



Metamorphosis Annual Report for 2019

**Covering the programme activities
between**

January 1 to December 31, 2019

**June 2020
Skopje, Macedonia**

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Background

Vision: The Metamorphosis Foundation envisions a society where engaged and aware citizens actively use innovative tools to exercise their civic rights and responsibilities, where they are vigilant in influencing and holding their government to account, and thus ensure democratic, accountable, and responsive governance.

Mission to Achieve the Vision: The Metamorphosis Foundation is an independent organization, working in North Macedonia and its wider European home. The team is composed of committed democracy activists, united in common cause and the common values of mutual accountability, open communication, and an unshakeable commitment to universal human rights and democracy.

The Foundation strengthens the awareness and capacity of citizens and civil society to assume their fullest possible role as activists for democracy, while supporting government to fulfil its democratic role in serving society. Metamorphosis programmes focus on:

- media for democracy;
- social accountability;
- education for innovation;
- human rights online.

The Foundation supports those who struggle for these essential elements of a democratic and inclusive society, and it advocates for this work as a key partner with governments and citizens. It aims to become a leading national and regional advocate in supporting and enabling citizen engagement and government accountability, with a particular emphasis on the use of information technology and knowledge-sharing.

Metamorphosis was established in 1999 as part of the e-publishing program of the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia (FOSM), it became an independent foundation in 2004. During the first fourteen years of activity it established diverse portfolio of capacities as a basis of its reputation. Metamorphosis has formed lasting partnerships with various donors, including the EU, OSCE, USAID, the foreign affairs ministries and the embassies of USA, UK, Netherlands, France, Germany, Poland; grant makers such as Open Society Institute and FOSM, NED, BTD, as well as cooperation with business sector donors such as Microsoft and Google.

Metamorphosis celebrated 15 years since its establishment in 2019, a milestone marked with internal organizational changes to respond to the Foundation's programme goals; successful advocacy; promotion and upholding of professional journalism standards as well as intensive cooperation and support for the civil society.

Metamorphosis responded effectively to the political changes that occurred in 2019 through its four programme pillars. The media outlets of the Foundation responded with agility to the growing volume of disinformation preceding and following the change of the constitutional name to the country to the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as the delay of the decision to start accession negotiations with the EU. They also maintained their commitment to give steady visibility and analysis to community problems and seek public accountability from the authorities. In November 2019, the Metamorphosis media outlets, Portalb, Vistinomer and the Meta were awarded the Roberto Belicanec Award for

Media Promoter of Public Good in recognition of their work. This year, Metamorphosis also celebrated Vistinomer's certification as an International Fact Checking Network member, being committed to countering disinformation in an objective manner.

Advocacy for good governance practices was also among the highlights of Metamorphosis' work in 2019, which resulted with the adoption of the Strategy for Transparency by the Government of North Macedonia in November 2019. Metamorphosis supported the process of preparing this strategic document technically and also through the recommendations deriving from its four years long evidence-based research via ACTION SEE. The Metamorphosis team has also contributed to the preparation of the Law on Personal Data, the National Strategy for the Development of the Concept One Society and Interculturalism and has been engaged in the working group for the monitoring of the implementation of the Open Data Strategy 2018-2020. In the framework of the advocacy activities, we have followed closely and reacted to multiple policy developments throughout 2019 in the area of privacy protection and access to public information.

Metamorphosis continued its work as a member of international civil society networks IFEX, APC, EDRI, Global Voices, Creative Commons, ACTION SEE, TransparenCEE and the Internet Freedom Platform of Eastern and Central Europe and Eurasia.

2019 was a highly productive and awarding year for Metamorphosis. The programme objectives pursued through the projects implemented in 2019 continue to be our priorities in 2020. Below is a summary of the project Metamorphosis has worked on in 2019 and of the highlights of the achievements of each programme.

Media for Democracy

Free and professional media plays a crucial role in providing knowledge and in giving voice to citizens, disclosing corruption and developing a culture of criticism where citizens are less fearful about questioning government action and empowered to meaningfully participate in democratic processes.

Metamorphosis Foundation recognizes that an informed citizenry is vital to ensuring public and private sector accountability. Moreover, broad public access to information and the freedom to create and communicate ideas are critical to the advancement of knowledge, economic opportunity and human potential.

Key media outlets established through Metamorphosis programmes are Meta.mk, Portalb.mk and Vistinomer.mk.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- In March 2019 Truthmeter became a member of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and a verified signatory of the IFCN Code of Principles.
- In November 2019, Metamorphosis media outlets were recognized for their professional journalism standards and commitment to serving the truth through the Award for Media Promoter of Journalism as Public Good – Roberto Belicanec.
- Metamorphosis equipped its in-house video production laboratory with the commitment to increase the frequency and quality of the multimedia content published, which will, in turn, enable more effective communication of the information to the readership and greater engagement with the content.
- Truthmeter performed live fact-checking on the two presidential debates on both rounds of presidential elections. This was the first live fact-checking in North Macedonia and the region.
- Media outlets increased public awareness and influenced policies:
 - Metamorphosis media outlets exert pressure on public authorities to address relevant issues, that are often left unattended. An examples of such work is the accreditation of the state Central Laboratory for Measuring Air, Water and Soil Pollution in North Macedonia that happened at least partly due to the intensive coverage of the topic and informing the public of the situation. After continuous requests, in October the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning allowed Meta’s journalists to enter the state owned laboratory in order to take pictures and talk to the employees. In November a short educational video was published. Eventually, during November and December the Ministry of Environment and Physical planning started the process of reconstruction and accreditation of the Central laboratory. With that, the measurements and analyses will not have to be conducted by private entities and the state will finally be able to use its own tool for pollution control. This should eventually contribute to raised levels of public trust toward the state institutions as well as increase the transparency regarding the sources of air, water and soil pollution in North Macedonia.
 - In the commitment of contributing to lessening pollution in the country, Metamorphosis pointed out the need to seek a sustainable solution for the high number of old vehicles circulating in the country as well as the need to decrease traffic in the city centers which resulted with the introduction of a new eco-friendly import tax and the increase of the parking price in the center of Skopje.
 - Metamorphosis played a crucial role in stimulating the public discussion and the attention of other media on the topic of pay-toll prices through extensive fact-based coverage of the topic and comparisons with other countries of the region. Eventually, the Public Enterprise for State Roads introduced a minimal discount for frequent drivers via the new electronic pay-toll system.
 - The introduction of the on-site tickets in the public transportation busses in Skopje is another policy influenced by the Metamorphosis media outlets, which enables non-frequent users of the public transportation as well as tourists to make use of the available service.

Meta.mk - Independent News Agency

The general project goal is to enhance freedom of expression and access to information by supporting an independent news agency implementing the highest standards of professional journalism.

The Meta.mk News Agency officially started working in 3 languages (English, Macedonian and Albanian) in November 2014 and established a solid reputation of a reliable source of objective news on current events, whose contents is republished by over thirty domestic and foreign media outlets.

Meta.mk provides professional news service, and its reporting is used as a reference both by media and decision makers, including the highest representatives of international community. Meta.mk employed innovative use of social media to engage citizens and promote its contents. Foreign news agencies and key decision makers at EU level have been frequently using and re-distributing contents from the English version.



www.meta.mk

Portalb.mk – News Portal in Albanian Language

The news portal Portalb.mk was developed in April 2012, and over the years grew into one of the leading and most credible sources of information in Albanian language from Macedonia.

Its dedication to strict implementation of journalistic standards makes Portalb the attention to audience According to research by rating agency Gemius, Portalb is the most influential Albanian-language online media outlet in Macedonia, in terms of audience reception, and its original production also serves as a beacon of professional journalism and increases the pluralism in this segment of the media scene in Macedonia and the region.

In a very segregated media environment, Portalb contributes to increasing the social cohesion by providing an important linguistic bridge towards the Albanian-speaking communities by reporting on issues affecting citizens of all ethnicities in the country and translating contents produced in Macedonian.

Its reputation as relevant and serious source of information is compounded by high popularity thanks to innovative use of new technologies media. It introduced consistent use of live video streaming via social networks which further increased its popularity.



portalb.mk

Period: 01.07.2019 – 31.06.2020

Donor: National Endowment for Democracy

Partners: Innovative Media

Promoting the Accountability of Elected Officials by using New Technologies – the Truthmeter

The TruthMeter is a political fact-checking website that contributes to better citizen education and information about the elections and other democratic processes; contributes to greater government openness and accountability of public officials.

The general goal of the project is to contribute to greater government openness and accountability through providing online tools to increase access to public information and foster accountability of public officials. As key public watchdog it promotes fact-based evaluation of the public discourse in Macedonia, thus inciting independent analyses and investigative journalism.

The public education contents cater to a growing community of readers, primarily engaged via the social networks, represented by a Facebook fan page with over 19 thousand fans, as well as a network of media that reuse/republish the articles.

During 2019, the Truthmeter's focus has been on informing the citizens about the implementation of democratic reforms based on objective verification of claims by all political actors, evaluation of fulfilment of promises during the general as well as the presidential elections and countering disinformation around the change of the constitutional name of the country, as well as deconstructing spins through strict and consistent implementation of the established and transparent Methodology put in place since 2011.



vistinomer.mk
vertetmates.mk
truthmeter.mk



glasomer.mk
politichkispektar.mk

Period:
01.07.2017 – 30.06.2018
01.07.2018 – 30.06.2019

Donor:
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Period:
01.07.2018 – 31.12.2018

Donor:
Foundation Open Society Macedonia (FOSM)

Critical Thinking for Mediawise Citizens – CriThink.mk

The overall objective of CriThink is to promote media literacy as a basis for safeguarding the right of citizens to hold diverse opinions, via stimulating a culture of critical thinking, pluralism of opinion and democratic values.

CriThink has the following specific objectives:

- To foster a culture of critical thinking via education of the general public on the detrimental impact of media manipulations on democracy and European values;
- To increase capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) and media to address media manipulations (incl. hate speech) by improving the media literacy levels via joint engagement with state institutions;



crithink.mk

Period:
01.01.2018 – 31.12.2020

<p>- To increase citizen demand for accountable media through public education, promotion of professional standards and international practices that protect freedom of opinion and expression.</p> <p>During 2019 the project further developed its decentralized system for public education for critical thinking through media literacy producing educational contents in Macedonian and Albanian, using a suite of innovative instruments; Initiated development of mobile application (game) for promoting media literacy and critical thinking and a Handbook for Non-formal Education on Media Literacy at local level through. Through its Small Grants Scheme, Crithink supported 11 partnerships of CSOs and media for implementation of concrete initiatives at local/regional level from the 8 planning statistical regions of the country. It worked on development of five Policy Recommendations based on evidence-based research, cooperating with relevant state institutions and media organizations.</p>	<p>Partners: Centre for European Strategies – EUROTHINK</p> <p>Donor: European Union</p>
<p>Upholding democratic values and change in society through journalism</p> <p>The first phase of the project ended in March 2019 and in April 2019 it was continued for two more years. The goal of this project is to empower Macedonian citizens to make informed decisions on current affairs that affect their lives, via data journalism and direct engagement with citizens through new media channels.</p> <p>The increased media capacity to provide sustained coverage of issues affecting the lives of citizens and use of innovative methods of networking and multimedia production (online videos, data visualisations) resulted in increased level of public awareness about democratic values through practical application of professional journalism standards and critical thinking. The project also gives a voice and engages Generation Z in important social processes and events.</p> <p>The project incited response by relevant institutions, based on increased demand for accountability by informed citizens, on the following topics: pollution (lindane in Skopje, mines in Eastern Macedonia), public health - immunization (incl. debunking of antivaxing propaganda), prehospital system (emergency aid), infrastructure issues at local as well as the national level (public transportation, railways and highways). The project has also managed to engage youth successfully by cooperating with social media influencers and by utilizing media widely used by them to raise important discussions regarding corruption, climate change, public transportation, menstrual hygiene and cyber security.</p>	<p>Implemented through synergy of Meta.mk News Agency and Portalb.mk news portal.</p> <p>Period: 01.09.2018 – 31.03.2021</p> <p>Donor: UK Embassy in Skopje</p>

<p>Fostering Improved Media Standards</p> <p>The Fostering Improved Media Standards projects supports a network of independent reporters and media from the region working on identifying and debunking cross-border disinformation through practical promotion of of journalist ethics and fact-checking.</p> <p>As impartial and professional source of cross-border news, the Meta.mk website serves as Balkans Media Hub, providing all stakeholders - citizens, CSOs, civic activists, media and political parties - with comprehensive information related to political developments in Macedonia and the region, in particular related to integrative processes, as well as issues of accountability and transparency affecting them.</p> <p>The information is provided in English, Macedonian and Albanian languages, as well as through translation of select high-importance contents in other national languages – Greek, Serbian and Bulgarian - to ease dissemination for respective social networks audiences.</p> <p>The project educates the citizens and the journalists to be more critical of disinformation as precondition for countering democratic backsliding in both EU candidates and member states, in particular to recognize media manipulations and hostile foreign influences.</p>	<p>Implemented through synergy of Meta.mk News Agency, Vistinomer.mk and Portalb.mk news portal.</p> <p>Period: 01.07.2018 – 31.05.2019</p> <p>Donor: National Endowment for Democracy (NED)</p>
<p>Media Reforms Observatory</p> <p>The Media Reforms Observatory contributes to, and assess the level of, the achievement of the Urgent Reform Priorities, as a condition for the RM to join the EU, through identifying and removing the obstacles for democratic development of the media sector.</p> <p>The website informs the citizens about the reform priorities implementation process in a comprehensible manner, adjusted to a non-expert audience, to make the citizens come to the realization why the reform priorities are so important and how implementation thereof will contribute to enhancing their life. At the same time, the project provides the citizens and civil society organizations with opportunities for contributing to the public debate, through creating mechanisms and channels for their connection with the media and decision-makers.</p>	 <p>www.mediaobservatorium.mk</p> <p>Period: 01.11.2019 – 31.10.2020</p> <p>Donor: Foundation Open Society - Macedonia</p>

Public Record Resources

Media Fact-Checking Service Component

The Media Fact-Checking Service counters propaganda and media manipulations by providing fact-checking of Macedonian media contents. The Service increases citizen demand for fact-based, objective and professional news and information, through practical implementation of standards of ethical journalism so they can hold media accountable and demand higher quality of media production.

The production in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian, and English), reflects the needs of the diverse audiences.

The online application Time Machine, maintains an online archive of media contents enabling comparisons over time. It automatically harvests articles from key media websites in Macedonia and also enables citizens to save individual articles within its database. It compares the stored articles using advanced algorithm and graphically represents the similarities.



Media Fact-Checking Service

proverkanafakti.mk

verifikimiifakteve.mk

factchecking.mk

The Time Machine

vremeplov.vistinomer.mk

makinaekohes.vertetmates.mk

timemachine.truthmeter.mk

Social Accountability

Social accountability is the key approach to address governance issues. It enables information related to the concerns and the priorities of the citizens to be presented directly to government officials who have the capacity and mandate to act and make change happen. The Metamorphosis approach promotes the principles of citizen-centric good governance at all levels: local, national, regional.

In 2019 Metamorphosis continued to enhance its watchdog role in order to increase the levels of transparency and accountability of state institutions, local authorities and the private sector. Metamorphosis contributed to strengthening citizens' voices and supported the capacity of civil society and state institutions to respond effectively to their needs, thus producing a constructive engagement between governments and civil society.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- The [Strategy of the Government of North Macedonia on Transparency 2019-2021](#) embodied most of Metamorphosis' recommendations for the executive branch of government, based on the findings of the Openness Index. The recent [short report of the European Commission](#) recognizes the Strategy as one of the highlights of the Government's actions in public administration reforms.
- Many of the Government's policies on improving good governance were derived from Metamorphosis' recommendations in the framework of ACTION SEE, including the decision to oblige all ministries and other executive bodies to publish 21 documents regarding the accountability of their work.
- In December 2019, Metamorphosis together with 9 other fellow civil society organisations, created the Initiative Board for establishing a CSO network for Open Government Partnership in North Macedonia. The network will participate and contribute to the establishment of a new structure for coordinating and monitoring the development and implementation of the National Action Plan.
- Since the Parliament failed to provide the Council for Civic Oversight with basic work conditions for the Council to begin its operations, Metamorphosis provided space and logistics for its constitutional meeting on March 20, 2019 and the consecutive meetings.

ACTION SEE – Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in SEE

The ACTION SEE project aims to increase the inclusion of civic society and media organisations in decision making processes and the creation of public opinion and policies, as well as to raise the capacity of civic societies to address sensitive issues.

Specific project goals are to:

- Promote a dynamic civic society which effectively mobilises citizens for active participation in issues related to the rule of law and good governance and affects policies and decision making processes at a national and regional level.
- Strengthen mechanisms for dialogue between civic organisations and government institutions and influence good governance and public administration reforms.
- Stimulate civic and media organisation networking at local and EU level, allowing the exchange of know-how, skills and connections, as well as increase the influence of their representation efforts.

The ACTION SEE project was created on the basis of the project partners' experiences gained in the implementation of projects at a national, regional and international level with the aim of strengthening civic organizations for a more efficient and more significant inclusion in the policy creation processes.

ACTION SEE provides a platform for dialogue between significant stakeholders and a concrete tool to measure the degree to which state institutions uphold principles and standards of open governance (Regional Openness Index). It also supports direct action by a wide network of civil society organizations through a Small Grants Scheme, eight of which were signed in 2019.

The successful advocacy of the ACTION SEE network was crowned with the preparation and adoption of the Strategy for the Transparency of the Government of North Macedonia (2019-2020) in November 2019. The preparation of the Strategy was also supported with financial assistance by the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia.

With the support of the National Endowment for Democracy, some ACTION SEE members worked toward the improvement and adaptation of the Openness Index methodology throughout 2019 with the commitment to sustain and implement the core activities of the ACTION.



www.actionsee.org

Period:

01.01.2016 – 31.12.2019/
10.01.2019 – 30.09.2021/
01.05.2019 – 30.06.2020

Donor:

- European Commission/
-National Endowment for Democracy/
-Foundation Open Society - Macedonia

Partners:

- Westminster Foundation for Democracy, UK
- CRTA - Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Serbia
- Citizens Association Why not?, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro
- Open Data Kosovo (ODK), Kosovo
- Levizja Mjaft!, Albania

Civic Engagement Project – CEP

The Civic Engagement Project strengthens the constructive engagement by CSOs on policies and issues of public concern, and increase and sustain youth involvement in public life in Macedonia.

Through CEP, participating young people and CSOs acquire knowledge, gain motivation and develop skills that will allow them to contribute to policy discussions with the government, the private sector, the media and other CSOs. The overall goal of the Civil Engagement Project is to enhance CSOs and youth’s capacity to advance public policies, improve public services, promote good governance and contribute to improving the standard of living of people in Macedonia. The Project is committed to gender equity and the protection of the rights of socially excluded groups in Macedonia. Metamorphosis is responsible for the implementation of three of its components: (1) Strengthen Civil Society Organization Alliances through Partnership Grants Program, (2) Strengthen CSOs through flexible and tailored grants and capacity development assistance and (3) Provide Technical Assistance in Support of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Reforms, which will be rolled out in 2020. In 2019 the project went through a swift reorganization that started with the immediate suspension of ten grants and redefinition and distribution of the responsibilities among the project partners and beyond. The Metamorphosis team successfully mediated the close-off of the ten grantees and the overall reorganization of the Project.



Period:
17.08.2016 – 17.08.2021

Donor:
- USAID, through East West Management Institute (EWMI)

Partners:
- Metamorphosis
- Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI)
- Foundation for Open Society in Macedonia (FOSM)
- National Youth Council of Macedonia.

Western Balkans and the EU Accession Process: Application of Political Criteria

The project researches the progress of the Balkan region in meeting the political criteria on the road to the European Union accession. The research relies on a set of empirical indicators which examine the quality of the strategical and legal framework, institutional capacity and results achieved in six areas: elections, judiciary, fight against corruption and organised crime, media and public administration reform. The resulting analyses from the research stage of the project are promoted widely through the social media and beyond through multimedia contents and inform the advocacy stage, which aims to improve the performance of the relevant institutions.

Partners
Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro
CRTA, Serbia,
Zasto Ne, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Period
15.10.2019 – 14.10.2020

Donor:
Balkan Democracy Fund and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway

Support to Campaigns and Advocacy Digital Issues



Period:
01.11.2018 – 31.03.2019

This Action was designed and implemented aiming to recognize a suitable methodology for citizens monitoring of surveillance services in Macedonia. The period of implementation of this Action was extremely important period for the Republic of North Macedonia since significant legal developments took place in this time. Law on Interception of Communications and Law on the Operational and Technical Agency were adopted in April 2018, procedure for creation of the new Law on Personal Data Protection was initiated in September 2018 and structural changes in the national security system were introduced by adoption of the new Law on Agency for National Security in May 2019.

The above mentioned reforms, although welcomed by the expert community and the international factors, opened a number of issues on the accountability of the institutions competent to enforce the laws and the methods which citizens can use to monitor institutions.

Metamorphosis organised three roundtable discussions to encourage exchange of ideas and recommendations between local and international experts as well as the citizens toward the improvement of the accountability of the surveillance.

The recommendations and conclusions collected through the roundtables were condensed in a short policy-recommendation document which was shared with the Parliamentary Committee for Supervising the Work of the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency and the Committee for Oversight of the Implementation of the Measures for Interception of Communications. The recommendations were also shared with all Members of Parliament.

Donor:
International Freedom of
Expression Exchange

Public Record Resources

Follow the Money Online Service

Metamorphosis continues to maintain the Follow the Money online service, started with funding from IRI in 2013, and continued to work with Metamorphosis support, promoting transparency and accountability related to spending of municipal budgets and presenting them through interactive visualizations.

The work of the service is based on use of open data obtained through collaboration with other NGOs such as Finance Think through implementation of Freedom of Information Act. The citizens can compare spending of various budget items between municipalities and obtain knowledge about the fiscal processes.



sledigiparite.mk

Education for Innovation

Metamorphosis recognizes that citizens today, in all their multiple capacities, require education that will provide them a set of skills that are essential to navigate the complexities of modern life in competent manner. Activities within this programme will contribute to achieving the aims of the European Commissions' Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans and that is to support the transition of the region into a digital economy and bring the benefits of the digital transformation, such as faster economic growth, more jobs, and better services.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- In 2019 around 20 coaching and training events have been organised for local CSOs and media, aiming to equip them with skills to successfully manage their projects as well as programme-related trainings on Metamorphosis' areas of expertise as: media literacy, strategic use of data and media coverage, social media and visualization.
- The Meet and Code subgrantee, StemLAB, was chosen among the three best events in Europe in the category "Code for the Planet" with the event named "AmyZONE". StemLAB taught students, and later parents as well on how to use robots and drones to identify and extinguish a fire, as well as evacuate in a state of emergency.
- During 2019, 42 new NGOs were registered in the three Techsoup Platforms (North Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania) and 32 new software donations were provided.
- Metamorphosis continued to monitor the implementation of the Open Data Strategy as a member of the respective working group, after contributing to the preparation of the Open Data Strategy in 2018,

Smart Tourism Enhancement Project (STEP)

The objectives of the STEP project include: Promoting a vibrant touristic sector that effectively adapts to the needs of both domestic and international markets; Increasing capacities of tourism businesses and building of strategic partnerships and collaboration domestically, regionally and globally; Broadening and enhancing strategic and coordinated access to specific new and strategic tourism markets for tourism businesses; Acceleration of growth and stimulation of new job creation.

The key elements of the project are raised awareness and understanding of the need for new marketing approach in tourism, as well as exchange of information, cooperation, and joint product development within the cross-border area.

It promotes increasing local expertise among private and public entities to develop enabling policies and conformity standards that meets international standard on tourism development through creation of STEP network of informed and empowered tourism public and private entities, CSOs, Tourism clusters and/or chambers of commerce.

The innovative use of digital technologies includes practical application and capacity building for online marketing through social networks, and use of Inter-Regional Tourism Online Platform (iTOP).



step.mk

Period:
01.01.2018 – 01.04.2020

Partners:
Centre for Development of Polog Planning Region
Council of the Elbasan County

Donor:
European Union (IPA 2, The EU's Cross-Border Cooperation Programme)

Meet and Code 2019

Between October 5-20, 2019, as part of EU Code Week, Metamorphosis worked with Techsoup Europe, SAP and German non-profit IT portal Stifter-helfen.de to bridge the digital divide in Macedonia, as part of an initiative spanning 15 countries by educating and inspiring the next generation to embrace digital technologies. Meet and Code project provided capacity building and networking resources for schools to join the EU Code Week, building upon the foundations set by previous project Code4Mk supported by Google.

In 2019 Metamorphosis provided grants to 17 NGOs in amount of 300 euros per event, which organised a total of 40 events across North Macedonia in 4 award



Period:
01.09.2017 – 31.10.2019

Partners:
Techsoup Europe, SAP and Stifter-helfen.de

categories: “Girls do IT!”, “Diversity”, “Code for the Planet”, “Community”.

The subgrantee “StemLAB” from Tetovo, was chosen among the three best events in Europe in the Category “Code for the Planet” with the event named “AmyZONE”, which was inspired by the devastating fires of the Amazon forests, but also on unfortunate fire-related events in the city of Tetovo, where the lives of four member of a family were tragically lost. Students, and later parents as well, were taught how to use robots and drones to identify and extinguish a fire, as well as evacuate in a state of emergency. The recent bush fires in Australia only reinforced again how important it is to have appropriate preparation for fires and the danger they pose.

#meetandcode #codeEU

Techsoup North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo

Continuing the support for CSOs in North Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania, started in 2014, Metamorphosis has been implementing the TechSoup software donation programme.

The program offers a wide range of software products for non-profit organizations and public libraries, and they are only required to pay an administrative fee. These donations are available for organizations with the status of non-profit according to their respective country regulations (North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo).

Until June 2019, the program was implemented within Techsoup Balkans platform, which was run together with our Bosnian partner Mashta. Since September 2019, Metamorphosis manages the platforms for North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo.

During 2019, 42 new NGOs registered in all three platforms (27 NM, 5 AL, 10 KS), while there were 32 new orders for software donations with total revenues of 3,629 euros (2,327 NM, 681 AL, 621 KS).

techsoup
СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА

techsoup
KOSOVA

techsoup
SHQIPËRIA

<https://www.techsoupnorthmacedonia.org/>

<https://www.techsoupkosovo.org/>

<https://www.techsoupalbania.org/>

Period:

01.01.2018 – 31.12.2018

Partners:

- Techsoup Global

Donor:

- Microsoft

- BitDefender

- NortonLifeLock

- Okta

- Symantec

- Tableau Software

- Clever Reach

- DokuSign Discounted

- DokuSign Donated

	-AutoDesk
<p>Open Educational Resources Initiative</p> <p>The overall project goal is to contribute to the development of critical thinking and democratization in North Macedonia through the constructive use of new technologies as tools to increase the quantity and quality of educational, scientific and academic e-content.</p> <p>In 2019 this action contributed to raising public awareness about the Open Educational Resources (OER), expanding the Alliance for Open Educational Resources and lobbying for the OER initiative in schools and among teachers teaching in the minority languages used in North Macedonia. These activities will contribute to closing the gap between the quality and quantity of available OER in all the languages in the country.</p>	<div data-bbox="1034 253 1289 311" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p data-bbox="1121 353 1201 383" style="text-align: center;">oer.mk</p> <p>Period: 01.12.2015 – 01.12.2017 01.10.2019 – 01.10.2020</p> <p>Donor: Foundation Open Society - Macedonia</p>

Human Rights Online

Metamorphosis has been at the forefront of the promotion of human rights online - helping communities face the enormous changes that stem from the increased impact of new technologies and countering the malign anti-democratic tendencies that exploit fissures across societies.

Metamorphosis is committed to the development of democracy and improvement of the quality of life through innovative application and dissemination of knowledge, and supports the use of new technologies for creating new spaces enabling a public debate and exchange of objective information, in parallel with the efforts for increasing digital literacy and fighting hate speech.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

- To provide support toward the implementation of the national strategy for cyber security, in close cooperation with MISA, OSCE and BRO, Metamorphosis offered its training materials and trainers to raise awareness among parents, teachers and primary school students about digital security – threats and means to protect their privacy. These trainings were attended by over 100 participants.

Internet Freedom in Macedonia

During 2019 Metamorphosis continued to work on promotion of human rights online through cooperation with American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, which led to forming of the Internet Freedom Platform for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and joint work with platform members.

In Macedonia, Metamorphosis conducted research on the situation regarding the key aspects of protections of human rights online, including legal frameworks and practices, and used the results to implement advocacy and networking activities with legal professionals, civil society, media and state institutions at national level, aiding the process of democratic reforms, as well as to participate in the forming and the work of the international Internet Freedom Network comprised of 10 ABA ROLI partners from Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

On November 2019 Metamorphosis Foundation organized the traditional annual international conference e-Society, this year with a focus on the topic "Open Institutions and Accountability". The two day event contained about a dozen panels and workshops with NGO, Government and expert guests from all over Macedonia, the Western Balkans region and Europe. Truthmeter team members took part in various panels covering media literacy and fighting disinformation issues. This year also marked 15 years of existence for the Metamorphosis Foundation.

Metamorphosis cooperated with international human rights networks like Global Voices, IFEX, EDRI, APC and ACTION SEE; as well as initiatives like Freedom Not Fear, to enable spreading of information about Macedonia abroad, and incite freedom of expression advocacy. To this means it organized or co-organized a series of public events and trainings, including the international conference Political Accountability and the New Technologies - POINT in Sarajevo.



e-society.mk



kauza.mk



ping.mk

Period:
01.04.2017 – 31.05.2018
Donor: ABA ROLI

Period:
01.04.2017 – 31.05.2018
Donor: APC

Period:
01.04.2017 – 31.05.2018
Donor: IFEX

Networks

During 2019, Metamorphosis participated in the work of the following networks and coalitions:

<p>International Freedom of Expression Exchange - IFEX Metamorphosis became a member of IFEX in June 2014, contributing to alerting the global public, civil society and relevant institutions regarding the overall situation in Macedonia and particular cases of endangering freedom of expression, as well as breaches of professional standards of journalism. Other IFEX members include well known international organizations fighting for freedom of expression such as: Article 19, Freedom House, Reporters without Borders, Human Rights Watch, Index on Censorship, the International PEN Center, etc.</p>	 <p>www.ifex.org</p>
<p>Association for Progressive Communications - APC APC's mission is to empower and support organisations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability. APC is both a network and an organisation. APC has 50 members in 35 countries - groups working in their own countries to advance the same mission as APC.</p>	 <p>www.apc.org</p>
<p>European Digital Rights – EDRi EDRi is an international advocacy group headquartered in Brussels, with an objective to promote, protect and uphold civil rights in the field of information and communication technology. Founded in June 2002 as a result of a growing awareness of the importance of European policy making in the digital environment, it includes 35 privacy and civil rights organisations from 21 different countries in Europe.</p>	 <p>edri.org</p>
<p>Global Voices in Macedonian and Albanian Metamorphosis is managing the Macedonian and Albanian versions of the international network of bloggers and citizens journalists Global Voices Online, enabling worldwide distribution of news and views related to social change, activism, and citizen journalism. Global Voices is a borderless, largely volunteer community of more than 1200 writers, analysts, online media experts and translators, reporting from 167 countries and translating into up to 30 languages.</p>	 <p>mk.globalvoicesonline.org sq.globalvoicesonline.org</p>
<p>World Summit Award The WSA is a global initiative to promote the world's best in mobile content and innovative applications within the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in collaboration with UNESCO, UNIDO and UN GAID.</p>	 <p>wsa.org.mk</p>

<p>Creative Commons Europe CC Europe is the central online platform of the European Creative Commons Jurisdiction Projects, composed of CC leads from European countries. CC Europe is the channel for communication with interested stakeholders and in particular the European-level policy makers.</p>	 europe.creativecommons.org  cc.org.mk
<p>COMMUNIA International Association on the Public Domain COMMUNIA is a network of researchers and practitioners from universities, NGOs and SME with a mission to foster, strengthen and enrich the Public Domain. It raises awareness in, educate about, advocate for, and research about the Public Domain in the digital age within society and with policy-makers. It has WIPO observer status.</p>	 communia-association.org
<p>ACTION SEE - Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in South-East Europe ACTION SEE network that resulted from the cooperation between leading ICT and human rights-oriented organizations from Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. Members use new technologies for empowering citizens and increasing public institutions' accountability via Truthmeter projects, annual POINT conferences on new technologies and political accountability, and developing the regional Index of Transparency.</p>	 www.actionsee.org
<p>TransparenCEE - Technology for Transparency in CEE and Eurasia TransparenCEE is a network of Central Eastern European and Euroasian NGOs interested in using technology in transparency and accountability work. It documents, catalogues and scales local solutions regionally. The objective of the network is to ultimately make the technology for transparency work more transparent and easier to both finance and implement.</p>	 transparencee <small>Technology for Transparency & Accountability Network CEE, Balkans & Eurasia</small> transparencee.org
<p>Internet Freedom Platform The Internet Freedom Platform of Eastern and Central Europe and Eurasia is established by civil society organizations in these regions, that work on fostering of the freedom of expression, association and flow of information on internet.</p>	internetfreedom.blog
<p>Platform of Civic Organizations for Fight Against Corruption The Platform for Fight Against Corruption founded in 2014 unites the leading anti-corruption NGOs from Macedonia through collaborative projects based on monitoring the legal framework and the ongoing public policies, initiating legal changes through joint initiatives.</p>	 ПЛАТФОРМА <small>на граѓански организации за борба против корупцијата</small> antikorupcija.mk
<p>Platform Against Hate Speech Founded by leading human rights or media development CSOs in Macedonia, the Platform coordinates efforts against hate speech, hate crimes and discrimination in the media and beyond.</p>	

Executive Board and Staff

Metamorphosis Executive Board, consisting of five members:

- Ms Radmila Živanovikj, Board Chair
- Mr Zoran Cali
- Mr Zoran Janevski
- Mr Vladimir Lazovski
- Ms Biljana Radonjanin

During 2019, Metamorphosis staff consisted of the following employees:

Management

- Mr Bardhyl Jashari, Executive Director
- Mr Filip Stojanovski, Partnership and Resource Development Director
- Ms Qëndresa Sulejmani, Director of Programme
- Ms Marija Panchevska, Finance and Administration Director

Program Staff

- Ms Mila Josifovska Danilovska, Programme Manager, Social Accountability and Human Rights Online
- Mr Goran Rizaov, Programme Manager, Media for Democracy and Education for Innovation
- Ms Elena Stojanovska, PR and Communications Specialist
- Marija Vasilevska, M&E Specialist
- Goce Arsovski, Programme Support Officer
- Ms Elida Zylbeari, project lead
- Mr Zoran Andonovski, project lead
- Mr Vladimir Petreski, project lead
- Ms Violeta Gligoroska, project lead
- Mr Florent Bajrami, project lead
- Ms Liljana Pecova Ilievska, project lead
- Ms Olivera Vojnovska, journalist
- Mr Teo Blazhevski, journalist
- Ms Silvana Zhezhova Stankovska, journalist
- Mr Sasho Spasoski, journalist
- Mr Bojan Blazevski, journalist
- Ms Simona Atanasovska, journalist
- Mr Suad Bajrami, journalist
- Ms Fatbardha Curri, journalist
- Ms Lindita Bakiu, journalist
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Administration and finance staff

- Ms Anita Milanovska, HR and Administration Manager
- Ms Emilija Georgievska, Finance Assistant
- Ms Elena Stojanova, Finance Assistant

Operations Support Staff

- Mr Filip Neshkoski, Team lead
- Mr Miron Cali, IT assistant
- Igor Krstevski, IT assistant
- Mr Dragan Kucirov, translator
- Ms Frosina Georgieva, translator
- Mr Valon Avdiu, translator