

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024



The Center for Civil Communications received 2024 Meto Jovanovski National Award for the highest recognition for long-term achievements in the field of promotion, protection and advancement of human rights

January 2025

IN BRIEF

2024 is the 20th anniversary of the Center for Civil Communications (CCC) and the second year of the implementation of the new five-year Strategic Plan for Operations (2023-2027).

This year, the dynamic work of previous years continued, as evidenced by the following summarized results:

- » A total of **24** research studies were conducted and published;
- » **8** open databases were developed and published;
- » **16** publications (reports, analyses and public policy documents) were published and distributed in Macedonian, Albanian and English, in electronic form and in **2,900** printed copies;
- » More than **300** tenders were monitored in depth;
- » **7** trainings, conferences and debates were organized with **228** participants from the country and the region;
- » A survey was conducted with **336** companies on their participation in public procurement;
- » CCC reports, recommendations, research and manuals were downloaded **177,983** times from the website www.ccc.org.mk;
- » CCC posts on social networks reached **691,023** people;
- » **1,090** news products were published based on our activities and the results of their implementation in **278** media outlets in the country and the region;
- » **Hundreds** of specific measures have been recommended for more transparent and accountable government, and to narrow the room for corruption.

In 2024, the regular monitoring of public procurement in the country, which the CCC has been conducting for 16 consecutive years, continued, by detecting and indicating weaknesses and problems in the public procurement system and by proposing measures to reduce the possibilities for abuse and the room for corruption. As a result, transparency and accountability in the spending of public money through tenders, as well as the legal framework in the field of public procurement, have been significantly improved.

The proven methodology according to which the CCC conducts the monitoring of public procurement is the basis for implementing similar activities at the regional level, i.e. within the framework of the "Balkan Tender Watch" project for monitoring public procurement in the Western Balkan countries.

In the field of public procurement, along with activities at the systemic level, the CCC also conducts activities to determine transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement at the institutional level. This year, these aspects were researched and

analyzed in municipalities and public enterprises in the country established by municipalities.

In the other main area of activity – the field of improving the capacities of journalists and media, significant activities continued in 2024 to strengthen investigative journalism and cooperation between the media and non-governmental organizations in realizing their joint social role. Regular assistance to journalists in their research on corruption and the spending of public money also continued. In addition, CCC assisted local CSO from all over the country in fulfilling their role in the fight against corruption on local government level.

This year, the CCC also conducted a number of researches on important issues and areas for further use by journalists and non-governmental organizations, which are published in an open format on the web portal www.opendata.mk, which enables their further use by all interested parties.

The activities of the CCC in 2024 were implemented within the framework of six projects, financially supported by: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USAID, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Open Society Foundation – Macedonia, which are implemented independently or in partnership with other non-governmental organizations from the country and the region.

In December 2024, the CCC was awarded the Meto Jovanovski State Award for 2024 for the highest recognition for long-term achievements in the field of promotion, protection and advancement of human rights, for achievements in the field of promotion and protection of the human right to access public information.

In September 2024, the CCC became an Ordinary National Member Organization of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of civil society organizations committed to advancing the monitoring and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).



More detailed information about the projects, implementation, activities, results, achievements, donors and partners of the CCC can be obtained on our website www.ccc.org.mk.

ABOUT US

The Center for Civil Communications (CCC) was founded in April 2005 as a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan association of citizens. In its current activities, it focuses its work on two groups of interrelated activities: (1) monitoring of state institutions and, based on this, recommending measures and policies to improve their performance and reduce the room for corruption, and (2) improving the capacity of journalists and the special role of the media and non-governmental organizations in the fight against corruption and increasing the transparency, responsibility and accountability of state institutions.

In this regard, the CCC has so far developed and proposed several hundred specific recommendations for taking measures to improve regulations and practices in the direction of more transparent, accountable and responsible work of central and local governments, has trained more than five hundred journalists from national and local media on research and reporting on corruption and representatives of civil society organizations, and has developed, conducted and published more than two hundred researches, analyses and manuals.

Representatives of the CCC regularly participate in workshops and expert groups for creating strategies and measures to fight corruption and on other issues in the areas of activity of the CCC.

The activities of the CCC are aimed at employees of state institutions and bodies at the central and local levels, at journalists, businessmen and their associations, at representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as at citizens at the local and central levels, as end users of the results of the organization's activities.

The CCC staff in 2024 numbered seven employees and several permanent associates - experts from the spheres of activity of the CCC. The governing and management bodies of the CCC include the Assembly of the Association as the highest body, the Managing Board and the President of the Association.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

MONITORING OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (2008-2024), IN 2024 FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION - MACEDONIA

Through direct monitoring of public procurement, weaknesses in the implementation of tenders are detected and specific measures are recommended to overcome the problems and the irrational spending of public money, as well as to narrow the space for corruption.



During 2024:

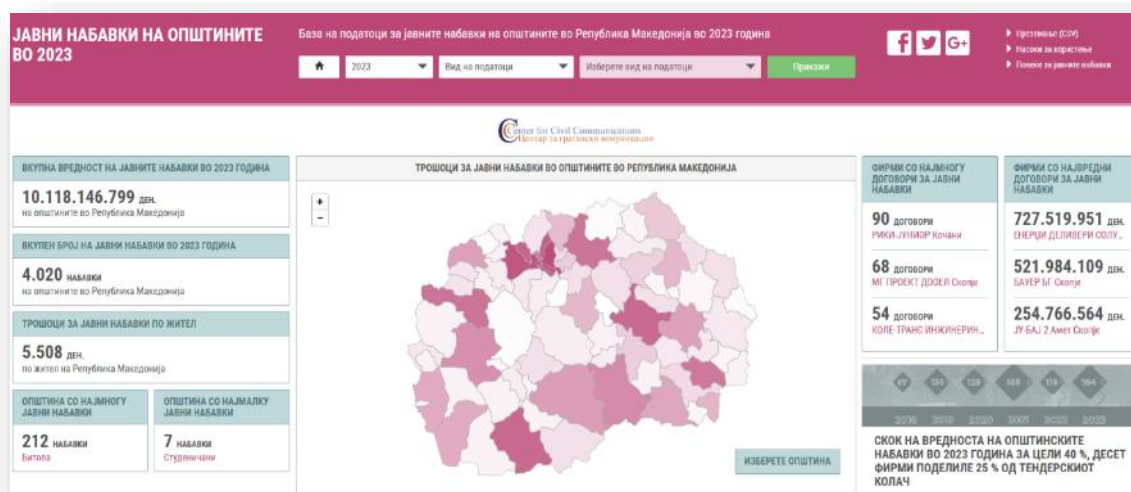
- » 162 tenders conducted by state institutions at the national and local levels were directly monitored;
- » [39th report on the monitoring of public procurement](#) has been published and the [40th report on the monitoring of public procurement](#) has been prepared and published, with an overview of the situation, detected weaknesses and room for abuse and corruption in public procurement;
- » The [Index of Rationality No. 20](#) has been published, and the [Index of Rationality No. 21](#) has been prepared and published, comparing the prices and procedures at which the same products and services were purchased by different state institutions.
- » A series of specific measures have been recommended to improve the public procurement system in the country, either for changes in the regulation or for the manner of implementing public procurement;
- » An analysis of the appeal procedures in public procurement has been prepared;
- » A survey has been conducted to assess the experience of companies participating in tenders.
- » A survey has been conducted to assess the opinion of persons responsible for public procurement in institutions.

- » A debate was organized with representatives of institutions and companies about their views on key problems and corruption in public procurement.



In addition to the activities related to the monitoring of public procurement, the following significant activities were also carried out within the framework of organizational support:

- » A survey was conducted to rank 97 institutions (Government, ministries, municipalities and the City of Skopje) according to the level of Active Transparency, which has become the main criterion for measuring the transparency of state institutions in the country, so that information from active transparency has become mandatory for publication. The special website for a simplified view of the active transparency of institutions www.aktivntransparentnost.mk has been supplemented with the latest data from the survey for 2024.
- » A special [database with all public procurements of municipalities for 2023](#) has been developed and published, with a visual display of data for each municipality and the ability to view and search by municipality and company.



SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CORRUPTION (2021-2024) – PROJECT WITHIN THE MATRA PROGRAM WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

The project includes activities to reduce corruption and the abuse of public funds of local governments by increasing the transparency, accountability and integrity of local institutions and implementing the measures provided for in the National Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest 2021-2025



During 2024:

- » A final conference of the project was organized, which discussed the perspectives and solutions in the fight against corruption at the local level, in which 75 representatives from all stakeholders participated.
- » A three-day training was conducted for 17 representatives of the eight local administrations included in the project, to improve the collection of own revenues and ensure greater accountability of municipalities.
- » Two trainings and a workshop were conducted for 33 representatives of local partner civil society organizations to strengthen their knowledge of monitoring public finance management and to strengthen their capacities for anti-corruption action at the local level.
- » Integrity action plans were developed and submitted for each of the eight municipalities included in the project.
- » Two investigative stories were supported and published by journalists from local media in the municipalities of Bitola and Negotino dedicated to the transparency, accountability and integrity of the authorities, as well as the problems caused by corruption in local communities.



- » Research on the [process of issuing B-integrated environmental permits](#) in municipalities was developed and published.
- » Research on [insufficient transparency and low prices in the sale of state-owned construction land](#) in municipalities was developed and published.
- » Research on the [absence of procedures, transparency and accountability of procurements funded with money from parents in schools](#) was developed and published.
- » Research on [outdated GUPs, frequent changing of DUPs, a large number of illegal buildings and a weak inspection supervision](#) in municipalities has been developed and published.
- » Research on [weak capacities of the inspection services in the municipalities](#) has been developed and published.
- » The public policy document on [Building an Integrity System in the Local Self-Government Units](#) has been developed and published.



CITIZENS AGAINST CORRUPTION, USAID PROJECT (2023-2028)

The project increases the engagement and cooperation of citizens, civil society, media and the private sector in the fight against corruption, to improve the government response and effectiveness in dealing with corruption in all sectors at the national and local levels.



During 2024:

- » The [ranking](#) of all 100 institutions of the first line of executive power – the Government, ministries, secretariats and municipalities, has been published, according to 32 indicators, for assessing their anti-corruption performance in the implementation of public procurement.
- » For the first time in the country, "citizen oversight" of public procurement began to be implemented in the lowest ranked municipalities, where, together with citizens and representatives of the civil society sector, disputed procurements were detected for which in-depth research was conducted and case studies were prepared.
- » A practical Guide for Citizens on Public Procurement Oversight has been developed, published and distributed.
- » Two-pagers with information on the public procurements of the included municipalities and the manner in which they were implemented have been developed, published and distributed.



- » CCC representatives organized and participated in events and meetings with citizens and local civil society organizations to engage them in reporting and preventing corruption.



The project is implemented by the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) in partnership with the Center for Civil Communications (CCC), the Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis, Skopje (IDSCS), the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia (ECNM), 360 Degrees, the Investigative Reporting Laboratory, Macedonia (IRL), and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Macedonia (BIRN).

USE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP DATA TO REDUCE CORRUPTION (2023-2026) – A PROJECT WITHIN CIVICA MOBILITAS PROGRAMME OF THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC)

The project enhances transparency, accountability and efficiency in spending of public money by encouraging and promoting the use of beneficial ownership information in the fight against corruption. The project contributes to the effective use of data from the Beneficial Ownership Register as a tool in fight against corruption.

During 2024:

- » An [analysis of the use of beneficial ownership data to combat corruption](#) was developed and published, assessing the experience to date with the application of data from the Register of Beneficial Owners in the fight against corruption, detecting shortcomings and weaknesses and determining the room for improvement.



- » A methodology was developed and the in-depth research began to be implemented to detect possible conflicts of interest and abuse of power in public procurement among politically exposed persons in the country.
- » The adopted new [National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership 2024-2026](#) includes a commitment proposed by the CCC to publicly publish the names of the beneficial owners of the bidding companies and of the companies that conclude contracts for public procurement, concessions and public-private partnerships.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the Center for Active Citizens Aktivo Veles and the Association of Tax Advisors of the Republic of Macedonia from Skopje.

CREDIBLE JOURNALISM FOR REAL CHANGES, A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (2023-2026)

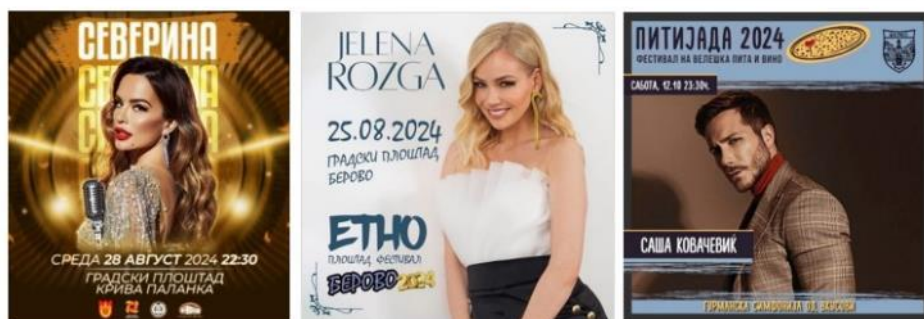
The project involves the development and publication of research, analysis and databases on issues and topics of public interest.

50 фирми со најголема вредност на јавните набавки добиени во периодот 2019-2023 година

Р. бр.	Компанија	Вкупна вредност на добиените тендери во денари	Вкупна вредност на добиените тендери во евра
1	Марковски Компани Борче ДООЕЛ, Битола	9.298.304.712	151.191.947
2	АД Д-р Пановски, Скопје	8.845.211.202	143.824.572
3	Пуцко Петрол ДООЕЛ с. Пласница	8.448.220.642	137.369.441
4	Алколоид Конс ДООЕЛ Скопје	8.013.776.990	130.305.317
5	Енерџи Деливери Солушнс АД Скопје	6.366.467.510	103.519.797

During 2024:

- » Seven in-depth researches were conducted from various 8 reports and databases have been published on our portal www.opendata.mk.
- » The research on the [level of health protection of citizens](#) across the country has been published.
- » The research on [election tenders and public procurement in election years](#) has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [prices, consumption and losses of drinking water](#) in the country has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [number of pupils in primary and secondary schools](#) has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [number of students](#) has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [top 50 companies that have received the most public procurement contracts in the past five years](#) has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [spendings of municipalities and ministries for legal services and the manner of their engagement](#) has been conducted and published.
- » The research on the [spendings of municipalities for singers and entertainment events](#) has been conducted and published.



Намалување на бројот на ученици во основното и во средното образование



The project is implemented in partnership with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Macedonia (BIRN).

BALKAN TENDER WATCH (2023-2024) – REGIONAL PROJECT FUNDED BY OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION – MACEDONIA

The project reveals the vulnerable points of corruption in the public procurement systems of the Western Balkan countries through comparative monitoring and analysis based on pre-established and verified methodology and consultation with stakeholders, thus providing timely and comprehensive information and analysis on the state of public procurement and proposes recommendations for changes in public procurement systems that contribute to the reduction of corruption in public procurement in the Western Balkans.



During 2024:

- » [A regional report on the state of public procurement in the Western Balkans for 2024](#) was prepared and published, as the eighth such report prepared by the coalition.
- » Thematic reports on acute problems in public procurement were prepared and published for each of the Western Balkan countries.
- » An online thematic debate was organized with 67 participants from all six Western Balkan countries, starting from members of the coalition, to representatives of state institutions, the EU, other international and bilateral organizations and institutions, journalists, NGOs, etc., at which the findings and problems in public procurement were presented, followed by debate and discussion on possible solutions.
- » National “shadow reports” on the state of public procurement were published for each of the six Western Balkan countries.

The project is implemented in partnership with the NGO Affirmation Network - MANS (Montenegro), Center for Applied European Studies - CPES (Serbia), Enterprise Development Agency - EDA (Bosnia and Herzegovina), FOL Movement (Kosovo) and Center Respublica (Albania).