



**2020
WE WERE ALL
IN THIS
TOGETHER**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Partizanski Odredi, 106 1/3, 1000 Skopje
info@zipinstitutemk
+38926159832
www.zipinstitutemk

Dear friends,

We are ready to present to you the annual report of 2020 that sums up the achievements and trials that marked this year. It was a year filled with ideas, projects, and challenges. As in previous years, we realized projects linked with local self-government, energy, projects related to youth unemployment issues, and combating violent extremism. Given the new threat of the coronavirus and the pandemic it brought, ZIP focused on raising awareness and helping communities fight the virus and face our new reality.

This year for ZIP Institute is a year of growth, learning, progress, and indeed a year in which we positioned ourselves further into the circle of reputable and highly respectable organizations in the Macedonian and regional civil sector. Our plans would not be complete without you. Therefore, we would like to hear from you, as we always do. We hope for joint implementation of changes in North Macedonia and the region, and of course, a joint celebration of successes in the years to come.

Once again, thank you for being with us in the past 9 years.

To an even more successful 2021!

Aqim Selami
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aqim Selami', written over the printed name and title.

Table of content

About Us.....	4
Main Long Term Goals.....	5
Projects.....	6
MotherSchools: Parenting for Peace 2020.....	6
Saraj Youth and Community Center.....	7
Macedonian Energy Forum 2020.....	8
Front Against Covid-19 in Saraj.....	9
Bojane Grapes Festival.....	9
North Macedonia Citizen Assembly on Covid-19.....	10
Publications.....	11
Challenges and lessons learned in 2020.....	12
What's next?.....	13
Financial Report.....	14

About ZIP

who are we?

ZIP Institute is an independent, non-governmental organization which aims at improving democratic processes, the rule of law and the development of civil society in the Republic of North Macedonia, through tailor-made solutions to the most pressing social, societal and systematic problems.

what we do?

A key feature of the work of ZIP Institute are detailed, encompassing analyses, initiatives and actions on local, national and regional levels, as well as connecting the processes of research and analysis with tangible solutions to the most pressing problems and contributing to policymaking processes.

what is Our mission?

Through cooperation with relevant stakeholders, such as governmental, non-governmental and regional institutions, ZIP Institute has the mission of strengthening democratic processes in North Macedonia, observing respect for the rule of law and protecting human rights and overall, providing the best solutions to the problems of the citizens and institutions in Macedonian society.

Main long-term goals

- Democratization of Macedonian society;
- Rule of law and good governance;
- Active civil sector;
- Active citizens;
- Strengthening of the civil consciousness;
- Inclusive policies;
- Cooperation and long-term dialogue between the nongovernmental sector and the governmental institutions;
- Eradicating socially deviant behaviors;
- Promotion of informal education;
- Promotion of sustainable formal education;
- Multiethnic, multicultural coexistence;
- Promotion of regional cooperation;
- Promotion of European integration;

Projects

ZIP Institute aimed to maintain the success rate of approved projects despite the challenges that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have managed to maintain growth in funding in 2020. The implemented projects in 2020 have been predominantly in six portfolio clusters: Democratization, EU Integration, Human Rights, Countering Violent Extremism, Fight Against Covid-19, and School-Community Partnerships. We have implemented a total of six projects, which have been the core source of financial resources for the organization. A summary of the key and capstone projects that have been concluded or have begun in 2020 is presented below, and a more detailed description of said projects can be found on our webpage www.zipinstitute.mk/projects.

Motherschools - Parenting For Peace 2020



The “MotherSchools” are a “Women without Borders” programme, designed for mothers to provide them with the competence and confidence to guide their children through the challenges of adolescence, negative influences, and growing global uncertainties. The MotherSchools create a safe space to learn, build trust, and find support from others experiencing the same issues, without judgment or fear. The second round of the MotherSchools began in February, however the global pandemic put a temporary stop to the sessions, resuming

with full speed in October. This year, MotherSchools sessions were held in groups in Saraj, Ljubin, and Chair. Due to the pandemic, the sessions were also held online. The graduation ceremony took place on 4 March 2021 on the ZOOM platform with participants and supporters joining to congratulate the mothers on their success.

Funding: U.S. Department of State

Saraj youth and community center



The project promotes inclusion by reaching out on issues that are accessible mostly to mainstream society. The project supports *school-community partnerships* in the three biggest schools in the municipality of Saraj, Public High School “Saraj”, Madrasa – Islamic high school “Isa Beq”, and primary school “Dituria”, through the provision of expertise and assistance in developing infrastructure, plans, and strategies for readdressing the positive role young people should play in their communities. This will lead to the outcome of transforming the neglected youth of Saraj into a cadre of youth in the community who are more confident and better equipped to create synergies for joint actions with community actors. Other project objectives include strengthening school staff capacities to effectively work with students, parents, families and vulnerable communities and engage in learning opportunities together as well as promoting democracy, secularism, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue as a counter-narrative to radicalization tendencies among youth in Saraj.

Funding: German Embassy to Skopje

Macedonian energy forum 2020



The third edition of the Macedonian Energy Forum took place on November 23, 2020, in a hybrid platform, both in Skopje, North Macedonia, and on Zoom through online sessions, which were streamed via social media. The Macedonian Energy Forum 2020 continues after its impressive editions in 2018 and 2019, despite the challenging times of COVID-19. The Energy forum’s mission was to contribute to a more versatile, inclusive,

and direct exchange of knowledge and ideas about the process of energy transition of the European, regional, and Macedonian energy sectors. The vision of the forum was to become a prominent high-

level energy platform for all stakeholders in the energy sector, acting together in creation of an environment for energy security and sustainable development. MEF2020 features an impressive lineup of speakers, including Francis R. Fannon, Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources, Mitko Andreevski, Energy Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, Vasko Kovachevski, General Manager of Power Plants of North Macedonia, Časen Ivanov, Head of Analyses and International Activity Division, Bulgartransgaz EAD, and Steven Burns, Chief Director of Energy and Infrastructure for Europe and Eurasia at USAID and more.

Funding: Norwegian Embassy Belgrade, German Marshall Fund, MEPSO AD, Delegation of the European Union to Skopje

Front against covid-19 in saraj



The project focused on the municipality of Saraj, as a hotbed for Covid-19. Special focus was placed on activities in the most rural areas of the municipality, where information and assistance are more difficult to reach. The project tackled misinformation, it raised awareness on the dangers of Covid-19 and how citizens can best protect themselves. Project activities included organizing field visits across Saraj along with an infectologist public health expert, to inform the population of the threat of Covid-19 and advise them on correct application of protection measures; packing

and distribution of about 1500 packages with personal protective equipment (masks, hand sanitizers) and information leaflets and brochures on Covid-19 across Saraj; and identification of 30 students from the most vulnerable families as end users of IT equipment for facilitated access to distance learning. During the project's latter activity, ZIP identified 30 students from low-income families and provided them with tablets to facilitate their online education.

Funding: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

Bojane grapes festival 2020

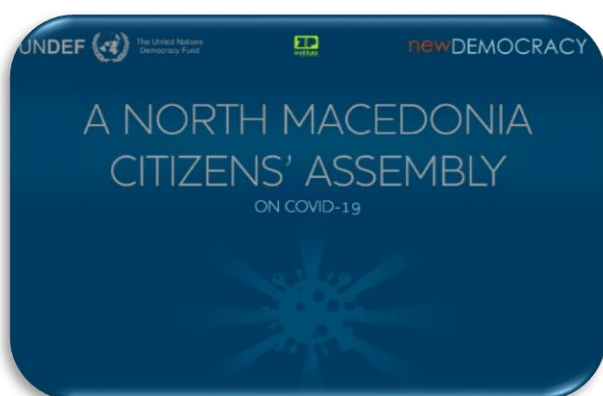


In 2020, Bojane Grapes Festival was successfully realized under special measures and protocols. The Grapes Festival came back with the slogan "Save your health, the sweetest grapes are preserved by us". Guided by the circumstances created by Covid-19, ZIP Institute held the 4th edition of the Grapes Festival, beautiful agricultural activity that aims

to develop the village and affirms the grapes of Bojane. It was a wonderful autumn day with many colors where the headline "Bojana Grapes" filled the square again. The festival, after a two-year break, was realized again, with the support of the Municipality of Saraj and in local partnership with the youth of Bojane Village. The previous edition of the festival consisted of a wide palette of activities starting from June to October each year. The whole manifestation for 2016 was divided into three phases. The first phase are study visits to the wine yards in the country and the region. The second phase is registration of agricultural organization, branding, packaging, transport arrangement and the third phase is manifestation itself.

Funding: Municipality of Saraj

North Macedonia citizen assembly on covid-19 Saraj



ZIP Institute has teamed up with newDemocracy Foundation from Australia and UNDEF for implementing a very unique Citizens' Assembly on Covid-19 in North Macedonia. Since the beginning of the pandemic, people have felt that the government along with the Ministry of Health had constructed measures and set rules without them being effective, this being particularly evident during the second wave of the virus with as many as 1000 new cases daily. Most importantly, people have felt left out from the conversation on how to deal best with the COVID-

19 situation. This approach will directly offer a perspective of the everyday people and present to them a fair and equal opportunity to be involved in creating a safer future for all community members. Such an approach will show outside-the-box thinking and will draw from the collective intelligence and creativity of individuals. Approximately 50 randomly selected and confirmed participants meet online once a week over the course of three months and hear from experts. The last two sessions of the total of eight will be intended for the

creation of the recommendations report that will be presented to the Minister of Health at the final session, making this democratic process unlike any other here in North Macedonia.

Funding: United Nations Democracy Fund, NEW Democracy

Publications

As part of our projects, the team of ZIP Institute has produced three publications in three different languages: Macedonian, Albanian and English.

- “Co-production in social services between local governments and NGOs in supporting the highly marginalized”



ZIP published a research paper titled “Co-production in social services between local governments and NGOs in supporting the highly marginalized” as part of our project Empowering youth and grassroots organizations to advocate for social service delivery at local level. This research paper was made possible through Visegrad+ Grant from the International Visegrad Fund. A project run by: ZIP Institute, IRCA, Comenius University, Charles University and Corvinus University.

- Conclusions of Macedonian Energy Forum 2020



ZIP published conclusions of conference following the Macedonian Energy Forum 2020 in November 2020. The conclusions summarized what the speakers discussed during both panels of the forum. The conclusion shares what each speaker said during the forum, quotes from each speech, as well as a brief summary of the event which stated that a key aspect of the energy transition is in the regional cooperation to explore the low carbon market at a scale.

- Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2021



While the strategic plan was previously established, it has several strategic goals:

- Strategic goal 1: Improving the situation and finding sustainable solutions to problems at the local level;
- Strategic goal 2: Contribution to the development of civil society at the local level;
- Strategic goal 3: Contribution to improving the rule of law and protection of human rights;
- Strategic goal 4: Contribution to safety while working;
- Strategic goal 5: Promotion of EU values on a local and national level;

Challenges and lessons learned in 2020

By far one of the greatest challenges we faced as an organization and as citizens on a global level, was the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyday life and activities were placed on a halt, which meant that our organization had to move towards a more online workflow as many other businesses and organizations did. Working in-person with citizens has always been the default work of our organization and we had to quickly adapt it online. We immediately turned our focus towards helping citizens especially those in more rural areas in Skopje. Raising awareness was our top priority when dealing with this new threat, especially since misinformation has played a key role when it comes to citizens respecting the preventative measures against Covid-19.

2020 has taught us many things, changed our priorities, shifted our focus, but most importantly it taught us the true meaning of community. We learned how to take care of each other and many of us were forced to change our habits and adopt new ones for the sake of ourselves and our loved ones. 2020 showed the importance of education, educators, and their role in the lives of students. The pandemic forced the education system to shift online creating a challenge for many students who had to buy IT equipment to continue their classes. This was one of the reasons our project Front Against Covid-19 in Saraj was of significant importance. The project targeted students from low-income families and provided them with the much-needed IT equipment so that they would not fall behind in their classes.

The team of ZIP wants to thank all the organizations, stakeholders, and people involved in our work over the past year. Although challenging in more ways than one, we showed that through hard work, persistence, and willingness to adapt to new circumstances great things can be achieved. The only way to move forward is to adapt to the new surrounding and continue doing important and meaningful work for the community.

What's next?

2020 has been a year with plenty of ups and downs. As we are entering a new chapter of ZIP's work, we are completing projects, activities, and initiatives that have begun in 2019, and we are also busy pursuing new opportunities and broadening our scope of work by embarking on new projects. We are always aiming for growth and development. Hence, we are always actively working on new project applications that would expand our expertise and further extend the scope of our work.

We are looking forward to greater cooperation and involvement in projects with the European Union and the Council of Europe, possibly embarking on an international, cross-border project. We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with the governmental institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information Technology and Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defense; the units of local self-governance, the municipalities and their bodies, offices of Mayors.

We are resuming the successful cooperation with primary, high schools, and state and private universities. We are continuing our work with the religious communities and with the civil society sector in North Macedonia. Our team will resume the cooperation with the foreign and international missions in North Macedonia, as well as the traditional media outlets where we will continue to showcase our work and expertise to the wider public.

One of the core values of ZIP Institute is social outreach. We are always trying to reach out to vulnerable and marginalized communities, hear out their concerns and include them in our work. Social inclusion and diversity are the backbones of our work and they lead to tangible results and improvement. We are seeking to embark on a year of positive changes within our organizations, as well as within the communities we are targeting.

Financial Report for the year 2020

Распореѓување на резултатот

Ознака за АОП	Опис	Претходна година	Бруто за тековна година	Исправка на вредноста за тековна година	Нето за тековна година
351	-- А. ОСТВАРЕН НЕТО ВИШОК -ДОБИВКА	1.813.686,00			4.416.832,00
353	-- Б. ОСТАТОК ОД НЕТО ДОБИВКАТА ЗА РАСПОРЕДУВАЊЕ (351-352)	1.813.686,00			4.416.832,00
358	-- ф) Дел за пренос во наредната година				4.416.832,00
359	-- Нераспределен дел од вишокот на приходите-добивката	1.813.686,00			

Структура на приходи по дејности

Ознака за АОП	Опис	Претходна година	Бруто за тековна година	Исправка на вредноста за тековна година	Нето за тековна година
2598	- 94.99 - Дејности на други организации врз база на зачленување, неспомнати на друго место				9.535.612,00

Изјавувам, под морална, материјална и кривична одговорност, дека податоците во годишната сметка се точни и
<https://e-submit.crm.com.mk/ao/Admin/GenerateAAPreview.aspx?aaId=UKCWF64ZTpwolK%2bPtuzQ%3d%3d&uid=7egfT9w7mGvkBUibJNMon...> 5/6

2/26/2021

Поднесување Годишни Сметки преку Веб - Централен Регистар на Република Северна Македонија
 ВИСТИНИТИ.

Податоците од годишната сметка се во постапка на доставување, која ќе заврши со одлука (одобрување/ одбивање) од страна на Централниот Регистар.



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