

Annual Report -

EPI

2023



European
Policy
Institute.
Skopje

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A Word from Our Director

Reflecting on 2023, a year of resilience and collaborative achievement, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Amid challenges, our organisation not only persevered but also marked significant milestones, showcasing our expanding role in the global discourse on human rights, the rule of law, and European integration.

A landmark endeavour was our first-time contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, a testament to our commitment to international human rights advocacy. This, alongside our regranting scheme, exemplifies our dedication to empowering civil society organisations and enhancing their capacity to enact meaningful change.

The year was also notable for our participation in the self-assessment of the human dimension of North Macedonia's OSCE Chairpersonship, an initiative highlighting our expertise and influence in fostering democratic principles and fundamental rights. Furthermore, our active involvement in the Civil Society Forum of the Berlin Process underlines our role in shaping discussions on the Western Balkans European path.

These efforts, combined with the organisational support from the EU, our significant media presence, impactful research, and consultancy services, have solidified our standing as a key actor on both national and European stages. Collaborations with esteemed entities like the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, other EU institutions, and the World Bank have enriched our contributions to the dialogue on social accountability and fundamental rights.

The framework partnership project "Building Bridges for a Common Future: Rule of Law in View of EU Accession" financed by the European Union stands as a testament to our strategic focus on enhancing the rule of law and governance reforms essential for EU accession. This initiative not only fostered our collaboration with CSOs across the region but also amplified our impact in advocating for legal and democratic principles. Through this project, we have demonstrated our capacity to bridge gaps between civil society's aspirations and the intricate processes of EU integration, contributing significantly to the discourse on public administration reform and judicial integrity.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the potential to deepen our impact, foster innovation, and cultivate partnerships that propel our mission forward. Together, we will continue to strive for a just, democratic, and inclusive society.

My deepest appreciation goes to our team, partners, volunteers, and supporters. Your unwavering dedication, expertise, and passion are the foundation of our achievements. Here's to reaching new heights in 2024.

Simonida Kacarska



Citizens Consultations: Fostering Engagement and Policy Impact



CONSULTATIONS WITH
OVER 150 CITIZENS,
EXPERTS, POLITICIANS, PROFESSORS
FROM THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

OSCE Human Dimension Self-Assessment In North Macedonia

In 2023, as North Macedonia embraced its role as the OSCE Chairpersonship, our organisation proudly partnered in the critical self-assessment of the country's adherence to the OSCE Human Dimension. Focused on the pivotal areas of elections and the protection of national minorities, we embarked on a multifaceted research approach. This journey encompassed comprehensive desk and document analyses, enriched by several consultation sessions with relevant stakeholders. The culmination of these efforts was the drafting phase, where we engaged national stakeholders of paramount importance for the document's thoroughness. These consultations spanned both expert and institutional levels, ensuring the active participation of all vital contributors.

The self-evaluation's findings were not just confined to internal discussions but were spotlighted at a [parallel conference](#) with the Ministerial Council of the OSCE in Skopje, setting a precedent for transparency and constructive dialogue.



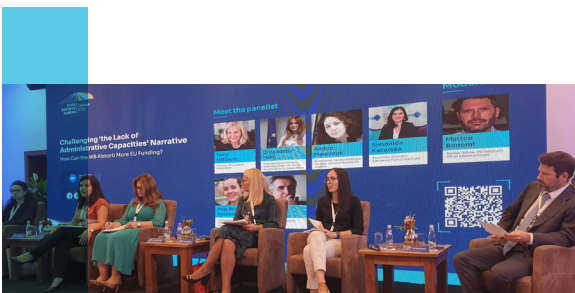
✓ **Access to the European Single Market:
Berlin Process Civil Society Forum**

As the lead organisation for the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on “Access to the Europe Single Market” of the Berlin Process Civil Society Forum, our commitment to shaping the future of the Western Balkans took centre stage. Through the Berlin Process Civil Society Forum in Tirana, we orchestrated [a series of regional online consultations](#) and a [hybrid public event](#), drawing insights from over 65 experts across civil society, academia, the private sector, and state administration. This collaborative effort resulted in draft policy recommendations, which we presented during advocacy visits in Berlin and Brussels.

Our final [policy paper](#) offered fresh perspectives for the European Commission’s Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, advocating for integration into the EU Single Market, strategic use of EU funds, and enhanced economic policy coordination through the European Semester. These recommendations were [shared](#) with [stakeholders](#) at the Civil Society Forum in Tirana, contributing to a roadmap for the region’s accelerated integration into the EU.

Following the Growth Plan’s unveiling, we hosted a [public event](#) to explore its implications for the Western Balkans’ economic governance, engaging a broad spectrum of policymakers and sector representatives in a forward-looking dialogue.

In our commitment to constructive critique, we commissioned four policy insights on “[The Potential of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans](#)”, providing actionable recommendations for its implementation and enhancement.



✓ **Fostering Policy Analysis
and Public Debate 3.0**

Our engagement with the citizens of North Macedonia further extended through the “Fostering Policy Analysis and Public Debate 3.0” project. Organising deliberative events in [Tetovo](#), [Bitola](#), and [Skopje](#), we provided a platform for citizens to discuss the new geopolitical dynamics and North Macedonia’s evolving role on the international stage. Highlighted by the participation of the MFA and OSCE Chairperson Bujar Osmani, these discussions offered valuable insights into the country’s EU accession prospects and the OSCE’s role in enhancing its global standing. These events collectively attracted a total of 82 participants, demonstrating significant community engagement and interest in these critical discussions.

The insights garnered from these events will inform the National Deliberative Poll, conducted in partnership with the Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University and supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. This initiative will bring together 150 citizens to delve deeper into these discussions, fostering a broad-based engagement in national and international policy dialogue.





Joint Action for Human Rights: Enhancing Parliamentary and Civil Society Engagement

In February, our organisation took a significant step towards the promotion and protection of human rights in North Macedonia by launching the “Joint Action for Human Rights” project. Aimed at bolstering the engagement of parliamentary bodies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), this initiative marks a collaborative effort with the Parliamentary Institute of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Human Rights Advisor of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office.



SUPPORT OF SEVEN CIVIL
SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



Re-granting Scheme and CSO Support

A cornerstone of our project has been the implementation of a **re-granting scheme** designed to enhance the capacities of seven CSOs. These organisations, selected for their dedication to human rights advocacy, received support to manage projects critical to the Universal Periodic Review's (UPR) fourth cycle. Our efforts ensured these CSOs were primed for active participation in the UPR process, contributing field-based data that spanned a broad spectrum of human rights concerns. These ranged from the rights of persons with disabilities, children's rights, violence against women and domestic violence to addressing hate speech against the LGBTI community and the challenges faced by asylum seekers and stateless persons.



Fostering Political Dialogue and Networking

Recognising the gap in political dialogue and stakeholder exchange on necessary human rights reforms, our project actively promoted networking among CSOs, the Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Human Rights Adviser/OHCHR in North Macedonia. This initiative facilitated the first-ever **presentation and debate** of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) annual report on fundamental rights in the Assembly. This landmark discussion sparked increased interest from various parliamentary groups and commissions in improving human rights conditions, as highlighted in the FRA report.



Collaborative Contributions

The success of our contributions to the fourth cycle of the UPR was further enriched by the involvement of partner organisations such as the Center for European Citizen Initiative, Double Hope, Legis, Multikultura, National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Romaversitas, and Queer Center. Together, we presented a unified set of recommendations that underscored the collective effort to enhance human rights advocacy in North Macedonia.



Strengthening the Rule of Law: Highlighting Our Impact



THE EIGHTH
SHADOW REPORT

In 2023, with the organisational support of the EU, our dedication to upholding and advancing the rule of law was reflected through substantial research outputs, critical engagements, and targeted advocacy efforts. Central to our achievements were the publication of our 8th Shadow Report on Chapter 23 and the continued delivery of quarterly briefs, marking our ongoing commitment to scrutinise and report on the rule of law reforms and challenges in North Macedonia and its journey toward European Union accession. As part of these efforts, we also analyse the key rule of law developments at the EU level and how they impact North Macedonia.



FOUR
MONITORING
BRIEFS

✓ The 8th Shadow Report on Chapter 23

A cornerstone of our rule of law advocacy, the 8th Shadow Report represents a comprehensive analysis of the state of justice, freedom, and security in North Macedonia, in alignment with EU accession standards. This report, accessible [here](#), not only encapsulates our rigorous monitoring efforts but also provides actionable recommendations for policymakers, civil society, and the international community. By shedding light on key areas of reform and potential improvements, the Shadow Report underscores our role as a critical observer and contributor to the discourse on legal and democratic reforms.

✓ Quarterly Briefs: A Continuous Lens on Legal Reforms

2023 marked the second year of our commitment to publishing [quarterly briefs](#), offering timely insights into the progression and hurdles within the realm of the rule of law related to EU integration. These briefs serve as a vital resource for stakeholders engaged in or monitoring the accession process, presenting a nuanced understanding of developments and identifying areas requiring attention or intervention. The briefs undergo extensive consultation by numerous external stakeholders, EU institutions, and Member States. They serve as essential references preceding the preparation of significant country documents, including the EC country reports.

Apart from quarterly briefs, through our continuous monitoring work and analysis of key developments at the EU level on the rule of law, we produced a total of six briefs analysing the state of the rule of law within the EU and candidate states. These briefs have been compiled in the [Annual Insight](#), which has also been published for the second year in a row.



✓ Facilitating Critical Dialogues and Public Awareness

Our policy dialogues, such as the “[Rule of Law Monitoring for EU Countries and Candidates: Bridging the Gap](#)” and the annual “[Forum Europaeum 2023](#),” provided essential platforms for discussing our findings from the Shadow Report and quarterly briefs. These events fostered meaningful exchanges among national institutions, civil society, academia, and international actors, contributing to a broader understanding and collective approach to addressing the rule of law challenges.

✓ Engagement Through Publications and Media

The dissemination of [op-eds](#), [podcasts](#), and [infographics](#) related to our rule of law research further amplified the reach and impact of our work, engaging a wider audience in discussions on rule of law reforms, EU mechanisms, and the specific challenges facing North Macedonia. These publications and media engagements have been instrumental in raising public awareness and advocating for enhanced legal standards and practices.

✓ Looking Ahead with Determination

As we reflect on our accomplishments and the road ahead, our commitment to the rule of law remains unwavering. The Shadow Report and quarterly briefs testify to our dedication to rigorous analysis, transparency, and informed advocacy. Moving forward, we will continue leveraging our expertise and insights to promote legal reforms, support North Macedonia's EU accession aspirations, and contribute to developing a more just and democratic society.



Partnerships and Collaborations: Amplifying Impact through Strategic Alliances

In 2023, strategic partnerships and collaborative projects bolstered our commitment to fostering sustainable reforms, enhancing governance, and promoting societal reconciliation. Central to our efforts were initiatives such as the WeBER 2.0 and WeBER 3.0 projects, the Blueprint Group for the Judiciary, the RECOM Reconciliation Network Energy Security Alliance and the MERC database.

✓ **WeBER Projects: Strengthening Civil Society and Monitoring Public Administration Reforms**

Our active engagement in [WeBER 2.0 and WeBER 3.0 projects](#), in collaboration with the [TEN network](#) and European Policy Center—Brussels, underscored our leadership in civil society's involvement in public administration reform (PAR) across the Western Balkans. A focal point of our participation was the regranting scheme designed to empower CSOs and the publication of the [PAR Monitor](#) reports. These initiatives not only enhanced our research and advocacy capabilities but also promoted a transparent, open, and accountable governance structure aligned with EU standards. As part of the WeBER 3.0 in 2023, we published our third call for regranting local organisations in the country that will build capacities for monitoring the Public Administration Reforms.

✓ **Blueprint Group for the Judiciary: Advocating for Judicial Integrity**

Through the Blueprint Group for the Judiciary, we continued to advocate for comprehensive judicial reforms. Despite delays in the adoption of the Strategy for Development of the Judiciary, our [contribution](#) to legislative improvements and strategic dialogues aimed at enhancing the transparency and trust in the Judicial Council exemplified our dedication to reinforcing the rule of law.

✓ **RECOM Reconciliation Network: Fostering Regional Peace and Stability**

Our participation in the RECOM Reconciliation Network highlighted our commitment to reconciliation and peace-building in the post-Yugoslav space. By supporting grassroots reconciliation activities, we contributed to the creation of a more inclusive and victim-centred approach to addressing the legacies of the past. The Network launched the third call for re-granting, and the process is ongoing.

✓ **Energy Security Alliance**

In response to the ongoing energy crises triggered by Russian aggression in Ukraine, the European Policy Institute—Skopje (EPI) has persistently tackled energy sector challenges for the second consecutive year. Actively engaging with the Energy Security Alliance alongside partners from Albania and Kosovo, EPI advocates for and implements contemporary energy security measures, emphasising the transition to renewable and green energy sources. Recognising energy security as critical to national security, EPI conducts comprehensive analyses to identify steps for mitigating crises and enhancing resilience amidst geopolitical uncertainties. As a tangible manifestation of this commitment, EPI organised a high-level event in Skopje, drawing participation from key stakeholders, including the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, experts, and policymakers. Through such initiatives, EPI aims to raise awareness, foster collaboration, and drive concerted action toward achieving energy security objectives, thereby contributing to the nation's well-being and resilience.

✓ **Moving Forward Together**

As we advance, the strength of our partnerships and collaborations remains integral to achieving our mission. By uniting with like-minded organisations and networks, we amplify our impact, advocate for meaningful change, and contribute to the development of more democratic, just, and peaceful societies in the Western Balkans and beyond.



Services and Consultancy: Enhancing Expertise and Impact¹

In 2023, our consultancy and research initiatives have notably contributed to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, social accountability, and reform processes across the region. Our partnerships with esteemed organisations like the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the World Bank underscore our pivotal role in influencing policy and fostering social inclusion.

✓ **Annual Analysis of the
European Commission Report
on North Macedonia**

Since 2011, our think tank has dedicated itself to providing [an annual analysis](#) of the European Commission's Country Report on North Macedonia. This critical evaluation delves into the nation's progress towards European Union accession, pinpointing both advancements and areas needing further attention. Our comprehensive analysis has become an invaluable resource for stakeholders, contributing to a deeper understanding of North Macedonia's EU integration journey.

In 2023, we broadened our impact by organising, for the third year, an [event](#) with the TEN Network and DG NEAR on the EC Country Reports for the Western Balkans. Featuring distinguished speakers such as the Director General Gert Jan Koopman from the European Commission and Luca Gori, the Italian Ambassador to Serbia, the discussion highlighted the importance of these reports in assessing regional progress and challenges in EU integration efforts. This event underscored our commitment to fostering informed dialogue and enhancing policy discourse on EU enlargement.

¹ The full list of our projects and consultancies is available at <https://epi.org.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%be%d1%80%d0%b8?lang=en>

✓ FRA Research Partnership

Our continued collaboration with the FRA as part of the FRANET research network underscores our commitment to advancing fundamental rights in the European Union and North Macedonia. This year, we delved into critical issues such as “Anti-Muslim Hatred” and examined how socio-political developments, such as Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, have impacted fundamental rights within the European Union. Our contributions to the [FRA’s 2023 Fundamental Rights Report](#) and the Short Thematic Report on “Anti-Muslim Hatred” highlight our efforts to provide evidence-based insights for policy responses and public discourse.

✓ World Bank Social Accountability Initiative

Our partnership with the World Bank on “Strengthening the Delivery of Social Protection through Social Accountability” reflects our dedication to enhancing the welfare of marginalised groups, including Roma and returnees. By implementing the Community Score Card approach in municipalities like Kumanovo and Shuto Orizari, we have facilitated meaningful dialogues between social service beneficiaries and providers, leading to joint action plans aimed at improving service delivery.



✓ ReSPA External Evaluation

Our expertise was also recognised in the external evaluation of ReSPA’s activities under the EC Grant Contract. Our evaluation team’s comprehensive analysis helped assess the relevance, efficiency, and impact of ReSPA’s initiatives on Public Administration Reform (PAR) processes, offering valuable insights for future strategic directions.

✓ Public Engagements and Policy Dialogues

Throughout the year, our engagement in public debates, such as the one held in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, has been crucial in disseminating our research findings and fostering discussions on improving fundamental rights protection and strengthening governance systems.

✓ Looking Forward

As we continue to grow our presence and impact through research, consultancy, and policy dialogues, our focus remains on contributing to a more inclusive, just, and democratic society. Our collaborations with international bodies and local stakeholders are a testament to our unwavering commitment to advancing public policies that reflect the needs and rights of all citizens.



Advocacy: Elevating Reforms and Strengthening Partnerships¹



OVER 60 ADVOCACY AND
NETWORKING MEETINGS IN THE
COUNTRY AND ACROSS EUROPE

Our advocacy journey this year was marked by pivotal engagements and strategic meetings, emphasising our dedication to shaping policy, promoting transparency, and bolstering human rights. Through collaboration with national and international bodies, we have underscored our expertise in judicial reform, anti-corruption efforts, and the intricacies of EU accession.

¹ Comprehensive list of most of the advocacy and networking meetings is available here
<https://bit.ly/4ccg8Yn>

Key Engagements and Milestones

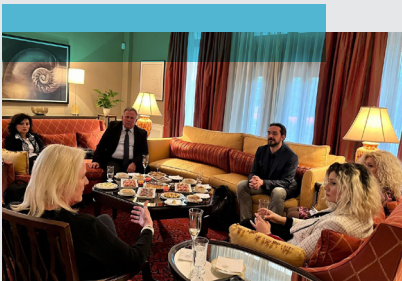
This year, our dialogue expanded across diverse and influential platforms, with a notable focus on Brussels, the heart of the European Union. In this central hub, we heightened our engagements to shape policy and cultivate deeper discussions on EU integration. [Meetings](#) with the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission and participation in the Civil Society & Think Tank Forum of the Berlin Process were pivotal, driving forward the dialogue on judicial integrity, anti-corruption, and economic integration of the Western Balkans into the EU. We were also included on the initiatives for establishing initiatives for monitoring the European Political Community.

We leveraged our presence in Brussels to engage in meaningful discussions with MEPs, EU officials, and representatives from various EU member states. These interactions not only broadened our advocacy network but also solidified our role as a key player in shaping the regional and international policy landscape, particularly regarding North Macedonia's EU accession process. During a two-day visit to the country by the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament, [we had the pleasure to host the Committee representatives at EPIs offices: the Chairman of the Committee, Nils Flemming Hansen, together with members Karin Liltorp, Marianne Bigum, Alexander Ryle and Søren Søndergaard](#). We discussed the European integration of the country, the challenges and the possibilities for North Macedonia's progress in the EU.

During the year, EPI team members met with the Association of Public Prosecutors to discuss judicial integrity with the new president, showcasing our commitment to enhancing the legal landscape. This was followed by a series of meetings with the Minister of Justice, Judicial Council, judges, and prosecutors to advance judicial reforms. In addition we also met with the Perr review mission for National Human Rights Institutions and the Peer review mission for the Judicial Council. [Engagements](#) with Finnish OSCE advisors and participation in OSCE [forums](#) highlighted our analytical prowess in justice sector reforms and organised crime, fostering an environment ripe for policy evolution.

Before the Second Summit of the European Political Community (EPC), [we participated in the conference](#) organized by the Institute for European Policies and Reforms from Moldova together with the Open Society Foundation, the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and the National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum on which we discussed the key expectations from the summit. Subsequently, [we also participated in the EPC Observatory](#), which was launched by CEPS. The observatory will be driven by civil society and used to enhance transparency and support upcoming EPC Presidencies and members as well as the general public in monitoring the implementation of commitments made and specific deliverables agreed at the European leaders' level.

In a dedicated effort to shape the policy landscape further, we actively participated in consultative [meetings](#) organised by the Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA) to develop roadmaps for Cluster 1, focusing on the rule of law, democratic institutions, and public administration reform (PAR). This collaborative initiative allowed us to [contribute](#) substantively to the roadmaps, enhancing our advocacy efforts and ensuring our recommendations directly informed the strategic planning for North Macedonia's EU accession process.



Collaboration for Impact

Our advocacy in Brussels, as well as in other EU institutions and member states, was characterised by a series of strategic meetings and networking events that allowed us to present our insights and recommendations directly to key decision-makers. These engagements facilitated open and constructive dialogues on enhancing the legal landscape, fostering an environment ripe for policy evolution.

In every meeting, roundtable, and conference, we brought forward our insights and recommendations, striving for a more transparent, accountable, and just society. Our involvement in the Civil Society & Think Tank Forum of the Berlin Process and contributions to the thematic working groups exemplify our leadership in promoting deeper economic integration of the Western Balkans into the EU.

Fostering Future Directions

Reflecting on the year's accomplishments, our targeted advocacy in Brussels and across EU member states has paved the way for continued policy impact and strategic partnerships. Our involvement in high-level discussions and forums, such as the ASN World Convention and the Belgrade Security Conference, underscored the global scope of our efforts. Yet, it was our focused approach to EU engagement that marked a defining feature of our advocacy work this year.

Visibility, Communications, and Events: Expanding Influence and Fostering Dialogue



400 MEDIA
MENTIONS



15 EVENTS
WITH OVER
700 PARTICIPANTS



300 THOUSAND
REACH ON
SOCIAL NETWORKS

In 2023, our organisation embraced a strategic approach to media engagement and social media presence, prioritising depth and quality in our communications. We achieved approximately 400 media mentions globally, reflecting the continued interest in our work and initiatives. Our emphasis on detailed discussions through TV appearances allowed us to thoroughly present our positions and insights, enhancing our public engagement.

✓ Social Media Growth and Engagement

Our digital footprint expanded significantly, with notable growth across all social media platforms. Our [Facebook](#) community grew to over 9,619 followers, with a reach exceeding 242,000 individuals. [Instagram](#) and [X](#) also saw substantial increases in followers and engagement, underscoring our ability to connect with diverse audiences. This growth not only amplified our visibility but also facilitated broader discussions on crucial topics.

✓ Leadership in European Dialogues

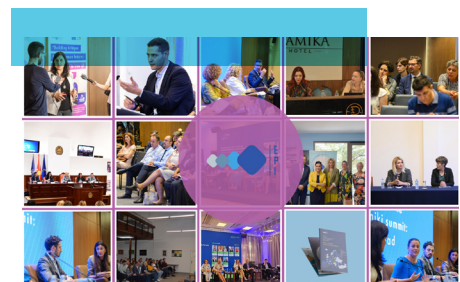
Our presence on the European stage was marked by active participation and leadership in various forums, including the Civil Society Forum of the Berlin Process, where we led discussions on the Western Balkans' economic integration into the EU. These engagements showcased our commitment to advancing regional cooperation and European integration.

✓ Hosting Impactful Events

Throughout the year, we organised 15 events¹ that attracted 700 in-person and online participants. Notable among these was our annual Forum Europaeum, which focused on the Thessaloniki Summit's 20th anniversary and explored proposals for accession process reforms. Our "Rule of Law Monitoring" policy dialogue and the presentation of the FRA's annual report in the Assembly highlighted our role in stimulating policy debates and promoting human rights awareness.

✓ Engaging with Diplomatic and Political Leaders

Our efforts to bridge the gap between civil society and policymakers were exemplified by meetings with ambassadors, MEPs, MPs, and other stakeholders. High-profile engagements, such as hosting the [Minister for Europe of Germany](#) and participating in the [Prespa Forum](#) Dialogue, underscored our influence in shaping discussions on EU enlargement and governance reforms.



¹ The list of events is available here <https://bit.ly/43bx11r>

Internal Development: Strengthening Organisational Capacity

Throughout 2023, our project “Building Bridges for a Common Future: Rule of Law in View of EU Accession” played a pivotal role in enhancing EPI’s organisational development. The project’s activities were instrumental in strengthening our internal capabilities, particularly in the areas of monitoring, evaluation, and advocacy.

✓ Monitoring and Evaluation Tool Implementation

A significant milestone was the creation and utilisation of our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tool. This initiative has been central to improving our capacity to assess the impact of our work systematically. The tool’s deployment, following team training the previous year, marks a critical step in our ongoing efforts to enhance project management, outcomes assessment, and strategic planning.

✓ Internal Organisational Session

An internal session in September allowed us to assess our progress with the revised tools, ensuring our organisational practices are aligned with our strategic goals. This reflective practice underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and adaptation in a rapidly evolving policy landscape.

✓ Professional Development and Mentorship

Professional development has been a cornerstone of our internal growth strategy. Each team member engaged in various training programs aimed at expanding their expertise and skill sets, thereby contributing to our collective knowledge and organisational robustness. Additionally, we prioritised mentorship, providing our volunteers with invaluable guidance from senior staff and preparing them for future professional challenges.

An example of our commitment to professional development was our participation in the UN Women Gender Data Bootcamp in September 2023 in Izmir, Türkiye. This engagement offered our team members an invaluable opportunity to deepen their understanding and application of gender data, enhancing our advocacy for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Our researchers’ collaborative project on women’s political participation in North Macedonia, which was recognised as the Best Gender Data Product, highlights the practical impact of this capacity-building experience.

✓ Rule of Law Mentoring and Collaboration

The project “Building Bridges for a Common Future: Rule of Law in View of EU Accession” facilitated a novel collaboration for the rule of law mentoring, pairing us with a CSO based in the EU. This partnership not only enriched our understanding of EU rule of law challenges but also enhanced our analytical and advocacy skills. Through this initiative, under expert mentorship, a selected researcher produced an [insightful analysis](#) of the EU’s rule of law dynamics, further solidifying our position as a knowledgeable actor in this domain.

✓ Looking Forward

As we navigate the complexities of EU accession and rule of law advocacy, our internal development initiatives remain fundamental to our success. By investing in our team’s growth, leveraging innovative tools, and fostering mentorship, we are poised to make even greater contributions to the discourse on EU integration and fundamental rights.

