

ANNUAL REPORT

2011





CCenter for Civil Communications
Центар за граѓански комуникации

Center for Civil Communications
bul. Kocho Racin 26/1-2, 1000 Skopje
tel. (02) 3213 513
www.ccc.org.mk

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**ИНСТИТУЦИОНАЛЕН
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ABOUT US

CCC was founded in April 2005, as a non-governmental, non-for-profit, and nonpartisan association of citizens. During the past seven years, CCC focuses on two mutually related activities: monitoring of the state institutions, based on which we recommend measures and policies for enhancing the work and narrowing the room for corruption, and enhancing the skills of the journalists and the special role of the media and the non-governmental organizations to fight corruption.

In this direction, CCC has so far created and suggested several thousand concrete recommendations for measures for advancing the regulations and practices in order to reach a more transparent, more accountable and more responsible governance on state and local level; 200 journalists from national and local media were trained in investigative journalism and reporting on corruption and around 15 researches and manuals have been published. CCC's representatives regularly participate in workshops and expert groups for creation of strategies and measures for fight against corruption and other issues within CCC's purview.

CCC's activities are primarily oriented toward the employees in the state institutions and organs on central and local level, journalists, businessmen and their associations, representatives from non-governmental organizations, as well as the citizens on local and central level who are in fact the final beneficiaries of the organization's activities.

CCC's staff has five employees and five permanent collaborators – experts in the CCC's purview, but also regularly collaborates with other (domestic, regional and international) experts. The governing and managing bodies of the Center for Civil Communications include an Assembly, Executive Board and President of the Executive Board.



NGO's representatives on the training for cooperation with the media

Center for Civil Communications (CCC) VISION

Our vision is the democratization of Macedonian society through better informed citizens and a more transparent, more accountable and more responsible government.

2011 ACTIVITIES THROUGH NUMBERS

During 2011, CCC undertook around 30 specific activities stated in the strategic plan, which lead to realization of the expected results determined by the annual work program and the monitoring & evaluation plan.

The realized activities and the achieved results refer to four projects which are financially and technically supported by six donors, four of which are foreign organizations and the other two are domestic organizations. Below is the overview of the main CCC's activities shown through numbers:



- ◆ 250 CENTRAL AND LOCAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS WERE MONITORED
- ◆ 160 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WERE PROFOUNDLY MONITORED AND ANALYZED
- ◆ 800 COMPANIES, CITIZENS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WERE SURVEYED
- ◆ 80 PEOPLE WERE TRAINED IN MORE EFFECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WORKING
- ◆ 9 RESEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED
- ◆ 9 SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CREATED AND DELIVERED TO RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS
- ◆ PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WERE INTENSELY SCANNED IN 21 MUNICIPALITIES
- ◆ 360 COMPANIES WERE SURVEYED FOR THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES
- ◆ 242 ARTICLES ON CORRUPTION THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN SEVEN MEDIA WERE ANALYZED IN DETAILS
- ◆ 50 CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MORE TRANSPARENT, MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND MORE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WERE DELIVERED TO FOUR MUNICIPALITIES FROM THE SKOPJE REGION
- ◆ 45 TANGIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS WERE DELIVERED TO RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS
- ◆ 80 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE SERIES OF DEBATES AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
- ◆ 9 STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS WERE CREATED AND DELIVERED TO MUNICIPALITIES FROM THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST REGION
- ◆ A COLLABORATION WITH 60 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY WAS ESTABLISHED
- ◆ MORE THAN 70 ARTICLES ON CCC'S ACTIVITIES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA
- ◆ 2 MANUALS FOR JOURNALISTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS' REPRESENTATIVES WERE PUBLISHED



Expert team on the workshop for creating proposals for amendments to the Public Procurement Law

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Except for the results of the implemented activities, during the past year, several significant achievements leading towards CCC's strategic goals were also accomplished. Most of them came as a result of the extensive, everyday, consistent and dedicated work realized by the CCC's team.

- Six of the CCC's recommendations were completely or partially accepted and applied to the Amendments and Modifications to the Law on Public Procurement in 2011.
- For the first time in the country, CCC introduced a completely new instrument for measuring the public spending - Cost - Effectiveness Index, which compares the prices paid by different national and local level institutions for the same products and services, and this tool raised great interest and reactions in regards to increasing the responsibility of state institutions for cost-effective public spending.
- Several relevant institutions have shown a proactive respond to CCC's recommendations and positions:
 - **Some of CCC's key remarks and recommendations which emanated from the monitoring of the public procurement procedures, have now become part of the recommendations of the State Appeals Commission;**
 - **The key problem which was detected and outlined by CCC – annulations of the public procurement procedures becoming more and more frequent, has now become part of the Public Procurement Bureau's recommendations addressed to the Government of RoM with the aim to improve the public procurement system;**



- Part of the findings in CCC’s reports for the public procurements monitoring were embedded in the European Commission’s annual progress report on Macedonia;
- Findings and recommendations from the CCC’s reports on public procurement monitoring were quoted during the plenary sessions of the Assembly of RoM.
- ⊙ CCC’s representatives participated in the work of the experts teams for the new four-year state strategy for preventing corruption of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, in two different domains: public domain – public finances, public goods and public procurements, and media and civil society.
- ⊙ Four municipalities from the East and Southeast Region fostered 40 concrete measures for improving the transparency, accountability and responsibility.
- ⊙ Several municipalities accepted the plans for internal communication and the long-term communication strategies which, among others, were created by CCC.
- ⊙ Around 30 journalists and representatives from non-governmental organizations joined the informal network for fight against corruption.



EU Ambassador, Peter Sorensen on the awarding of CCC an IPA program grant

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

During 2011, CCC implemented activities as part of four different projects, while the CCC’s 2011 annual work programme is financially supported by SDC, as part of the the Civil Society Support Programme “**CIVICA MOBILITAS**” implemented by CIRa.

Project	“Monitoring of the public procurement procedures”, with financial support by FOSIM and technical support by the National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 160 public procurement procedures in over hundred institutions on central level were fully monitored; -four quarterly reports with findings from the monitoring of the public procurement procedures and around 50 tangible recommendations for overcoming the detected flaws were written, printed out and distributed; -345 companies were surveyed regarding their experience with public procurement procedures; -a workshop with experts for amendments and modifications to the Law on Public Procurement was organized; -recommendations for amendments and modifications to the Law on Public Procurement were created and delivered to relevant institutions; -Manual for investigative journalism and reporting on public procurement procedures was published; -Ten monitors from ten local non-governmental organizations were trained in public procurement monitoring.



Training of NGOs in enhancing their role in the fight against corruption

Project	Index of rationality in spending public money, municipalities' relation towards public procurement and more efficient management of the conflicts of interest, financially supported by FOSIM
Activities	<p>Three researches were conducted in order to compare the prices that more than 150 state institutions have paid for the same 16 products and services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A detailed research on specifications in public procurement procedures in the municipalities with recommendations for improvement was conducted; -Analysis for municipalities' approach to public procurements with specific recommendations for improvement of the process was carried out; -A comparative analysis between five countries in regards to the manner of dealing with the conflicts of interest (Macedonia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Romania and Croatia) for fostering positive practices and experiences in Macedonia.
Project	"USAID Project for Transparent Governance", financially supported by USAID Macedonia, implemented in partnership with the non-governmental organizations NVO Infocentre and EHO.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Memorandums of Understanding for participation in the Project were signed with mayors from four municipalities in the Skopje Region; -A research among 400 citizens, companies and non-governmental organizations regarding the work of the municipalities was conducted; -A total of 50 recommendations for fostering mechanisms and practices for a more transparent, more accountable and more responsible governance were created and delivered to four municipalities; -A debate and a workshop for representatives from the four municipalities from Skopje Region on fostering mechanisms and practices for a more transparent, more accountable and more responsible governance were organized; -Focus groups with representatives from local and urban neighborhood units, non-governmental organizations and media from Strumica related to the process of creation of a communication strategy were facilitated; -Three workshops were organized for representatives from four municipalities from Eastern Macedonia on creating a three-year communication strategy; -A draft plan for internal communication for the local self-government units from municipalities in Eastern Macedonia was prepared and given for future adaptations, and it was fostered by three municipalities; -Three municipalities prepared long-term communication strategies; -Four municipalities from Eastern Macedonia received assistance during the implementation of the most of the 44 recommendations for increasing the transparency, accountability and responsibility in their work, proper informing of the citizens, municipal's proactivity towards the local community and the professionalism of the communal administrative staff; -More than 400 complaints and suggestions from citizens were received through four civil centers for improving the work of the local self-government, established in four municipalities in Eastern Macedonia: Shtip, Strumica, Vinica and Sveti Nikole.



Project	“Media and non-governmental organizations against corruption”, financially supported by the EU Delegation in Macedonia as part of the IPA programme.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seven monitors were trained in media monitoring; -Monitoring of seven (five national and two local) media regarding their manner of reporting on corruption was conducted; -242 articles on corruption published in the monitored media were analyzed; -Analysis of the monitoring results on the media reporting on corruption in Macedonia was prepared and published; -Two debates with 30 participants (journalists and editors) were organized on the topic for the media’s role in the fight against corruption; -A training was organized for 28 journalists from local and national media for improvement of their skills and knowledge in investigative journalism and reporting on corruption; -Recommendations for fostering measures for advancing the role of the media in the fight against corruption were distributed to all designated parties; -Two roundtable discussions were organized for 36 representatives from non-governmental organizations on local and national level on the topic of the non-governmental sector’s role in the fight against corruption; -Manual for advancing the role of the non-governmental organizations in the fight against corruption was prepared; -A training was organized for 20 representatives from non-governmental organizations for advancing their knowledge and strengthening of their capacities for a wider involvement in the fight against corruption and cooperation with the media.

What are we going to do in 2012?

The program for 2012 stems from the CCC’s long-term strategy for the period 2010-2012. In 2012, CCC will continue to implement several existing projects (Monitoring of the public procurement procedures, Index of rationality and USAID Project for Transparent Governance), and we will start implementing USAID Public Procurement market access for MEs and the EU funded project under the EIDHR “Access to information – resource for more quality informing”. In 2012, SDC will continue to provide its institutional support to CCC, through the CIVICA Mobilias programme – implemented by CIRa, while the National Democratic Institute will proceed with its technical support.



U.S. Ambassador, Paul D. Wohlers during his visit to CCC project activities in the municipality of Vinica



The monitoring of the public procurement procedures aims to detect the weaknesses of these procedures by examining 160 public procurement procedures and through report findings from the monitoring process and recommendations for specific measures to contribute towards improvement of the public procurement system, reduce the misuse and narrow the room for corruption.



Index of rationality should measure the rational spending of the public money by state institutions. To this end, the prices paid by different institutions for purchasing same products, services and goods will be compared. Detected price differences should serve as moral for the state institutions to start spending public money more rationally through more efficient public procurement procedures, more detailed market research and a wider mutual cooperation and communication.

USAID Project for Transparent Governance will work on establishing mechanisms for improving the transparency, responsibility and accountability of the local governments in nine municipalities across the country, by scanning the problems,

offering suggestions that would lead to improvement, organizing trainings and exchanging experience and practices. Its target is to raise citizens' and business sector's trust in local government.

USAID Public Procurement market access for MEs is aimed to assist the access to the public procurement market for more than 200 micro and small enterprises from Eastern and Vardar Region, in order to contribute for their sustainable development and better usage of the potentials for job creation, growth and innovation.

“Access to information – resource for more quality informing” is a project that should provide journalists from Macedonia a wider and more effective use of the public information in order to improve the quality of informing and to promote the freedom of expression and the independence of the media.



Public debate on fostering the role of the media and CSOs in the fight against corruption