



**Economic Research & Policy Institute**  
**"Finance Think" - Skopje**

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**Second World**  
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**Research**



**First Prize for**  
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**for Development**



## ABOUT US

Finance Think is an independent and non-for-profit economic research and policy institute, founded in 2012.

## Our Vision

To steer economic thinking for increased wellbeing tomorrow.

## Our Mission

To enhance the impact of economic and social trends and policies on citizens in Macedonia and the Western Balkans, through economic research, evidence-based and data-driven advocacy, and steering critical debate on economic processes.

The research of Finance Think helps policymakers, policy advocates, opinion makers, journalists, and the public understand the issues affecting ordinary citizens.

## Programmatic Domains

- Growth and development policies
- Poverty, employment and skills
- Fiscal transparency and accountability
- Competitiveness and EU accession
- Gender and income inequalities
- Municipal finance and policies
- Green economy

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# ***GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES***

This research program covers a variety of policies and strategies to produce and support economic growth and development, with a focus on three development pillars: education, healthcare and institutions. Other development pillars covered include: infrastructure investment, state aid, development finance and others.

### The perfect storm: Food and energy insecurities threaten the economies of the Western Balkan

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	162.511	Coordinator	SMART Balkans Project	January 2023 – January 2025

Objectives of the action	<p>The main goal of the project is to generate evidence and foster a policy dialogue for the food and energy insecurities in the Western Balkan economies pertinent to four key fronts: household livelihoods, firms' competitiveness, fiscal space and the regional integration. The specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To employ and empower the WEBecon network with respect to the national and regional policymaking processes on food- and energy-related policies, by generating evidence on the effects of the crisis on the WB economies and on the regional integration,</li> <li>- To enhance the policy dialogue and cooperation on energy and food supply security, by creating space for wide stakeholders' consultations and networking at the regional level,</li> <li>- To increase the public awareness for the importance, consequences of and solutions to the food and energy crisis, including through regional approaches.</li> </ul>			
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### Action on the move: Monitoring, assessment and proposals for anti-crisis measures in conditions of a tight budget

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	72.546	Coordinator	CIVICA	January – October 2023

Objectives of the action	<p>The general goal of the action is to analyze and monitor budget spending for anti-crisis measures, at the national and local level, and to propose modification and/or new measures in conditions of an emphasized need for rationalization of public money spending.</p> <p>The specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To analyze and monitor budget spending for existing anti-crisis measures, in three segments: 1) measures to protect the standard of citizens, at the national and local level, 2) measures to help companies, 3) measures in the area of agriculture and security food, and in the context of effective and efficient spending of public money;</li> <li>2. To make proposals for the modification of existing and new measures, based on the need for their targeting and for the rationalization of budget spending in conditions of "expensive money";</li> <li>3. To raise public awareness of the need for fiscal consolidation and rational spending of public money in the face of multiple crises.</li> </ol>			
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### Knowledge, measures and policy dialogue for child protection from the food and energy crisis

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.573	Coordinator	UNICEF	December 2022 – March 2023

Objectives of the action	<p>The primary objective of the project is to generate evidence about the impact of the food and energy crisis on overall and child poverty, as well as food and energy poverty, which will be used as a background for designing a roadmap for policy measures at national level.</p>			
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## Scoping study to investigate the demand for green and social financing in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	14.942	Coordinator	Agence Française de Développement	May – September 2022
Objectives of the action		The objective of this study is to conduct the diagnosis – market analyses of high potential sectors in North Macedonia from a green and social stand point and to assess the market potential for new development credit lines.		

## Action for formalization of micro-performers of economic activity in the informal economy

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	6.797	Coordinator	GIZ North Macedonia	May – September 2022
Objectives of the action		<p>The purpose of this action is to increase the formalization of micro-companies in North Macedonia, ie performers of economic activity in the informal economy. Hence, the action addresses legal informality. More specific objectives of the action include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the reasons for the informality of micro-operators in the informal economy (high fees, high administrative burden, low probability of being discovered, poor awareness of the benefits of formalization, etc.)</li> <li>2. To understand the activity of informal micro-performers</li> <li>3. To design a map / list of all fees, including parafiscal charges, related to starting a micro-business and running it in the early years</li> <li>4. To propose: a) a plan for reduction of the costs for firming of micro-performers of activity, including rationalization of the duties identified in 3; and b) policy measures (fiscal, labor, information) that will encourage greater formalization of micro-operators.</li> </ol>		

## Project title: V4 support to promote WB6 Common Regional Market: one market for post-COVID recovery

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	1.250	Coordinator	International Visegrad Fund	1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022
Objectives of the action		The project focuses on sharing experiences, transferring knowledge and recommending further regional economic integration through development of the WB6 Common Regional Market using experiences from ex-CEFTA and V4 after integration into the EU single market.		

## Project title: Analysis of SDG Financing Landscape

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.573	Coordinator	UNDP	June 2021 – November 2021
Objectives of the action		The objective of the SDG Financial Landscape Analysis is to map all financing flows, with the aim to identify potential approaches and activities that can contribute to efficient use of existing resources for SDG achievement and greater alignment and investment by development partners on sustainable development priorities.		



**Project title: Bridging measures to alleviate Covid-19 consequences**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	28.187	Coordinator	UNDP	July 2020 – November 2020

**Objectives of the action** The aim of the project is to develop proposed measures to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19, as a form of operationalization of the United Nations document "North Macedonia: UN Covid-19 Response Framework (CRF)".

**Project title: Reaping export-oriented companies' potential to contribute to post-Covid-19 recovery**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	54.827	Coordinator	British Embassy Skopje	September 2020 – March 2021

**Objectives of the action** The project aims to identify potentials of export oriented capacities including already existed foreign investors in the country to support economic recovery.  
Specific objectives:

- To identify capacities to adapt and shift current production according to changed demand (new operation, components, complementary products, etc)
- To identify the potentials for regional re-positioning and utilization of global geographical allocation shifting and cost reduction strategy
- To identify potential for injections of capital that parent's company will make to affiliated companies in the country (to shift operations from other geographical locations, or to modify current production, etc).
- To identify obstacles for export and growth
- To identify needs for economic measures that will maximize identified potentials

**Project title: Interactive and multi-stakeholder mechanism for tracking fulfillment of economy-related political promises**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	29.152	Coordinator	Civica Mobilitas	May 2020 – May 2022

**Objectives of the action** The aim of the project is to promote monitoring and measurement of economic goals and results of political-government programs, by using evidence, findings and data and by encouraging multi-stakeholder engagement.  
The action will achieve the following results:

- R.1 A framework for measuring economic goals and results has been set, in the context of political and governmental programs, through the use of evidence, findings and data;
- R.2 Skills have been developed for stakeholders to critically analyze the possible and achieved results of political promises in the area of economics;
- R.3 Stakeholders enrich public discourse through critical, argumentative and lively debate on the feasibility, results and cost of political promises in the economy.

**Project title: Promoting evidence and dialogue for enhancing state aid's effect onto consumer welfare in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	71.685	Coordinator	Balkan Trust for Democracy – Norwegian Embassy Belgrade	February 2020 – February 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the action is to promote evidence and foster dialogue on the role of state aid for consumer welfare in North Macedonia. The specific objectives of the action include:

- To understand existing forms of state aid in North Macedonia (direct subsidies, tax exemptions, discounted loans etc.) and their (mutual) consistency within the overall anti-trust legislation in the country;
- To produce robust evidence on whether state aid distorts competition on the market, with application on the paramount governmental program for subsidizing companies in North Macedonia and dwelling on the 'market economy operator' principle;
- To improve the dialogue among stakeholders, as well raise public awareness, on state aid, alignment with EU Acquis and consumer welfare.

By having achieved these objectives, the action will significantly contribute to enhancing the role of state aid for the market competition and efficiency, and hence onto consumer welfare.

**Project title: Economic compass – measuring the effects of proposed tax and social policies by the political parties**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.346	Coordinator	Civica Mobilitas (partial financing)	December 2019 – July 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The purpose of the project is to assess the effects of economic, social and part of the development policies that political parties will propose in their election programs for the 2020 parliamentary elections, using the MK-MOD Microsimulation Tax & Benefit Model.

**Project title: Beyond income inequalities in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	2.472	Coordinator	UNDP	December 2019 – January 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to provide an overview of inequalities in North Macedonia beyond income, i.e. inequalities in opportunities in four critical areas: education, healthcare, labor market and justice.

**Project title: Common country analysis – economic and social trends**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	19.598	Coordinator	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator	November 2019 – March 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to synthesize existing knowledge in the area of economic, social and development trends and policies in North Macedonia, identify the most lagging population groups in terms of a set of development indicators, identify short- and medium-term risks, as well as knowledge and data gaps, all in the context of sustainable development goals.

**Project title: Sustainable economic growth through promotion of alternative touristic attractions**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.500	Coordinator	US Embassy	September – December 2019

**Objectives of the action**

The main goal of the project is to improve local economic development by promoting developed alternative tourist attractions. The indirect expected benefits include development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as touristic destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and to inclusive economic growth.

**Project title: Capacity and innovation of tourism services for sustainable local economic growth – New approach through development of alternative tourist attractions**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	100.000	Coordinator	Local and Regional Competitive-ness Project (LRCP) (World Bank & EU)	January – September 2019

**Objectives of the action**

The overall goal of the project is to improve local economic development by building capacities of local stakeholders involved in the supply chain, increasing quality of services and development, launching and selling alternative tourist attractions.

The indirect expected benefits include the development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as tourist destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and inclusive economic growth.

**Project title: 360o monitoring of the provision of social services at the local level: Experiences from the municipalities of Prilep and Dolneni**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.000	Coordinator	European Union through the Foundation Open Society Macedonia and Eurothink	November 2018 – March 2019
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The overall goal of the project is to improve the delivery of social services at the local level by increasing the capacities of local stakeholders and involving citizens in this process in the municipalities of Prilep and Dolneni.		

**Project title: Bridging the gaps between multinational companies and domestic SMEs in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	187.310	Coordinator	European Commission (CFCD – Ministry of Finance)	January 2018 – December 2019
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The overall objective of the Action is to establish and/or improve the linkages between domestic SMEs (dSMEs) – multinational companies (MNCs) operating in Macedonia, with the final goal to increase domestic business sector competitiveness.		

**Project title: FISCAST+: Fiscal transparency and accountability improves policies in quality of life, education and health**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	194.258	Coordinator	British Embassy, Skopje	July 2016 – March 2018
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of the project is to address efficiency and quality of selected policies in quality of life, education and health through public debate and policy options derived from data and evidence.		

# ***POVERTY, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS***

This research program refers to an array of development topics related to the quality of life of citizens and includes but is not limited to issues such as poverty, minimum wage, participation in the labor market, unemployment, quality of education, informal economy, productivity, social protection, social dialogue and industrial relations and the like.



**Project title:** Assessment of the findings of the pilot-measure “Make declared work attractive to employers and workers”

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	33.563	Coordinator	International Labor Organization	July-September 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to assess findings from the pilot measure “Make declared work attractive to employers and workers”, nest them into the Macedonian legal and economic context and propose solutions supporting transition to formality.

**Project title:** Roadmaps on Western Balkan Labor Market Policies Database Alignment with the EU and Capacity Building to WB Partners

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Partners	Dates
North Macedonia	3.780	Coordinator	Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)	WEBecon members, led by the founding member CREDI	June – September 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The project’s goal is to evaluate the discrepancy between Western Balkan economies’ current practices and the methodology of EU LMP Statistics and offer roadmaps to the key stakeholders for harmonization with the EU practices.

**Project title:** A sustainable design of policies related to multi-dimensional child poverty

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	96.066	Coordinator	UNICEF	March 2023 – January 2024

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to increase capacities of the State Statistical Office for multidimensional child-poverty routine measurement and monitoring, to establish a multi-dimensional stakeholder mechanism for designing more coherent policies and to increase stakeholders’ knowledge and awareness for the importance of multi-dimensional policy approach.

**Project title:** Knowledge, measures and policy dialogue for child protection from the food and energy crisis

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	96066	Coordinator	UNICEF	December 2022 – March 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The primary objective of the project is to generate evidence about the impact of the food and energy crisis on overall and child poverty, as well as food and energy poverty, which will be used as a background for designing a roadmap for policy measures at national level.

**Project title: Open Balkan: Free regional movement of labor in conditions of shortage of qualified workers?**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	41.256	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	September 2022 – September 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The goal of the project is to assess how the free movement of (skilled) labor in the Open Balkan Initiative will affect the labor market in North Macedonia, and thus to encourage a reasoned debate and adjustment of policies to maximize benefits and minimize risks.

Specific objectives include:

- Generating knowledge about how the free movement of (skilled) labor included in the Open Balkan Initiative will affect the labor market in the country;
- Encouraging evidence-based public debate about the benefits and challenges of the issue;
- Contribution to economic policies related to the labor market and bilateral social security agreements, in the context of the implementation of the requirements of this Initiative.

**Project title: An initiative for a more inclusive democracy for marginalized groups**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.157	Coordinator	People Powered through the National Endowment for Democracy	June 2022 – April 2024

**Objectives of the action**

The initiative aims to make participatory democracy more inclusive for young people, women and displaced persons (including refugees, immigrants and internally displaced persons). The activities of the initiative include:

- Workshops and in-person convenings among People Powered member organizations to identify best practices for making participatory democracy inclusive.
- Creation of online courses and resource materials to help organizations implement the best practices.
- Development of multimedia stories that bring to life the human impact of this work, to persuade more governments and organizations to make participation more inclusive.

**Project title: Follow-up to the assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children and in-depth study on multidimensional child poverty in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	50.115	Coordinator	UNICEF	December 2020 – July 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The goal of the follow-up to the assessment of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on children, is to generate scenarios and expanded policy proposals in a situation where it is certain that this will be a protracted crisis, both from a health and from a socio-economic perspective, and where we can verify the validity of the initial assumptions of its nature and duration.

The overarching goal of the proposed study on multidimensional child poverty in North Macedonia is to generate an in-depth map on the issue and establish sound and thorough empirical evidence.

**Project title: Employment diagnostics in the municipalities in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	6.000	Coordinator	International Labor Organization	November 2020 – January 2021
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The aim of the project is to diagnose the labor market in nine municipalities in North Macedonia.		

**Project title: Bridging measures to alleviate Covid-19 consequences**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	28.187	Coordinator	UNDP	July 2020 – November 2020
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The aim of the project is to develop proposed measures to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19, as a form of operationalization of the United Nations document "North Macedonia: UN Covid-19 Response Framework (CRF)".		

**Project title: Assessment of the poverty effects of Covid-19, with a focus on the most vulnerable categories of citizens**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.113	Coordinator	The Government of North Macedonia	July – December 2020
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		<p>The aim of this project is to assess the risk of poverty imposed by the Covid-19 crisis, with special reference to the groups most at risk, and to raise awareness of the use of the measure to facilitate entry into the system of guaranteed minimum assistance.</p> <p>Specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To evaluate / simulate the effect of the Covid-19 crisis on poverty, with special reference to gender poverty;</li> <li>To make a qualitative assessment of the effect of the Covid-19 crisis on the target groups: women and youth at social risk, informal workers, recipients of social assistance and Roma;</li> <li>To assess the fiscal implications of the measure for relaxation of the criteria for obtaining guaranteed minimum assistance;</li> <li>To raise awareness of the eased entry into the system for guaranteed minimum assistance;</li> <li>To propose measures for evidence-based policies, with potentially narrower targeting of the target groups.</li> </ul>		

**Project title:** Response to the socio-economic effects of Covid-19 by supporting vulnerable groups of low-paid, informal and temporary workers

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	20.960	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	July 2020 – June 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The main goal of the project is to reduce the socio-economic consequences of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 onto vulnerable categories of workers. Short-term project goals include:

- To measure the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19-crisis on vulnerable categories of workers,
- To examine the views and experiences of the target groups on the socio-economic effects of the crisis and the use of government measures and assistance,
- To help policymakers make informed decisions based on evidence, data and recommendations, i.e. new measures and interventions to mitigate the effects of the crisis on vulnerable categories of workers,
- To increase the capacities for representation of the local CSOs, in order for timely and informed advocacy of vulnerable categories of workers before the policymakers,
- To increase public awareness of the socio-economic effects of the crisis, the available measures to deal with it and the need to introduce new measures and policies aimed at these categories of workers.

**Project title:** Socio-economic assessment of the medium- to long-term effects of Covid-19 on child-related sectors

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	40.654	Coordinator	UNICEF	May 2020 – June 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to conduct a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the mid- to long-term effects of Covid-19 on the sectors related to children, namely: social protection, education and health care. The analysis will perform a quantitative simulation, using micro-data, on the effects of the crisis on child poverty and related indicators. In a separate section, the analysis will focus on the implications of and on public finance in relation to these sectors.

**Project title:** Gender equality in the workplace: Monitoring at the local level

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.814	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society	November 2019 – May 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The main objective of the project is to promote and encourage gender equality and non-discrimination in hiring and in the workplace.

## Project title: Assessment of the needs of social services at the municipal level

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	64.340	Coordinator	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (Social Services Improvement Project)	August – November 2019

### Objectives of the action

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of social services in all 80 municipalities on the territory of Northern Macedonia.

## Project title: 360o monitoring of the provision of social services at the local level: Experiences from the municipalities of Prilep and Dolneni

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.000	Coordinator	European Union through the Foundation Open Society Macedonia and Eurothink	15/11/2018 to 15/05/2019

### Objectives of the action

The overall goal of the project is to improve the delivery of social services at the local level by increasing the capacities of local stakeholders and involving citizens in this process in the municipalities of Prilep and Dolneni.

## Project title: Analysis of resources allocated for child-related social and education policies and programs in the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.000	Coordinator	UNICEF	19/07/2018 to 31/12/2018

### Objectives of the action

The objective of this project proposal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the policies and programs related to children, in Macedonia, and their allocated financial resources by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in two mutually-reinforcing programmatic domains: quality of life (social policies) and education.



**Project title: Social Pillar of the European Integration of Western Balkans**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia, Serbia, Albania	6.000	Partner	European Fund for the Balkans	January – December 2018

**Objectives of the action**

This Project intends to initiate policy platform dealing with the welfare state issues to strengthen cohesion, stability and growth in the Western Balkans and its sustainable European perspectives. The specific objective is to support effective regional advocacy on issues of critical importance for the welfare state area, through long-term regional cooperation and learning from EU experience, as preconditions for inclusive evidence-based policy making.

**Project title: Data analysis for the diagnostic and public finance studies in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	80.127	Coordinator	The World Bank	01/11/2015 – 31/01/2017

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to provide background calculations in Stata to feed the preparation of two studies: Country Diagnostics and Public Finance Study by the world bank, based on data from LFS, SILC and HBS.

**Project title:Regulatory impact analysis: The effects of changing the minimum wage act**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	10.000	Coordinator	European Commission IPA through Institute for Democracy	January – December 2018

**Objectives of the action**

The overall goal of the project is an ex-post assessment of the impact of the changes in the Minimum Wage Act on the system (the economy) and the main stakeholders (workers and employers).

## Project title: Analysis of youth underemployment in Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia	19.500	Coordinator	Partnership for Economic Policies	01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018

**Objectives of the action** The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to the Employment Service Agency for implementation of three distinct employment measures at the local level.

## Project title: Technical assistance to local LESC's and the ESA

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	12.717	Coordinator	International Labour Organization	20/04/2017 – 31/12/2017

**Objectives of the action** The objective of the study is to describe underemployment and investigate its effect on personal wellbeing in the three countries. Special reference to gender will be made. By so doing, it opts to bring the issue to policymakers' agenda and formulate ideas for policies tackling underemployment.

## Project title: Challenging unemployment in the Western Balkans: Enhancing active labour market policies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina	7.250	Co-applicant	European Fund for the Balkans	01/01/2016 to 31/08/2016

**Objectives of the action** The main objective of the project is to contribute to improvement of active labour market policies and boosting employment in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

**Project title: Promoting active inclusion of disadvantaged persons excluded from the labor market**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	163.852	Co-applicant	European Commission – Instrument for Pre-Accession	14/12/2015 to 14/08/2017

**Objectives of the action**

Overall objective of the project is to increase the activation of persons at risk of social exclusion in the labor market by improving their skills, education, qualification and facilitating their full integration into the society and the labor market. Core activity of the action is the Social Mentoring Model that is piloted during the project implementation.

**Project title: Migration as social protection: Analysis of Macedonian, Albanian and Serbian remittance-receiving households**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia, Serbia and Albania	230.000	Coordinator	Regional Research Promotion Program – Swiss Development Agency	01/08/2014 – 30/09/2016

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the research is to investigate if remittances sent to Macedonia, Albania and Serbia serve social protection for household members left behind. In particular, we analyze if and how remittances determine/influence social condition (stability or vulnerability) of the household, the latter being described through an index composition of the income level, employment status, nourishment, health and housing conditions.

**Project title: Simulation of voucher policy for improving the social condition of individual remittance receivers in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	23.000	Coordinator	Partnership for Economic Policies	27/05/2014 to 27/05/2015

**Objectives of the action**

The purpose of the study is to develop a simulation of potential voucher system for social protection of individual members of the households receiving remittances in Macedonia.

**Project title: Empowering women in Krushevo through mini clustering for sales and promotion of traditional products**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	21.309	Coordinator	US Embassy in Skopje	01/06/2014 – 01/06/2015

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to improve the living standards and social inclusion, and to reduce poverty in Krusevo, through association (mini-clustering) of women for production and sale of local, domestic, traditional and ecological, home-made products.

**Project title: Mind the gaps between the budget lines and the National Program for Poverty Reduction**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	22.600	Coordinator	USAID and Foundation Open Society in Macedonia	01/09/2013 to 30/06/2014

**Objectives of the action**

The project aims to increase the effectiveness and usage of poverty-reduction programs by increasing the transparency of the associated budget lines and informing the citizens about them.

**Project title: Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.000	Coordinator	International Development Research Center	2013-2014 (1 year)

**Objectives of the action**

This project aims to explore if remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in households receiving remittances, in an environment of global economic crisis, tightened credit conditions, lack of venture capital financing and the malfunctioning labor market.

# ***FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY***

This research program covers issues like transparency, structure and effects of public spending, participative budgeting at national and local level, sustainability of the public deficit and debt, public procurement and so on.



## Project title: An initiative for a more inclusive democracy for marginalized groups

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.157	Coordinator	People Powered through the National Endowment for Democracy	June 2022 – April 2024

### Objectives of the action

The initiative aims to make participatory democracy more inclusive for young people, women and displaced persons (including refugees, immigrants and internally displaced persons). The activities of the initiative include:

- Workshops and in-person convenings among People Powered member organizations to identify best practices for making participatory democracy inclusive.
- Creation of online courses and resource materials to help organizations implement the best practices.
- Development of multimedia stories that bring to life the human impact of this work, to persuade more governments and organizations to make participation more inclusive.

## Project title: Budget for all: Citizen consultations to create a budget according to local needs

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	7.500	Coordinator	The WEBER project through the European Policy Institute, Skopje	April 2021 – January 2022

### Objectives of the action

The aim of the project is to involve all residents of the municipality of Krushevo in the process of creating the local budget.

## Project title: FISCAST Network – Enhancing dialogue for higher municipal financial transparency, with focus on para-fiscal charges

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	281.136	Coordinator	European Delegation	January 2021 – July 2023

### Objectives of the action

The overall objective of the project is “To strengthen FISCAST network’s monitoring of and partnering with local stakeholders on LSGUs’ financial transparency, with reference to para-fiscal charges.”

This overarching aim is broken down into specific objectives involving concrete interventions on four fronts.

Specific objective 1: To enhance capacities of local CSOs and of the FISCAST Network to become active stakeholders in the municipal financial transparency processes;

Specific Objective 2: To improve municipal budget and para-fiscal charges transparency;

Specific objective 3: To establish evidence-based, multi-stakeholder policy dialogue for monitoring of financial transparency and building effective municipal policies;

Specific objective 4: To increase public awareness about the benefit that higher transparency, accountability and sustainability have for citizens and businesses, in their roles and capacities to act at the local level.

**Project title: Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	27.522	Coordinator	UN Women Skopje	October 2020 – March 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this project is to provide support in the development of rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men.

This proposal envisages the following activities:

Desk analysis of the LSGUs budgets for 2020 in order to map the envisaged gender-based program, their categorization and comparative analysis with the local policies and strategies for equal opportunities between men and women, in order to evaluate how many local programs and funds were allocated directly for women, before the Covid crisis.

In-depth interviews with LSGUs' officials to discuss in details the LSGUs response interventions to address the local citizen's needs, with reference to the gender impact.

(Online) focus groups with local citizens to assess their experience and attitudes toward LSGUs' response measures that tackle the Covid-19 impact.

All activities will result in short gender budget policy analysis (15-18 pages) for each LSGU separately, with included assessment of the LSGUs response interventions from gender perspective, as well as policy and recommendations for improving the gender-budgeting process in the post-Covid period.

**Project title: Bridging measures to alleviate Covid-19 consequences**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	28.187	Coordinator	UNDP	July 2020 – November 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to develop proposed measures to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19, as a form of operationalization of the United Nations document "North Macedonia: UN Covid-19 Response Framework (CRF)".

**Project title: Gender responsive budgeting in times of pandemic**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	4.000	Coordinator	Center for Research and Policy Making through the Gender Budget Watchdog Network	December 2020 – May 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The project aims to improve the position of women and reduce gender inequality in the labor market in the long run. A detailed examination of the use of gender responsive budgeting in active employment measures will provide a basis for designing new measures and models to improve the position of women in the labor market and mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the crisis and / or recommendations for redesign of existing measures in order to design gender-responsive measures that best meet the needs and characteristics of women.

## Project title: Assessment of the financial implications for the state in the fight against COVID-19

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	2.314	Coordinator	IRI Republican Institute	April – June 2020
Objectives of the action		The purpose of this analysis is to assess the financial implications, i.e. the spending of state institutions intended to combat COVID-19.		

## Project title: Analysis of parafiscal charges in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	6.551	Coordinator	Ministry of Economy	September 2019 – January 2020
Objectives of the action		The objective of the project is to provide analysis of the parafiscal charges for SMEs in North Macedonia, by reviewing the Catalogue of public services and conduct of survey among SMEs.		

## Project title: Roma-responsive budgeting in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	3.600	Coordinator	Regional Cooperation Council	April 2019 June 2019
Objectives of the action		The aim of the project is to pilot the Roma responsive budgeting guidelines through building capacities of civil servants, selecting budget programs and applying guidelines, resulting in two Roma responsive budgeting submissions to the 2020 budget.		

## Project title: Good or bad tax? Reforming Macedonian personal income tax

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.000	Coordinator	Balkan Monitoring Public Finance / Analytica Think Tank	14/12/2018 to 14/06/2019
Objectives of the action		The overall objective of the project is to assess the effect of the announced tax reform of the personal income tax.		

**Project title: Analysis of resources allocated for child-related social and education policies and programs in the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	13.000	Coordinator	UNICEF	19/07/2018 to 31/12/2018

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this project proposal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the policies and programs related to children, in Macedonia, and their allocated financial resources by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in two mutually-reinforcing programmatic domains: quality of life (social policies) and education.

**Project title: Analysis of resources allocated for child-related health policies and programs in the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.500	Coordinator	UNICEF	30/08/2018 to 31/12/2018

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this project proposal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the policies and programs related to children, in Macedonia, and their allocated financial resources by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in the domain of health.

**Project title: Data analysis for the diagnostic and public finance studies in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	10.000	Coordinator	The World Bank	15/10/2017 to 29/01/2018

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to provide background calculations in Stata to feed the preparation of two studies: Country Diagnostics and Public Finance Study by the world bank, based on data from LFS, SILC and HBS.

**Project title: "My money, my responsibility": Participative budgeting in municipalities in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	107.317	Coordinator	USAID Civic Engagement Project through the East West Management Institute	01/05/2017 to 30/04/2020

**Objectives of the action**

The overall purpose of the project is to enhance local-stakeholders' practice and participation in the local budgeting process and to increase the effectiveness of the municipal-money spending.

**Project title: Active civic engagement in design and monitoring of the local budget and public procurement**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.500	Coordinator	Project WEBER through the European Policy Institute, Skopje	01/06/2017 to 01/06/2018

**Objectives of the action**

The project aims at increasing the engagement of external stakeholders (citizens, civil society organizations and local media) in the design and monitoring of local budgets and public procurement.

**Project title: Estimating the sustainable public debt in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	4.000	Coordinator	Think Tank Fund – Young Professionals Development Program	01/10/2016 to 01/04/2017

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this project is to provide credible estimates of the sustainable level of the Macedonian government and public debt.



**Project title: Gender-responsible budget of the city of Skopje**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	1.000	Coordinator	Center for Research and Policy Making	01/05/2017 to 30/04/2020

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this research is to identify gaps in the gender policies and implementation of gender-sensitive budget of the City of Skopje, and make appropriate recommendations to overcome the gaps.

**Project title: FISCAST+: Fiscal transparency and accountability improves policies in quality of life, education and health**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	194.258	Coordinator	British Embassy in Skopje	01/07/2016 to 31/03/2018

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to address efficiency and quality of selected policies in quality of life, education and health through public debate and policy options derived from data and evidence.

**Project title: FISCAST: Building capacity and tools for fiscal accountability, sustainability and transparency in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	95.000	Coordinator	British Embassy in Skopje	01/08/2015 to 31/03/2016

**Objectives of the action**

The overall objective of the project is twofold: first, to improve the capacity of civil society and media to contribute to evidence-based economic dialogue in the country, enabling more participatory and transparent policymaking, with strong focus on fiscal policymaking; and, second, to increase the public awareness for the process of spending public money.

**Project title: Local development or current expenditures: What purpose is municipal money spent for?**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	4.100	Coordinator	Metamorphosis Foundation	01/10/2016 to 01/04/2017

**Objectives of the action**

The main objective of the project is to increase the transparency and efficiency of the use of budget funds within municipalities.

# ***COMPETITIVENESS AND EU ACCESSION***

This research program deals with the conceptualization of the competitiveness, i.e. the institutions, policies and reforms to strengthen the market economy of North Macedonia. Moreover, the program specifically deals with how the EU accession helps country competitiveness in light of supporting the capacity to cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the Union.

**Project title: Open Balkan: Free regional movement of labor in conditions of shortage of qualified workers?**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	41.256	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	September 2022 – September 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The goal of the project is to assess how the free movement of (skilled) labor in the Open Balkan Initiative will affect the labor market in North Macedonia, and thus to encourage a reasoned debate and adjustment of policies to maximize benefits and minimize risks.

Specific objectives include:

- Generating knowledge about how the free movement of (skilled) labor included in the Open Balkan Initiative will affect the labor market in the country;
- Encouraging evidence-based public debate about the benefits and challenges of the issue;
- Contribution to economic policies related to the labor market and bilateral social security agreements, in the context of the implementation of the requirements of this Initiative.

**Scoping study to investigate the demand for green and social financing in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	14.942	Coordinator	Agence Française de Développement	May – September 2022

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this study is to conduct the diagnosis – market analyses of high potential sectors in North Macedonia from a green and social stand point and to assess the market potential for new development credit lines.

**Action for formalization of micro-performers of economic activity in the informal economy**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	6.797	Coordinator	GIZ North Macedonia	May – September 2022

**Objectives of the action**

The purpose of this action is to increase the formalization of micro-companies in North Macedonia, ie performers of economic activity in the informal economy. Hence, the action addresses legal informality. More specific objectives of the action include:

1. Understand the reasons for the informality of micro-operators in the informal economy (high fees, high administrative burden, low probability of being discovered, poor awareness of the benefits of formalization, etc.)
2. To understand the activity of informal micro-performers
3. To design a map / list of all fees, including parafiscal charges, related to starting a micro-business and running it in the early years
4. To propose: a) a plan for reduction of the costs for firming of micro-performers of activity, including rationalization of the duties identified in 3; and b) policy measures (fiscal, labor, information) that will encourage greater formalization of micro-operators.

## Project title: Data analysis and report on Balkan Barometer 2022

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	2.100	Partner	Regional Cooperation Council	April – May 2022

**Objectives of the action** The objective of the project is to conduct a data analysis and contribute to the underlying report on Balkan Barometer 2022.

## Project title: V4 support to promote WB6 Common Regional Market: one market for post-COVID recovery

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	1.250	Coordinator	International Visegrad Fund	1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

**Objectives of the action** The project focuses on sharing experiences, transferring knowledge and recommending further regional economic integration through development of the WB6 Common Regional Market using experiences from ex-CEFTA and V4 after integration into the EU single market.

## Project title: FISCAST Network – Enhancing dialogue for higher municipal financial transparency, with focus on parafiscal charges

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	281.136	Coordinator	European Delegation	January 2021 – July 2023

**Objectives of the action** The overall objective of the project is “To strengthen FISCAST network’s monitoring of and partnering with local stakeholders on LSGUs’ financial transparency, with reference to parafiscal charges.” This overarching aim is broken down into specific objectives involving concrete interventions on four fronts.

## Project title: Reaping export-oriented companies’ potential to contribute to post-Covid-19 recovery

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	54.827	Coordinator	British Embassy Skopje	September 2020 – March 2021

**Objectives of the action** The project aims to identify potentials of export oriented capacities including already existed foreign investors in the country to support economic recovery.

Specific objectives:

- To identify capacities to adapt and shift current production according to changed demand (new operation, components, complementary products, etc)
- To identify the potentials for regional re-positioning and utilization of global geographical allocation shifting and cost reduction strategy
- To identify potential for injections of capital that parent’s company will make to affiliated companies in the country (to shift operations from other geographical locations, or to modify current production, etc).
- To identify obstacles for export and growth
- To identify needs for economic measures that will maximize identified potentials

**Project title: Analysis of SDG Financing Landscape**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.573	Coordinator	UNDP	June 2021 – November 2021
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of the SDG Financial Landscape Analysis is to map all financing flows, with the aim to identify potential approaches and activities that can contribute to efficient use of existing resources for SDG achievement and greater alignment and investment by development partners on sustainable development priorities.		

**Project title: Promoting evidence and dialogue for enhancing state aid's effect onto consumer welfare in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	71.685	Coordinator	Balkan Trust for Democracy – Norwegian Embassy Belgrade	February 2020 – February 2021
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		<p>The objective of the action is to promote evidence and foster dialogue on the role of state aid for consumer welfare in North Macedonia.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand existing forms of state aid in North Macedonia (direct subsidies, tax exemptions, discounted loans etc.) and their (mutual) consistency within the overall anti-trust legislation in the country;</li> <li>To produce robust evidence on whether state aid distorts competition on the market, with application on the paramount governmental program for subsidizing companies in North Macedonia and dwelling on the 'market economy operator' principle;</li> <li>To improve the dialogue among stakeholders, as well raise public awareness, on state aid, alignment with EU Acquis and consumer welfare.</li> </ul> <p>By having achieved these objectives, the action will significantly contribute to enhancing the role of state aid for the market competition and efficiency, and hence onto consumer welfare.</p>		

**Project title: Common country analysis – economic and social trends**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	134.500	Coordinator	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator	November 2019 – March 2020
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The aim of the project is to synthesize existing knowledge in the area of economic, social and development trends and policies in North Macedonia, identify the most lagging population groups in terms of a set of development indicators, identify short- and medium-term risks, as well as knowledge and data gaps, all in the context of sustainable development goals.		

## Project title: Institutional know-how transfer to support (swift?) Europeanization of North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	134.500	Coordinator	Open Society Foundations – Berlin Office	November 2019 – April 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of the project is to elevate Finance Think at a new international / European level of development to be able to secure streamlining of the European economic values and dynamics into the national economy, as well to be able to robustly engage with EU actors relevant in this domain.

## Project title: Sustainable economic growth through promotion of alternative touristic attractions

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.500	Coordinator	US Embassy	September 2019 – December 2019

**Objectives of the action**

The main goal of the project is to improve local economic development by promoting developed alternative tourist attractions. The indirect expected benefits include development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as touristic destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and to inclusive economic growth.

## Project title: Capacity and innovation of tourism services for sustainable local economic growth – New approach through development of alternative tourist attractions

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	100.000	Coordinator	Local and Regional Competitiveness Project (LRCP) (World Bank & EU)	January 2019 – December 2019

**Objectives of the action**

The overall goal of the project is to improve local economic development by building capacities of local stakeholders involved in the supply chain, increasing quality of services and development, launching and selling alternative tourist attractions. The indirect expected benefits include the development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as tourist destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and inclusive economic growth.

# ***GENDER AND INCOME INEQUALITIES***

This research program is focused on the application of aspects of newer economic literature advocating for gender equality in wages, employment and opportunities, as well for policies reducing income and wealth inequalities.

## Project title: Gender-responsive planning at local level: The case of Prilep and Krushevo

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	14.955	Coordinator	Reactor through EU and SIDA	January 2022 – February 2023

### Objectives of the action

The overall objective of the action is to encourage gender-responsive planning that responds to the different needs of women and men at local level. The action will be aimed at including gender in the programming through concrete interventions on three fronts: 1) Improving the accountability of local governments in implementing their commitments to gender equality, 2) Empowering local women and men to express their needs and priorities through the process of participative planning, and 3) Strengthening local stakeholders with capacities for monitoring the gender-responsive planning process.

## Project title: Exploratory analysis of women and men in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	30.615	Coordinator	UN Women	November 2021 – February 2022

### Objectives of the action

The aim of the project is to identify trends in a series of indicators for women and men in North Macedonia, as well as to identify gaps in gender statistics.

## Project title: Follow-up to the assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children and in-depth study on multidimensional child poverty in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	50.115	Coordinator	UNICEF	December 2020 – July 2021

### Objectives of the action

The goal of the follow-up to the assessment of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on children, is to generate scenarios and expanded policy proposals in a situation where it is certain that this will be a protracted crisis, both from a health and from a socio-economic perspective, and where we can verify the validity of the initial assumptions of its nature and duration. The overarching goal of the proposed study on multidimensional child poverty in North Macedonia is to generate an in-depth map on the issue and establish sound and thorough empirical evidence.

## Project title: Gender responsive budgeting in times of pandemic

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	4.000	Coordinator	Center for Research and Policy Making through the Gender Budget Watchdog Network	December 2020 – May 2021

### Objectives of the action

The project aims to improve the position of women and reduce gender inequality in the labor market in the long run. A detailed examination of the use of gender responsive budgeting in active employment measures will provide a basis for designing new measures and models to improve the position of women in the labor market and mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the crisis and / or recommendations for redesign of existing measures in order to design gender-responsive measures that best meet the needs and characteristics of women.



**Project title: Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	27.522	Coordinator	UN Women Skopje	October 2020 – March 2021

**Objectives of the action**

The objective of this project is to provide support in the development of rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men.

This proposal envisages the following activities:

Desk analysis of the LSGUs budgets for 2020 in order to map the envisaged gender-based program, their categorization and comparative analysis with the local policies and strategies for equal opportunities between men and women, in order to evaluate how many local programs and funds were allocated directly for women, before the Covid crisis. In-depth interviews with LSGUs' officials to discuss in details the LSGUs response interventions to address the local citizen's needs, with reference to the gender impact. (Online) focus groups with local citizens to assess their experience and attitudes toward LSGUs' response measures that tackle the Covid-19 impact. All activities will result in short gender budget policy analysis (15-18 pages) for each LSGU separately, with included assessment of the LSGUs response interventions from gender perspective, as well as policy and recommendations for improving the gender-budgeting process in the post-Covid period.

**Project title: Assessment of the poverty effects of Covid-19, with a focus on the most vulnerable categories of citizens**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.113	Coordinator	The Government of North Macedonia	July – December 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of this project is to assess the risk of poverty imposed by the Covid-19 crisis, with special reference to the groups most at risk, and to raise awareness of the use of the measure to facilitate entry into the system of guaranteed minimum assistance.

Specific objectives include:

- To evaluate / simulate the effect of the Covid-19 crisis on poverty, with special reference to gender poverty;
- To make a qualitative assessment of the effect of the Covid-19 crisis on the target groups: women and youth at social risk, informal workers, recipients of social assistance and Roma;
- To assess the fiscal implications of the measure for relaxation of the criteria for obtaining guaranteed minimum assistance;
- To raise awareness of the eased entry into the system for guaranteed minimum assistance;
- To propose measures for evidence-based policies, with potentially narrower targeting of the target groups.

**Project title: Beyond income inequalities in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	2.473	Coordinator	UNDP	December 2019 – January 2020

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to provide an overview of inequalities in North Macedonia beyond income, i.e. inequalities in opportunities in four critical areas: education, healthcare, labor market and justice.

**Project title: Gender equality in the workplace: Monitoring at the local level**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.814	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society	November 2019 – May 2020
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The main objective of the project is to promote and encourage gender equality and non-discrimination in hiring and in the workplace.		

**Project title: Good or bad tax? Reforming Macedonian personal income tax**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.000	Coordinator	Balkan Monitoring Public Finance / Analytica Think Tank	14/12/2018 to 14/06/2019
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The overall objective of the project is to assess the effect of the announced tax reform of the personal income tax.		

**Project title: Data analysis for the diagnostic and public finance studies in Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	80.127	Coordinator	The World Bank	01/11/2015 – 31/01/2017
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of the project is to provide background calculations in Stata to feed the preparation of two studies: Country Diagnostics and Public Finance Study by the world bank, based on data from LFS, SILC and HBS.		

**Project title: Gender-responsible budget of the city of Skopje**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	1.000	Coordinator	Center for Research and Policy Making	01/05/2017 to 30/04/2020
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of this research is to identify gaps in the gender policies and implementation of gender-sensitive budget of the City of Skopje, and make appropriate recommendations to overcome the gaps.		

**Project title: "Heroes and she-roles": Knowledge for analysis of and advocacy for equal pay for women and mothers in Macedonia (SHE-ROES)**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	80.127	Coordinator	Know-how Exchange Program – Austria through the Central European Initiative	November 2015 – January 2017
Objectives of the action		The objective of this project is to correctly measure gender pay gaps (difference in wages between men and women) and motherhood pay gaps (difference in wages between mothers and childless women) in Macedonia and to advocate solutions for addressing the prevalent pay gaps.		

**Project title: Visualization of the gender wage gap in Macedonia: Demystifying wages and advocacy for gap minimization**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	4.460	Coordinator	Think Tank Fund	01/06/2015 – 01/01/2016
Objectives of the action		The objective of this project is to raise the awareness for the gender wage discrimination in Macedonia.		

**Project title: Does motherhood explain part of the gender wage gap in Macedonia?**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	5.365	Coordinator	CERGE-EI and Global Development Network	01/01/2015 – 01/01/2016
Objectives of the action		The objective of the research is to estimate the contribution of the motherhood wage gap for the gender wage gap in Macedonia after considering workers' characteristics and selectivity.		

**Project title: Analysis of gender wage gap when women are highly inactive: Evidence from repeated imputations with Macedonian data**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
Macedonia	8.943	Coordinator	Global Development Network	10/06/2013 – 10/12/2013
Objectives of the action		The objective of this research is to investigate if gender employment gap can shed some light on the gender wage gap and to develop a web-based developmental tool to tackle gender wage inequality in Macedonia.		

# ***MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND POLICIES***

The goal of this research program of Finance Think is to devise local policies and budget that are conducive to local development and the wellbeing of citizens and local communities. Community-based programs are particularly pursued. The participative approach is highly favoured.

**Project title: Gender-responsive planning at local level: The case of Prilep and Krushevo**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	14.955	Coordinator	Reactor through EU and SIDA	January 2022 – February 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The overall objective of the action is to encourage gender-responsive planning that responds to the different needs of women and men at local level. The action will be aimed at including gender in the programming through concrete interventions on three fronts: 1) Improving the accountability of local governments in implementing their commitments to gender equality, 2) Empowering local women and men to express their needs and priorities through the process of participative planning, and 3) Strengthening local stakeholders with capacities for monitoring the gender-responsive planning process.

**Project title: Budget for all: Citizen consultations to create a budget according to local needs**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	7.500	Coordinator	The WEBER project through the European Policy Institute, Skopje	April 2021 – January 2022

**Objectives of the action**

The aim of the project is to involve all residents of the municipality of Krushevo in the process of creating the local budget.

**Project title: FISCAST Network – Enhancing dialogue for higher municipal financial transparency, with focus on parafiscal charges**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	281.136	Coordinator	European Delegation	January 2021 – July 2023

**Objectives of the action**

The overall objective of the project is "To strengthen FISCAST network's monitoring of and partnering with local stakeholders on LSGUs' financial transparency, with reference to parafiscal charges." This overarching aim is broken down into specific objectives involving concrete interventions on four fronts.

Specific objective 1: To enhance capacities of local CSOs and of the FISCAST Network to become active stakeholders in the municipal financial transparency processes;

Specific Objective 2: To improve municipal budget and parafiscal charges transparency;

Specific objective 3: To establish evidence-based, multi-stakeholder policy dialogue for monitoring of financial transparency and building effective municipal policies;

Specific objective 4: To increase public awareness about the benefit that higher transparency, accountability and sustainability have for citizens and businesses, in their roles and capacities to act at the local level.

**Project title: Employment diagnostics in the municipalities in North Macedonia**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	6.000	Coordinator	International Labor Organization	November 2020 – January 2021

**Objectives of the action** The aim of the project is to diagnose the labor market in nine municipalities in North Macedonia.

**Project title: Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	27.522	Coordinator	UN Women Skopje	October 2020 – March 2021

**Objectives of the action** The objective of this project is to provide support in the development of rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on selected local programmes and support local planning and budgeting in response to the immediate socio-economic needs of women and men.

This proposal envisages the following activities:

Desk analysis of the LSGUs budgets for 2020 in order to map the envisaged gender-based program, their categorization and comparative analysis with the local policies and strategies for equal opportunities between men and women, in order to evaluate how many local programs and funds were allocated directly for women, before the Covid crisis. In-depth interviews with LSGUs' officials to discuss in details the LSGUs response interventions to address the local citizen's needs, with reference to the gender impact. (Online) focus groups with local citizens to assess their experience and attitudes toward LSGUs' response measures that tackle the Covid-19 impact. All activities will result in short gender budget policy analysis (15-18 pages) for each LSGU separately, with included assessment of the LSGUs response interventions from gender perspective, as well as policy and recommendations for improving the gender-budgeting process in the post-Covid period.

**Project title: Gender equality in the workplace: Monitoring at the local level**

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	5.814	Coordinator	Foundation Open Society	November 2019 – May 2020

**Objectives of the action** The main objective of the project is to promote and encourage gender equality and non-discrimination in hiring and in the workplace.

# ***GREEN ECONOMY***

The program on Green economy captures topics as growth in employment and income which are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency.

## Scoping study to investigate the demand for green and social financing in North Macedonia

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	14.942	Coordinator	Agence Française de Développement	May – September 2022
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of this study is to conduct the diagnosis – market analyses of high potential sectors in North Macedonia from a green and social stand point and to assess the market potential for new development credit lines.		

## Project title: Analysis of SDG Financing Landscape

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	9.573	Coordinator	UNDP	June 2021 – November 2021
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The objective of the SDG Financial Landscape Analysis is to map all financing flows, with the aim to identify potential approaches and activities that can contribute to efficient use of existing resources for SDG achievement and greater alignment and investment by development partners on sustainable development priorities.		

## Project title: Sustainable economic growth through promotion of alternative touristic attractions

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	13.500	Coordinator	US Embassy	September 2019 – December 2019
<b>Objectives of the action</b>		The main goal of the project is to improve local economic development by promoting developed alternative tourist attractions. The indirect expected benefits include development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as touristic destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and to inclusive economic growth.		



**Project title:** Capacity and innovation of tourism services for sustainable local economic growth – New approach through development of alternative tourist attractions

Location of the action	Cost of the action (EUR)	Role in the action	Donors to the action (name)	Dates
North Macedonia	100.000	Coordinator	Local and Regional Competitiveness Project (LRCP) (World Bank & EU)	January 2019 – December 2019

## Objectives of the action

The overall goal of the project is to improve local economic development by building capacities of local stakeholders involved in the supply chain, increasing quality of services and development, launching and selling alternative tourist attractions. The indirect expected benefits include the development of new local brands and unconventional tourist attractions for the regions that in the long term will strengthen regions as tourist destinations, attract more tourists, and thus increase revenues and promote local traditional values as a key to reducing poverty and inclusive economic growth.





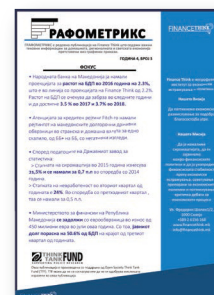
### Quarterly monitor

Macroeconomic monitor that observes the Macedonian economy through figures, on a quarterly base



### Policy briefs

Detects, through research method, specific economic problem, and gives recommendations for its solving



### Graphometrix

Contains important current information on the local, regional and world economy, presented through graphs



### FT Comment

First and condensed commentary of strategic documents, action plans, statements and reports delivered by various institutional players



### FT Opinion

A condensed and swift reaction to the moves of the daily economic policy and trends



### Journal articles

Published in national and international papers



### Policy studies

Results and recommendations from each research are presented in a policy study format



### Books



### Other publications

Policy memo, Show-card, Brochures, Posters and Leaflets

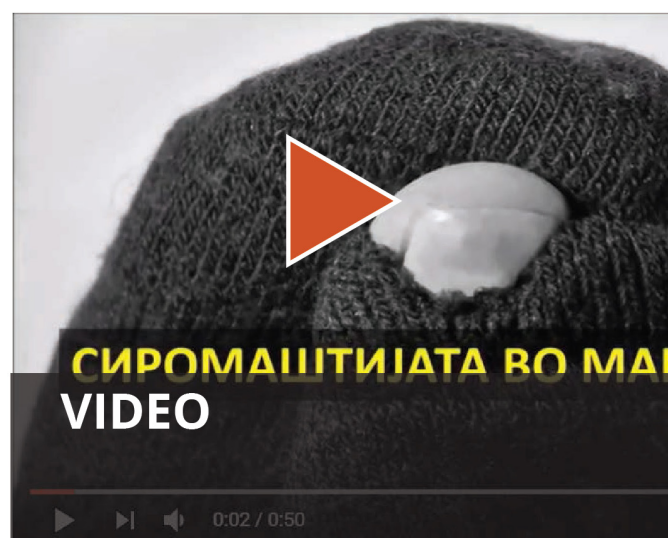




**Info-graphs**  
Gives information on a specific economic issue, through a one-page poster



**GIFs**  
Graphics Interchange Format which gives information on a new innovative way



**Videos**  
A few-minute illustration of an important economic issue



**Let's chat economics!**



**edplako.mk**

**www.edplako.mk**

Measures your fair wage and awards companies not committing gender wage discrimination



**www.siromastija.mk**

Connects social programs with its end-users / A repository center



**www.doznaki.mk**

A repository center of research, data, experts on migration and remittances



**www.fiscast.mk**

A resource center for fiscal accountability, sustainability and transparency



**www.sledigiparite.mk**

Web platform that provides information about the budgets of the 15 biggest municipalities in Macedonia.



**www.odkrusevo.mk**

Web platform of the Association "Krushevo women"



**www.vrabotime.mk**

Web platform that provides information related to the project "Promoting active inclusion of disadvantaged persons excluded of the labor market".

## MEMBERSHIPS AND MOU

International Budget Partnership / CAMMIGRES – The Cambridge Migration Research Network / EDIRIC-IDEAS/REPEC / UNCTAD Virtual Institute – Geneva / Global Youth Network

**MoUs:** National Bank of Macedonia; Municipality of Krushevo, Macedonia; Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities Skopje; The Bayes Group, Bolivia; Center for analysis of poverty, inequality and society, Argentina

See more at: [www.financethink.mk](http://www.financethink.mk)

