



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Introduction

The year of 2020 was a challenging year, not only for Eko-svest but for the entire world. At the very beginning of the year, we needed to rethink and re-organise everything about our work. We switched to working from home and online conferences and meetings and we developed new plans for working with our constituencies and authorities as well as communications.

On one hand, this was done quite successfully as we managed to complete all planned activities and projects. On the other, the detachment we faced with each other and with the rest of the world left a bitter taste as the year passed and pandemic continued without a resolution in sight.

Even so, Eko-svest had a year full of activities and a series of positive impacts in our society. We are thankful to our donors for the continued support we received in these difficult and challenging times.

I invite you to read through our annual report for 2020.

Ana Colovic Lesoska
Executive Director
Eko-svest

2020 Highlights

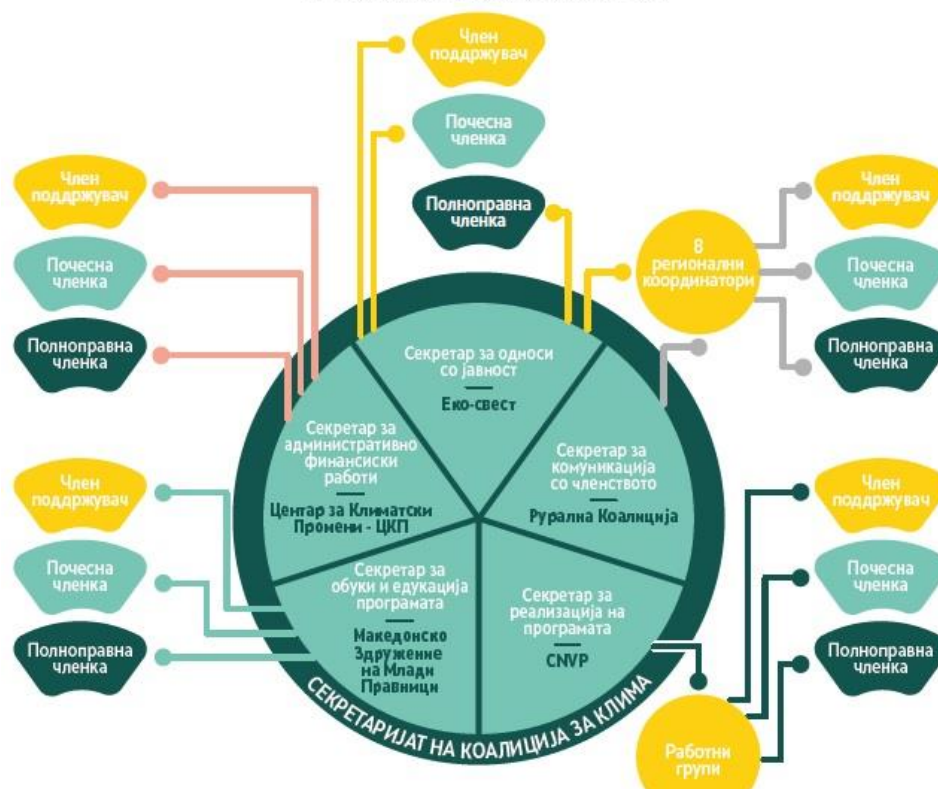
Team Eco comic book



As part of project activities under Enabling the path towards decarbonisation and the protection of the environment, funded by the Delegation of the European Union in N. Macedonia we published a comic book to educate on the energy transition. The comic book was posted on social media in episodes during summer months of 2020 and raised public interest involving different target groups. Social media posts reached over 30,000 people.

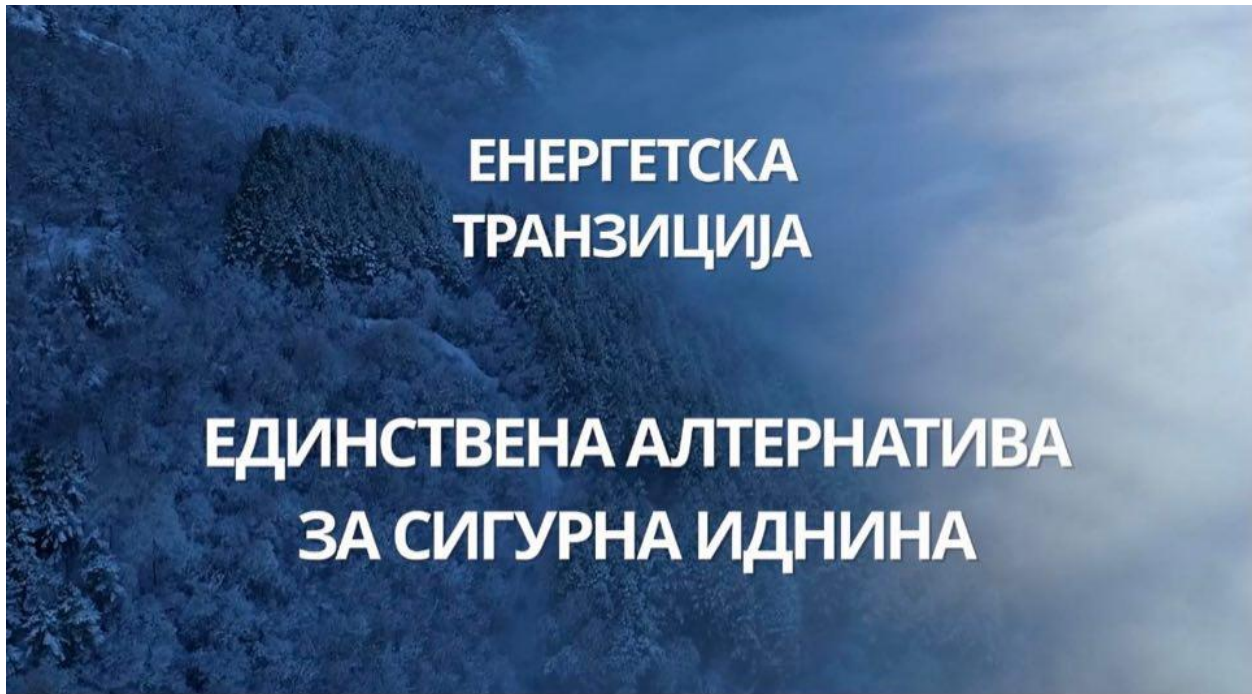
Establishing the Climate Coalition

ОРГАНОГРАМ ЗА ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА И ФУНКЦИОНИРАЊЕ НА КОАЛИЦИЈАТА ЗА КЛИМА



In 2020 we strengthened the Climate Coalition by drafting legal documents and choosing a secretariat body to further continue actively work to represent the coalition and participate in the drafting of climate policies and legislation on national and local level. Coalition representatives were part of working groups on NECP and Climate action law and strategy. On Global Climate March Day 25th September, the Coalition had the first joint PR and was covered by national media. On December 24th, the members of the Coalition participated in a presentation of the country's revised NDCs.

Documentary on the Energy Transition



As part of project activities from Promoting energy transition in North Macedonia, funded by CEE Bankwatch Network, through the SIDA programme we produced a one-hour documentary explaining the opportunities for Just Transition of coal regions in the country. The documentary contains statements from experts and communities in coal regions and shows the way forward towards increase in RES but also alternative economic development. Movie premiered on National TV station MRTV and Eko-svest official You Tube channel where it has 365 views so far.

Projects implemented in 2020

The following projects have been implemented during 2020:

(1) Activities of CEE Bankwatch Network

Our staff member, Davor Pehchevski continued his work as the Regional air pollution coordinator for the Balkans, a position he started for Bankwatch in 2018. His work entails measurements and analysis of air pollution data in the Balkan region. During 2020, two sets of measurements were published, one of which included complex simulations and in-depth analysis of the air quality near the Kosova A and Kosova B power plants. In an effort to expand the scope of the air pollution work in other non-EU countries, a desktop analysis of the impact of Ukraine's energy sector on air quality was prepared. The analysis revealed some serious issues, triggered an avalanche of reactions in Ukraine and even reached the Parliament.

The highlight of 2020 was however the [The Lung Run](#), the first running race in the region that treated air pollution issues. It was supposed to take place in Novaci, Bitola, but due to Covid-19 restrictions was organised as an online event. 60+ runners from 14 countries and 3 continents participated, and shared messages of support and solidarity with the Novaci community.

In 2020, Eko-svest welcomed another Bankwatch staff, Maja Kambovska, who is coordinating the organisation's district heating campaign. The goal of this campaign is to accelerate the transformation of the heating sector away from fossil fuels and unsustainable renewables, and toward progressive, truly clean and innovative heating solutions in combination with energy efficiency measures.

(2) Advocacy for reduction of emissions through mounting public pressure on the local level and working with decision-makers funded by the European Climate Foundation

The project-Advocacy for reduction of emissions through mounting public pressure on the local level and working with decision-makers is part of the energy, just transition and climate program and works to put pressure on decision makers in coal-affected communities to focus on just transition as plans to move away from coal are made for Kicevo and to focus on air pollution and just transition for Bitola. During the project national level decision makers and decision makers from Bitola were engaged, but also

with local businesses from Bitola. The partnerships created previously through the Climate coalition were strengthened and members of the coalition were empowered for work on climate justice through a specific training. Although focusing on enticing local groups and citizens to action for climate, decarbonisation and just transition through publishing of the coal-related comic book (Team Eco) and a reprint of a children picture book Jaglenko (Coal-man), the project also continued its strong energy focus and working with decision makers to ensure the strategic documents in the energy and climate sector have decarbonisation and just transition included. This is a long-term project and in 2020 we continued our work on the climate law and strategy, as well as the revised Energy strategy and Programme for implementation of the Energy strategy. In addition, the focus on just transition of coal regions was much stronger and as a part of the larger just transition program a documentary was prepared for publishing.

(3) Enabling the path towards decarbonisation and the protection of the environment, funded by the Delegation of the European Union in N. Macedonia

The project, considered as an operational grant to the organisation was aimed at ensuring proper and meaningful participation of CSOs in key decision-making process in the country and ensuring the sustainability and longevity of Eko-svest activities and services. The project was framed in line with the strategic plan for the period 2020-2024 and covered activities such as: events and advocacy meetings aimed at improving policies that would ensure the decarbonisation of our systems, monitoring and research activities which ensured the preparation of studies and launch of results, awareness raising through innovative and interesting materials such as comic books, development of an educational programme and preparation of preliminary services that Eko-svest can offer to businesses and other institutions. The project lasted for 1 year and finished on December 31, 2020.

(4) Communities Communicating Climate Change funded by the Delegation of the European Union in North Macedonia

The project is implemented in partnership with CNVP and DEM, started in January 2018 and is expected to be finalised by April 2021. The main focus of the action is strengthening the impact and involvement of civil society in decision-making processes and EU accession reforms in the area of climate change. The activities are mainly including capacity building of CSOs to further increase their accountability and sustainability in order to achieve enhanced involvement in policy making and advocacy of the sector, as well as awareness raising action aimed at climate change impacts and ways forward. The

project team successfully developed curricula and conducted more than 15 training sessions for the CSOs and journalists/ bloggers/ influencers with focus on climate change. The project also featured a sub-granting scheme to support innovative climate projects in the country. In 2019 we granted 10 sub grants to organisations to implement various climate related actions in their communities and managed to gather more than 50 CSOs at the first annual meeting of the future Climate Coalition. In 2020 the project focus was strengthening the Climate Coalition. The secretariat members were elected and the coalition was represented through active participation in working groups on climate policies and coalition meetings. The regional coordinators were also selected and they provided the much-needed local climate action for each of the 8 regions of the country. In the same time the partner organisations and the CSOs involved in the climate coalition jointly and individually have established good communication with the central and local government, regularly providing comments and suggestions of new or revised legal and policy documents, meetings regarding cooperation and coordination for climate actions on national and local level etc. To raise awareness about climate we produced five educational videos on climate and just transition, published three campaigns on climate and related issues, organized a climate movie night, published more than 20 articles on climate. The project also supported two organisations with small joint projects for hike for climate and bike for climate which alone provided more than 150.000 citizens' outreach. The project targets have been overachieved in 2020, with media outreach beyond 800 000 citizens.

(5) GEAR- Green economy for an advanced region, supported by the European Commission

This project is implemented in partnership between Eko-svest and a number of CSOs from the region (5-Fors Montenegro- Montenegro, SMart Kolektiv-Srbija, EDEN Center-Albania, Center for Development and support- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association SLAP-Croatia) and is focused on raising awareness and education about green economy. Four educational materials (brochure on green economy and green entrepreneurship, brochure on good practice in GE; manual on green economy and green entrepreneurship; study on the possibilities to develop green economy were produced and the project has a strong capacity building component, as it provides a series of trainings for CSOs and public authorities. The project lasts until August 2021. In 2020 the focus was on production of a series of educational materials. Five-subgrants were provided to local CSOs for implementing green economy projects in their communities and had a chance to advocate and promote the concepts of green economy and green entrepreneurship and their importance for sustainable development among general public, local and national authorities.

(6) 50 shades of Air, funded by the Swedish Embassy in N. Macedonia

In 2020, we received a small grant to work on raising awareness about air pollution. In cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden in Skopje we co-organized a photo competition under the theme “50 shades of air” and we asked citizens to send us photos that clearly show how air pollution affects their lives every day or show possible solutions to this problem. We received 115 photos coming from both urban and rural areas in the country. Three winners that best captured the theme were chosen and awarded and 36 photographs were printed as posters and part of a one month travelling exhibition in 7 busses of JSP-Skopje. Additionally, the photo gallery was sponsored on social media to increase visibility along with a one-month social media campaign on air pollution. The project duration was 3 months and it finished in November 2020.

(7) Defying the hydropower sustainability myth, funded by Patagonia

With this grant, Eko-svest managed to continue working on specific analysis of the impacts of small hydro power plants in the country. We engaged two geomorphologists who performed an analysis on the impact of all constructed projects on the geomorphology and forests and as a result a study was published. We also managed to raise awareness about this issue specifically in relation to the lack of regulation related to the operations of small hydro such as fish passages and ecological flow of rivers. As a result, Eko-svest will be involved in the preparation of new regulation as well as improvements to the water law in the next period.

(8) Promoting energy transition in North Macedonia, funded by CEE Bankwatch Network, through the SIDA programme

This project contributes towards the energy transition of the country through advocacy and awareness raising for a just transition away from coal use and for protecting the climate. The project started in June 2020 and ended in December.

The project’s main product was a documentary movie about the energy transition and possibilities for alternative economic development. The 1-hour documentary highlighted the connection between coal and health impacts, the importance of increased use of renewable energy sources, specifically rooftop solar and moving coal regions towards a better future through the process of locally led just transition. The documentary premiered on national TV in February 2021.

In addition, the project helped Eko-svest perform surveys and focus groups in coal dependent regions. As a result, we were able to produce campaign and information materials used for awareness raising activities. In combination with the journalist training and climate movie nights, these activities helped reach out to more than 100,000 people.

(9) Ending Coal and Enabling Just Transition in the Kichevo Region, funded by Climate Action Network Europe

Main goal of this project was to ensure the path towards coal phase out dates through participation in the NECP process and just transition of the Kichevo region in Macedonia through working with the local communities to develop together a joint understanding and agree on best practices for the just transition of the region. We had two representatives in NECP working groups and the document has coal phase out dates. To support the Just Transition process we produced data on the possibilities for installing rooftop PVs on households in Kichevo region and an analysis exploring the possibilities of developing the Kichevo region as an eco-tourism destination, mapping the potentials for development of alternative tourism branches in the Kichevo region. These documents were consulted with local communities from Kichevo region where participants agreed that the region has many unique opportunities to develop away from coal. Throughout the project there was close collaboration with journalists from the country that cover energy and climate topics and published 7 articles on the topics of energy transition, just transition and green recovery. 2 of those articles were investigative pieces focusing on the results from both analyses published through this project. The project started in January 2020 and ended in July 2020.

(10) Protected areas for nature and people (PA4NP II), funded by SIDA through WWF Adria

In 2020 Eko-svest became an official partner to WWF Adria, as our Ana Colovic Lesoska started working as their Policy officer under the PA4NP II project. This project aims at improving the management of the protected areas in the countries of the Western Balkans, by supporting protected area managers as well as civil society organisations working on protection of nature and the environment. The 3-year project will finish at the end of 2022. During 2020 Eko-svest organised several meetings and workshops with institutions on the issues related to efficient protected area management and established cooperation with several protected areas as well as international institutions such as the IUCN and the Bern Convention.

Publications in 2020

Team EKO (2020)

The adventures of our superheroes from Team EKO in our first comic book! The coal is in the past and the fight against it starts now! The comic book is created in collaboration with Makstripovi through the support of the Delegation of the European Union in N. Macedonia.



Manual for green economy and green entrepreneurship (2020)

With this manual we seek to encourage the readers of critical and advanced thinking about certain subjects, depending on their personal and professional inclinations and interests. We hope the manual will motivate the activists of civil society organisations, as well as, the entrepreneurs and the representatives in public sector, to realize their role in creating a new economy, more just society and better living environment.



The story of Jaglenko (Coal-man) (2020)

The story of Jaglenko (Coal-man) is our attempt to bring the truth about nature closer to children. We hope that we will also encourage you to think differently about every decision you make (at least those related to your household) and start making environmentally friendly energy choices. We hope that you will share the reasons behind your choices with the youngest in your family, and at the same time remember the story of Jaglenko (Coal-man). Help us create a safer future for our future generations!



Examples of good practice in the green economy and green entrepreneurship (2020)

The brochure is intended for all of those who think and live “green” and sustainably through the activities of their organisations, but also who with their personal views and actions respect and protect the natural heritage of mankind. The short introduction into the topic, and especially the examples of good practice from the European Union, open a space for reflection, and spreading the view of the concept itself, as well as, of the green economy and green entrepreneurship movement.



ПРИМЕРИ НА ДОБРА ПРАКТИКА ВО ЗЕЛЕНАТА ЕКОНОМИЈА И ЗЕЛЕНОТО ПРЕТПРИЕМНИШТВО



Analysis of the degree of harmonization and implementation of selected sectors from Chapter 27 (2020)

This analysis covers the sectors of air pollution and climate, under the Chapter 27- Environment and it focuses on the level of transposition and implementation of the legislative framework on national level with EU laws.



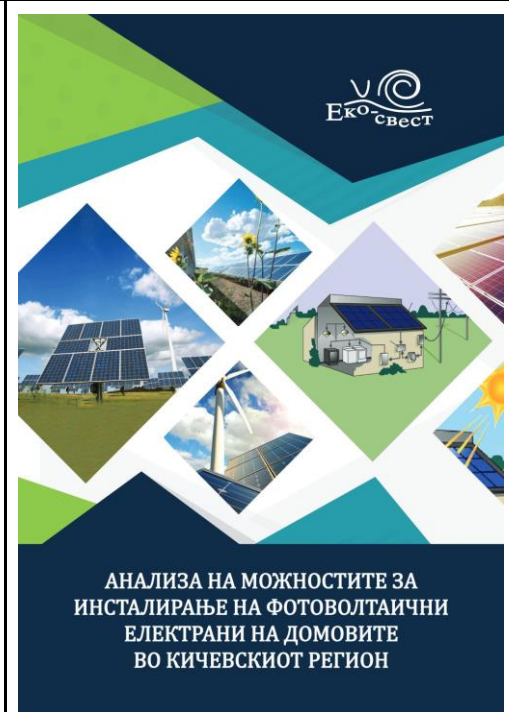
Green economy and green entrepreneurship (2020)

This brochure was created as part of the project “GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region”, which aims to increase the activities and impact of civil society organisations in North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania, in protection of the environment through networking, capacity building and promotion of green economy. This is just an introductory reading that will present an important topic of creating a new, greener and more sustainable world economy. It will encourage action on green development.



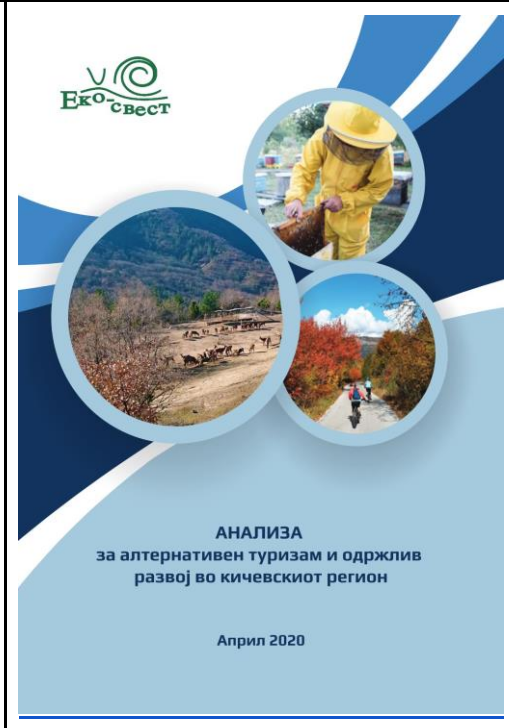
ANALYSIS OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS IN HOMES IN KICHEVO REGION

In this analysis we provide an economic assessment of the options for transition of the Kichevo region from a coal-based to an environmentally and economically sustainable region. The analysis was performed with Center for economic analysis- CEA.



ANALYSIS for alternative tourism and sustainable development of Kichevo region (2020)

The analysis for development of alternative types of tourism in Kichevo region is created as part of the project „GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region“, as an addition to "Economic analysis - transition towards development without lignite: the Oslomej case". The economic analysis elaborates a projected scenario for initiating alternative economic activities in three sectors (agriculture, processing industry and tourism) through which gradually over a period of five years through just transition is expected substitution of the full workforce by REK Oslomej.



Finances in 2020

REVENUES FOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP & SERVICES PROVIDED

	<u>In Denars Year Ended</u>	
	<u>December 31,</u>	
	2020	2019
1. Projects		
-Establishing a management and monitoring system for the Monument of nature Vevcani springs, supported by UNDP	-	1,537,755
-Save the Blue Heart Campaign in partnership with Front 21/42	222,238	42,010
-PA4NP via WWF Adria	2,963,828	-
-Just transition project supported by CAN Europe- Europe Beyond Coal	178,743	405,855
-Defying the myth of small hydro projects supported by Patagonia Foundation	-	443,714
-European Climate Foundation ECF	1,751,885	1,666,490
-European Climate Foundation- FFF	344,410	-
-National strategy for dealing with air pollution, supported by the Ministry for environment and physical planning of North Macedonia	-	200,000
-Open Society Institute	-	106,096
-EEB Transfers for covering travel costs	29,692	-
-Activities of CEE Bankwatch Network	1,904,065	4,136,642
-CEE Bankwatch Network – small grant from SIDA	803,565	-
-50 shades of Air campaign supported by the Swedish Embassy	-	92,247
-Delegation of European Union in North Macedonia		
Projects Communities communicating climate change	2,802,112	5,073,412
-Delegation of the European Union-Decarbonisation project	2,760,166	-
-Delegation of the European Union in North Macedonia		
Project IPA2CSO	-	138,805
-Cooperation with DUH on NOx measuring	294,532	-
-Raising awareness about the lindane in cooperation with MES	-	54,240
-GEAR project, via FORS Montenegro	1,449,833	2,523,791
	15,505,069	16,421,057
2. Membership	-	-
3. Donations		
-Front 21/42	-	12,000
-Donations from members	20,932	46,106
-Support to Ekosfera	3,000	-
4. Services provided	23,932	58,106

-Humanitarian Race	15,444	-
-EDRM	18,508	-
-Macedonian Ecological Society	61,000	-
-GGC Go green collaboration on the climate toolkit	48,270	-
-Other	-	59,540
	143,222	59,540
TOTAL (1+2+3+4)	<u>15,672,223</u>	<u>16,538,703</u>

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	In Denars	
	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Office materials consumed	95,906	52,466
Energy & communal expenses	20,204	211,784
Renting business premises	264,000	295,953
Post, telephones, internet	99,679	183,836
Accounting & audit	212,553	313,799
Bank charges	78,605	64,452
Intellectual services	2,916,543	1,694,888
Donations to other entities	6,485,135	4,665,354
Promotional materials	556,423	487,504
Other miscellaneous	709,110	1,973,436
TOTAL	11,438,158	9,943,472

STAFF COSTS

STAFF COSTS	In Denars	
	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Gross salaries for employees	6,877,876	4,601,127
Allowances	109,840	67,056
Per diem	28,833	479,886
TOTAL	7,016,549	5,148,069

Our team



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Nevena Smilevska

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR



Msc. Jasmina Said

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



Stojan Lesoski

PROJECT COORDINATOR



Elena Nikolovska

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Davor Pehchevski

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Helena Andonova

DATA ANALYST



Angel Kuzmanov

PROJECT COORDINATOR



Maja Kambovska

PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK

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