



# ANNUAL REPORT **2022**

This document summarizes the activities undertaken by the Centre for Research and Policy Making in the course of implementation of its 2022 work program. It reports on outputs and impact the CRPM work has on policy making in Macedonia and South East Europe.

## Contents

Foreword by the Executive Director .....	3
1. High level dialogue .....	5
2. CRPM policy research and analysis work .....	10
3. CRPM events .....	41
4. Outputs/ Results .....	46
II. Financial report 2022 .....	47

## Foreword by the Executive Director

CRPM is working on implementation of its strategy which envisions a think tank in third stage of development with diverse and strong financial support, increased productivity and becoming more internationally active and globally respected. In 2022, CRPM started paving the way towards the realization of this goal and continued maintaining the reputation of being a leading Macedonian think and do tank.

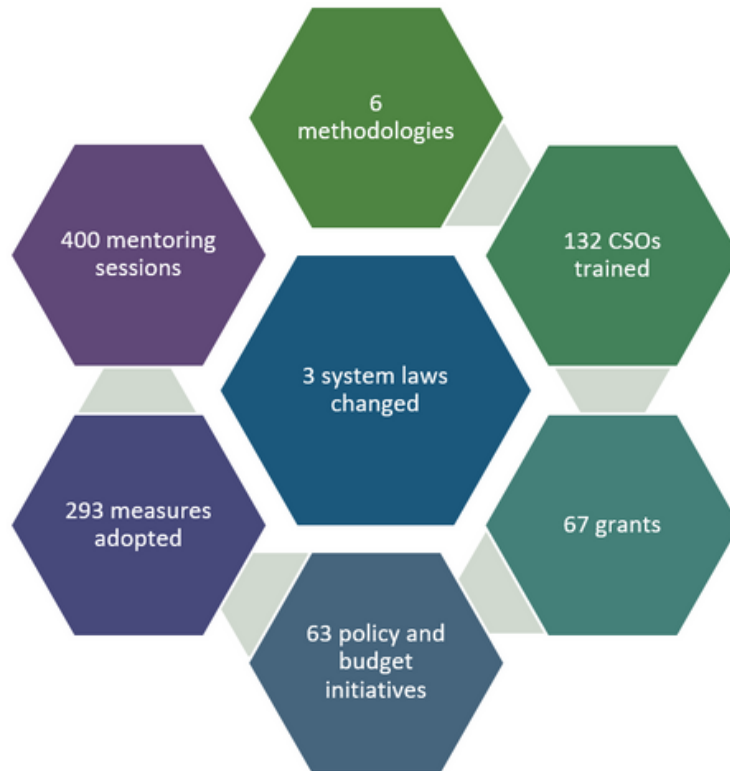
In the course of the year, the organization opened two new programs: (i) **Young Men Initiative** - focusing on the behavioral changes among young men that can contribute towards prevention from gender-based violence; and (ii) **Circular Economy** – developing an organic waste management model in grapes and wine production in Tikveš region. We continued diversifying our funding, have started new cooperation with the Dutch Embassy, and renewed a four-year contract with Austrian development and Swedish International Development Agency for the Gender Budget Watchdog Network, as well as with Council of Europe as part of the Network of Schools for Political Studies.

From our networking activities we are proud to inform that we have become a member of the Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance, a network of over 50 world's leading think tanks. We strongly believe that in times when the very idea of globalization is challenged, we should gather to reinforce cooperation, exchange of ideas and joint advocacy globally. With GTIPA we are opening new chapter of working on trade and innovation in CRPM.

CRPM's capacity building program included training, mentoring and 2 sessions of the School of Public Policy Mother Theresa and contributed to the organization of the World Forum for Democracy. We have trained 132 CSOs in 2022 and delivered 400 mentoring sessions. According to our strategy we have linked the capacity building with the policy work of our organization. The CSOs in our program were trained in one of the 6 methodologies we have developed for policy research and analysis. We have supported the CSOs financially as well within the three re-granting schemes CRPM manages generously supported by ADA, SIDA, EU and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the past year the organization oversaw 67 grants being implemented by partners and supported the development of 293 policy measures and the appraisal of 63 policy and budget initiatives.

We have initiated our own and supported the advocacy of our partner organizations. Together we brought to finalization three policy processes that the organization managed from instigation of the policy initiative, research, analysis, providing policy advise, implementing advocacy campaign, building cross party consensus, to adoption. The three legal documents that provide for:

- the approximation of the Criminal Code with Istanbul Convention,
- introduction of GRB in Budget Law and
- decrease of VAT for menstrual hygienic products.



Our team grew and now has 15 members. We adopted LEAN management practices, upgraded the technology we use and finally have a communication officer in our team, who assumed the responsibility to develop the CRPM own communication channels. At the annual retreat in December, 2022, we have committed that in 2023 we will:

- continue to contribute to a stable, secure Balkans in which work is done according to the principles of good governance;
- continue to build capacities and develop political solutions, technological and economic models for dealing with climate change and reducing the hidden economy;
- continue to advance equality through the promotion of gender equality.

Be our partner on this path!

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Marija Risteska, CRPM Executive Director

## 1.High level dialogue

### GTIPA Summit – Seoul Korea

At the GTIPA Summit in Seoul Korea the CRPM Executive Director and Regional Director of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network spoke about gender responsive budgeting use in smart specialization and innovations. Dr. Risteska spoke on the panel Industrial & Innovation Policies at a Crossroads, together with panelists from Australia, Sweden and India.



### Bosphorus Forum

The President of CRPM, Prof. Zhidas Daskalovski, gave a talk at the panel on “EU Candidates Security dilemma: The Western Balkans” at the 13th BOSPHORUS SUMMIT, “The Great Transformation: Driving Forces of Global Change,” Istanbul, November 10-11, 2022. The Bosphorus Summit facilitates an open dialogue among opinion leaders to address global challenges in business, politics, and culture. It offers a platform that connects leaders, academicians, decision makers, and individuals of all occupations to collaborate, inspire, and build relationships for making a positive impact on public and private institutions, businesses, and societies.



### TACSO 3 Workshop: Financial Support to Third Parties

The executive director Marija Risteska provided contribution in the discussion on Strengthening Community Development Through Capacity Building and Monitoring at the EU TACSO 3 workshop held in Belgrade in December 2022. The idea was to share best practices, promote learning, and enhance the impact of the Financing Third Parties Support program of the EU. The workshop concluded that community development is essential for building strong and sustainable societies. Capacity building and monitoring are crucial tools for achieving this goal.



## **Regional Conference: “Economic Power(lessness) of Women in the Labour Market in the Western Balkans (Kosovo)”**

This regional conference was organized within the project “Untapping Development: Increasing women’s access to employment” implemented by Democracy for Development (D4D), with the support of the Norwegian Embassy in Pristina. CRPM Labor Program Manager Kristijan Trajkovski presented the findings from the Macedonian research depicting that labor legislation in has established mechanisms for equal treatment for women and men, but their proper application and increased control by the competent inspection bodies is still missing. In addition, domestic and care responsibilities are usually imposed on women, which directly affects the reduction of opportunities for professional development and acquisition of skills that will make them competitive in the labor market.



## **Regional conference: “Gender responsive policies – Good practices and challenges from the region”-North Macedonia**

The central topic of the two-day regional conference, organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with the support of UN Women Skopje, was the impact of the socio-economic crisis on women and men, good practices for including the gender perspective in sectoral policies and gender-responsive budgeting in the region. We took part in the panel focusing on the impact of socio-economic crises on women and men, where we discussed the importance of mainstreaming gender in the measures to mitigate the negative impact in the countries of the region. Key issues that were highlighted include prevention and protection from gender-based violence, increased unpaid work which disproportionately affected women and lack of women’s participation in planning and in decision-making processes during the crises.



**Regional conference: “Strengthening the Women Role to Peacebuilding and 1325 Implementation. Sharing the best practices and challenges for better regional perspectives”**



The Conference “Strengthening the Women Role to Peacebuilding and 1325 Implementation. Sharing the best practices and challenges for better regional perspectives” was organized by Woman Center for Development and Culture Albania in the framework of the second phase of the project: “An Integrated Approach to Promote Youth and Women Peacebuilders in Albania”. The conference brought together regional and national stakeholder, representatives from Western Balkans and CSO-s with the aim to explore, discuss and share best practices and challenges from the region perspective to discuss about women and girls’ engagement in issues related to peace and security, building bridges to increase cooperation for proactive engagement at the regional level. Our team member Ljupka Trajanovska was a panellist at the panel discussion titled: "Challenges and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Western Balkans."



## Regional Conference: Transformative financing as an accelerator for gender equality: drawing from gender responsive budgeting experiences and lessons learned

In late November 2022 we took active participation at the regional conference on Gender Responsive Budgeting, organized by UN Women "Transformative financing as an accelerator for gender equality: drawing from gender responsive budgeting experiences and lessons learned". CSOs were recognized as important actors for making impact on the lives of women and men through the application of gender responsive budgeting tools. CRPM Executive Director Marija Risteska presented the organizations approach through development of gender budget watchdog methodology, capacity building, financial support and mentoring to policy and budget changes on local level.



## 2. CRPM policy research and analysis work

In 2022 CRPM as a leading think and do tank has developed different products such as policy studies, policy briefs and managed policy processes that delivered policy change. CRPM worked on capacity building of civil society and continued implementing its flagship leadership program within the Network of Schools for Political Studies of Council of Europe. In the past year we have invigorated policy debates and instigated thinking in the following areas:

### 2.1. Leadership and education for good governance

The general aim of the School of Public Policy Mother Teresa is nudge participants to influence the policy making process through solid, evidence based, high quality policy analysis thereby working on improving the democratic culture in the country. Democratic laws and institutions can only function effectively when they are based on a culture of democracy. Our students are future leaders of Makedonija. As such they need to have skills and knowledge to enhance the policy making process and work on improving democratic culture.



In 2022 we based our work on the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC). The purpose of this Framework is to support member states in developing open, tolerant and diverse societies through their education. It is built on principles that are common to our democratic societies. In general, the Framework specifies the tools and critical understanding that learners at all levels of education should acquire in order to feel a sense of belonging and make their own positive contributions to the democratic societies in which we live. In doing so it offers education systems (formal and informal) a common focus for their action while respecting a diversity of pedagogical approaches. Education systems and schools need to prepare young people to become active, participative and responsible individuals, they should be equipped with the values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding that will enable them to make responsible decisions about their future. This involves ensuring that students should know and understand the challenges they are faced with and the consequences of their decisions, what they are able to do and what they should refrain from doing. In order to do all this, they need not only to have knowledge, but also the relevant competences – and the aim of the Framework is to define what those competences are.

There are three underlying arguments made by the RFCDC.

- First, a democratic culture is essential for the effective functioning of democracy, citizens to have a commitment to democratic processes, a willingness to express their opinions, a willingness to listen to the opinions of others, a commitment to decisions being made by majorities, a commitment to the protection of minorities and their rights, and a conviction that conflicts must be resolved peacefully. While democracy cannot exist without democratic institutions, these institutions themselves cannot function unless citizens practice a culture of democracy and hold democratic values and attitudes.
- Second, democratic culture within culturally diverse societies requires intercultural dialogue, the means through which citizens can express their opinions, concerns and aspirations to other people who have different cultural affiliations from themselves. Intercultural dialogue is vital for democratic discussion, debate and deliberation, and for enabling all citizens to contribute to political decision-making on an equal footing, irrespective of their specific cultural affiliations. Intercultural dialogue is the most important means through which citizens can express their views, concerns and hopes to other citizens who have different cultural affiliations from themselves.
- Third, democratic culture must be grounded in human rights. Human rights are essential for a just and cohesive society in which all citizens feel a sense of belonging and have their inherent dignity acknowledged and respected by their fellow citizens and by the state. From the point of view of the RFCD, human rights, democracy, democratic culture and intercultural dialogue are intrinsically linked.

Beyond introducing the Framework and working on improving the general knowledge and understanding of concepts included in the CDC model (such as human rights, citizenship, rights and responsibilities, the necessity of laws and regulations, and the rule of law) the School in 2022 focused its activities at two weekend seminars in Ohrid and biweekly lectures in Skopje on two specific topic areas of the Framework: intercultural dialogue and building resilience to radicalization. School participants also took part at the *World Forum for Democracy 2022 Democracy: A New Hope?* at the CoE Headquarters in Strasbourg.

Funded by: Council of Europe



## Capacity development of Informal Green Parliamentary Groups from South-East Europe on EU-complaint energy and transport goals - Green Parliamentary Group

In 2022 we continued to support the work of the so-called Green Parliamentary Group within the Macedonian Sobranie in order to become more effective and vocal and place higher on the agenda the policy issues related to decarbonization, urban mobility and climate change. For that purpose, we produced 4 podcasts with MPs and members of this group where we discussed burning issues, mostly related to the ongoing energy crisis as well as the modalities to enhance the urban mobility, both on national and local level. We are continuing with advocacy to make GPG a permanent working body of the Parliament, so that energy efficiency, environment protection and climate change policies can be put under regular scrutiny.



We also support the group by providing ideas in a form of questions related to energy, climate change and urban mobility that can be raised during the regular Q&A session in the Parliament. Two round of questions were sent in 2022 and four questions have been raised from the MPs mostly related to the risk of using agriculture land for construction of photovoltaic facilities, the need for additional environmental inspectors ahead of heating season, the position of Macedonia in light of the COP 2022 summit as well as the progress on the soon to be adopted Law on Climate Change.

In the course of April, 2022 project staff accompanied with two MPs and parliamentary staff to a study visit to Croatia where members of the Green Parliamentary Groups from the Western Balkans were presented best practices from the Republic of Croatia related to energy transition, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. During our stay in Zagreb and Bračak, we had a meetings with Green Office of the President Office of the Republic of Croatia, reception at the Croatian Parliament, Environment and Nature Conservation Committee, online training for sustainable transport. We also observed smart solutions (photovoltaics on rooftop and parking e- charger) applied in Bračak Castle and the General Hospital Zabok.

We also marked the European Mobility week in the Municipality of Veles where we joined the discussion on improving the possibilities for more smart transportation in this municipality, but also attended an open and car free day at the local school and posted messages for environmental awareness.

Upon invitation of the Energy Community, two MPs and one committee staff attended the meeting at the Energy Community's premises in Vienna where we got acquainted with the procedures and the progress related to developing the National Energy and Climate Plans, the coal phase out at a time of crisis as well as the current standing in the region in terms of the energy poverty. The year was wrapped up with a working breakfast in Skopje titled "Where do we stand and where we should focus at in 2023" when we discussed with 8 MPs and relevant experts on the progress made in 2022 and what we can do in 2023.



Funded by:



## Smart Balkans

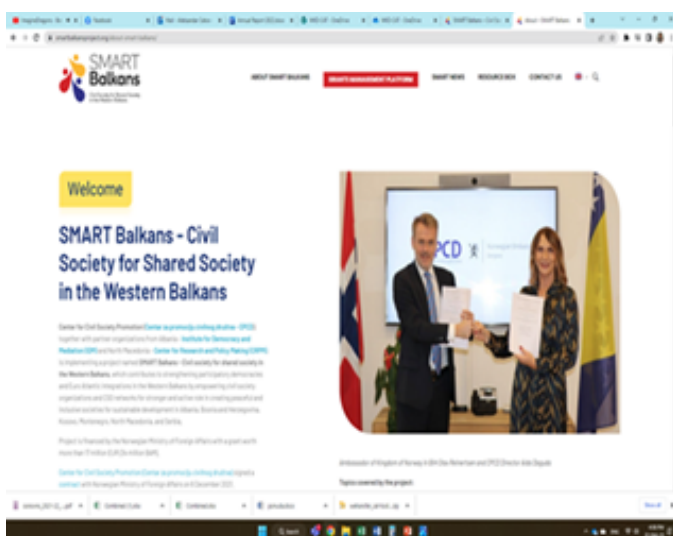
In 2022, CRPM started with the implementation of the project SMART Balkans – Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans.



The project is considered as very important for the growth of the organization in term of enhancing its capacities in grant management and creating impact in the civil sector. Thus, it can be also seen as a recognition of the work of the CRPM in the past 20 years, since for the first time the Norwegian support was given to local consortium for management. The project team is aware of the immense privilege to manage such big funds for the civil sector in the country, but in the same time is confident that this local consortium will deliver results which will ensure other donor that local organization have capacities for managing such big funds. CRPM has accepted the challenge to manage the grant program in Makedonija and Serbia.

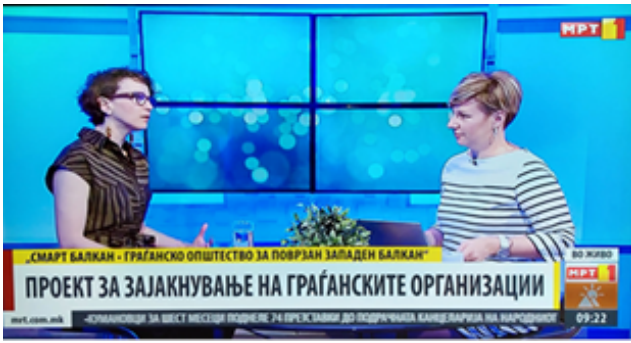
The project SMART Balkans – Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans is implemented by the Center for Civil Society Promotion (CCSP) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for Research and Policy Making from Skopje and the Institute for Democracy and Mediation from Albania, with an aim to contribute towards strengthening democracies and Euro-Atlantic integration in the Western Balkans through empowering civil sector and CSOs networks.

In the past year of 2022 the SMART Balkan project manage to achieve the following results.



Within the inception phase of the project the most essential documents and tools were developed (Grants manual, Call for proposal forms, Web page, Visual identity, M&E plan, Grants management platform) and on the basis of those documents and tools, procedures were set and structure of project management that will ensure smooth implementation of the project activities. In this process we contracted numerous external collaborators bringing the best of expertise in the region together in the project that smartly connects people, skills and ideas for change.

We have informed all stakeholders and the wider public in Makedonija and Serbia about the project, its objectives and expected results, as well as mapped potential cooperation and synergies.



In the course of the year two call for applications were published for: (i) Core and Regional Grants and (ii) National and Local interventions, Creative box and Ad hoc grants. For the first call for applications the interest for the grants was huge, given that more than 600 organization registered at the Grants Management Platform (GMP smart Balkans) which is a requirement for applying for the grants. In order to facilitate the application process, all partners held info sessions for the countries they manage the process in. Thus, CRPM has held info sessions for the interested applicants from Serbia and N. Macedonia with more than 240 participants. At the info session more than 70 question were answered with reference to N. Macedonia and Serbia. Under the first call for applications CRPM processed more than 80 applications (44 MK and 46 SRB) and awarded 4 organizations from each country with core grants.

In December 2022 4 types of grants were announced

- National Interventions
- Local Initiatives
- Creative box and
- Media grants

Based on the registrations on the Grants Management Platform which by the end of the year reached 1000 organizations, the interest in the region for the grants is huge and we expect many applications by the 15/02/2023 when is the deadline for submitting application for all four types of grants.

Under the program CRPM organized two conferences and contributed to organization of one regional conference. The report on these is presented under CRPM events section.

Funded by:





Европско движење  
Република Македонија

## National Convention for the EU

CRPM for five years now is a member of the National Convention for the EU organized by the European Movement. The Executive Director Marija Risteska is co-chairing with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy the second working group that is discussing approximation in the Chapter 19.



Within 2022, the Fifth Plenary Session of the Convention was organized and Dr. Risteska chaired the second panel discussion entitled "How do we deal with climate change and the social consequences in agriculture, forestry and the environment?" The speakers were: Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Ljupco Nikolovski, Deputy Minister of Environment Hristina Ojaklieska, President of the Commission on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Mr Ljupco Dimovski, Prof. Dr. Ordan Chukaliev, Prof. Dr. Ivan Blinkov and representatives of the civil sector.

Funded by:



Delegation of the European Union to the  
Republic of North Macedonia

## 2.2. Development

*“Development of recycling system for organic waste management in grapes and wine production in Tikves region”*

We have partnered with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the private partner Bovin Winery to implement the project with the main objective of the project is to develop an efficient and sustainable business model for an organic waste management for vineyards and wineries in North Macedonia.



The project encompasses the following specific objectives (i) to revise legal and strategic framework for organic waste management from wine production and to promote multilevel dialogue; (ii) to analyse organic waste generated from grape growing and wine production and identification of potentials for treatment; (iii) analysis of the current practices in organic waste management from wine production, (iv) development of sustainable organic waste treatment model; (v) to pilot and disseminate the developed business model for organic waste treatment in Bovin Winery, Negotino followed in at least 10 other wineries; (vi) to raise awareness among practitioners via verification of the sustainability of the developed model.



We have launched a process of preparation of GAP analysis of legal and strategic framework in waste management systems in the country; and experts' analysis of current waste management flows including practices and waste treatments; as well as experts' analysis and assessments of organic waste in the Tikves region. The project team met with Mayors of Negotino, Demir Kapija and Kavadarci municipalities, Ministry of local self-government, Ministry of agriculture and Ministry of environment which institutions nominated their representatives to the working group on circular economy for organic waste from wine and grape. The working groups will serve as a platform for open multisector dialog and share knowledge and experiences of organic waste management.

Founded by:



## Trade and innovations

CRPM's first contribution to GTIPA were two cases in the GTIPA Perspectives publication featuring Clean/Renewable Energy and Sustainability Innovations. The publication recognizes the role of clean energy and sustainability innovations in producing solutions to some of the most challenging effects of climate change.

This report provides GTIPA members' perspectives on some of the most exciting, innovative clean energy technologies in their countries. The included briefs demonstrate how governments and private entities are fostering transformative innovations in both what is typically thought of as part of the clean energy sector – hydro, wind, solar, and nuclear power – and in seemingly unrelated industries like microbreweries and the production of everyday household products. This volume compiles vignettes from sixteen countries and one region: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Macedonia, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Taiwan, and the United States, including the San Francisco Bay Area.

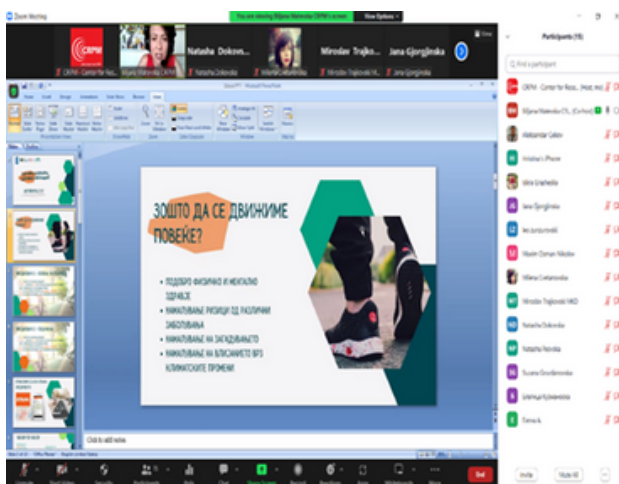


Funded by: Korean National Research Council

### **Healthy habits for healthy environment**

Healthy habits for healthy environment was a project for reshaping the way we commute. Inadequate and insufficient means of transport jeopardize public health through emissions and road accidents, having vehicles, especially with diesel engines as one of the major contributors to urban air pollution. The overall aim of the project, regarding fluctuating urban mobility, was to encourage and motivate individuals (aged 18 - 65) to practice efficient mobility i.e. to walk or to use pedal or/electric bicycles, whilst altering their daily activity patterns in terms of costs, energy and environmental conservation. Short summary of the implemented activities.

At the very beginning of the project, we conducted research intending to measure social and psychological dimensions of air pollution, i.e. to measure people's cognizance. Even though our goal was to reach to 200 respondents, it turned out that the citizens from the municipality of Aerodrom were very interested in filling up the questionnaire, so we had 368 respondents in total. The data was analyzed and presented in the pre and post analysis document. The key findings from the pre research were used to develop the content of the promotional and campaign materials. The pre research served also to target up to 50 community members (18-64 years of age) to take part of the overall action and to be engaged in the STRAVA community by joining the group challenge. 74 individuals expressed their interest to participate the challenge. We targeted those with driving license, which regularly use car as transport mean, as well as those that do not use the STRAVA app and invited them to participate the kick off workshops. They learnt about the role of active travel in improving health, such as practicing safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas, with the aim to reduce air polluting and improving quality of life. The whole idea of creating STRAVA community (group) and engaging in the STRAVA challenge was presented as well as a guidance on how to install the application, to create a profile and to join the group challenges.



The app itself sets monthly challenges, but it allows for setting custom made challenges for groups/communities.

We created two separate challenges:

**CHALLENGE 1** – Cycling on short distances (at least 60 km in the period from 15.08 – 25.08);

**CHALLENGE 2** – Walking (at least 18 km in the period from 15.08 – 25.08).

The STRAVA app is recording the movements of the challenge group participants. The test group members were randomized into two different challenge groups. We followed both test groups in the STRAVA app via GPS. The application itself does statistic calculations, thus after completing the challenges, we had the needed information (who endured, longest distances, location etc. In order to have meaningful participation and endurance until the end of the challenges, the group members were motivated with sports equipment.

After the challenges ended, we calculated and examined all distances (to check whether they are in line with the rules we set) and informed the participants of the scoring table. We invited all who successfully finished the challenges including the best 5 women and best 5 men in both categories divided by age (Masters A (18 – 28) Masters B (29 – 40) Masters C (41 – 50) Masters D (50 – 64) Masters E (above 64), to our office to get their rewards for their efforts and their behavioral changes.



They are now community role models which will further share their experience among the community members. All participants received sport equipment for participation worth 3000 MKD and the best pedestrians and cyclists got sport equipment for additional 10.000 MKD. Total of 42 successfully finished the challenges.

Meanwhile, we signed two Memorandums of Understanding with the dean of the Faculty of physical education, sport and health, prof.dr. Lence Aleksovska Velickovska and the mayor of Municipality of Aerodrom, Timcho Mucunski, both as curtail stakeholders in the community. Their engagement and support had significant impact on the raising awareness component of the project.



In order to gain the overall insights of the test group and to evaluate their perceptions and behaviors after the project ends, we launched a follow-up questionnaire. The gathered data allowed us to in-depth understand the changing habits, motivations and expectations of the test group.

It also informed us whether the participants will continue the healthy practices after the project ends. Moreover, it gave us information on the needs of the citizens in terms of improving the current state in the municipality in order to increase cycling and walking instead of cars. The results of the follow-up questionnaire helped in determining the needs of citizens to be more physically active and to use the alternative means of transport.

We translated them into policy recommendations, which were delivered to the mayor of municipality of Aerodrom, Mr. Timco Mucunski. In that way we advocated for policy changes and introduction of policy measures and budget allocations in the municipal plans and programs for 2023. With this, we influenced necessary amendments to the community plans in order to fully incorporate and endure active transportation.

In order to raise awareness of air pollution impacts on health, soft measures were delivered, through the intensive campaign, with the intention to promote and enable an active travel model, thus reducing the demand for vehicle use by altering driver's attitudes and behaviors. We used the most popular media, such as the CRPMs website, FB profile of CRPM, radio and three billboards in the Municipality of Aerodrom.



As for the promotion tools, we have developed 3 info graphics, 9 info cards, 2 Newsletters, three different radio commercials, published on most popular radio stations for one month (Radio Bubamara, Radio Lider and Urban Radio). In addition, we developed 1 online banner which was published on Radio Lider website for promotion materials. Moreover, three outdoor billboards with different message were designed and placed on the most frequented streets in the Municipality of Aerodrom: Bul. Makedonska Brigada at the corner with str. Nikola Karev, Bul. Kuzman Josifovski – Pity, Bul. Jane Sandanski.

In addition to the above-described campaign activities, we have introduced one more activity which included purchase of 10 bicycles and bike parking for the students in the primary school Gjorgija Pulevski in Municipality of Aerodrom (the only school in the City of Skopje with velodrome in the school backyard). With this, we additionally influence behavioral change among the youngest community members.



With this project, we established cooperation with the local community members that provides solid basis for further sufficient involvement in law and policy-making processes at local level, by promoting climate change resilient and mitigation measures.

At global scale, we become a member of the UNDP Accelerator Labs grassroots solutions map as innovators in providing solution to one of the greatest environmental issues in our country - air pollution.

Funded by:



## **I love Skopje green**

We are very proud to have a regional portfolio of projects that we implement from Skopje. We love our city and we are dedicated to improve the quality of air and the quality of life which includes gigiane and waste management on public places. We have in 2022 committed to also mobilize young people and promote youth environmental activism within the initiative "I love Skopje green". The project, built capacities for composting of organic waste in high schools in Skopje and raised awareness on the need for an integrated system for waste management which is currently lacking. To this end we want to decrease the risk of bio-waste to produce methane (which is much more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>) in landfills due to its decomposition and its direct impact in the acceleration of climate change.

At the beginning of the project, we published a call on the CRPM Facebook page for reporting mini dumps in Skopje. Citizens sent us locations with pictures providing us suggestions where we could organize the eco-actions.

Then in coordination with the City of Skopje, we mobilized the students from "Georgi Dimitrov", "Lazar Tanev" and "Kocho Racin" secondary schools. The first eco-action was on Vodno with the high school students from "Georgi Dimitrov".



Our starting point was the police station, where along the trail towards mid Vodno, we immediately came across a mini dump. We cleaned it together with the students and couldn't resist placing the sign that we made as part of the project, educating citizens not to throw garbage as we love Skopje green. We were surprised by the amount of waste left on the tables in the picnic area on mid Vodno, although there is a sufficient number of wastebaskets in that area.



We organized the second eco-action in the city park and on the river bank of Vardar, with the students from "Lazar Tanev". Although the city park is regularly cleaned and maintained, our activists managed to collect garbage in quantities of five 60 liter bags, mostly from the area behind the discotheques and the old Luna Park. We moved along the river bank towards the bridge leading to the old car-training ground. As soon as we crossed the bridge over the Vardar River, we immediately encountered huge amounts of waste. We collected as much as we could and through FB we called for PE Komunalna Higijena Skopje to clean the site with appropriate mechanization.



The third eco-action was with the students from "Kocho Racin". We started the action in the yard of the school and we headed to the children's playground in front of the river bank of Vardar. The part of the river bank of the Vardar River in the municipality of Gjorce Petrov is under construction and waste was scattered everywhere around. During the entire action, we collected about 20 bags of 60 liters waste. We decided to place the sign in front of the children's playground near the school yard, as a reminder to parents and children that we are all responsible for our environment and we should love Skopje to be green.

In general, high school students are aware of their individual responsibility towards nature. They have great interest and motivation to get involved in eco-actions. However, it is necessary to continue raising the environmental awareness among young people and promoting activism for building healthy environmental habits.

Meanwhile, we purchased five composters and in joint consultation and decision with the education department of the City of Skopje, we placed them in the schoolyards of "Georgi Dimitrov", "Lazar Tanev", "Kocho Racin", "Nikola Karev" and "Vlado Tasevski". After installing the composters, we organized a training for composting in the schoolyard of the "Georgi Dimitrov". The training was attended by students from all five high schools accompanied with the professors of biology, urban culture, gardeners/maintainers, environmental sections and responsible professors. The training was held by Dr. Dushko Nedelkovski from the Agricultural Institute at UKIM. He also developed a short brochure that was distributed to the participants.



The project had strong informative campaign that including: five information signs, 100 t-shirts with message I LOVE SKOPJE GREEN, one brochure, and promotion of the project on social media.

In this way, we contributed to initiating understanding about composting and in general the re-use of biological waste, thereby strengthening healthy habits and eco-activism among the youth.

Funded by: City of Skopje



### **2.3. Human development**

#### **Increasing Employment Opportunities for Seasonal Workers in the SEE Region**

CRPM in 2022 continued with the implementation of the project 'Better employment conditions for seasonal workers in MK' in partnership and with support by GIZ GmbH. The overall objective is to initiate, support and facilitate the process of reforming the system for registration of seasonal workers through adopting new or amending legal act(s) for use of software solution that will simplify the whole procedure. The cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy continued at the highest decision-making level. Together with the experts from the EU funded Improving the Working Conditions project and under coordination of the Ministry, the projects in February 2022 agreed to work on one model of formalizing undeclared work of seasonal workers and those with temporary and occasional engagements and present it through a joint, consultative approach to the members of the working groups, other stakeholders, and social partners. The intensified cooperation resulted in the production of an improved version of the business process and the model designed to suit the needs of workers and employers involved in temporary, occasional, and seasonal work engagements.

In April 2022, in cooperation with NALED, the team organized the planned study visit. Representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, the Employment Service Agency, the Public Revenue Office, and the Pension Insurance Fund participated in the organized meetings with their counterparts from Serbia. They were informed in detail about the Serbian model of formalization of undeclared work of seasonal workers in agriculture and the benefits this reform has for Serbia.





We are especially proud that within 2022 we have also formalized our long cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social policy with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. The team organized a high-level event - a signing ceremony attended by the German Ambassador and representatives from the German Development Cooperation. The document was signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, represented by the Minister, GIZ GmbH, represented by the Country Director for North Macedonia and the Deputy Sector Fund Manager, and CRPM, represented by the Executive Director. With the signing of the Memorandum, MLSP declared support to drafting new law and electronic registry system for seasonal workers that CRPM will develop within the project.



At this moment, many seasonal workers are not legally protected and do not have health insurance (in case of injury or illness). Therefore, we proposed a model with software solution which will simplify the registration procedure, that is expected to stimulate integration of the informal labour into the formal economy and will also facilitate worker's access to decent work.

Funded by:



## Young Man's Initiative

During 2022 the Center for Research and Policy Making, in cooperation with CARE International Balkans, started to implement the project "Building healthy lifestyle habits of boys in Gostivar and Gjorce Petrov" with the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Skopje. Known as Young Man Initiative, this project has been successfully implemented in the region and now for the first time commences in Makedonija. The goal of the project is positively to transform the behavior of young men and boys for building tolerant societies and prevent peer and gender-based violence. In this initiative are involved the local government and local civil society organizations, which will mobilize young people aged 14-19 years to determine the priorities and participate in the creation of local policy for young people through educational workshops and campaigns in their community.

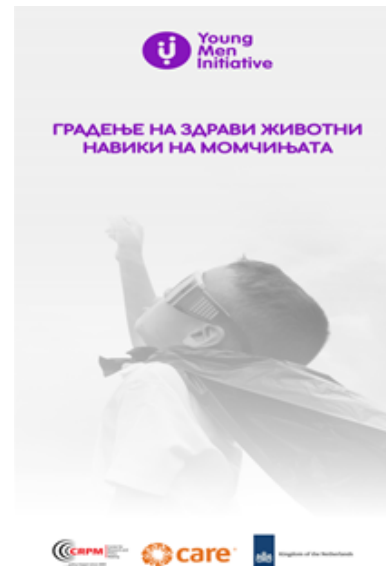
The project will improve understanding and awareness of violence as an expected component of Balkan masculinity by male youth participants, build capacities of youth civil society organizations and relevant government institutions, and deliver CARE's approach by engaging young men and boys' through YMI methodology (Young men's initiative), as youth-led gender-based violence (GBV) prevention model.



First activity that has been realized is the establishment of cooperation with two municipalities, Gostivar and Gjorce Petrov. The project activities were presented and concrete activities were discussed. Further, MoUs with both municipalities were developed and signed by the majors. They showed great interest and satisfaction that the implementation of the project activities will be exactly in those municipalities.

We further conducted mapping of the NGOs that can implement the activities on the territory of Gostivar and Gjorce Petrov with a focus on work with youth. A call for applications of NGOs were published during October and after careful evaluation of the submitted applications, two organizations were selected for the implementation of activities on a local level: for Gjorce Petrov Младите Можат - Youth Can, and for Gostivar - Organized Youth Association.

In close coordination with CARE partners, in both municipalities it was implemented the Participatory Learning Assessment (PLA) to be determined the specific gender norms and expectations that contribute to violent behavior among young men in North Macedonia. Around 20 high school aged boys participated in the assessment and their views and opinions will serve as a base for creation of PLA report and adaptation of Manual M on national level.



We also set ground for Training for Trainers for Piloting of the Manual M through the realization of 20 peer-to-peer workshops; Adaptation of local youth clubs in the participating municipalities and establishment of "Be a man" clubs in Gostivar and Gjorce Petrov as a safe space for dialogue, critical thinking and raising awareness among young people; result based campaign, and final event that are planned as activities for 2023.

Funded by: Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands in North Macedonia



Government of the Netherlands

## Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN)

In 2022 we completed the first phase of GBWN and as a lead organization have developed a new program, negotiated the financial support and commenced the second phase of GBWN. We started the year with a webinar titled “**Ensuring Equality: Gender Responsive Public Financial Management and the Role of CSOs**”, when we discussed the PEFA Supplementary framework for assessing gender responsive public finance management and the role CSOs can have in order to enhance the application of this methodology in the Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova. A second webinar in the course of 2022 was organized in partnership with the International Budget Partnership on the topic of “**GRB in Budget Implementation Monitoring**”. In the webinar we were joined by colleagues from Americas, Africa and Asia and we internalize multiple methodologies SCOs can use such as budget credibility, gender budget watchdog and social audits of the budget to keep governments accountable for the gender equality impact of the public spending. The webinar gathered 120 participants coming from different countries around the world such as Algeria, Fiji, Malawi, Indonesia, alongside participants also from the WB economies and Republic of Moldova.



Within the year the Gender Budget Watchdog Network also produced number of analysis. On regional level we have provided assessment of the implementation of the Common Regional Market Action Plan from gender perspective. The document “Running up that hill: economic strengthening of women in Western Balkans” aims to establish free movement of goods, capital, people and services all the way through the region, with the inclusion of their joint approach in the aspects of regional digital area, regional investment area, regional trade area and regional industrial and innovation area as further key objectives to be pursued – additionally integrating and increasing the attractiveness of the region for investment and production, as well as closely associating the WB6 with the EU Single Market. However, the implementation of commitments have not been aligned in the region and with little gender mainstreaming of the measures it will not contribute to improved gender equality in the region.

The GBWN conducted the regular bi-annual assessment following the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDGs Methodological Note on indicator 5.c.1 which measures three criteria: (1) Existence of policies/programs and corresponding allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment; (2) Systems to track allocations for gender equality; and (3) Mechanisms to make allocations for gender equality publicly available. The assessment showed progress for all countries in the GBWN region and thus confirmed effectiveness of CSO watchdogging and advocacy strategies.



An assessment of the **State funding for SOS helplines in the Western Balkans region and Moldova** was also made, as one of specialized services for combating gender-based violence and crucial for delivering of benefits for victims. The states are obliged to provide these, and other services and to implement other measures in order to ensure protection of women from gender-based violence. All Western Balkan (WB) governments have ratified and/or adopted into their legal frameworks the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (known as the “Istanbul Convention”). This policy brief is intended to governments, but also CSOs and wider (interested public), to advocate for increased funds and to increase recognition of GRB as a tool for acceleration of implementation of policies and measures related to protection and advancing of women’s human rights



We completed the granting scheme in the framework of this project with 42 GRB initiatives and watchdog reports that contribute to enhancing gender equality in several spheres such as social care, sports, agriculture, employment, communal affairs and etc. For purpose of knowledge management, we have produced two documents:

- (i) **GBWN Reader: GRB initiatives and appraisals for more enhanced gender equality in Western Balkans and Moldova; and**
- (ii) **Gender Budget Watchdog Network 2019-2022 best-case studies**

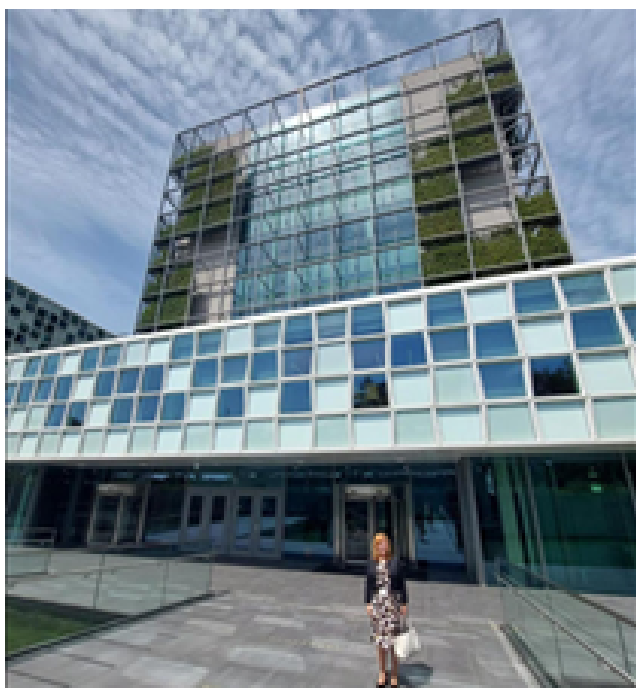
In the same time, we have implemented 3 regional advocacy campaigns on the need for improving the financing of national SOS lines in line with the Istanbul Convention’s requirements, the need of applying GRB in the personal assistance shames so the beneficiaries would receive support and help base do their needs as well as on the VAT elimination on the menstrual products.



The results of our policy advocacy work in the region was the following:

- In Serbia Action plan for Gender Strategy was adopted with CSO contributions; 10 local programs with 10 goals and 12 indicators were adopted;
- PEFA Secretariat published the results of the assessment of gender responsive public financial management (GRPFM) of the Government of the Republic of Moldova;
- In Montenegro Amendment to systematically regulate GRB in the budget process was made by the Ministry of finance, but the change in the Budget and Fiscal Responsibility Law has not yet been proposed for adoption; the Committee for Economy, Finance and Budget supported the proposal to amend the VAT Law, which stipulates lower VAT rate from menstrual products from 21% to 7% upon the advocacy campaign of GBWN.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina as result of the CSOs advocacy entity level and lower level (cantonal and municipal) governments published Citizen's Budgets.
- Kosovo developed Concept Note on Public Finance Management Strategy to which GBWN contributed
- Macedonia adopted new Strategy on gender equality 2022-2027 and new Strategy on equality and non-discrimination; in September the Macedonian Sobranie adopted the GBWN amendments to the new Organic Law on Budgets systematically regulating GRB in the budget process; the State Audit Office conducted a performance audit on the "Effectiveness of the measures of the government of North Macedonia on gender equality and respective gender budget initiatives" and the Government accepted the GBWN initiative to lower the VAT on menstrual hygiene products to 5%.

We enhanced the international visibility in partnership with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice that is an international women's human rights organization that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and through domestic mechanisms, including peace negotiations and justice processes. With them and the Coalition of CSOs for the ICC we have participated in the consultation and provided contribution to the development of the first Draft Strategy on Gender Equality and Workplace Culture.



In addition, Marija Risteska, the Executive Director of the Center for Research and Policy Making and the Regional Director of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network met with the Head of Budget at the ICC Register Office Osvaldo Zavala-Giler and discussed the use of GRB tools in the budgeting for the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague. Risteska also took part in an event organized by the Embassy of Finland to the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Embassy of Mexico and the Women's initiatives for gender justice **“Gender Responsive Budgeting: Advancing gender mainstreaming processes at the ICC”**.



We also conducted the third study visit, this time in Ireland. While in the Irish capital, we met the most crucial actors in the national GRB context – Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, MP Neasa Hourigan who serves as a Chairwomen of the Committee on Budgetary Oversight, representatives from the Higher Education Authority, focal points from the Women’s Collective as well as with the director of the Irish Commission on Human Rights. Our official host was the *National Women’s Council of Ireland* which serves as a platform of all relevant CSOs who deal with GRB in Ireland as well as main advocacy and lobbying center with which we signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The summer was marked by organizing and implementing the regional conference *Role of CSOs in Gender Responsive Budgeting: participation, advocacy and accountability* which is explained in more detail under CRPM events section below.

In this year we also commenced the second phase of the GBWN that aims at improving public commitments for gender responsive climate action and increase available financing to implement gender-responsive climate action in the Western Balkans region and Republic of Moldova. In the very early stage of the project, we conducted several informative meetings with the key stakeholders in order to familiarize them with the envisioned activities and initiatives.

Funded by:



### **Through Gender Lenses- appraising budgets and policies; watchdogging local action plans for gender equality implementation**

In 2022 together with our project partners Journalists for human rights, Rural Coalition, Roma women and youth association-Luludi and Educational Humanitarian Organization-EcHO, we initiated the second phase of the project: “Through gender lenses: appraising budgets and policies; watchdogging local action plans for gender equality implementation”. The project’s main objective is through structured networking and cooperation with local governments to shape policies and budgets to respond to the needs of women and men, especially in times of crisis.

To this end, CRPM together with the local partner CSOs developed 16 public policies that address the needs of women and man and improve gender equality. The citizens' participation was improved in the making of the annual municipality programs as well as in allocating adequate budgets for the citizens' initiatives. Each of the policy appraisals had 15 prioritized needs in different areas and in each of the targeted municipalities depending of the municipality size and municipal budget allocations, 8 to 15 measures were included in the annual programs and budget for 2022. Approximately, 190 measures were adopted in the annual programs of the 16 municipalities based on the 16 policy appraisals.



To inform the local citizens and the public for the effects of the community forums and the successful citizens' participation in the decision-making processes on local level, CRPM has created social media campaign. A total of 16 infographics have been developed and shared containing all the citizens initiatives identified at the community forums which were adopted by each of the 16 municipalities. The local project partners as well as the sub-grantees organizations have re-shared the infographics on their FB pages. Approximately, 10,000 citizens have been engaged on Facebook.

In the period January-February 2022 we received and evaluated 23 sub-grants applications of the local CSOs who were trained to prepare gender monitoring reports in the first phase of the project. The sub-granting commission selected total of 17 local CSOs which in the second phase prepared full sub-grants applications and proceeded with the signing of sub-granting contracts with CRPM. The process of sub-granting initiated in the end of the March 2022 of the implementation of the project activity and will last for 18 months, until September 2023. In this period we have trained the organizations in the two methodologies we have developed, have delivered over 300 mentoring sessions and supported the organizations to produce 17 monitoring reports due in 2023.

In the period April-June, we organized a kick-off introductory-meeting for each of the local sub-grantees with the relevant stakeholders in the municipalities where they are developing a GRB report. The collaboration with the municipalities was established with memorandums of cooperation. The organization work on GRB reports regarding diverse topics and target groups including: gender equality, equal education for all, accessibility for people with disabilities, prevention of GBV, participation of youth in decision making, energy efficiency as well as climate change.





In 2022 CRPM has developed a methodology for the GRB monitoring reports in which the obligations of the sub-grantees, mentors and local partner organizations are identified as well. The project has initiated the mentoring activity in the 15th month of implementation along with the sub-granting of the local CSOs. The mentoring for development of GRB reports is an ongoing process and will last for 12 months. Two of the mentors are monitoring and supporting 6 organisations each and one of the mentors is monitoring and supporting 5 sub-grantees organisations.

The project partner organizations have as well assigned mentees organizations which they will be supporting in the further development of communication and advocacy strategies. All the 17 sub-grantees organizations are assigned a mentor and local partner to support them in the process of development of the GRB reports.



In the period March-December the sub-grantees, supported by their mentors, have developed questionnaires, organized focus groups and interviews with the beneficiaries and have initiated analyzing the collected primary data. Additionally, the sub-grantees have analyze the annual municipal programs regarding the field in which they prepare a GRB report. Starting 25th November total of 5 public debates have been organized in the municipalities: Krushevo, Krivogashtani, Kavadraci, Staro Nagorichane and Tearce. The policy debates at local level are a way to build synergies and good cooperation between local governments and local CSOs. Also, these events were organized for promotion of policy models and to bring up the issues within the community which the local sub-grantees have identified through the researches. This also contributes towards greater transparency of the process of allocating resources for resolving gender – related issues by the local government as a primary concern of GBWN.

## Campaign for 8th of March



Marking the International Women's day 2022 with the topic "Break the bias-End female poverty", a social media campaign was led by CRPM. The aim of the campaign was to contribute to the ending of female poverty, by breaking the biases in the following fields: labour Market, education, entrepreneurship, unpaid household labour, environment and climate change, health including SRH and peace and security. The project team was actively involved in the organization of the 8th of March protest-The poverty has female face. CRPM and the project partners attended the annual 8th of March protest march organized by the National Platform for Gender Equality. The project team members were actively involved in the planning and organization of the march and were involved in the writing of the public speeches and this year's proclamation. The march started in front of the Government of Republic of North Macedonia, and continued in front of the Ministry of labour and social justice while it finished traditionally in the Women's Park.

To support women and girls, we have bought samples of the book "The survived one", written by a young girl-author Slobodanka Kuzmanova from Negotino. She is 23 year old student and a domestic violence survivor. She wrote a book about the way she has coped with the violent surrounding that her and her mother were living in the process of healing and transformation. The aim of the book is to motivate other women and girls to leave the abusive surrounding and build a happy and healthy life. With the profit of the sold books Slobodanka is financing her studies. The books with a message for solidarity and empathy were distributed to the coordinators for the equal opportunities in the 17 municipalities where the project is taking place. We have also supported the group from Bitola-Le Brand Studio suffragette campaign. We have bought samples of the t-shirts. The campaign is about women empowering and economic strengthening, while part of the profit of the sold t-shirt will be sent to the Women's fund for women survivors of violence.

## Menstrual Justice-Protest 30.05.2022

Marking the Day of Menstrual Hygiene (28 of May) as a lead of the GBWN in Macedonia and in cooperation with the Platform for Gender Equality and Journalist for Human Rights and Period Movement Skopje the CRPM team organized a protest in front of the Ministry of Finance. We requested a reduction of value added tax from 18% to 5% on menstrual products in order to reduce the selling price of these products; Encouraging the use of menstrual cups by subsidizing the price as well as free and affordable menstrual products in primary and secondary schools and in public toilets in the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, at the expense of the State Budget.



## Campaign 16 days of activism against violence against women



In order to inform the public and raise awareness among the local and national public institutions regarding this issue of gender-based violence, joining the global campaign for 16 Days of Activism against GBV, the project team carried out an advocacy and educational campaign. The project partners delivered the following activities: In four of the municipalities (Krushvo, Kavadarci, Krivogashtani and Staro Nagorichane) the debates were focused on Prevention of GBV on local level. The debates were organized in collaboration with the local sub-grantees' organizations. Additionally, an educational workshop to prevent GBV and bullying among the primary and high school students was organized in the primary school of municipality of Krivogashtani. A social media campaign followed on FB and IG in cooperation with the Gender Budget Watchdog Network.

Funded by:



This project is funded  
by the European Union



### **Replication of the shelter center model of Skaj Plus**

In the period April-December two of our project team members were building the capacity of the civil society organisation Skaj Plus from Strumica to replicate the model of partnership with local government and the private sector to other CSOs and municipalities in order to establish a shelter centre for GBV victims and survivors. This project is in line with the Istanbul Convention and adds to the harmonization of the national laws and by-laws.

In the beginning of the mentorship process a desk research and Mapping of shelters for women victims of gender-based violence in the Republic of North Macedonia was conducted in order to:

Ascertain the national legal framework for establishment and maintenance of services for protection of GBV;

- Map all the functional shelters for women victims of violence in the country;
- Assess if the need for shelters centers by family is met and in line with the standards provided by the Istanbul Convention;
- Identify which Planned regions are lacking shelter centers and which municipalities have the potential for establishment and maintenance of shelters.

In July, in order to provide mentoring support for Skaj Plus and develop a business model for the establishment of shelter center the consultants have conducted an in-depth interview with the representatives from Skaj Plus. The interview had the aim to assess the capacities of Skaj Plus and their needs.

In August, a Model for establishment of a shelter center was developed by CRPM. The model was developed in line with the experiences and guidelines provided by Skaj Plus and their model of establishment of a shelter center. This model was presented to the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics, the UNFPA team and Skaj Plus representatives. In the meetings suggestions and recommendations were provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics, which were taken into consideration in the conduction of the mapping and TNA for the CSOs.

In September, in order to replicate the model of establishment of a shelter center of Skaj Plus in at least two municipalities, a mapping of potential CSOs was conducted in the Southwest, Polog and North-East planning regions. CRPM have prepared the materials and conducted a training needs and capacities assessment for 5 identified CSOs. Out of the five CSOs, three were selected as CSOs that would undergo a training for establishment of shelter center provided by Skaj Plus with mentor support of the consultants. The recommendations given for the training needs were used to develop a training program. In line with the CSOs' TNA a tailor-made training program was developed by Dr. Marija Risteska. The training for the replication of the Skaj Plus model of collaboration for representatives of mapped CSOs in the South-west, Polog and North-East region with a detailed agenda was developed by the CRPM team. Two mentorship sessions were provided for Sky Plus, where all the training materials were presented. Furthermore, Sky Plus has organized the training and continued working on establishing two new shelter centers with CRPM support.



Funded by:



## Master Class in GRB

In 2022 we finalized the “Master class in Gender responsible budgeting” project in partnership with South East European University, Gender Knowledge Hub, 20.000 Frauen-Austria and Novi Sad School of Business. The main objective of the project is promotion of the concept of Gender responsive budgeting through establishing the Master course in GRB. The collaborative and innovative curricula will be of strong benefit to students and teaching staff as the main target groups in the project and higher education overall. In the first half of the year, we worked on development of the intellectual outputs on the topics Gender budget cost benefit/effectiveness analysis and GRB budget execution and monitoring, additionally CRPM was the lead in developing the curriculum on Gender disaggregated analysis of the impact of the budget on time use.

In July, five members of the CRPM project team attended a short-term joint staff training event in Novi Sad. We presented the developed intellectual outputs to the participants coming from each of the project partners organization and enabled them to further use the curriculum in the academic institutions. Each of the attendees was awarded a certificate of completion of the course in Gender Responsive Budgeting.



In November in Vienna we had our last team project meeting and the first dissemination event in organization of Plattform 20000 Frauen. The multiplier event in Austria was organized with the aim to broadly disseminate the GRB as master course and to further the main project goal of promoting interdisciplinarity in HEI curricula development in the region. In December, we had the last multiplier event to disseminate the results of the Erasmus + financed project Master Class in GRB at the South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo. CRPM team members presented the developed methodology manual for the MA GRB class as well as the intellectual output on gender statistics. We also moderated the second panel discussion on the topic "Civil society and GRB". Further steps are being taken to accredit the Master GRB course.

Funded by:



## Introduction of gender in RIA processes

In the beginning of 2022, we finalized the development of the Manual for introduction of gender in regulatory impact assessment. The manual provides basic information and practical guidance on how to assess the impact of a decision / regulation adopted at the central level on gender equality. It aims to explain in a simple way the procedure and steps in performing the assessment of the impact of the regulation on gender equality. The manual is intended for all employees in the state administration who work on drafting and implementing policies at the central and local level, in order to ensure gender sensitivity, understanding and the necessary readiness for full integration of the gender perspective in the legal regulations and decisions of the Government and local self-government.

In September 2022 to fully demonstrate the benefits of integration of gender perspectives in the RIA process CRPM team members were hired to pilot the application of gender sensitive RIAs in the process of change of two selected laws. The objective was to demonstrate in practice the concept of gendered RIA and the steps for making laws and policies that equality address the needs of both men and women.

We applied the methodology developed in the Manual for introduction of gender in regulatory impact assessment on the Law for central registry of population and the Law for protection of whistleblowers. The process was conducted in close cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Skopje, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and Ministry of Information and Administration.

In the first half of December, the gender assessment of the two analyzed laws was presented by CRPM to the administrative officials from each of the Ministries working on the regulatory impact assessment.



## Combating sexist hate speech in high school in Macedonia

The overall objective of this action was to contribute towards building resilience against online sexist speech amongst the youth. In doing so, the project pursued the following specific objectives:

- Proposed policy recommendations for combating this form of hate speech based on the survey, debates with relevant stakeholders and CoE recommendations in this area
- Raised awareness of the youth in N. Macedonia about the sexist hate speech

The CRPM team developed an online questionnaire to assess the perception and attitudes of the high school student on hate speech, and especially the sexist hate speech. The questionnaire was responded by 704 respondents answered the questionnaire of all study year from the high schools in Macedonia. The data was then processed using SPSS and analysis with policy recommendations was developed.





### 3. CRPM events

#### Smart Balkans conferences

Within the SMART Balkans program three conferences were organized by the CRPM Team. Two National Conferences in Belgrade and Skopje and co-organized one regional conference in Podgorica.

#### National conference in Skopje

National conference in Skopje was organized for the opening of the project SMART Balkans - Civil commons for the related Western Balkans on 22.06.2022 starting at 10.30 a.m. at Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton Skopje.

The objectives of the project, the possibilities for financing 450 grants in the entire region in the total amount of EUR 14,286,218 were presented at the conferences. The agenda included panel discussions with prominent speakers on the topics of perspectives on stability and security in the Western Balkans and good governance and Euro integration in the Western Balkans. In the discussions current situation in the security and stability and good governance sectors in the country and the region were analyzed and debate on the role of civil society organizations was particularly invigorated. The conference inspired applications for the first Call with regional and core grants.



#### National Conference in Belgrade

On June, 30th 2022 the National conference was held in Belgrade to promote the project and to present the grant scheme to potential grantees. The conference was attended by more than 180 representatives from the civil sector, state institutions and media. The Executive Director of CRPM, Marija Risteska in her introductory address stressed the need for such support for civil society organizations, emphasizing the role of CSOs as bearers of change in society. The Executive Director of CPCD, Ms. Aida Daguda in her welcoming speech referred to the need for regional networking as a way to maximize the influence of citizens and civil society organizations on the decision-making process and strengthen participatory democracy in the region, which is also one of the goals of the project.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Serbia, Montenegro and S. Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Jorn Gjelstad gave an overview of the support of the Kingdom of Norway in the region so far, especially for the civil society sector, emphasizing the need for better involvement of the citizens and civil society organizations in the decision-making process. In addition, the ambassador noted that the Norwegian government has allocated 17 million euros for this program alone, which makes it one of Norway's largest programs in the region, with a focus on good governance and security and stability.

We had vibrant discussion with dozen provocative speakers and CSO contributions from the audience.



### **Regional conference in Podgorica**

A regional conference took place in Podgorica in December called “Elephants in the civic space” was organized by the Lead Partner CPCD under Smart Balkans, and co-organized by CRPM. The conference discussed topics of relevance for the civil society organizations. At the same time the event was a great opportunity for networking within the SMART Balkans project beneficiaries.

## GBWN conference

*International Conference: Role of civil society in (gender responsive) budgeting: participation, advocacy, and accountability*

The International Conference: *Role of civil society in (gender responsive) budgeting: participation, advocacy, and accountability* was held in Ohrid, from 26-29 June, 2022. The conference was organised in partnership with UN women and International Budget Partnership. The Conference's objectives were to promote the different roles of civil society in advancing gender equality by using gender responsive budgeting tools and exchange experiences between civil society, governments and international organizations on the effective strategies and approaches in using GRB tools to impact policy and budgets, including in the COVID-19 period. Moreover, the conference used as a platform for networking and building strategic partnerships between civil society, government and international organizations. The discussions were organized in seven different panels and 10 workshops.



Participant discussed the different methodologies on involving CSOs in the national and local policy making and their contribution in the assessment of their impact on enhancing gender equality, as well as the advocacy tools for more gender sensitive policy solutions. Additionally, it was mentioned that ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of the laws on gender-responsive budgeting and gender related policies is crucial, alongside developing tools for evaluating laws before and after adoption by audit agencies. During the conference approaches on detecting and eliminating the bottlenecks in the legislation and their impact on increasing inequalities were discussed. Community Forums were mentioned as a model for increasing CSOs engagement, whereas the participants also exchange information and knowledge on the continuous need for increasing their capacities and knowledge for monitoring and appraising.

Another aspect that was raised during the conference was the maintenance and balance of the triangle academics – feminists policy makers and CSOs. Namely, academics should bring research expertise, credibility, and are seen as independent, feminist policy makers should provide understanding of how to bring about change in the policy world, as well as help build contacts and alliances, whereas CSOs including trade unions and women's organizations bring front line expertise, experience of advocacy and media work.



### **Working Breakfast with MPs- Workshop with Parliamentarians**

Instead of a dinner, CRPM organized working breakfast on 16th of December, 2022 to discuss progress made in 2022 and the focus needed for 2023 in terms of Chapter 15 of the EU's *acquis Communautaire*. The discussion was led by CRPM expert Igor Pancevski. Welcoming speeches were given by GIZ Director David Oberhuber who expressed satisfaction that MPs actively participate in such dialogues and discussions but also called for a proactive role in the future shaping of the Macedonian energy portfolio, especially in times of crisis as the current one. Another opening speech was delivered by the Director of the CRPM School of Public Policy Mother Theresa Prof. Daskoalovski who highlighted that progress is visible, there is a room for more. He said that CRPM is proud of the fact that we managed to set up a platform on which there is consensus and on which all parliamentary parties look in the same direction and put aside the differences they have among themselves on the daily political issues.

Mr. Pancevski opened the first working part with some new findings and moments. Namely, in Macedonia, 5,000 to 5,500 apartments, or about 200 residential buildings, are built annually. Additionally, another 1000-1200 family houses are being built. However, until now in the Energy Agency there are less than 200 certificates which highlights the problem of weak implementation of the Law on energy. Pancevski also highlighted that in the first week of December, 2022 Scenario 2 was selected for establishing Fund on environmental protection. The fund will be located in Macedonian bank for supporting development and project unit was created for project management. At the end, Pancevski mentioned that investments in small hydro power plants to be in accordance with EU environmental law, electronic system for issuing guarantees of energy origin (Energy Agency should be responsible) as well as improvement (reduction) of administrative obstacles for RES producers (partially done in 2022).

On the other hand, Radulovic explained the operation of the GPG in the Serbian Parliament, especially the innovative way of communication that has been formed in agreement with the relevant parliamentary committee for direct communication with the secretary of the committee and the so-called Green Chair. Namely, the coordination team consists of three organizations: Young Researchers of Serbia, Center for modern skills and BFPE. In order to work as efficiently as possible, up to three representatives attend the meetings of the Committee on behalf of Green chair network member organization.



## 4. Outputs/ Results:

### 4.1. Books

No books were published in the course of 2022.

### 4.2. Policy briefs

- Delivering on SDG 5.C.1. In Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova: A CSO perspective on Budget cycle for year 2021 on the proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality
- State Funding for SOS Helplines in the Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova
- Утврдување на перцепциите и однесувањата на жителите на општина Аеродром во однос на алтернативните форми на мобилност
- Застапеност на говор на омраза врз основа на пол и род помеѓу учениците во средните училишта во С. Македонија ( The occurrence of sexist hate speech among high school students in N. Macedonia)

### 4.3. Policy Studies

- Gender and climate change monitoring report of local plans and programs in Macedonia
- Running up that hill: economic strengthening of women in Western Balkans
- Cost-benefit analysis of introducing electronic system for simplified registration of seasonal workers in the agricultural sector (MK)
- Power(lessness) of women in the labour market in Western Balkan
- МАПИРАЊЕ РИЗИЦИ ОД КОРУПЦИЈА ВО ЖИВОТНАТА СРЕДИНА

### 4.4 Policy initiatives

- СОС линии за пријавување семејно и родово засновано насилство
- Анализа на чинење и корист - Орални контрацептивни таблети
- GBWN Reader: GRB initiatives and appraisals for more enhanced gender equality in the Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova
- Gender Budget Watchdog Network 2019-2022 best case studies

### 4.5. Guides

No guides were produced in the course of 2022.

## II. Financial report 2022

**Center for Research and Policy Making – CRPM Skopje**  
**Financial report**  
**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**31.12.2022**

### REVENUE

1. Revenue from interest rates and exchange rates	111,276.00
2. Revenue from memberships, donations and other sources of revenue	70,909,302.00
3. Revenue from consultancy and other services	166,332.00
4. Other revenue	176,600.00
5. Tranferred surpulus from last year	17,086,356.00

**Total revenue** **88,449,866.00**

### EXPENSES

1. Costs for office supplies	465,030.00
2. Costs for energy supply	122,547.00
3. Other services	1,058,888.00
4. Transport and transport related costs	737,641.00
5. Commercials and presentations	456,501.00
6. Costs for rent of venues and equipment	910,267.00
7. Other material costs	74,398.00
8. Bank fees	134,400.00
9. Interest on loans	60.00
10. Insurance premiums	111,114.00
11. Travel costs and per diems	3,175,792.00
12. Compensation of costs to workers and citizens	
13. Negative exchange rates	156,500.00
14. Membership costs	4,154.00
15. Other costs	3,912,869.00
16. Tranferred assets	8,197,591.00
17. Equipment	656,461.00
18. Other capital assets	152,360.00
19. Assistance, donations and other givings to subjects	
20. Assitance to individuals	
21. Gross salary	7,488,509.00

**Total expenses** **27,815,082.00**

**Financial report**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**31.12.2022**

**ASSETS**

---

<b>1. Non-current assets</b>	
- Basic assets	1,655,726.00
<b>2. Cash</b>	
- Denar account	13,473,808.00
- Foreign currency account	46,953,686.00
- Petty cash	70,00
- Other cash assets	212,866.00
<b>3. Buyers</b>	24,600.00
<b>4. Prepaid expenses</b>	75,312.00
 5. Buyers	
<b>Total assets</b>	<hr/> <b>62,396,068.00</b>

**LIABILITIES**

---

<b>1. Sources of funds</b>	
- Business funds	1,655,726.00
<b>2. Short-term liabilities</b>	
- Suppliers	92,108.00
- Other short-term liabilities	13,450.00
<b>3. Accrued liabilities</b>	
- Assigned funds for 2022	60,634,784.00
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<hr/> <b>62,396,068.00</b>