



Organizational Profile

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Who We Are

The **Institute for Democracy SOCIETAS CIVILIS Skopje (IDSCS)** is a leading think tank in North Macedonia, established in 2005. IDSCS's mission is to support democratic development by promoting evidence and research-based policies, as well as inclusive decision-making. The organization believes that the rule of law and good governance are fundamental to a democratic society. Governance must remain cost-effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent; otherwise, it risks exploiting societal resources and devaluing social and human capital.

IDSCS operates on the principle that the successful consolidation of democracy in North Macedonia depends on improving governance, trust in institutions, and fostering a political climate of cooperation among political actors. To this end, IDSCS works to empower citizens to demand better governance while also collaborating with institutions to enhance their capacities and accountability.

The long term objectives of the Institute include the work on a balanced socio-economic development, active citizenship and participative political culture. IDSCS work is organized in three centres: Center for good governance, Center for EU integration and Center for Parliamentary support and research. We advocate policy recommendations and strive to enrich the public discourse and policy making through the promotion of evidence-based policy, publishing and public events.

IDSCS is also a pioneer in public opinion research in the social sciences, providing essential empirical and quantitative materials to the political sector, academic community, and media. With one of the largest research databases in the country, IDSCS serves as a reference source for policymakers, academics, and politicians. The organization has conducted over 100 training sessions for members of various political parties, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve democratic processes in North Macedonia.

Mission and Vision

Our **vision** is Macedonia as a highly developed democracy of free and active citizens.

Our **mission** is to support the development of the democratic processes through the promotion of policy making based on research, analysis and consultation with stakeholders.

In pursuit of our vision and mission, we aim to achieve the following **LONG-TERM GOALS**:

- **Balanced Socio-Economic Development;**
- **Active Citizen Engagement;**
- **Participative Political Culture;**
- **Embodiment of Liberal Values in the Society;**
- **Respect for the Rule of Law and Good Governance ;**
- **Promoting Sustainable Education;**
- **Achieving Evidence-Based Decision Making;**
- **Promotion of Multi-ethnic and Multicultural Coexistence.**

Core Activities

IDSCS engages in various activities to fulfill its mission:

- **Research and Analysis:** Conducting sociometric research to provide data-driven insights into social and economic phenomena.
- **Capacity Building:** Offering training programs, workshops, and curriculum development to enhance the skills and knowledge of state sector and civil agents.[i](#)
- **Policy Advocacy:** Developing policy recommendations and promoting evidence-based policies through publications and public events
- **Public Engagement:** Organizing public debates and educational initiatives to foster active citizenship and participative political culture.

IDSCS CENTERS

Centre for Good Governance

The Center plays a critical role in civil society's response to corruption, good governance challenges. It has coordinated the drafting of anti-corruption recommendations as part of the **Blueprint for Urgent Democratic Reforms**, which has informed the government's reform framework since 2017. IDSCS has also contributed to the preparation of the new **Law on Preventing Corruption and Conflict of Interest** and has improved the merit-based appointment process for the **State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC)**.

Objectives

The Centre for Good Governance aims to promote and work on initiatives to encourage and establish the principles of good governance in the functioning of the political system and in social life.

The Institute for Democracy shall follow the principles of good governance set by the United Nations Organization as follows: – Participation

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| – Rule of law | – Consensus- oriented |
| – Transparency | – Equity and Inclusion |
| – Responsiveness | – Effectiveness and Efficiency |

– Accountability

Main areas of activity and focus

The main thematic areas of the Centre of good governance include: the process of making public policies, the functioning of the legislative and executive authority, anti-corruption policies, policies on transparency and open data, informal political and social relations, elections and electoral politics, decentralization and political culture.

Centre for European integration

Objectives

The Center for European Integration (CEI) aims to promote and work on initiatives and projects to support, monitor, research and evaluate the process of joining the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union. In pursuit of this goal, the Center is committed to actively involving all socio-political actors and stakeholders in the process. Also, the Center acts in the direction of promoting the regional cooperation between state and non-state actors from the Western Balkans.

At the European level, CEI's work is aimed at raising the cooperation with renowned analytical centers and universities of the Member States of the European Union on current and relevant topics related to the functioning and future development of European institutions.

Main areas of activity and focus

Areas in which CEI works are 1) the Berlin Process; 2) monitoring the Government's reform agenda; 3) monitoring the public opinion about the process of state accession to the EU; and 4) the policy of enlargement and conditionality of the European Union.

Beginning in 2016, CEI, together with partner organizations from the Western Balkan region, systematically monitors and analyzes areas and policies related to the Berlin Process. In March 2018, IDSCS with eight partners and researchers from the Western Balkans established the Southeast European Think Net Network – the first regional network to monitor the development of the Berlin Process.

Since 2017, CEI at IDSCS is following the reform agenda of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia through constant monitoring of the key governmental reform plans and programs, as well as the package of reforms that the state should deliver in the process of joining the EU.

IDSCS follows the public opinion on the process of Macedonia's accession to the EU since 2004. The public opinion search is systematized and methodologically harmonized in 2014. From 2016, in the analysis of public opinion on the Macedonia's accession process to the EU, current socio-political issues are added for any given year.

The Center is specialized in the policy of enlargement and conditionality of the EU. The Center participates in projects and activities, but also works on preparation of academic papers and public policy documents that analyze this policy and its practical application.

Center for Parliamentary Support and democratization

Objectives

The Center for Parliamentary Support (CPS) aims to promote and work on initiatives and projects to support, monitor, research and evaluate the work of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. In pursuit of this goal, the Center is committed to actively involve all socio-political actors and stakeholders in the process. CPS is also involved with promoting cooperation between state and non-state actors in Macedonia, as well as the inclusion of relevant international stakeholders whose field of interest is the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

Main areas of activity and focus

Areas in which the CPS works and seeks to promote improvement are:

1) Monitoring the discourse quality in Parliament; 2) Measuring the public opinion on the work of Parliament; 3) Supporting the process of Parliamentary reform; and 4) Researching and advocating for the improvement of the role of Parliament

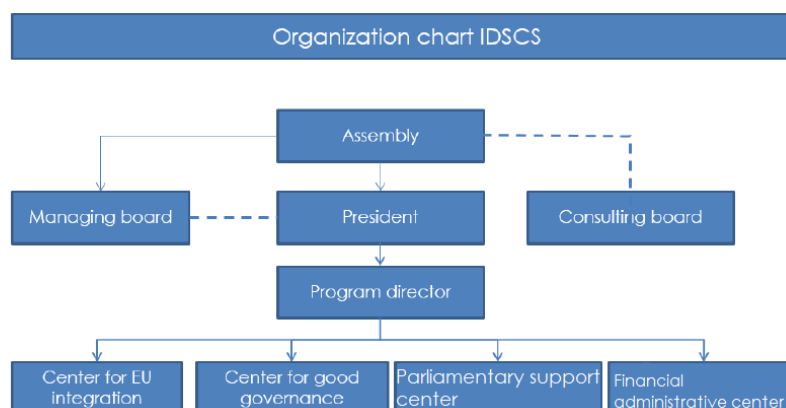
The Center for parliamentary support was officially established in January, 2019. However, IDSCS began monitoring the quality of Parliamentary discourse and the media coverage of the

work on Parliament since June, 2014, having a long tradition of focusing on the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. The second monitoring period began in September 2015, and was supported by the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation. The project will become a program in 2018. The Institute for democracy, as a part of the Parliamentary support program, besides actively monitoring the discourse quality will continue measuring the public opinion on the work of Parliament – a research that IDSCS has been conducting since 2009. Systematized and methodologically harmonized, this measuring of the public opinion has also been upgraded over the years in order for it to be aligned with the current socio-political issues. The center for Parliamentary support in IDSCS also manages the scholarship fund for postgraduate studies of the Parliamentary service and the Parliamentary Institute, aiming at improving the professional service in the within the Assembly. The center for parliamentary support in IDSCS actively involves the monitors of the discourse quality as part of the program. It also uses the expertise of all the members of IDSCS in the analysis of the work of Parliament. Besides the active participation in projects and activities, CPS works on the development of academic articles and policy papers, which more thoroughly analyze the work of Parliament and the political system of the Republic of Macedonia.

Organizational Structure

INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY "SCIETAS CIVILIS" SKOPJE

Organizational Structure



Donors/Partners

- Federal Foreign office Germany
- European Commission IPA (Horizon 2020, Civil Society Facility, EIDHR)
- Open Society Foundation / Think Tank Fund
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- USAID NorthMacedonia
- Swiss development and cooperation (SDC)
- Swiss Regional Research Promotion Program (RRPP)
- FCO – British Embassy Skopje
- European Fund for the Balkans
- National Democratic Institute
- Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands, MATRA program
- Vishegrad fund
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office in Skopje
- Slovak Balkan Public Policy Fund
- National endowment for democracy

IDSCS Team

IDSCS employs 14 full-time, 5 associated researchers and 1 intern.

Position	Number
President	1
Senior researcher	3
Associated researchers	5
Junior researcher manager	3
Financial and administrative officer	3
Communication officer	1
Intern	1
Total	17

Educational profile	Number
PhD	3
PhD candidates	3
Master degree	7
Bachelor degree	4
Total	17

Memberships

SELDI.net

Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity is an anti-corruption and good governance coalition of think tanks created in 2012. Its aims are coalition building for endorsement of a regional strategy and action agenda; implementing good governance monitoring; and raising public awareness. IDSCS is a partner in the network.

SEE Think net

The SEE Think Net Network was established in mid-march 2018 with the generous support of the European Fund for the Balkans as the first regional network composed of civil society organisations that aim to monitor the topics related to the Berlin Process.

The Network encompasses think tanks, civil society organizations and individuals from the 6 Western Balkan countries plus Croatia and Slovenia. Besides the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” (IDSCS) which will coordinate the Network, the SEE Think Net Network includes the Network of the European Movement in Serbia (NEMinS), Open Society Foundation for Albania and its affiliate, the EU Policy Hub, Adnan Ćerimagić, Politikon Network from Montenegro, Kosovo Centre for Security Studies, the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) from Croatia and the Centre for European Perspective (CEP) from Slovenia.

The goal of the SEE Think Net Network is to produce significant policy inputs and provide policy recommendations on topics that derive from the Berlin Process. As such, its activities are devised in order to closely monitor the Berlin process and the policy areas the process encompasses.

Platform of CSOs for Anti-Corruption

This platform is an informal network of 15 civil society organizations that work in the field of anti-corruption. The general aims are to provide individual and collective recommendations to policy makers; engage with them; and collectively build capacities of the organizations in the field. IDSCS's representative in the Platform is a Member of its Board and has so far initiated several activities of the network.

CSOs network for prevention of spoils and conflict of interest in the public administration

This is a network of 18 civil society organizations with a strategic focus on the prevention of conflict of interests in the public administration at national and local levels. The network is coordinated by the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” Skopje (IDSCS), the Ohrid Institute for Economic Strategies and International Relations (OI) and the Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM). The Network prepared a total of 15 monitoring reports on conflict of interests and corruption at the local level, 4 public opinion survey reports on good governance and EU integration issues and conducted 20 public debates across the country on good governance issues.

Think Balkans Network

The ‘Cooperation Instrument for the Western Balkans Think Tanks – THINK BALKANS’ project is financially supported by the [International Visegrad Fund](#) and builds upon the previously established cooperation between the members of the Southeast European Think Net Network (SEE Think Net) and Think Visegrad as part of the [‘Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans: The Berlin Process and Visegrad Group in comparison project’](#).

Following the successful past cooperation, the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje will remain project coordinator, which, in collaboration with the [European Movement in Serbia \(EMinS\)](#), [Platforma CiviKos](#) from Kosovo*, [Politikon Network](#) from Montenegro, [Albanian Institute for International Studies \(AIIS\)](#) from Albania, [Humanity in Action](#) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, [Centre for European Perspective \(CEP\)](#) from Slovenia, [Centre for Eastern Studies from Poland \(OSW\)](#), [Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade from Hungary \(IFAT\)](#), the [Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association \(RC SFPA\)](#) from Slovakia, and [EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy \(EUROPEUM\)](#) from the Czech Republic, will work in achieving the project’s goals.

Modelling on the Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform and closely cooperating with it, this project aims to pilot an instrument for the permanent cooperation of Western Balkan (WB) think tanks by 1) strengthening the cooperation of think tanks in V4 countries with WB think tanks/analytical institutions; 2) promoting V4 cooperation among experts / policy makers in the WB as a successful regional model open to experience sharing with countries wishing to join the EU; 3) offering V4 expertise on regional cooperation that can help strengthen regional cooperation in the Western Balkans, which represents a crucial aspect of the region’s European integration; 4) providing a new platform for strengthening people-to-people links between analytical institutions, think tanks, government institutions from the V4 and the Western Balkans; 5) cultivating inter-regional cooperation between V4 and WB6 on issues of common strategic interest; and 6) encouraging the use of V4 know-how gained through Think Visegrad to help improve dialogue between the relevant state institutions in the WB countries (e.g. between the foreign ministries as well as between the WB think tanks and NGOs and the WB MFAs).

In fulfilling these objectives, the project partners will organize four events in the Visegrad and Western Balkans region, as well as Slovenia. The events will take place in Skopje in early December 2020, Belgrade in late October 2021, Warsaw in early November 2021 and Ljubljana in early December 2021. In addition to the events, the project partners will organize study visits of WB6 think tankers and civil servants in V4 capitals (Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw) in Spring 2021, as well as study visits of V4 think tankers in WB6 capitals (Skopje, Prishtina, Tirana, Belgrade, Podgorica and Sarajevo). Based on the experiences and gained knowledge from the study visits, the partners will produce 4 short-term analyses and 3 long-term analyses on topics of common strategic interest for V4 and WB6 foreign policy perspectives, in the context of the European integration of the Western Balkan countries.

Publications

Visit the following [link](#) >

“POLITICAL THOUGHT” QUARTERLY

Since 2003 and in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung office in Skopje, IDSCS publishes the quarterly magazine “Political Thought” which



deals with political and social issues. Each issue covers a particular topic. It is the oldest and the only political journal in Macedonia. It is distributed to governmental institutions, political parties, the academic community, think tanks and the NGO community, international organizations and diplomatic representatives in Macedonia.

All volumes of “Political Thought” can be accessed at our website:

<https://idscs.org.mk/en/category/themes/political-thought/>

IDSCS WEBSITES

[WESTERN BALKANS FDI](#)

[FLOW 2012-2022](#)

WESTERN BALKANS FDI FLOW 2012-2022

Explore the dynamics of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the Western Balkans region through insightful data analysis and visualization. This dashboard offers valuable insights on the trends, patterns, and impacts of FDI over the past decade.

[ELECTION ARCHIVE](#) www.izbornaarhiva.mk

The Election Archive of elections in North Macedonia, from 1990 to date, is a project by the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office in the Republic of North Macedonia, which seeks to collect and publicly present all available documents for the electoral processes in the country, from the first multi-party parliamentary elections until today.

[RIA RESOURCE CENTER](#) www.pvr.mk

RIA RESOURCE CENTER

The Regulatory Impact Assessment Resource Center is an interactive web platform that integrates summarized data on nearly 800 publications issued by civil society organizations, aimed at providing research that will benefit officials working on regulatory impact assessment forms, as well as more broadly, policy makers, decision makers and CSOs who have an interest in the evidence-based policy-making process.



[WHO GOVERNS?](#)

www.kojupravuva.idscs.org.mk

First electronic register of directors and members of management and supervisory boards of public and state-owned enterprises and independent regulatory bodies. These organizations are established by the municipalities, the Government and the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia.

IDSCS Project selection

Ongoing Projects

Project Title	Duration	Description	Donor
Strengthening Citizens' and Business Ownership of the Berlin Process	Jan 2025 – Dec 2025	Enhancing awareness and participation in reforms stemming from the Berlin Process and EU integration efforts.	OSF – WB
RESILIO-ACCESS	Jan 2025 – Dec 2026	Mapping and evaluating rule of law reforms across EU candidate countries, promoting institutional resilience.	Stiftung Mercator / European Commission
GEO-POWER-EU	Jun 2024 – May 2027	Researching and proposing EU-wide strategies for managing geopolitical risks in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.	European Commission
Dialogue Platform for Bilateral Agreements	Feb 2024 – Dec 2024	Supports institutional implementation and dialogue on bilateral agreements with neighboring countries.	GIZ
ENCODE	Jun 2024 – May 2027	Analyzes emotional drivers in politics and suggests tools for democratic strengthening.	European Commission
Parliamentary Diplomacy: Regional Cooperation Through Enhanced Parliamentary Dialogue	May 2023 – April 2025	Improving parliamentary diplomacy of Western Balkan in implementation of the Berlin process commitments	German Federal Foreign Office
Parliament support Program	2017-2027	PSP aims to support Parliament's reform efforts towards strengthening its role of oversight over the executive branch, adopting higher quality laws and achieving greater openness, transparency and citizen participation in the work of Parliament.	Swiss Cooperation and Development
Partnership Against Corruption	Oct 2023 – Dec 2028	Government and civic anti-corruption collaboration, tech innovation, transparency mechanisms.	USAID (MSI Tetra Tech – IDSCS subcontractor)
Citizens Against Corruption	Apr 2023 – Apr 2028	Promotes civic engagement and multisectoral cooperation to fight corruption.	USAID (MCIC lead, IDSCS partner)
Technical Assistance – Infrastructure Anti-Corruption	Jul 2023 – Jul 2024	Stakeholder training and custom anti-corruption strategies in infrastructure development.	UNDP (SIDA funded)
Fostering Public Debate on Anti-Corruption	Oct 2023 – Sep 2025	Public engagement and institutional development through research and advocacy.	NED

Completed Projects

Project Title	Duration	Description	Donor
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Fostering Public Debate on Anti-Corruption	Oct 2021 – Oct 2023	Supported rule of law through consultative reforms and public engagement.	NED
Fight Against Corruption: Western Balkans in Focus	Mar 2022 – May 2022	Regional forum to advance accountability and anti-corruption reform.	USAID – Civic Engagement Project
Investment Screening Mechanism – preserving security and public order in the Western Balkans	February , 2023 – March, 2024	To equip key stakeholders in emerging markets with quality information and expertise on investment security policies and best practices.	CIPE
Berlin Process after Tirana 2023? Redefining the Role of Civil Society	Jan 2023 – Nov 2023	Examines the role of civil society post the Tirana 2023 Berlin Process summit.	OSF
Shared Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe	Jan 2021 – Jan 2024	Regional solutions to corruption and CSO capacity building.	EEA and Norway Grants
Monitoring Senior Civil Service Appointments	Oct 2020 – Mar 2021	Promoted merit-based hiring practices in the public sector.	UK Embassy in Skopje
Monitoring State Commission for Prevention of Corruption	Jul 2019 – Feb 2020	Improved anti-corruption oversight and policy recommendations.	OSF Macedonia
Anti-Corruption Talks in the Parliament	May 2019 – Apr 2020	Strengthened Parliament's role and engaged public in reforms.	NED
Bridging the Gap Between Formal Processes and Informal Practices That Shape Judicial Culture in the Western Balkans	Jan 2020 – Nov 2020	Addresses discrepancies between formal and informal judicial practice	MATRA NL Embassy
Anti-Corruption Talks in the Parliament (Phase 2)	Sep 2020 – Aug 2021	Built a resilient institutional anti-corruption framework.	NED
Good Governance of SoEs and ISBs	Jun 2018 – Mar 2019	Reviewed and improved the integrity of public enterprises and bodies.	UK Embassy in Skopje
Anti-Corruption Education for High School Students	Jan 2019 – Dec 2020	Empowered youth to understand and resist corruption.	Netherlands Embassy
RIA in the Shadow	Jan 2017 – Dec 2019	Strengthened evidence-based policymaking via civil society monitoring of regulatory impact.	EU Delegation
Civil Society for Good Governance in SEE	May 2018 – Nov 2022	Increased civil society influence on policy and anti-corruption.	European Commission (via MCIC)