, employers' organizations, chambers of commerce, NGO that advocate for workers' rights etc. Focus group discussions aimed at identifying the level of knowledge regarding EU policies in the field of industrial relations and EWCs in particular, what obstacles there are in the implementation of EWCs at the national level, whether or not there are inconsistencies between the EWC legislation and national legislation, what barriers (or not) they perceive in the transnational cooperation with other social partners and what solutions they would propose to the identified problems.



The information gathered from the FGD served as material to develop the research tools for conducting the in-depth interviews. In addition to the research activities, more than 15 in-depth interviews were conducted with more experienced representatives of both employees and employers' organizations, but also in this research activities representatives of the private sector were included, with accent on multinational corporations that have businesses in Macedonia. This activity aimed to gain as much more profound understanding of the problems and extant knowledge of transnational union issues, the level of capacity for advocacy at the level of unions, knowledge regarding the EWC etc.

The project envisages a study visit to an old member state of the European Union in which there is a developed system of social dialogue through EWC, but due to the circumstances with the COVID-19, the project partners adapted to the new reality and conducted video conferences. In the period September-October 2020, a representative of CRPM team, together with two representatives of the largest trade union federations, participated in the three consecutive video conference to exchange best practices for the application of the EWC instrument with German experts in the field. These events presented important opportunity for trade union workers to strengthen their knowledge and in future to build their capacities with aim to improve the quality and the level of representation of their members.

**Budget:** € 43.225

**Funded by:** European Union

### **Increasing Employment Opportunities for Seasonal Workers in the SEE Region**

The project "Increasing Employment Opportunities for Seasonal Workers in the SEE Region" was implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) from the Republic of Serbia on behalf of Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Open Regional Fund for Southeast Europe-Modernization of Municipal Services and in cooperation with the Center of Research and Policy Making- Skopje (CRPM) as a local partner. This regional project aimed to increase employment opportunities in the countries of the region and to develop modern tools for solving the challenges of the labour market, with particular emphasis on exploiting the potential for hiring seasonal workers.

In order to provide information for creating narrowly targeted recommendations, the project conducted a research based on the application of good practices from the countries in the region, in order to adjust the legal framework and provide greater flexibility in accordance with the needs of stakeholders, encouraging the usage of digital tools for administrative unbundling of the beneficiaries, as well as networking of institutions involved in the process, primarily theorists and

practitioners in the field. The activity implemented by the team of CRPM/NALED/GIZ GmbH in the country aimed to develop appropriate solutions that will enable application of a flexible model for hiring seasonal workers in agriculture through the use of digital tools (software solution). The implementation of the model will simplify the procedure for registration of seasonal workers and will contribute to the formalization of seasonal work in the country, which is in line with the strategic goals described in the Strategy for formalization of the informal economy in the Republic of Macedonia, 2018-2022 (Strategic Objective 3- Stimulating and supporting the formalization of the informal economic activities).

Within the project and based on the conducted research (several focus group discussions with seasonal workers and farmers; in-depth interviews with private companies; in-depth interviews with public institutions), the CRPM team created the policy study entitled “From shadow to visible seasonal worker in agriculture: reasons, challenges and models for formalization of seasonal labour in agricultural sector”. Based on the study, a business process was developed by renowned consulting firm for effective and efficient implementation of the reform which covered all aspects of the relevant issues, in order to make an economical solution that will enable the formalization of seasonal labor with use of software as a tool for registration of seasonal workers. Additionally, an IT specification was created for adapting the existing IT systems and data bases with new elements that will enable proper application of an electronic model for registering seasonal workers. CRPM in the period of conducting research activities had a high level of cooperation with public institutions, the members of the working group for implementation of the Strategy for formalization of the informal economy, and especially with the representatives of the competent institution for creating the legal framework in the field - Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. Within the consultations conducted within the project, the recommendations were taken into account by the competent institutions and it is expected within the reforms to implement the recommended models and designed solutions within the reforms.

**Budget:** € 18.000

**Funded by:** German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

## 2.3. Education

### **P4P: “Passage4prevent: use of education to prevent youth online radicalization”**

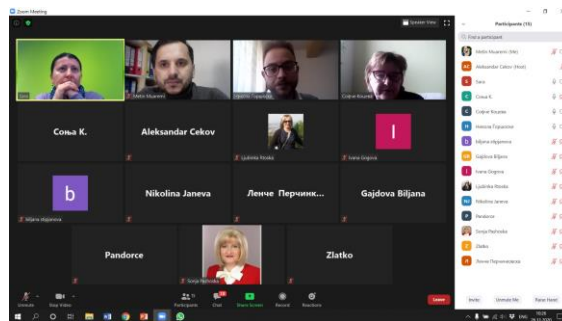
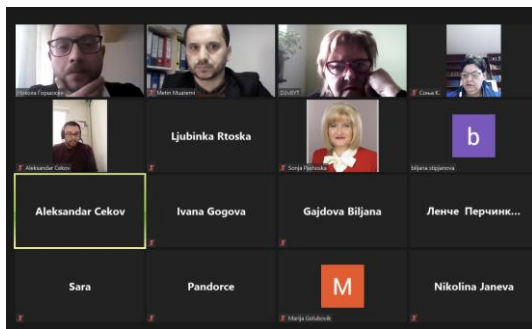
This project was launched in the end of 2019 and its activities continued during the course of 2020. Its implementation period could be divided into two sub-periods. In the first sub-period, the implementation of all activities was to large extent smooth and mainly according to the timeframe and log frame of the project. Within this sub-period, which is from the beginning of the project until the 11 of March, when the schools were closed down due to corona virus pandemic, the Project Management Team (PMT) managed to established all partnership relations and to kick start the project implementation activities by signing memorandum of understanding (cooperation) with most of the targeted municipalities.

In 2020 within this project, the follwing activities were achieved:



- **To raise awareness at school about the risks in internet and use education to raise the resilience against extremist propaganda and recruitment:** within this objective the CRPM team managed to sign memoranda of understanding with the Municipalities and establish cooperation, which is necessary to implement activities in high schools. Then, we managed to pull together the Baseline Study and analysis which is the backbone of the project, since many other activities (such as awareness raising campaign, mentoring activities, policy paper training programs etc) have to be informed from this baseline study. Also, we contracted a firm to develop the awareness raising campaign and to implement it. With the e-safety school days, which will take place in January and February, the objective will be achieved.

- **To build capacity and offer resources and tools for high school students and front line workers to recognize, detect and report threats of radicalization and violent extremism:** The necessary training materials for capacity building of both students and school workers have been developed and approved by Hedayah team. The E-platform was developed and is functional, meaning that produced materials and resources are uploaded and there is activity in form of registrations from students on the platform. The training for front line school workers was organized and delivered for school workers in Ship and Veles. The training was delivered online, due to corona virus measures. As for the other activities, e-trainings are completed, and so is the red button, an online form for reporting early signs of radicalization in high schools, which is integrated on the platform (<https://e-bezbednost.mk/>). The training program for students is also completed, and the Ministry of Education and Science have reviewed it, by its specialized body, the Bureau for Development of the Education. We are expecting the approval of the training program, so it can be used as an extracurricular activity in high schools in January or February at the lasts, as we have been informed on the issue.



- **To provide policy advice for the municipal early warning system of radicalization:** The activities within this objective are underway. The experts hired by CRPM have developed policy paper with relevant recommendation for all relevant stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental as to build their capacities in the field of countering VE and (online) radicalization that leads to VE. Currently, the policy paper is being revised after has been reviewed by the Hedayah team and comments and suggestions for improvement of the paper have been provided. Based on the policy paper and recommendations the advocacy at relevant institutions at both central and local level will be set off. The preparations for producing cost-benefit analysis of a preventive model at local level are also in progress. The model will help municipalities to adopt policy measures for prevention and building resilience towards VE and online radicalization that leads to VE.

Donor: EU  
Budget: EUR 76.576

## **“Development of a municipal preventive system / referral mechanism for VERLT and reintegration of foreign fighters and their families”**

The CRPM expert team guided by Marija Risteska, PhD, was contracted by OSCE Mission in Skopje to develop a municipal preventive system / referral mechanism for VERLT and reintegration of foreign fighters and their families. Previously CPRM together with OSCE Mission in Skopje developed the municipal referral mechanism, so this time, the mechanism was upgraded to include the reintegration of foreign fighters and their families. The methodology included literature review of the different theoretical approaches and field interviews and focus group discussion. To that end more than 15 interviews with relevant stakeholders were conducted from various institution. However, the focus was mostly on the Centers for social Work as main carrier and provider of the services for referring and reintegration. Furthermore, interviews were conducted with providers of psychosocial support for the returnees. To complement the data for developing the mechanism, an expert was hired to conduct 3 Focus Group Discussions in municipalities where most of the returnees are expected to arrive; Chair, Butel and Kumanovo. Thus, around 22 persons participated in this discussions and provided their views and opinions on what challenges should the community overcome in order to build effective reintegration model. The model is in its final phase, after which it will be sent for review by the national committee and other relevant stakeholders.

Donor: OSCE mission in Skopje  
Budget: EUR 4.320

### **2.4. Gender**

#### **Advocacy and expert level dialogue with Government and Parliament to amend existing legislation in the field of gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination, in line with international standards, human rights mechanisms recommendations (UPR, CEDAW, CAT, CERD, CCPR, CESCR), EU Directives and Istanbul Convention**

In 2020 with the project the following activities were undertaken:

On 02/11/2020, following the information from the MLSP that the Draft Law on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence has been withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure (adopted by the Government in January 2020), in order to revise and improve the text, the National Network against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence contacted CSOs that participated in the preparatory process of the law, that were neither invited, nor informed for the withdrawal of the law. A meeting was organized at which CSOs were consulted on the steps to be taken and to re-engage in the process of revising the text of the law. It was decided to send a request for a meeting with the Minister of Labor and Social Policy. After receiving support from CSOs, we prepared Request for a meeting with the Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Strawberry Shahpaska. The request was sent

on October 9, 2020. On October 19, 2020, a meeting was held with the Minister Shahpaska, representatives of the MLSP and representatives of CSOs in the premises of the MLSP. The meeting concluded that the revised text of the Draft law will be examined by representatives of CSOs, and they will submit comments to the full text to 28 October 2020.

At the 18th session of the Government on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. , on the proposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the ministers adopted the Draft-Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The law is currently in parliamentary procedure. With an aim of assessing the progress of harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the EC, the National Network Against Violence prepare a report to implement the National Action Plan for Implementation of the EC (2018-2023)

A meeting was held with the Minister Shahpaska, representatives of the MLSP and representatives of CSOs in the premises of the MLSP. The meeting concluded that the revised text of the Draft law will be examined by representatives of CSOs, and they will submit comments to the full text to 28 October 2020. On 2/11/2020, another meeting was held with the representatives of the MLSP and CSOs in order to harmonize the rest of the comments. Again, the provisions regarding Services for other victims of domestic violence (elderly, boys, etc.) were accepted, while separate article on the Reintegration Program and special provisions on forms of violence were not accepted. Details are below.

On 03/11/2020. The law was put in a procedure for the adoption of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, and was sent to other ministries for revision and comments (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice , Ministry of Interior).

With an aim of assessing the progress of harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the EC, the National Network Against Violence prepare a report to implement the National Action Plan for Implementation of the EC (2018-2023)

For the purpose of the report was sugar analysis of the operational plans prepared by the competent ministries were requested public information from ministries and institutions listed as holders of activities in the NAP of and an analysis of the same .organized and conducted a meeting with CSOs to confirm the conclusions of the analysis in November 2020 , after consultations with representatives of all ministries to confirm the conclusions just so in November 2020 , and a meeting of women parliamentarians to present the findings of the review of the NAP - by fixing the next point for advocacy in December 2020

On 17th of December 2020, as part of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls", the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) and the National Network against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence organized a working meeting on the online platform Zoom, with the Commission for Equal Opportunities and women members of the Assembly, which discussed the progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP)

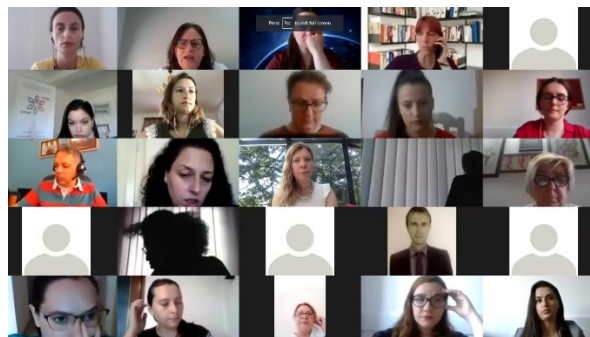
for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (2018-2023), focusing on the Draft Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the necessary amendments of the Criminal Code in order to comply with the Istanbul Convention (EC). One of the three goals of the NAP is to harmonize national legislation with the obligations and recommendations of the Istanbul Convention, and accordingly CRPM and the National Network are focusing on some of the laws that are in the process of harmonization. (The full report is available in Macedonian)

On December 28, 2020 an Expert Level Discussion was held with the representatives of Academia, CSOs, judges (retired and incumbent) and lawyers working with victims of gender based violence. At the Zoom Meeting the participants reviewed and examined the draft amendments of the Criminal Code, in relation to their alignment with the IC. The proposals were sent the Ministry of Justice and the working group within the Ministry.

Donor: UN Women and EU  
Budget: EUR 32.895

### Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN)

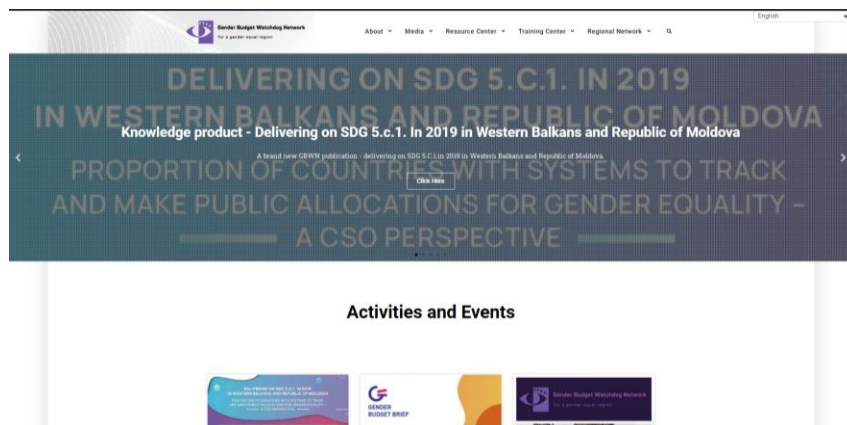
In the course of 2020, the project resulted with selection of 88 CSOs to be included in the GBWN, assessment of their GRB capacity, and development of training program for acquiring skills to appraise gender responsive policies and to hold governments accountable for the gender impact of proposed policies and budgets on the national and subnational level. This resulted with 104 representatives of CSOs from Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania to have been trained in GRB tools and led toward full realization to the first expected project result. The first training was delivered in Serbia with physical presence and was meant for those who wanted to gain advanced GRB knowledge, while the last two trainings which were supposed to be organized in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Albania, were organized online, via zoom platform excluding the possibility of exchanging visits from one country to another due to the pandemic. The first one was on GRB in public finances and procurement, while the later one on the GRB basics.



The trained organizations were then eligible to apply for the sub-grants aiming to support their local / national gender budget initiative and action that will bring sustainable policy change overbridging given gender inequality challenge. Their GRB transformative ideas range from women farmers, women with physical and mental disabilities, women from remote and protected areas, youth, boys and girls, to women victims of DV, Roma, Egyptians, other minorities and marginalized groups in general. After receiving 41 proposals to be funded by the network, the evaluation process resulted in granting 36 sub-grants who already started implementing their activities.

The project partners produced country reports on the progress towards achievement of SDG 5c1 indicator. Based on country reports regional report was developed, validated by relevant national stakeholder from each country and published (see publications section). We also initiated a second research – a Fiscal analysis of the COVID-19 mitigation measures and their impact on the gender equality. Its promotion is expected in early January, 2021.

The GBWN team also launched the GBWN e-platform accessible at [www.gbwn.net](http://www.gbwn.net). It provides on one place the current news and information on the GRB developments in the region of Western Balkans and Moldova, but also serves as an online training classroom from acquainting advanced and basic knowledge on GRB, as well as GRB in public finances and procurement. Additionally, an online directory for registering GRB project, affiliated organizations or individual experts is available that contributes to expanding our GBWN and profiling it as the biggest and most relevant network on GRB, capable to serve as a competent stakeholder.



Speaking on national level, CRPM implemented strong advocacy agenda amid the Covid-19 situation in Macedonia. Intensive social media campaign presenting the research findings on 5C1 indicator, the selected sub-grantees and other GRB related issues. Two rapid analysis were undertaken in order to detect the implications of the Covid-19 mitigation measures on the gender equality and intersectionality between gender and different types of marginalization (see policy briefs section). Additionally, a working meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Finances was organized in order to familiarize the ministry staff on the necessary steps and actions that need to be taken in order to improve the Macedonian 5C1 indicator portfolio. Additionally, CRPM pioneered the Budget Day 2020 (see CRPM events section).



### Analysis of Covid-19 impact on gender and diversity

This research project aimed to produce rapid evaluation of the consequences of the Covid-19 impact on gender and diversity. Great amount of data was gathered in order to better understand the dynamics of how Covid-19 created tectonic socio-economic shifts, especially for women. The analysis looked into the legality and legitimacy, human rights and gender aspects of the measures that were put forward against the crisis by the Government. It also assessed the impact on women in the labor market and business sector, as well as the effect on violence against women, social inclusion and discrimination. The analysis concluded with recommendations for measures in the post-Covid19 period.

**Budget:** € 5.000

**Funded by:** OSCE

### 3.6 Sustainable development

#### Western Balkans Environment Forum 2020

CRPM and the School of Public Policy Mother Teresa, together with Schools of Political Studies from the Western Balkans, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) organized the Western Balkan Environment Forum 2020. The Forum was held the 9th edition of the World Forum for Democracy: Can Democracy save the environment? Three topics were discussed at the Forum – (i) *National governments, international organisations or the citizen: who is setting the pace?* (ii) *Public, private and nongovernmental: what role for which sector?* and (iii) *Sustainable Use of Energy in the Western Balkans and climate protection.*



For each of these topics an introductory session with experts presenting was organized. Following their opening remarks, a discussion followed. After each of these sessions, participants were divided in groups according to their professional backgrounds. One group was made of MPs, another of civil servants/public administration and the last one was made of members of non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The working groups reflected on the ideas presented in the introductory panels and drew from their own experiences to present unified and coherent statements on the topic by regional sectors. A plenary discussion was held following the presentations of each group.

All expert sessions and working groups presentations and discussions were held live at the premise and online. Interested participants from the Schools of Political Studies from the Western Balkans were invited to follow and participate at the Forum online. The Forum was an opportunity for policy makers, civil servants, NGO activists and experts, from the Western Balkan region to meet and exchange opinions and ideas. Despite the extreme difficulties in organizing the event due to the covid-

19 pandemic the Forum as a satellite event of the 9th edition of the *World Forum for Democracy: Can Democracy save the environment?* was successfully implemented.

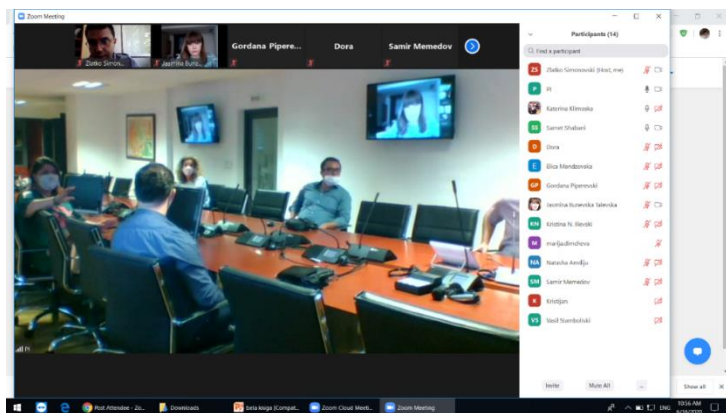
Donor: GIZ/COE

Budget: 18000€

## **Regional cooperation and competence development of parliamentarians of South –East Europe on energy efficiency, climate topics and sustainable urban mobility**

### **Green eco-online workshop**

Initially planned as a weekend session, the online eco-session served as a final activity within this project. It aimed at bringing together the Macedonian Parliament staff and the students from the SPP”Mother Theresa”. They discuss both the findings from the white papers from the previous year on energy efficiency and renewables and urban mobility, as well as side green topics such as biodiversity, green advocacy and green policy making.



The two day online offered four interesting topics:

Topic 1: “Challenges and tasks regarding Chapters 15 and 27 from EU acquis”, delivered by Zlatko Simonovski;

Topic 2: “Urban mobility in N. Macedonia: Presentation of the White paper for enhancing the urban mobility in N. Macedonia”, delivered by prof. Jasmina Bunevska Talevska, Faculty of Technical Sciences, UKLO;

Topic 3: “Climate change, energy and biodiversity: The challenges of N. Macedonia”, delivered by Metodija Veleviski, MED (Macedonian Ecological Society);

Topic 4: “Green ideology as a crucial factor for human spatial planning”, delivered by Hristina Odzaklieska, DOM;

Donor: GIZ

Budget: 29.389 €

### 3. CRPM events

#### Study tour London 10-13 March 2020

The GBWN in 2020 implemented one study tour in London UK where GBWN was networked with the representatives from Runnymede Trust, Fawcett Society and Institute for Government. The GBWN delegation also had a lunch with Diane Elson and attended the UK budget Day screening at the LSE.

Formally, our host were Women's Budget Group. Memorandum of Understanding was signed on behalf of the GBWN and WBG, signed by Marija Risteska, regional project director and Mary-Ann Stephenson, director of WBG.



#### Budget day 2020

The Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) in the framework of GBWN organized an online event to follow the exposé of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Fatmir Besimi, in front of the Macedonian Parliament. In his speech, the Minister presented the proposed Budget for 2021. The event was attended by women activists, feminists, representatives of academic institutions. The speech was followed by a discussion and exchange of views from those present at the event, as well as comments on social media about the possible impact of the budget on women and men numerous issues related to gender equality. During this event, for the first time the phrase “equal opportunities” was mentioned in a minister of finance’s exposé. In this regards, Besimi mentioned that investments in human capital remain among the top priorities in the Strategy for Revitalization and Accelerated Growth. The Government will work on the development of equal opportunities, development of human resources through investments in education, science and health, encouraging greater activity of the working population and social protection and security. Besimi also added that when the Budget for 2021 was being prepared, the ministry approached it in accordance with the concept of SMART Finance alongside consultations with the business community, experts, university professors, the EU delegation, the World Bank, the IMF, the international community and other stakeholders. The also stressed that the SMART concept will be additionally structured and applied in the concept of public finance management.



As a key messages and suggestion for more gender sensitive budget, the panelist highlighted the following:

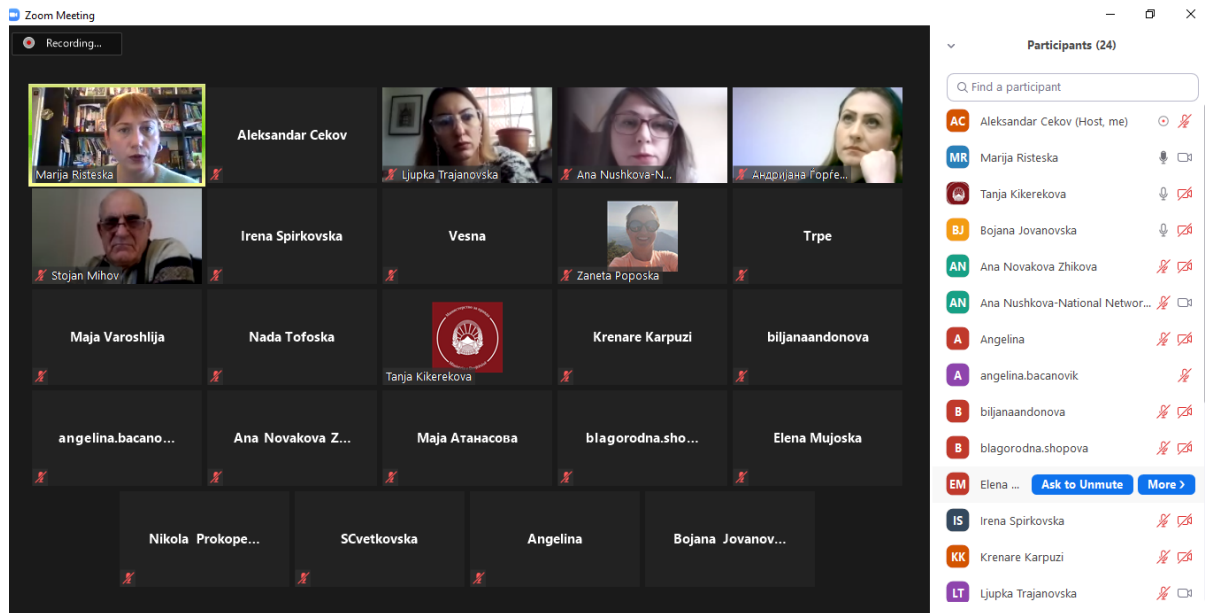
- the proposed budget does not seem very different from the 2020 budget which suggest that analysis for the impact of the Covid 19 crises was either not done, or not incorporated in the budgeting process. Responding to the needs of women who were affected immensely by the crises need to be done soon so that the recovery does not have even greater negative impact on gender equality;
- the budget is still not accessible for persons with disabilities as it is not presented in a readable format, the needs of persons with disabilities were overlooked with the current Covid 19 response and this should be amended with the 2021 budget, but the expose of the Minister did not provide information on whether this was done;
- the allocation of funds for rural clinics is commendable but we see only short term financing provided, although continuous support is needed for women in rural areas to see improvement of quality of life and service delivery; to this end money for kindergartens in rural areas is not provided and very much needed;

### **Workshop with Parliamentarians on alignment of Macedonian legislation with Istanbul Convention**

Within the framework of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence", the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) and the National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence organized a working meeting via the video-communication application Zoom, with the Commission for Equal Opportunities and women members of the Assembly. At the meeting, the progress of the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (2018-2023) was discussed, with an increased focus on the Draft-Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the necessary amendments of the Criminal Code for complying with the Istanbul Convention (IC).

One of the three goals of the NAP is to harmonize the national legislation with the obligations and recommendations of the Istanbul Convention. Correspondingly, the CRPM and the National Network are concentrated on several laws that are in the process of harmonization.

This activity was implemented within the framework of the project "Advocacy and dialogue at expert level with the Government and Parliament for amending existing legislation in the field of gender-based violence and discrimination", in partnership with the UN Women Office in N. Macedonia, and financially supported by the European Union. Meeting speakers were: **Elena Dimushevska**, National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence; **Ana Avramovska-Nushkova**, National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence; **Marija Risteska**, Center for Research and Policy Making; **Bojan Marichikj**, Minister of Justice, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia; **Maja Balsha**, National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence





## **4. Outputs/ Results:**

### **4.1. Books**

[Implementation of Berlin Process in the Western Balkans Countries](#)

### **4.2. Policy briefs**

[Covid -19](#)

[Covid 19 and Gender \(vol.1\)](#)

[Covid 19 and Gender \(vol. 2\)](#)

[Deconstructing the Concept for Distance Learning: Education in Times of Covid-19](#)

[\*\*Think thanks and the failure to launch connectivity agenda in Berlin process – Poland’s inspiring role\*\*](#)

### **4.3. Policy Studies**

[Baseline assessment for awareness raising and capacity building for prevention from online radicalization](#)

[From shadow to visible seasonal worker in agriculture: reasons, challenges and models for formalization of seasonal labour in agricultural sector](#)

[Delivering on SDG5C1: Progress of countries towards transparent and accountable financing for gender equality](#)

### **4.4 Policy initiatives**

[Referral mechanism for prevent from radicalization and reintegration](#)

[Amendment of Criminal law](#)

[Amendment of Budget law](#)

[From shadow to visible seasonal worker in agriculture: reasons, challenges and models for formalization of seasonal labour in agricultural sector](#)

[\*\*Gender and diversity analysis of COVID-SARS-19 impact\*\*](#)

### **4.5. Guides**

[Cyber security in education and home Guide for Students, Teachers and Parents](#)

## II. Financial report 2020

### Center for Research and Policy Making – CRPM Skopje Financial report

01.01.2020-31.12.2020

#### INCOME

1. Income from interest rates and exchange rates	6.349
2. Income from memberships, donations and other sources of income	15.349.588
3. Income from consultancy and other services	388.281
4. Other income	155.664
5. Transferred surplus from last year	11.422.274
<b>Total income</b>	<b>27.332.156</b>

#### COSTS

1. Costs for office supplies	39.128
2. Costs for energy supply	90.178
3. Other services	551.759
4. Transport and transport related costs	94.179
5. Commercials and presentations	12.473
6. Costs for rent of venues and equipment	441.054
7. Other material costs	4.859
8. Bank fees	55.620
9. Insurance premiums	6.287
10. Travel costs and per diems	339.408
11. Negative exchange rates	92.592
12. Membership costs	25.433
13. Other costs	3.858.056
14. Transferred assets	705.321
15. Equipment	221.400
16. Other capital assets	73.800
17. Assistance to individuals	61.500
18. Gross salary	4.430.543
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>11.103.59</b>

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**BALANCE SHEET**

**31.12.2020**

**Assets**

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<b>1. Non-current assets</b>	
- Basic assets	
363.124	
<b>2. Cash</b>	
- Denar account	
9.273.073	
- Foregin currency account	
6.789.297	
- Petty cash	2.323
- Other cash assets	105.623
<b>3. Buyers</b>	24.600
<b>4. Prepaid expenses</b>	31.737

5. Buyers

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<b>Total assets</b>	<b>16.598.777</b>
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**Liabilities**

<b>1. Sources of funds</b>	
- Business fund	363.124
<b>2. Short-term liabilities</b>	
- Supplier	14.083
- Short-term financial liabilities	251
- Other short-term financial liabilities	2.753
<b>3. Accrued liabilities</b>	
- - Assigned funds for 2021	16.218.566

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<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>16.598.777</b>
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