

PROJECT:
**MONITORING OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL AND ELECTORAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE AND
POLITICAL FINANCING**

MONTHLY REPORT
JANUARY 2016

Supported by:

SKOPJE, 2016



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1. THE BEGINNING OF THE MONITORING

After the training that was held on and 23.12.2015, on 01.01.2016, the process of development of the project " MONITORING OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL AND ELECTORAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE AND POLITICAL FINANCING " had begun by Transparency International Macedonia and CEA, in partnership with eight local organizations. The process is carried through to local organizations, tracking by the Press Clipping MKD-agency that provides services in the field of press clipping and submitting a report on a daily basis for media coverage, by previously defined keywords and online-monitoring across multiple tools (documents, databases data, excel tools), questionnaires and forms for monitoring local and national level that will allow the platform to monitor the expenditures of marketing activities of political parties.

2. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

According the Legal regulation, Electoral Code, for the purposes of the project was prepared a bulletin with the key dates connected to the Parliamentary elections scheduled for 24.04.2016. Our teams are conducting the activities, foreseen under the original calendar of activities, closely following any changes to it in the future.

Date	Activity
At earliest 25.01.2016 – at latest 14.02.2016	Announcing elections
At earliest 27.01.2016 – at latest 04.04.2016	A separate bank account
01.04.2016	Announcing the participants of the list of the candidates
04.04.2016	Start of the election campaign
14.04.2016	Financial report (incomes/outcomes)
22.04.2016	Electoral silence
24.04.2016	Elections
30.04.2016	Financial report (incomes/outcomes)

3. SUMMARY

In the month of January the mutual project “The monitoring of the pre-electoral and electoral expenditures and the political financing” had begun. The process of the monitoring in the first week passed without particular activities due the holidays at that time of the year, but the following weeks have already brought several activities of political financing to which we have reacted respectfully. That includes a requests for information of public interest referring the budget program, national or local strategy for the planned expenditures, decisions and permission for using the public places by the Municipality Councils or the relevant represent of the institution (sector, department etc.), the expenditures of the political parties, payment methods etc. With the cooperation of our local monitors we have a correspondence with the relevant institutions about the concerned issues regarding the political financing in the monitored places.

General findings

The dominant part of the announces of the project-activities (52% from the total number of them) are coming from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia(RM), then second on the list are MLSP (26%). Two conclusions can be taken: a large centralization in the planning and conducting to all the activities in this period by the Government that announces that part of the project announcements regarding the other budget users and that it has ad hoc solutions that are not covered in the planning of the corresponding budget.

A small part of the posts includes the information about the sources of the funds as well as programs/strategies/plans which will be based on the foreseen project.

The percentage of the posts at the budget users that consists financial information, analysis or actual source of funds, excluding the MLSP is below 30%.

By the monitoring of the structure of the announces (the target and the projects) of the key budget users can be seen that the focus is at the: the farmers and the social vulnerable categories (also in not that severe manner at the students/retired people).

A special conclusion initiates the response of the demands to access the information of the public character where it has shown that part of the posts are connected to already finished activities before 6 or more months (in this case the payment of subventions)that in addition affects the public opinion in the pre-electoral period.

In these posts have not been made any notes about the fiscal implications, the risks, analysis of the profiles of the users of the services and their needs in prior and there has not been made any note of the impact of the legislation of the corresponding law regulations.

Budget user	Total number of posts	Number of posts that have financial data	% of content that has financial data	% of the contents that do NOT have financial data
Government	85	23	27%	73%
MLSP	42	19	45%	55%
MTC	8	2	25%	75%
MF	17	4	24%	76%
AFSRD	3	1	33%	67%
MW	5	1	20%	80%
PR	1	0	0%	100%

Political party VMRO - DPMNE intensifies the events in the municipality / public premises in Stip and Prilep etc. There will be a follow up to check under what circumstances the political party used the public premises. Government and municipality activities for opening new facilities and collection of new ideas have continued. There are examples of clear party activities promoted by mixing the representatives from different state powers (executive and legislative) for the party activities. (VMRO - DPMNE). Frosina Remenski (Vice president of the SDSM) the technical minister of labor and social policy visited Struga on 28 January (Thursday). Kire Naumov the chairman of the Finance Committee of SDSM and additional deputy finance minister, accompanied by Cvetanka Laskova president of the Forum of Women from SDSM and Victor Petrusovski member of the Executive Board of SDSM visiting residents Leshok, Dobroshte, Odri, Glogje, Neproshteno and Tearce. (26.01.2016). Considering that the visits were taken in working days there will be follow up if the public funds (vehicles) have been used. However, after the statement of the TI Macedonia the attitude of the SDSM ministers has changed and they continued with political activities after the working hours.

Northeastern region (Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka, Kratovo)

As a part of the monitoring of the political parties we have received information about using the public place (square) in Kumanovo by the regional organization of the political party SDSM as a part of the celebration of the Christmas Eve on 05.01.2016 with included gifts. We have sent an official letter (request) on 15.01.2016 to the relevant institution (Municipality) to obtain an information about the event: plan, program, expenditures, permission for using the public place, decision for using the public place approved by the Municipality Council payment method (donation, party account etc) and we are still expecting the return information.

Eastern region (Shtip, Kochani, Karbinci)

According the announcement on the website Kurir <http://bit.ly/1SpNKX5> with title: „A great interest for the new project for young people on the debate of the UMS(UYF) of VMRO - DPMNE in the great hall of the Municipality of Shtip held on 30.01.2016, we have sent an official request (letter) no.0302-406-2 on 02.02.2016 to the Municipality of Shtip to obtain the information about the use of the public place (permission, decision if permitted from the Council of the Municipality, payment method). We got the return information od 04.02.016 with the letter no. 09-120/1 with the respective information about the permission ,the decision (The Municipality Council), the cost (100mkd per hour) and the payment method by the individual subject-the president of the UMS of VMRO - DPMNE in Shtip- Dragan Janev.

On the local TV Channel 5 we've noticed an announcement for employment in the kindergarten "Vera Ciriviri-Trena" on 13.01.2016 and we have sent a request to this institution (letter.no.0302-350 on 20.01.2016) expecting the information about the strategy, Council's decision and financial realization of announcement.

Southwestern region (Struga, Ohrid, Makedonski Brod)

According the website of the Ministry of transport and communications on 10.12.2016 has been announced a news: <http://mtc.gov.mk/index.php/media-centar/vesti/595-2015-12-12-11-09-03> "The reconstruction of the 2 regional roads has begun-Melnichki Most-Centar Zhupa and Boshkov Most-Debar". We have requested an information by the Ministry with letter no.03-02-306 about the program budget, national strategy and financial realization and we are still expecting the return information.

Activity of the SDSM ministers conducting party activities in the working hours and using official vehicles.

Pelagonian region (Bitola, Prilep, Novaci)

We have 2 letters pointed to Municipality of Bitola.

The first letter concerns the Announcement of procurement of the Offers for the geodetic services for the needs of the Municipality of Bitola (letter no.24-215/2015 on 13.1.2016) with a response that the Announcement is still open and the institution cannot give the relevant information and the second letter concerning the Procurement of the promotional material for the needs of the Municipality (letter no.0302-347 on 20.01.2016) with a response that the announcement is in the phase of evaluation.

Southeastern region (Strumica, Gevgelija, Bosilovo)

In the Municipality of Strumica the request no.03-02-374 on 25.01.2016 has been sent based on the announcement on the website on 18.01.2016 ww.strumica.gov.mk –“Komunalec lavished with salt and crushed stone on the streets in the town” and the answer (letter no.120232/1 from 02.02.2016) covered the Program for maintenance the street and the local roads in the city and the Municipality of Strumica for 2015-2016 in winter conditions-dec.no.01-980/1 on 29.10.2015 of the Council held on 20.10.2015.

Skopje region (Center, Aerodrom, Gazi Baba)

In this month in the region of Skopje, there has been sent one letter to municipality Center no.0302-346-18.02.2016, regarding the announcement of the media “The credit foreseen for the floor parking garage will be reallocate for construction of new elementary school”. The municipality of Center responded, that this project is the part of the Development program for construction of elementary school in Kapishtec, as a part of the Medium term plan and program for development of 2016/17, confirmed by municipality of Center on the 47-th session held on 13.11.2015.

FOI LETTERS

Transparency International Macedonia and CEA with the mutual cooperation of the local monitoring organizations continually monitor the events, statements, press releases and at this point had been sent more than 100 letters regarding the information on budget expenditures and political party financing (page –Correspondence).

MONITORING OF THE BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN THE PRE-ELECTION AND ELECTION PERIOD

Monitoring period: 01.01.2016 to 31.01.2016

4. MONITORING INDICATORS OF THE BUDGET EXPENDITURES/SPENDING ON A CENTRAL LEVEL

- ✓ A significant increase of the budget deficit in the third quarter, however if the equality and the execution of the budget deficits is considered that it can be determined that a significant portion of the budget deficits incurred in the first and in the second quarter of 2015.
- ✓ In 2015 there is a significant increase of the government bonds issued, over the usual seasonal movement in the first three quarters of the year compared to previous years, while in the 4th quarter there is a reduction of the same.
- ✓ The strong trend of foreign borrowing in periods/years when there have been elections in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014. The same trend is expected in the election cycle that follows, especially since the data shows increased pace of external borrowing in the third and in the fourth quarter 2015.
- ✓ Starting from the third quarter of 2015 the capital expenditures are significantly increased compared with their usual/seasonal movement.
- ✓ Increased expenditures for social benefits transfer in May and in September 2015.
- ✓ During the first half of the year, the item "other transfers" shows a significant increase over the usual seasonal pattern.
- ✓ The expenditures for salaries and wages leap in the 3rd quarter of 2015 as largest since 2008.
- ✓ Goods and services expenditure in 2015 starting from the third quarter indicate a significant increase above the seasonal pattern.
- ✓ Transfers to the Employment Agency are increased, starting from the second quarter of 2015 when there is a growth of the expenditures.
- ✓ Increased health care expenditures over their seasonal movement/pattern starting from the second quarter and the trend are maintained up until the end of 2015.
- ✓ There has been an increase in tax revenues from August to October 2015 while the level of execution of the tax revenues shows that in the fourth quarter the tax revenues generated are lower – indicating lower tax pressure on the citizens.
- ✓ Value added tax revenues begin to rise in the second quarter, which is a result of the accelerated economic activity. It should be noted though that the shift in the VAT revenue is affected by the VAT refund payments being made, concerning which there are no specific information concerning the amounts and the time of implementation.

- ✓ Starting from the 2nd and 3rd quarter the administrative fees and fines in 2015 decline, i.e. have considerable decline in their realization compared to the expected equality in disposition.

5. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE WEB SITES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SELECTED BUDGET USERS

- ✓ Only 5% of the total number of the announcements contain analytical elaboration of the planned/implemented activities which are the topic of the announcement
- ✓ Only a modest portion of the announcements (12% in January 2016) cover information on the sources of funding, only 10 % of the
- ✓ Announcements contain information on the programs/strategies/plans which contain and encompass the announced activity/project.
- ✓ In January 2016 compared to December 2015, the
- ✓ Total number of announcements are reduced (almost by 1/3) and the announcement of additional
- ✓ Qualitative and quantitative data for each of the announcements for each of the announcements by the monitored institutions is reduced (except the State Roads PE).
- ✓ The Ministry for agriculture, forestry and water economy and the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development have not covered financial data and analytics in none of the announcements. In 80% of the announcements of the Ministry for labor and social policy and the Ministry for Transport and Communications, the announcements do not contain financial construction and other quantitative and qualitative information for the announced activities.
- ✓ The predominant announcements within the month, i.e. Three quarters of the total number of announcements, are from the Government of the RM.
- ✓ The target of the key budget users' announcements (the content of the projects) is mainly the: youngsters, farmers, and socially vulnerable categories (and less the unemployed and the retirees).
- ✓ During the January monitoring period, 5 Requests for access to public information (RAPI) pertaining to expenditures from the central budget have been forwarded, which are still awaiting a response, more specifically forwarded to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia (3), and Ministry of Finance (2).
- ✓ In the same monitoring period only 3 replies of the previously forwarded (former reporting period) RAPI have been received. Out of these three replies, two are from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and one response from the Agency for Roads of RM. A positive response that planned expenditures are in-line with the programs and

Significant lack of transparency in the website announcements of the monitored budget users in terms of quantitative and qualitative data concerning the announced projects. Continued inert trend of the budget users not to respond promptly or ignore sections of the requests for access to public information (RAPI).

strategies of the institution, while on the question of whether there has been an estimate of the budgetary implications of the planned spending there have been no responses.

6. MONITORING OF THE EXPENDITURES ON A LOCAL LEVEL

- ✓ During this monitoring period there have been 72 expenditures followed with additional information requests for these specific expenditures. Two thirds of the recorded expenditures are concerning capital expenditures.
- ✓ A larger part of the capital/operating expenditures are identified in the municipalities of Ohrid, Gevgelija, Bitola, Prilep, Kumanovo, and significantly less in the municipalities of Gazi Baba, Karbinci, Novaci, Kratovo, Makedonski Brod, and Chashka, which except for Gazi Baba are predominantly smaller rural municipalities.
- ✓ The areas where most of the identified expenditures are identified are predominantly: renovation/reconstruction of kindergartens, primary schools and other education buildings, reconstruction of local roads and streets, reconstruction of water supply network systems and sewage network systems
- ✓ Out of the total 24 monitored municipalities, there have been identified and forwarded requests for access to public information (RAPI) for identified expenditures within total of 18 municipalities. In the monitoring period, total of 46 RAPI are forwarded, based on the identified expenditures (spending), while at the same time for a certain number of municipalities there have been no expenditures identified.
- ✓ For a number of municipalities as are the municipalities of Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka, Ohrid, and Aerodrom, the information regarding the expenditures are obtained without the need for official forwarding of a RAPI – Request for access of public information, while in most of the municipalities this is not the case.
- ✓ Out of the 72 totally noted expenditures, for 24 expenditures, there are total or partial information obtained as a reply to RAPI.
- ✓ In regards to the content of the replies of the municipalities, it is indicative, that some of the questions such as whether prior the decision of the expenditure to occur there is a regulatory impact assessment - RIA, the question is ignored by the authorities.
- ✓ Most of the municipal capital and operating expenditures identified, or 63%, are planned in the municipal programs, for 58% there is a Decision of the municipal council, while only 50% of the expenditures have been planned in the budget program and plans.
- ✓ Only 8% of the expenditures are already projected in all of the strategic and current documents which for the major part or 2/3 (more specifically 67%) are identified in at least 2 documents.

Significant portion of the expenditures on a local level recorded in the monitoring period are not clearly planned and contained in the strategic and program documents and in the municipal budget.

7. WEEKLY REPORTS (BRIEFINGS)

Content: 4 (four weekly reports)

Period: 01.01.2016 – 29.01.2016

In the first week of January 2015 the activities of the monitoring of the budget and the political parties expenditures in the political advertising have begun. The monitors divided in regions have noticed the following activities of the political parties:

1. Northeastern region (Kumanovo, Kriva palanka, Kratovo)

Monitor: DROM Kumanovo

• ***SDSM***

- A facebook post of the Mayor of the Municipality Kumanovo: two videos in duration of 90sec. named "The crimes of VMRO - DPMNE".
- The regional organization of the SDSM in Kumanovo in the headquarter building organized pre New Year's cocktail, where among the others, were present the Minister of the Interior affairs and the general secretary of the SDSM, Oliver Spasovski, the Mayor of Kumanovo Zoran Damjanovski, as well as the members of the local government and the rest of the political party members. (30.12.2015)
- The municipal district of the SDSM Kumanovo at the Christmas Eve, starting at 21:00h have organized a celebration at the City square in Kumanovo, announced by the spokesman of the political party SDSM, Sasho Todorovski. The big celebration of the Christmas Eve have begun with the cultural artistic program (Nino Velichkovski) and have continued with the traditional Christmas Eve fire and distribution of the traditional breads with one gold coin and ten silver coins, around 100 lighters, calendars and etc. financed by the supporters of the party.(06.01.2016).
- The Association of women of the SDSM in Kriva Palanka has organized a humanitarian action on the occasion of the New Year's and Christmas holidays. The action consisted donation of clothes, shoes and beddings. The donation and the distribution of the aid took place in the offices of MD of the SDSM Kriva Palanka. The members of the SDSM have also organized a modest Christmas party there and New Year's party with around 200 supporters (04.01.2016).

• ***VMRO - DPMNE***

- An organized cocktail party in the headquarters of the political party. Between the invitees were some members and also the reporters, around 150 people were present there. There were balloons with the bearing of the party and the ones with symbol of the national flag item of Republic of Macedonia. (30.12.2015)

2. Vardar region (Veles, Kavadarci, Chashka)

Monitor: FOKUS Veles

- **VMRO - DPMNE**

- In the New Year's speech the Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski announced 100 job positions in Veles (31.12.2015).
- The Mayor of the municipality of Veles, Slavcho Chadiev, in one TV addition of the Channel 5 announced that in January it will be published an announcement for new job positions in Veles, and in the following year the focus would be on the building of the solid infrastructure, industrial region Mamutchevo and preparation works for the new circuit. After the meeting with the Chinese ambassador and the visit of the place Vanule and the factory for rail vehicles, Chadiev announced opening of the new investments (29.12.2015).
- The Mayor of Municipality of Kavadarci, Aleksandar Panov in his speech announced a whole replacement of the asbestos pipes in the city, the new arranging of the city entrance by the side of Rosoman, in January there will be opening of a tender procedure for the construction of the aqua park and a construction of a new kindergarten. Panov continued with the announcement of the third call for the most adequate offer for the construction of the parking lot where should be hired around 20 people. He also mentioned the construction of the road Krnjevo-Bohula, construction of the high school Dobri Daskalov, intervention of the roof in the school Kiro Spandzov and construction and reparation of the main streets in the municipality. He announced new investments by Kozhuvchanka, Sloga Prom, agro exchange for the agricultural products, Mebel Vi, Urban Invest, Lukoil and investments in Drenovo, Konopishte and Kavadarci by the Union bank (31.12.2015).

In other regions there were not noticed any activities.

Reports and characteristics of the announces of the budget users

- The dominant part of the announces of the project-activities (52% from the total number of them) are coming from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, then second on the list are MLSP (26%). Two conclusions can be taken: a large centralization in the planning and conducting to all the activities in this period by the Government that announces that part of the project announcements regarding the other budget users and that it has ad hoc solutions that are not covered in the planning of the corresponding budget.

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- The percentage of the posts at the budget users that consists financial information, analysis or actual source of funds, excluding the MLSP is below 30%.
- By the monitoring of the structure of the announces (the target and the projects) of the key budget users can be seen that the focus is at the: the farmers and the social vulnerable categories (also in not that severe manner at the students / retired people).
- A special conclusion initiates the response of the demands to access the information of the public character where it has shown that part of the posts are connected to already finished activities before 6 or more months (in this case the payment of subventions)that in addition affects the public opinion in the pre-electoral period.
- In these posts have not been made any notes about the fiscal implications, the risks, analysis of the profiles of the users of the services and their needs in prior and there has not been made any note of the impact of the legislation of the corresponding law regulations.

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Table. Announcements and characteristics of the posts of the budget users for the month of December 2015

In the second week of January 2016 the activities of the monitoring of the budget and the political parties expenditures in the political advertising have continued. The monitors divided in regions have noticed the following activities of the political parties:

SDSM

Field activities

- The Forum of the woman of SDSM in Strumica has visited the Association of Deaf and partially Deaf people in Strumica. The prize of 3.000,00 MKD has been awarded of the person who found the coin in the bread.
- The Minister of Interior Mr. Oliver Spasovski on 9th of January had a meeting with the citizens in Lukovo in the Municipal building.
- Zoran Zaev visited the Traditional carnival in Vevchani on 13th of January.
- The Minister of Interior Mr. Oliver Spasovski on 9th of January had a meeting with the citizens in Ohrid.
- SDSM Kumanovo has opened 6 offices, each covering 20 - 50m².
- The Youth of SDSM Aerodrom along the Boulevard Jane Sandanski set messages for raising the pollution awareness and to stop with the cutting of the trees in the municipality and the city of Skopje.
- Epiphany-throwing the orthodox crust sponsored by the Mayor of Municipality of Kratovo.
- Zoran Zaev was a guest on a TV show of the television Kanal 5.

Media, announcements and press-conferences

- SDSM Veles on the press conference came out with accusations that, part of the medical workers are using the specialization of the hospital from Veles, but they are working in the other hospitals.
- SDSM Kavadarci announced on the press conference, that the hospital in Kavadarci is in chaos.
- The Mayor of the Municipality of Kriva Palanka Mr. Arsencho Aleksovski was a guest in the morning show of K3 television.
- Announcement (post) on Facebook page by MD of Kumanovo with a title: "ARREST in 100 steps".
- Announcement (post) on Facebook of Ljupcho Nikolovski regarding the information of the firewood.

Other activities

- 15.01.2016, The members and the sympathizers of the MD Veles had a celebration through the town, after the resignation of the Prime Minister.
- 15.01.2016, The members and the sympathizers of the Kavadarci had a celebration through the town, after the resignation of the Prime Minister.

VMRO - DPMNE

Field activities

- On 13.01.2016 in the Municipality Zrnovci VMRO - DPMNE organized a public stand from the political party.
- On 12.01.2016 in the Hall of culture in Novo Selo ,VMRO - DPMNE organized a public stand as a part in the project “ Macedonia needs your idea”.
- On 14.01.2016 the executive manager of the Public Enterprise Management of the business and private property in Strumica, Alaksandar Madzarov, gave an apartment to a person from Strumica from the vulnerable category: children without parents.
- The Prime minister Nikola Gruevski inspected the construction activities near Romanovce,in execution of the project-Electrical payment system of the toll road.
- The Municipality of Aerodrom supported the traditional manifestation of the Michurin’s meeting.
- The Youth of MD Centar have donated food and warm clothes to the socially jeopardized families.
- The Mayor of MD Veles, the Archbishop of the Povardar Eparchy and NGO of the Municipality of Veles, shared the New year’s presents of the members of the Daily Center for the person with special needs in Veles.
- The Prime minister signed a contract with the Indian group BRG for investment in the factory in Veles “ Porcelanka”.
- The members of the Association of the women of VMRO - DPMNE in Veles on the occasion of Old New Year have visited the Daily center for the person with special needs.
- The Mayor of Municipality of Kavadarci, Aleksandar Panov has granted 70 special packages to 70 families that are using the social benefits as a donation from several local markets.
- The Mayor of the Minucilaity of Kavadarci on the occasion of the holiday Vasilica with the President of the Counsil, counselor from VMRO - DPMNE and the Secretary of the municipality were present of the Vasilica’s fire where he granted the children with chocolates.

Media, announcements and press-conferences

- Nikola Gruevski on the meeting with the citizens of Kumanovo, announced the further planned activities on a local media presentation.
- On the local television K3 in the show “Interview” in timeline of 50 minutes,the member of the Parliament Vlatko Gjorchev was a guest.

DUI

In the period of 08.01.2016 to 15.01.2016 there are not noted any activities.

DPA

In the period of 08.01.2016 to 15.01.2016 there are not noted any activities.

In the third week of January 2015 the activities of the monitoring of the budget and the political parties expenditures in the political advertising have continued. The monitors divided in regions have noticed the following activities of the political parties:

VMRO - DPMNE

1. 16th Congress of the Women's Association. The Women's Association of VMRO - DPMNE on 24.01.2016 has held their 16th Congress in Skopje (in the sport center Jane Sandanski). For transporting the participants were organized at least 60 buses from the interior of the country to Skopje (Strumica 12, Shtip 10, Prilep 10, Veles 11, Tetovo 8) as well as other transport vehicles. According to the information of the members of the VMRO - DPMNE in Shtip, the women were told to provide the presence of at least 500 members.



The organized transport of the members of the VMRO - DPMNE from Prilep

The expenditures for this activity would be a subject of further analyze.

2. Six people from the security and the right of using the official vehicle and a driver will obtain the former Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, according the Law Amending of the Law of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

Intensified activities of VMRO - DPMNE were noticed during the last week in many cities in Macedonia.

3. On the 21st of January, in the hotel Alexander palace in Skopje, a party activity was held with a presence of all the Mayors of VMRO - DPMNE. There have been used the resources from the Municipalities for their presence and this meeting has been held in the working hours.
4. In the Municipality of Aerodrom (the restaurant "Ragusa 919") and in the Municipality of Karposh was held a party debate.

5. The official vehicles were used during the visit by Nikola Gruievski and Spiro Ristovski of the opening of the new tennis field in the municipality Babi, the visit of the University “Goce Delchev” and the visit of the objects in construction and the meeting with the citizens of Shtip.
6. Transparency Macedonia claims that VMRO - DPMNE paid 1.7million dollars for political lobbying and propaganda support.
7. On the web site of VMRO - DPMNE cannot be found any information about their financing.

SDSM

Field activities

1. The local TV Plus in Kumanovo officially will broadcast the direct broadcast of the Council session of the Municipality of Kumanovo.
2. The councilor of the party of SDSM in Veles on his Facebook account posted information connected with the false addresses of the individuals that are enrolled in the Electoral roll.
3. The party branch in Kavadarci informed that, certain firefighters of Kavaradci were employed by using false ID for voting purposes in Skopje and Kavadarci.

DUI

Field activities

1. Setting a Monument of the person Isa Boletini at the square SARAJ, financed by the Municipality of Saraj and by the presence of the leader of the party Ali Ahmeti anf the party officials.

In the fourth week of January 2016 the activities of the monitoring of the budget and the political parties expenditures in the political advertising have continued.

General observations:

I. There is an increasing trend of using public funds for party activities. Here are several examples that will be subject to follow up activities.

1. Political party VMRO - DPMNE organized events in the municipality/ public premises in Shtip and Prilep etc.) There will be a follow up to check under what circumstances the political party used the public premises
2. Government and municipality activities for opening new facilities and collection of new ideas have continued. There are examples of clear party activities promoted by mixing the representatives from different state powers (executive and legislative) for the party activities. (VMRO - DPMNE)
3. Frosina Remenski (Vice president of the SDSM) the technical minister of labor and social policy visited Struga on 28 January (Thursday).
4. Kire Naumov the chairman of the Finance Committee of SDSM and additional deputy finance minister, accompanied by Cvetanka Laskova president of the Forum of Women from SDSM and Victor Petrusovski member of the Executive Board of SDSM visiting residents Leshok, Dobroshte, Odri, Glogje, Neproshteno and Tearce. (26.01.2016)

Considering that the visits were taken in working days there will be follow up if the public funds (vehicles) have been used.

II. The State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption issued an Opinion regarding the issues related to the period from the announcement of the elections until the elections will be completed. It is unclear who asked the questions. However the Opinion issued by the SCPC will be carefully analyzed and accordingly referred.

<http://dskk.org.mk/images/stories/pdf/mislenje/mislenje-web.pdf>

III. Paid political advertising on Facebook continues.

The monitors have noticed the following activities of the political parties:

VMRO - DPMNE

Field activities

1. The Minister of Finance Zoran Stavreski and the manager of TIRZ, Victor Mizo, signed the contract with the manager of “Johnson controls” for the opening of a factory in Strumica, with a presence of the Prime Minister Emil Dimitriev, the president of VMRO - DPMNE Nikola Gruevski. The event was broadcasted to all the national TV stations, as well as on three local TV stations and one web site.
2. The deputy minister of education, Spiro Ristovski and the Mayor of the municipality of Gevgelija, Ivan Frangov on 28.01.2016 were present to the opening of the new elementary school in the village of Kovanec, municipality of Gevgelija.
3. VMRO - DPMNE during the whole week had a promotion of the project „Macedonia needs your idea” in several cities: in Kichevo, Mesheishta, Vevchani and Makedonski Brod with the presence of the member of the Executive board of VMRO - DPMNE Antonio Miloshoski with a presence of the Mayors of all the above mentioned municipalities. This project was also promoted by the members of VMRO - DPMNE in Kriva Palanka, Veles (the Union of Youth Forces), Prilep and Shtip as well. In several events was noticeable the using of the public resources in the party goals, for ex.in Shtip this meeting was held in the Grand hall of municipality of Shtip and all the guests that were part of the promotion were using public vehicles.



Picture.1 A meeting with a citizens of Prilep for the promotion of the project” Macedonia needs your idea”.

SDSM

Field activities

4. Frosina Remenski the technical minister of labor and social politics had a meeting with a group of young people in Struga in the coffee “Leone”. The same day she also met the people in Lozhani in the House of culture and in Drslajca in the Church Presveta Bogorodica.
5. SDSM visited several municipalities around the country, Zoran Zaev the president of the party visited municipality of Gazi Baba and Arachinovo. Kire Naumov the chairman of the Finance Committee of SDSM and additional deputy finance minister, accompanied by Cvetanka Laskova, president of the Forum of Women from SDSM and Victor Petrusevski member of the Executive Board of SDSM visiting residents Leshok, Dobroshte, Odri, Glogje, Neproshteno and Tearce. (26.01.2016)
6. Radmila Shekerinska the vice president of the party visited the municipality of Kriva Palanka.



Picture no.2 A meeting of the president of SDSM Zoran Zaev with the citizens of Gazi Baba

DPA

Tetovo-The Central Presidency of DPA has held a Session in the extended composition with a participation of the chiefs of all the branches. The President and the members of the Central Election Headquarter of DPA have been selected. For its president was elected Mr. Azem Sadiku.

Press clipping and advertising

28.01.2016

The government will allocate 750 000 eur, for hiking trails across the Prespa Lake. The longest trail will be on the move from Pretor , through Slivnica to Krani with a length of 4 km, the second will have one kilometer in Stenje, and the third path would be ashore in Dolno Dupeni. For the development of tourism in the Prespa region, the government will allocate an additional 46 million of the budget in the next eight months will be built pedestrian-bicycle paths on the shores of the lake with a length of 5.2 km with associated equipment and urban horticultural content.

27.01.2016

MRTV with a budget of 21 million euros. One third of the money is expected to be spent on salaries and retirement benefits to employees, and the rest of the programming and purchase of equipment. Macedonian Radio-Television will hold a budget of 21 million euros, ie 1.2917 billion MKD.

26.01.2016

City of Skopje plans to purchase furniture and equipment for the administration, which is estimated to spend up to 13,000 euros.

22.01.2016

City of Skopje purchased a passenger car on electric power (electric) for the needs of the city administration. For the purchase of this electric car City of Skopje spend about 1.8 million MKD with included VAT. The vehicle is purchased from the company TD "Ka-dis" LLC Skopje.

28.01.2016, Paid political advertising on Facebook by two members of SDSM:



Picture no.1



Picture no.2

8. CORRESPONDENCE (FOLLOW UP)

In the last month the teams of Transparency International Macedonia and CEA has an official and nonofficial communication with all the institution concerned in the monitoring process. The institutions to which we addressed had a legal term of one month to respond to our letters for cooperation and the requests for access to information of public interest. In the month of November and December the last year we have sent 38 Request for the access of the information of public interest to the concerned institution (ministers, municipalities, agencies) from which we have 29 responses, from the other 7 we received the information after the deadline ,and from the last 2 we did not receive any response. In the month of January we delivered 63 letters of this type and we have feedback from 6 institutions, considering that the legal deadline is not passed yet. The local organizations have sent 42 requests to the concerned institutions and received only one, still considering the legal term: Zip Institute send 5, received one and the others institution did not received any information but they have sent: MKC Bitola 5, Fokus Veles 2, EHO Shtip 4, LDA Struga 3, The Organization of women in Strumica 7. The organization Drom from Kumanovo have not sent any request for the information of public interest.

9. REPORTS FOR THE MEDIA (PRESS-CONFERENCES)

During the month (January) we had one press-conference and one statement for the media:

- The press conference for the media was held on 14.01.2016 in the Transparency International Macedonia office, by the Transparency International representative Slagjana Taseva PhD and the representative from the CEA Mr. Marjan Nikolov. On this press conference the media were informed about the start, the accepted methodology, the goals of the project, the local organizations of the project” Monitoring of the pre-electoral and electoral expenditure and political financing”.
- Slagjana Taseva PhD gave a statement on Telma television regarding the abuse of the public resources in political party goals.

10. FURTHER ACTIVITIES

In the next period besides the regular activities in the monitoring of the process the teams of TIM and CEA will take part in the capacity building of the organizations members of “The Platform to fight the corruption“, that will took a place in the Hotel Arka, on 10.02.2016 with the training program of “MONITORING OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL AND ELECTORAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND POLITICAL FINANCING”.