

# PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



Photo by: Andrej Ginovski, Igor Banskoliev, Robert Atanasovski

## CHALLENGE

Having regular insights into people's perceptions about the major challenges facing the country is instrumental for decision makers to develop responsive policies and deliver effective public services. This is even more important as the country devolves powers to local authorities. Gaining people's views as this critical effort unfolds will enable the Government to develop a system that responds to all citizens, especially people whose participation in the economy or access to quality services, such as education and health, need to be expanded. At the same time, in a multiethnic society, which has experienced internal disputes, bringing to light the views of different ethnic groups is central for strengthening the social cohesion and promotion of inclusive human development.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project aims to strengthen national capacities for evidence-based policy analysis and to develop a nationally owned methodology for assessing governance.

The People-Centred Analyses (PCA) report series track people's views on issues such as inter-ethnic relations, social services, and their trust in central and local government. Thorough analyses were made on the segregation and vulnerability along ethnic lines, especially regarding Roma as one of the most vulnerable groups facing poverty and exclusion. The Reports also examine how decentralization is impacting on the delivery of social services at local level, putting special focus on women. Another aspects tackled with the report are the socio-economic situation of different ethnic groups, the issues of equitable representation, and the role of political parties and leaders.

As the ultimate project goal is to strengthen the capacities of national institutions, in 2009 UNDP partnered with the Southeast European University of Tetovo (SEEU). The preparation and production of the 2010 edition was led by SEEU.

The project also supported the Government to set-up a system for monitoring and evaluating governance. Undertaking such assessments are expected to result in better understanding among governments and citizens on what democratic governance means. This system will enable the Government to measure the quality of social services and make improvements where needed, for example, improve the quality of health services in one region in the country, or increase the rates of children involved in immunization in another.

## RESULTS

The first issue of the People-Centred Analyses Report of 2008, elaborated thoroughly the concepts of social exclusion and vulnerability, including the issues of poverty, health, education, employment and access to social services. Some of the main findings of this edition were used by the Government in developing the first ever National Strategy on Social Inclusion, promoted in April 2010.

The second PCA (2009) examined regional disparities and quality of life - for the first time in the country. It also drew lessons on how to reduce the geographic disparities through effective regional policies, for example which investments should be encouraged to boost the economy in a given region with specific characteristics. The key recommendations of the 2009 issue were incorporated into the National Strategy for Regional Development.

Building on the findings of the third PCA (2010), which focused on the quality of social services, the Government has drafted new by-laws to the Law on Social Protection. This means that accessibility to the quality and forms of social services offered to the citizens will be enhanced, improved and inclusive for all. In other words, adoption of universal approach to better quality services of socially vulnerable and excluded groups will be done through development of sustainable system of protection in line with EU standards and practices.

In 2011, a nationally owned Governance Assessment Methodology was developed, providing tools for assessing governance and social inclusion policies in the health and education sectors. This methodology now serves as an accountability mechanism both for citizens and decision makers, providing them with the necessary information on how to improve the overall governance system and contribute to the reform processes initiated in the country.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Strengthening Evidence-based Policy Processes

**PARTNERS:** Southeast European University (SEEU)

**FINANCED BY:** UNDP

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### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mihaela Stojkoska, Head of Good Governance Unit  
Tel/Fax: +389 2 3249553; +389 3249505  
Email: mihaela.stojkoska@undp.org  
Web site: www.undp.org.mk