



Metamorphosis Annual Report 2025

Covering the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025

Table of Contents

Metamorphosis Vision and Mission	3
2025: A Year in Review	3
Responsible Digital Transformation Programme	6
Public Record Resources	13
Social Accountability Programme	14
Public Record Resources	18
Media and Information Integrity Programme	21

Metamorphosis Vision and Mission

Vision:

The Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet and Society (hereinafter referred to as Metamorphosis) envisions a society where empowered citizens hold governments accountable, technology and institutions serve the people, and truth triumphs over manipulation.

Mission to Achieve the Vision:

Metamorphosis is an independent organization operating in North Macedonia and its broader European context. Its team is composed of committed democracy activists, united by a common cause and shared values of mutual accountability, open communication, and a firm commitment to universal human rights and democracy.

Metamorphosis strengthens to bridge the knowledge gap, promote responsible technology and empower citizens to be active participants in a thriving democracy.

Metamorphosis' programmes include:

- **Responsible Digital Transformation**
- **Social Accountability**
- **Media and Information Integrity**

2025: A Year in Review

In 2025, Metamorphosis continued to build on over two decades of dedicated work in fostering democracy, good governance, human rights, freedom of expression, and responsible digital transformation in North Macedonia and the Western Balkans. Following the launch of our mid-term Strategy for 2024–2028, this year was marked by the active implementation of our strategic goals, ensuring they remained responsive to the evolving digital landscape and the needs of our diverse community of beneficiaries. Throughout 2025, we maintained our commitment to bridging the knowledge gap and empowering citizens to be active participants in a thriving democracy.

The year 2025 was characterized by significant steps in **legislative advocacy and regional cooperation**. A major milestone was the inclusion of our 2024 initiative to align national legislation with the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) into the 2025 Work Programme of the Government of North Macedonia. We furthered this mission through direct engagement with the Ministry of Digital Transformation, advocating for ethical, secure, and citizen-centered digital policies. To mark our continued progress, we organized the 21st edition of the international **e-Society.mk conference** under the theme "Integrity at the Core of Digital Transformation". This flagship event gathered approximately 300 experts and policymakers to deliberate on democratic resilience, AI ethics, and the role of women in cybersecurity.

Applying a **human rights-based approach**, Metamorphosis continued to prioritize capacity building for both public authorities and civil society. We placed a special focus on **youth**, organizing study sessions on the **responsible use of AI tools** to empower young people to navigate the ethical

challenges of emerging technologies. Furthermore, we remained dedicated to reducing the digital divide through initiatives like CybHER, which provided **essential cybersecurity knowledge and digital self-protection skills to women**. Our efforts to enhance cyber resilience extended to 35 CSOs, where we provided specialized training and mentoring to design personalized digital security plans.

Our commitment to **social accountability** remained at the heart of our mission. Through the Openness Index, we monitored 41 central-level institutions and all 81 local self-government units (LSGUs) in North Macedonia. Our monitoring revealed a notable increase in local-level openness, rising from 37% in 2024 to 40% in 2025. We complemented these findings with thematic forum like “Open municipality - active community” and intensive mentoring cycles that helped local officials improve transparency and reduce the space for corrupt practices. These efforts were supported by the **development of tools for online public consultations**, ensuring that citizens have a direct voice in local decision-making processes.

Throughout 2025, Metamorphosis intensified its efforts **to counter disinformation and foreign information manipulation (FIMI)** by leveraging an integrated model of independent journalism, fact-checking, and regional cooperation. Our commitment to media and information integrity was exemplified by the continuous work of our platforms Meta.mk, Portalb.mk, and Truthmeter.mk, which together published thousands of fact-based articles and reached millions of citizens to reinforce public trust in verified information. A significant **international recognition** of our expertise in this field is the active participation of our leadership in global standard-setting bodies; specifically, our Executive Director and Partnership and Resource Development Director serve as a **member and deputy member, respectively, in the Governing Body of the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN)**. This leadership role not only bonds our foundation to the highest international fact-checking practices but also ensures that our local and regional efforts against disinformation are aligned with global democratic standards. We also expanded our innovative efforts by awarding grants to CSOs for creating digital prototypes focused on cross-border fact-checking and communication strategies against disinformation attacks, culminating in a successful hackathon at CIVICUS’s International Civic Society Week in Bangkok.

Metamorphosis’s **"Disinformation Radar for the Balkans"** achieved major global recognition by being selected as one of only ten projects worldwide for the prestigious Paris Peace Forum Scale-up Program (SCUP), cementing our role as a pioneering leader in using AI-supported early warning systems (pre-bunk) to protect democratic resilience and peace.

Our achievements in 2025 were made possible through the steadfast **support of our partners and donors**. We continued our cooperation with the European Union, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland (through Civica Mobilitas), as well as the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, The International Foundation for Electoral System, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark - Danida. We also benefited from the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans, and institutional support from the Sigrid Rousing Trust. Building on the strategic growth enabled by Peace Nexus support in previous years, our continued partnership in 2025 remained vital. Our Executive Director participated in a specialized peer-learning event focused on “Leading and Managing in Turbulent Times,” further strengthening internal leadership and organizational resilience. Internationally,

Metamorphosis remained an active in networks such as EDRI, EFCSN, IFCN, IFEX, INACH, APC, Open Government Partnership, and Balkan Anti Disinformation Network. Cooperation with the private sector also continued, including Meta (Facebook), and other corporate donors, via the TechSoup Network.

In 2025, Metamorphosis Foundation further expanded its international footprint by becoming a **member of the CIVICUS global alliance** and securing strategic support through the Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI) to strengthen civic space and democratic resilience.

As the following pages will illustrate, 2025 was a year of deepening impact, where we moved from strategic planning to concrete action, reinforcing the foundation of a resilient and rights-respecting digital society. Below is a summary of the projects and highlights of our achievements within our three programme areas.

Responsible Digital Transformation Programme

Metamorphosis advances responsible digital transformation as a key pillar for strengthening democratic resilience, human rights, and inclusive development in North Macedonia. The programme promotes ethical, secure, and citizen-centered use of digital technologies by building digital literacy and awareness of digital rights among citizens, integrating digital transformation into mainstream education, and supporting the development of accessible, inclusive digital and AI-powered tools that respond to real societal needs.

At the same time, Metamorphosis strengthens the capacities of CSOs and independent media to counter hybrid threats, misinformation, and digital insecurity, while advocating for human rights-centered AI policies and regulatory frameworks. Through initiatives such as the AI Alliance and targeted capacity-building efforts, the programme works to ensure that digital transformation enhances transparency, accountability, and public trust—contributing to a resilient, rights-respecting, and future-ready digital society.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

- Metamorphosis' [initiative](#) from 2024 to align North Macedonia's legislation with the EU DSA was included in the 2025 Work Programme of the Government of North Macedonia. However, this initiative was not implemented by the Government. On May 5, 2025, a [meeting](#) was held with the **Minister of Digital Transformation**, Stefan Andonovski on Metamorphosis' initiative to **harmonize national legislation with the EU Digital Services Act (DSA)**.
- As part of the preparation of the Annual Work Program of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2026, Metamorphosis submitted [5 policy initiatives](#), including the initiatives for [aligning the national legislation with the EU DSA](#) and establishing a [National Digital Literacy Strategy](#).
- Metamorphosis created the research ["Implications of the EU DSA on CSOs and Investigative Journalists in North Macedonia"](#). Based on the findings, Metamorphosis organized the workshop ["What is the EU DSA and Why is It important?"](#) for 23 CSO and media representatives, a one-day training on the topic ["Implications of the EU DSA for CSO and Investigative Journalists in North Macedonia"](#) for 16 CSO and media representatives, and a [working meeting](#) with 8 representatives of the competent institutions.
- Metamorphosis built the collective resilience to cyber threats for CSOs working with marginalized groups through 3 trainings for 48 civic activists from 35 CSOs, supported by mentoring for designing [personalized digital security plans](#). These efforts were also supported with an awareness campaign **on issues related to cybersecurity and practicing regular cyber hygiene conducted through [four podcasts and three educational videos](#) with prominent guests coming from Women 4 Cyber North Macedonia, Women in Tech, Initiative for the Protection of Women from Shuto Orizari, and the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FINKI)**
- Metamorphosis [awarded](#) **5 CSOs with grants for creating prototypes** covering five different scenarios: cross-border fact-check assistance, better social media formats; communication strategy for disinfo attacks, trending topic idea generator, and campaign & event planning guidance. The awarded sub-grants were later on part of a hackathon as part of [CIVICUS's International Civic Society Week](#) held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 1 to 5, where they completed and presented their demo presentations, and received mentoring support.
- Through the Council of Europe-supported study session ["Open your AIs: responsible use of AI tools by youth organizations"](#), Metamorphosis worked with 20 young people on exploring AI ethics through a human rights-based lens, strengthening their capacity to critically assess, responsibly use, and advocate for ethical standards in the application of AI tools within youth work and youth organizations. The session empowered them to translate principles from the

AI Convention into practical guidance, equipping the youth sector with concrete tools to identify risks, address inequalities, and promote inclusive, transparent, and rights-based use of AI with and for young people.


- Metamorphosis supported the CybHER cause by organizing two targeted workshops that empowered women and girls with essential cybersecurity knowledge, digital self-protection skills, and awareness of legal and regulatory frameworks. Through hands-on learning and career-focused discussions, the initiative strengthened participants’ digital literacy, confidence, and understanding of diverse career paths in cybersecurity, including emerging fields such as AI security and cyber diplomacy.
- As part of the #CARGrow Alliance, Metamorphosis continuously and dedicatedly monitored the Reform Agenda for North Macedonia in the field of digitalization. To that end, Metamorphosis prepared three ex-ante and ex-post reviews, each covering activities related to digitalization within the June and December deadlines: 1) [April 2025](#), 2) [June 2025](#), and 3) [December 2025](#). These analysis were part of the collective Reform Agenda analysis among which [Beyond the promises: The Reform Agenda under scrutiny](#) and [The Reform Agenda under scrutiny: Monitoring the implementation – First ex-ante policy brief](#).
- Metamorphosis organised the **21st edition of the international e-Society conference** on the topic [“Integrity at the core of digital transformation”](#), exploring how rapid technological advancement is reshaping democratic resilience, human rights, and social trust in an increasingly interconnected world. Brining together **approximately 300 experts, changemakers, and participants**, the conference offered inspiring panels, workshops, quizzes, keynote talks, and documentary screenings on pressing themes - from countering anti-democratic influences and cyber threats to exploring AI ethics, data democratization, digital scams, and the role of women in cybersecurity.

The projects and initiatives implemented within the Responsible Digital Transformation programme in 2025 are presented in the following table.

<p style="text-align: center;">Growth and Digital Rights: Ensuring the Integration of the Western Balkans into the Digital Single Market</p> <p>The project aims at advancing digital rights standards in the Western Balkan region and contributing to its successful integration into the Digital Single Market. Specifically, it aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing and utilizing joint advocacy strategy for adequate alignment and protection of human rights in digital context, focusing on multi-stakeholder approach; - increasing capacities of civil society, media organizations and relevant state actors in Western Balkan 6 (WB6) for engaging in digital rights-related regulatory processes and monitoring the implementation of relevant legislation; - raising awareness and fostering dialogue and exchange among public, private and civil society actors on digital rights issues, focusing on impact of Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA) to digital rights in WB6. <p>As part of a broader process of alignment with European standards, the EU DSA imposes new rules on content moderation, algorithm</p>	<p>Period: 15.6.2024 – 14.6.2025</p> <p>Donor: Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS WESTERN BALKANS</p> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners Serbia (Serbia) - Why not? (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - NVO 35 mm (Montenegro) - Women in Tech Kosovo (Kosovo) - Institute for Democracy and Mediation (Albania)
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<p>transparency and accountability of digital platforms. On this note, Metamorphosis created the research “Implications of the EU DSA on CSOs and Investigative Journalists in North Macedonia”. The research was promoted through an online campaign with recommendations for a successful and fair implementation of the DSA in North Macedonia, without jeopardizing media freedom, civil society organizations, and digital rights.</p> <p>Based on this research, Metamorphosis submitted an initiative to align our legislation with the EU DSA, which was included in the 2025 Work Programme of the Government of North Macedonia. To confirm and discuss further this initiative, a meeting was held with the Minister of Digital Transformation, Stefan Andonovski.</p> <p>On January 16th, Metamorphosis organized the workshop “What is the EU DSA and Why is It important?” for 23 CSO and media representatives. Later on, on April 24th, it organized a one-day training on the topic “Implications of the EU DSA for CSO and Investigative Journalists in North Macedonia” for 16 CSO and media representatives.</p> <p>On May 22nd, Metamorphosis organized a working meeting with 8 representatives of the competent institutions on the topic "Implications of the EU DSA on CSOs and Investigative Journalists in North Macedonia".</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">CyberShield: Empowered Citizens for Cyber Resilience</p> <p>The project aims at fostering an ecosystem resilient to cyber threats by strengthening civil society organizations and raising citizen awareness about cyber threats and cyber hygiene. It further raises awareness and understanding among the community about the importance of cybersecurity, ensuring that issues of proper and regular cyber hygiene and effective handling of cyber threats (phishing, social engineering, malware, online disinformation, personal data theft, etc.) receive the necessary attention, resources, and joint efforts needed for effective solutions.</p> <p>Within this project, Metamorphosis organized 3 trainings for 48 civic activists from 35 CSOs, supported by mentoring for 6 interested trained CSOs to design personalized digital security plans, in order to strengthen their capacities and foster a stronger collective resilience to cyber threats through these empowered activists.</p> <p>To further spread awareness on issues related to cybersecurity and practicing regular cyber hygiene, Metamorphosis created four podcasts and three educational videos in Macedonian and Albanian language, with prominent guests coming from Women 4 Cyber North Macedonia, Women in Tech, Initiative for the Protection of Women from Shuto Orizari, and the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FINKI).</p>	<p>Period: 1.3. – 30.9.2025</p> <p>Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway</p> <p> Norway</p> <p> SMART Balkans <small>Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans</small></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Hackathon for Digital Democracy</p> <p>As part of the broader Digital Democracy Initiative implemented by CIVICUS, the project aims to encourage the development of innovative digital solutions to advance democracy and strengthen the civil society sector.</p> <p>The project provided third-party financial support for CSOs which covered five different scenarios: cross-border fact-check assistance, better social media formats; communication strategy for disinfo attacks, trending topic idea generator, and campaign & event planning guidance. The call generated strong interest, with a total of 61 applications received from 11 different countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey). A total of five grants were awarded to Armenian Progressive Youth NGO (Armenia), Center for Education and Development – CED (North Macedonia), New Droni 2024 (Georgia), Daily Humanity (Ukraine), and SBunker (Kosovo).</p> <p>The awarded sub-grants were later on part of a hackathon as part of CIVICUS’s International Civic Society Week that was held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 1st to 5th, where they completed and presented their demo presentations. Over the next few months, all five teams worked on developing a prototype, under the mentorship and guidance by Metamorphosis and CLi, with CIVICUS support.</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  <p>Digital Democracy Initiative</p> </div> <p>Period: 23.7.2025 – 24.3.2026</p> <p>Donor: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The European Commission, and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Co-funded by the European Union</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK <i>Danida</i></p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Norway</p> </div> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CIVICUS - Civic Literacy Initiative
<p style="text-align: center;">Initiating Adult Learning Programmes on AI</p> <p>AI is becoming a key element in job evolution and adult learning programmes should also include it to help in employment adjustment, efficiency, and productivity, as well as ethical human rights’ aspects.</p> <p>This is why the project aims at enhancing AI literacy among adult learners and within the adult education sector. More specifically, it aims at: enabling adult education providers to include AI themes into their regular education programmes and activities; empowering adult learners (citizens) in using AI tools through the innovative provision of AI literacy adult education; and, providing policy guidance and engaging in advocacy to support the introduction of AI literacy content in adult education.</p> <p>As part of the project, a training curriculum on AI literacy for adult learning providers and trainers will be developed, accompanied by a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme to support its practical implementation. In addition, the AI curriculum will be adapted into a practical toolkit and an e-learning course, designed in an easy-to-use format and promoted to adult learning providers such as technical and computer training centers in all three participating countries, as well as at European level. These outputs aim to ensure greater relevance of adult education in bridging the digital divide and promoting responsible and critical use of AI.</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>Period: 1.11.2025 – 31.10.2027</p> <p>Donor: European Union through the National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Funded by the European Union</p> </div> </div> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect International (Belgium) - Curiosité Centre de formation (France)

<p style="text-align: center;">Regional Support Mechanism</p> <p>As part of the broader Digital Democracy Initiative implemented by CIVICUS, the project aims to build a sustainable and inclusive ecosystem for digital democracy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, especially in conditions of narrowing civic space, disinformation, and increased digital risks.</p> <p>The project activities are aimed at CSOs, activists, and informal initiatives that want to advance their digital capacities and contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, and democratic community. Participants gain access to financial support, expert knowledge, regional networks, and the opportunity to turn their ideas into sustainable and impactful solutions.</p> <p>Countries in focus of the project are Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine.</p> <p>The thematic areas of the project cover digital rights and security, civic participation and digital activism, advocacy and strengthening of the civic space, and inclusion of youth, women, LGBTI+ communities, and marginalized groups.</p>	 <p>Digital Democracy Initiative</p> <p>Period: 1.12.2025 – 30.11.2026</p> <p>Donor: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The European Commission, and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.</p>  <p>Co-funded by the European Union</p>  <p>MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK Danida</p>  <p>Norway</p> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CIVICUS - TechSoup
<p style="text-align: center;">Study on WB readiness for the implementation of DSA and DMA</p> <p>In 2025, the Metamorphosis Foundation played a pivotal role in assessing the Western Balkans’ (WB6) alignment with the EU’s Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA). Recognizing these regulations as cornerstones for a safer and fairer digital environment, our colleague together with international experts conducted comprehensive research to map national legislation against EU requirements.</p> <p>This initiative, integrated into the Common Regional Market Action Plan 2025–2028 (CRM 2.0), focused on identifying legal gaps and divergences while emphasizing the horizontal nature of these regulations. By analyzing the systemic implications of the DSA, the Foundation provided a strategic roadmap to ensure that regional digital transformation remains consistent with EU standards.</p> <p>Central to this study was a multistakeholder approach that bridged the gap between policy and practice. In late 2025, Metamorphosis together with project partner organizations engaged with government bodies, regulators, private sector actors, and civil society through consultative workshops to validate research findings and gather diverse perspectives.</p>	<p>Period:</p> <p>Donor: Regional Cooperation Council</p>  <p>Regional Cooperation Council</p> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners Serbia (Serbia) - Why not? (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - NVO 35 mm (Montenegro) - Women in Tech Kosovo (Kosovo) - Institute for Democracy and Mediation (Albania)

<p style="text-align: center;">#CARGrow - Civic Alliance for Reforms and Growth</p> <p>During 2025, Metamorphosis became part of the #CARGrow Civic Alliance for Reforms and Growth which coordinated by the PRESPA Institute and supported by the Government of Ireland. The alliance was established to strengthen civil society’s role in monitoring the implementation of the Reform Agenda and Growth Plan. Formed in response to the exclusion of civil society from the Reform Agenda’s development, CARGrow acts as a bottom-up platform of channel civic expertise into structured oversight.</p> <p>As part of the Alliance, Metamorphosis continuously and dedicatedly monitors the Reform Agenda for North Macedonia in the field of digitalization. To that end, it has already prepared three ex-ante and ex-post reviews, each covering activities related to digitalization within the June and December deadlines: 1) April 2025, 2) June 2025, and 3) December 2025. These analysis were part of the collective Reform Agenda analysis among which Beyond the promises: The Reform Agenda under scrutiny and The Reform Agenda under scrutiny: Monitoring the implementation – First ex-ante policy brief.</p>	<p>Period: 1.11.2025 – 31.7.2026</p> <p>Donor: Government of Ireland</p>  <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PRESPA Institute - Institute for Human Rights - Institute for good governance and policies in environment and climate change - Finance think
<p style="text-align: center;">Study session "Open your AIs! Responsible use of AI tools by youth organizations"</p> <p>The study session “Open your AIs: responsible use of AI tools by youth organisations” took place at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg from June 23rd – 27th with 25 participants. It was organized within the framework of the Youth for Democracy program of the Council of Europe in collaboration with Connect International alongside the partner Curiosité – Centre de Formation and supported by the expertise of the Metamorphosis Foundation.</p> <p>The main aim of the study session was to initiate a discussion on AI ethics with youth organisations, guiding the way towards a human-rights based internal standards when using AI powered tools in their work and the youth sector broadly. This aim is framed by securing access to young people’s rights and protection of their rights as beneficiaries of youth organisations programmes which are now becoming more powered by AI tools. It is also taking stock of the AI Convention and its principles, preparing the youth sector to play a role in awareness raising about AI ethics and promote the human rights-based approach in using AI tools.</p> <p>The final output created by the youth consisted of a practical guidance package that maps key AI ethics issues for youth organisations, identifies risks and inequalities, and provides concrete recommendations and tools - including an AI ethical guide and awareness materials - to support responsible, rights-based and inclusive use of AI with young people.</p>	<p>Period: 23-27.6.2026</p> <p>Donor: Council of Europe</p>  <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect International (Belgium) - Curiosité Centre de formation (France)

Her Cyber: Empowering Women and Girls in Cyber (CybHER)

As part of British Council's regional initiative CybHER funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, focused on increasing the participation of women in the cybersecurity workforce, Metamorphosis organized two workshops.

On November 13th, at the premises of Innox Innovation Center (Skopje), the Metamorphosis organized a workshop titled "[Basics of Cybersecurity and Digital Self-Protection](#)" for **28 participants**. Through practical examples and discussions, the participants were introduced to core cybersecurity concepts, including legal and regulatory frameworks, common digital threats, and measures for prevention, with a strong focus on digital literacy and personal data protection. The workshop concluded with a group exercise that reinforced key recommendations for safe and responsible behavior in the digital space.

On December 10th, at the hotel "Holiday Inn" (Skopje) and within the international e-Society.mk conference, Metamorphosis organized a workshop titled "[Soft skills and career prospects for future cybersecurity experts](#)" for **17 participants**. The workshop highlighted the importance of women's participation in cybersecurity through an inspiring guest talk and an overview of diverse career paths across technical, legal, ethical, management, and emerging fields such as AI security and cyber diplomacy. Participants identified their strengths, explored in-demand skills, and received practical guidance on career development, leadership, and building professional confidence in the digital world.

Period: 1.11.-31.12.2025

Donor: Government of the United Kingdom



Public Record Resources

<p><i>Digital first aid kit</i></p> <p>With the support of the Information Safety & Capacity (ISC) Project within the Digital Security project, Metamorphosis launched and maintains the first aid resource center – digitalfirstaid.mk. This is a localized and adapted version in Macedonian and Albanian of the original English language site (digitalfirstaid.org). This resource center contains instructions that interactively lead the user toward appropriate responses in case of losing a device, problems logging in, unavailability of the website or online harassment, and other issues.</p>	<p>digitalfirstaid.mk</p>
<p><i><u>E-Classroom (azlp.mk)</u></i></p> <p>With the support of the Delegation of the European Union in North Macedonia and in partnership with the Personal Data Protection Agency, Metamorphosis created and launched the privacy educational tool e-Ucilnica (e-Classroom) as a resource hub for everyone interested in protecting their personal data. This tool became an integral part of the website of the Personal Data Protection Agency.</p>	<p>Е-училница (azlp.mk)</p>

Social Accountability Programme

Metamorphosis Foundation places “social accountability” at the heart of its work to address governance challenges, seeing it as a powerful mechanism for bridging the gap between citizens and institutions. By systematically promoting transparency, accessibility, inclusion and responsiveness, Metamorphosis advances citizen-centric governance grounded in the principles of good governance. Through tools such as the Openness Index, the Foundation applies a data-driven approach to assess institutional performance, identify gaps, and provide clear pathways for improvement. By making public information accessible and decision-making processes open to scrutiny, Metamorphosis’ work contributes to trust-building and reduces the space for corrupt practices, while enabling citizens, CSOs, and independent media to hold decision-makers accountable.

At the same time, Metamorphosis actively contributes to the development and monitoring of openness and transparency policies at national and regional levels, including through its engagement in networks such as the Open Government Partnership, ACTION SEE, and the Anti-Corruption Platform. Through promoting open data and fostering an enabling environment for civic engagement, the Foundation strengthens the “demand side” of accountability and empowers citizens, particularly youth and networked CSOs, to participate meaningfully in policy dialogue and digital transformation processes. Looking ahead, Metamorphosis aims to further enhance its watchdog role, reinforcing constructive engagement between institutions and civil society, improving institutional performance, and building sustainable trust between governments and the citizens they serve.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025


- As part of the preparation of the Annual Work Program of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2026, Metamorphosis submitted [5 policy initiatives](#), including the initiative for establishing a [National Strategy for e-Services at the Local Level](#) which received support from the Ministry for Local Self-Government.
- In line with Metamorphosis’ efforts in ensuring open institutions, Metamorphosis became a member of the working group for the creation of the **Draft Transparency Strategy (2027-2029)**. It also maintained its collaboration with the **Deputy President of the Government in charge of Good Governance, Arben Fetaj** in order to ensure the implementation of the transparency commitments that arise from the existing and following strategy.
- At the invitation of the **Ministry for Digital Transformation**, Metamorphosis had a meeting with the ministry representatives on the **draft Law on the Use of Public Sector Data with the EU Directive on Open Data and Re-use of Public Sector Information (2019/1024)** that Metamorphosis prepared in 2021. This meeting later on turned into a meaningful cooperation that reflected in a joint organization of a public discussion at the beginning of 2026. Prior to that, Metamorphosis shared its [contribution to the Draft Law on Open Data and Reuse of Public Sector Data](#) as part of an online consultation process.
- Metamorphosis continued to enhance its watchdog role in order to increase the levels of transparency and accountability of state institutions. Through the Openness Index, Metamorphosis monitored the openness of a total of 41 institutions ([Executive institutions](#) and the [Assembly](#)), and disseminated evidence-based recommendations to relevant institutions through meetings, campaigns, mentoring sessions and public events.
- Moreover, Metamorphosis contributed to the systemic changes in local governance by [monitoring the openness of 81 LSGUs](#) in North Macedonia through the Openness Index which revealed an increase in openness at local level from 37% in 2024 to 40% in 2025.
- As a contribution to the discussion of openness of the local authorities and digitalization of services as a mechanism to combat corruption, Metamorphosis organized a thematic forum

[“Open municipality – active community”](#). The forum was organized at the Civic Resource Center in Skopje, bringing together over 40 representatives from LSGUs, state institutions, CSOs, international organizations, media, to effectively tackle corruption by promoting inclusivity, engagement and cooperation.

- The monitoring was complemented with a [policy assessment](#) shared during a thematic forum including an online awareness raising campaign consisted of [infographics](#) in Macedonian and Albanian language highlighting the key findings, and media presence.
- Through **two mentoring cycles** for building the capacities of selected LSGUs in increasing their openness and in parallel decreasing the corruption at local level, Metamorphosis and partners strengthened the capacities of selected LSGUs. The [first mentoring cycle](#) with 9 LSGUs (**Aerodrom, Valandovo, Kriva Palanka, Kocani, Struga, Gostivar, Negotino, Demir Hisar and Stip**) [resulted](#) in: **20 trained local administration officials**; increased openness of the LSGUs between **2%-13%** and their **open data** score between **0,48% - 3,95%**; as well as **Kochani** and **Kriva Palanka** adopting the project-created "**Internal Procedure for Openness of LSGUs**". The second mentoring cycle is still in process, but was voluntarily joined by the municipality **Kumanovo** which recognized its value.
- To support the predictability and regular communication between LSGUs and the community, which further on contributes to greater information, trust and active participation of citizens in local processes, Metamorphosis developed a document for **online public consultations at the local level** that prescribes a structure for **an annual calendar** and a **consultation report** with instructions for their use. By regularly publishing clear and systematized reports after each online public consultation, citizens will gain insight into how their proposals are taken into account and what decisions result from those processes.
- Metamorphosis continued to coordinate the new [CSO Network for Open Government Partnership](#) which represents a structure for coordinating the process of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in North Macedonia in line with international experience, with the aim of improving the communication of all involved parties and strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of the activities within the OGP.

The projects and initiatives implemented within the Social Accountability programme during 2025 are presented in the following table.

<p style="text-align: center;">Leveraging technology to promote institutional accountability and transparency</p> <p>The project aims to promote openness and transparency of legislative and executive branches in Southeast Europe through the Openness Index - a composite index measuring the openness of institutions, initially developed as part of the regional ACTION SEE project and network as to compare the openness of institutions and governments across the region.</p> <p>This research is a strategic activity of the Social Accountability Programme monitoring institutions at the central level, including the state Assembly. The research results of the Openness Index inform Metamorphosis' advocacy activities and the coaching we provide to support institutions to open up their data and processes. The Assessment of Good Governance in North Macedonia and the region through the Openness Index for 2024 for the Parliament is available here and for the Executive Government is available here. The biggest increase in the</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>Period: 01.11.2024 – 31.10.2026</p> <p>Donor: National Endowment for Democracy</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>Partners: - Center for Democratic Transition (Montenegro)</p>
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<p>Openness Index results were noted in the Ministry of Inter-Community Relations (11,57% increase) and the Ministry for Local Self-governance (8,95% increase), while the general conclusion was that the ministries' openness has decreased which is visible by the fact that the for the first time ever, the executive agencies received higher scores than the ministries.</p> <p>In addition to online promotional through infographics depicting both regional and national results and a press release to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information, the results were also presented at separate advocacy meetings with institutions. Among them were the Ministry for Public Administration, the Ministry for Digital Transformation and the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for which Metamorphosis created tailor-made analysis of the results, also taking into account their results between 2020 - 2025. The results were also communicated with several institution representatives during official sessions of the Council for Coordination and Monitoring of the Open Government Partnership Process 2024-2026. Moreover, Metamorphosis provided the opportunity for institutions for mentoring where they would receive specific instructions on which areas they need improvement in and ideas on how to overcome obstacles that they are facing in this regard. This opportunity was used by the Ministry for Digital Transformation.</p> <p>To support the promotion of the Openness Index results and to dive deeper into the detected challenges, 2 investigative articles. The first one was on "The reform agenda with modest steps: The civil sector is involved in monitoring, but the institutions are closed" analyzing the progress of North Macedonia's Reform agenda 2024-2027 which proved to be moving at a slow pace. The second article "Government with selective transparency: Bombardment of announcements masks the concealment of key information" critically examines the transparency practices of the Government of North Macedonia.</p> <p>Metamorphosis also shared its findings and expertise at regional events talking about how despite legal frameworks and digital transparency measures real freedom of access to information is still undermined by a lack of political will and institutional openness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why Not (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Partners for Democratic Change Serbia (Serbia)
<p>(DIGILOC) Digital transformation at local level – Engaged community for corruption resilience</p> <p>The project aims at increasing active engagement of the community for greater resilience to corruption at local level. Specifically, it aims at promoting the openness of the local self-government through improved cooperation between civil society organisations and citizens with local authorities, and increasing active civic involvement in decision-making through innovative digital tools.</p> <p>In 2025, the project contributed to the systemic changes in local governance by monitoring of the openness of all 81 local self-government units (LSGUs) in North Macedonia using the Openness Index</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>DIGILOC</p> </div> <p>Period: 01.12.2023 – 30.09.2026</p> <p>Donor: Swiss Government through Civica Mobilitas</p>

which revealed **an increase in openness at local level** from 37% in 2024 to 40% in 2025. The monitoring was complemented with a [policy assessment](#) shared during a thematic forum [“Open municipality – active community”](#) with over 40 stakeholders, including an online awareness raising campaign consisted of [infographics](#) in Macedonian and Albanian language highlighting the key findings, and media presence.

To support the predictability and regular communication between LSGUs and the community, which further on contributes to greater information, trust and active participation of citizens in local processes, Metamorphosis developed a document for **online public consultations at the local level** that prescribes a structure for an annual calendar and a consultation report with instructions for their use. By regularly publishing clear and systematized reports after each online public consultation, citizens will gain insight into how their proposals are taken into account and what decisions result from those processes.

The project implemented two **mentoring cycles** for building the capacities of selected LSGUs in increasing their openness and in parallel decreasing the corruption at local level, through a composite “Methodology for mentoring support for strengthening the capacities of LSGUs”. The [first mentoring cycle](#), conducted in January and February with 9 LSGUs (**Aerodrom, Valandovo, Kriva Palanka, Kocani, Struga, Gostivar, Negotino, Demir Hisar and Stip**) [resulted](#) in: **20 trained local administration officials**; increased openness of the LSGUs between **2%-13%** and their **open data** score between **0,48% - 3,95%**; as well as **Kochani and Kriva Palanka** adopting the project-created **"Internal Procedure for Openness of LSGUs"**. The first part of the [second mentoring cycle](#) was also joined by the municipality **Kumanovo** and is conducted in two parts: November – December 2025 were dedicated to the institutional openness, while January-February 2026 are dedicated to online public consultations at local level based on the project-created **structure of the annual calendar for planned consultations and reports on consultations**.

The upgraded digital platform mCommunity enabled the public online consultations at local level through **polls** and **surveys**, which was introduced first in Demir Hisar on a topic related to [creating the budget for 2026](#). To support the visibility of mCommunity, alongside an [online campaign](#), partners conducted **field visits** in **Struga, Demir Hisar, Aerodrom and Negotino** in order to directly promoted with citizens, while Meta.mk supported its visibility through a [media story](#) on how digital tools strengthen the trust between citizens and local authorities.



Partners:

- Rural Coalition
- Center for Social Innovations Blink 42-21

OpenGov Together: Supporting Implementation and Designing the Future

The project aims at enabling a sustainable and inclusive implementation and planning of commitments within the Open Government Partnership (OGP) process by supporting the execution of existing measures and strengthening the co-creation process for the upcoming National Action Plan for OGP 2027–2029.

Period:

1.11.2025 – 31.10.2026

Donor:

Open Government Partnership Secretariat

More specifically, the OpenGov Together project aims at:

Providing expert and procedural support for the **preparation of secondary legislation related to the financial reporting of political parties**, as outlined in Commitment 4.1, “Digitization of Processes for Financial Reporting of Political Parties,” of the current National Action Plan for OGP 2024–2026, and;

Supporting the **multi-stakeholder co-creation process** through an inclusive and structured approach for the preparation of the **National Action Plan for OGP 2027–2029**, with active participation from civil society organizations and other relevant actors.

Open
Government
Partnership



Partners:

- Center for Civil Communications

Public Record Resources

Openness Index

The Openness Index is a composite index measuring the openness of institutions. It was initially developed as part of the regional ACTION SEE project and network aiming to compare the openness of institutions and governments across the region. This research is a strategic activity of the Social Accountability Programme monitoring institutions at the local and central level, including the Assembly.

The research results of the Openness Index inform Metamorphosis’ advocacy activities, including coaching for civil servants provided to support institutions to open up their data and processes.



index.actionsee.org

Period:

01.01.2016 – ongoing

Donors:

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

Awareness raising and advocacy

- Danche Danilovska-Bajdevska, Programme director, became part of the working groups for the **preparation of a Draft-Law on amending and supplementing the Law on preventing corruption and conflict of Interest and the amendments to the Law on Free Access to Public Information.**
- At the invitation of the **Ministry for Digital Transformation**, Metamorphosis participated at the [public discussion on the Draft-Law on accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public institutions](#), advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the process of web accessibility checks and promoting the creation of online training resources for public administration to ensure compliance with accessibility standards for websites and mobile apps.
- At the invitation of the **Ministry for Digital Transformation**, Metamorphosis had a meeting with the ministry representatives on the **draft Law on the Use of Public Sector Data with the EU Directive on Open Data and Re-use of Public Sector Information (2019/1024)** that Metamorphosis prepared in 2021. On September 9th, Metamorphosis contributed to the [Draft Law on Open Data and Reuse of Public Sector Data](#).
- Metamorphosis presented the Regional Openness Index results through **4 advocacy meetings with institutions** for which Metamorphosis created tailor-made analysis of the results, also taking into account their results between 2020 - 2025. Meeting were held with the Ministry for digital transformation, Ministry for public administration, and Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, while results were also discussed at the OGP Council meeting in December 2025.
- In line with Metamorphosis' efforts in ensuring that the public institutions are better equipped to enhance their transparency and openness, Danche Danilovska-Bajdevska, Programme director, became a member of the working group for the creation of the **Draft Transparency Strategy (2027-2029)**.
- On September 15th, 2025, Metamorphosis contributed to the **preparation of the annual Work Program of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2026**, with [five policy initiatives](#), among which: National Strategy for Digital Literacy, National Strategy for e-Services at the Local Level, Harmonization of Legislation with the EU Digital Services Law, National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, and National Strategy for Building Social Resilience to the Harmful Impacts of Disinformation, whose adoption in the Work Program is still to be seen.
- At the invitation of the State Audit Office, Metamorphosis contributed to the creation of the [Final report on the performance audit on the topic of the possibility of using AI in the public sector](#).
- At the invitation of the [British Council](#), Metamorphosis was part of the Berlin Process, Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2025 on topics related to cybersecurity and media integrity.
- In June 2025, Metamorphosis contributed to the civil society consultations for the forthcoming EC Country Report.
- Metamorphosis participated in the [Civica Mobilitas Networking Meeting](#) (June 25-27, 2025) held in Gevgelija, event that gathered around 80 representatives from civil society organizations from across the country.
- At the invitation of Partners for Democratic Change, Metamorphosis [spoke](#) at the 5th annual "Privacy Week" conference, organized by Partners for Democratic Change (Partners Serbia), held in Belgrade from January 29-31, 2025, under the theme "Privacy for All."
- Metamorphosis participated and spoke at the workshop with stakeholders on the [implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest \(2021-2025\) and a roadmap for the development of a new anti-corruption strategy \(2026-2030\)](#), organized by the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative.
- Metamorphosis was a speaker at the [round table on "Digitalization of public administration in the context of European integration - advantages and challenges"](#) advocating for considering digitalization as a fundamental reform to improve public services and citizens' quality of life, emphasizing the need for cyber security measures, alignment with EU regulations, digital literacy,

- and open data to successfully advance digital transformation in the context of European integration.
- At the invitation of Partners for Democratic Change Serbia, Metamorphosis was a speaker at a **regional panel discussion** titled "[The State of Freedom of Access to Information in Serbia and the Region](#)". The panel was part of the conference "Journalism under Attack: The Era of Unfreedom and Steadfastness of the Profession" which took place on September 30th, 2025 in Belgrade, Serbia.
 - At the invitation of the **Assembly of North Macedonia** and the **National Democratic Institute**, Metamorphosis spoke at the panel discussion on "[Parliament 2.0 – Change, Leadership, Capacity and Inclusion](#)" which was held at the Assembly on May 16th, 2025. Her speech focused on the importance of involving the civil society sector in the creation of digital tools for the Assembly.
 - Metamorphosis spoke at the [first meeting of the National Consultative Mechanism on the Reform Agenda](#) on May 19th, 2025, organized by the **European Policy Institute** in cooperation with the **Ministry of European Affairs**, presenting the findings of the Metamorphosis research on the progress made so far in the field of digitalization, as a key area in the Reform Agenda.
 - As part of the Platform and At the invitation of the **State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption**, Metamorphosis was part of the workshops on "Corruption Risk Assessment in the Republic of North Macedonia" on June 4th and 5th, 2025. These workshops were dedicated to the preparation of a five-year National Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest with an action plan for its implementation, where Metamorphosis gave its contribution based on its expertise, knowledge and Openness Index findings.
 - On June 19th, 2025, Metamorphosis participated in the [35th session](#) of the **Committee on Transport, Digital Transformation, Environment and Spatial Planning of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia**. The session held a public debate on the topic "Reform Package of Draft Laws for the Digital Transformation of the Republic of North Macedonia". Metamorphosis addressed the Committee in session, emphasizing its support for the adoption process of the package of four laws and welcoming the Assembly's initiative to include CSOs in structured discussions to improve the draft texts.
 - Danche Danilovska – Bajdevska, Program Director, spoke of the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) Global Summit](#), hosted by the Government of Spain in October 7-9, 2025, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, at the panel "Beyond the Commitment: Reflecting on 15 Years of OGP's Journey".
 - Representatives from Metamorphosis Foundation were **invited by CIVICUS** to take part at the [International Civil Society Week](#) that happened between 1st of November – 5th of November, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Media and Information Integrity Programme

The Media and Information Integrity programme operated in an environment marked by electoral cycles, intensified geopolitical tensions, and increasing pressure on democratic institutions. Through its integrated model combining independent journalism, factchecking, investigative reporting, research, advocacy, and regional cooperation, the Foundation strengthened democratic resilience and reinforced public trust in verified information. The program functioned not only as a newsroom ecosystem but also as a policy and research actor, addressing structural vulnerabilities related to Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), digital election campaigning, media regulation, and the protection of media freedom.

At the core of this ecosystem are three complementary platforms. Meta News Agency, Albanian language news outlet Portalb, and the fact-checking service Truthmeter.

Meta News Agency serves as a professional, fact-based news service with increased readership for more than 20% compared to the previous year, reaching millions of users. Portalb.mk is the number one ranked online media in Albanian language in the country. And Truthmeter is the only fact-checking service in North Macedonia certified by the International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) and a founding member of European Fact Checking Standards Network (EFCSN).

In 2025, the fact-checking web site Truthmeter independently verified election-related claims during the 2025 local elections in North Macedonia and challenged manipulation spin and false narratives by the elected and appointed officials, as well as anybody else with an influence over shaping public policies.

The year was also marked by significant milestones, including notable conferences, workshops, awards, and groundbreaking investigative journalism. These efforts demonstrate the Metamorphosis Foundation's unwavering commitment to upholding democratic values and ensuring that the public remains informed and equipped to critically engage with the media.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

1. During 2025, multiple research papers on FIMI and Freedom of speech were published as part of Metamorphosis' work which positioned the organization as a leader in the Macedonian and broader Balkan efforts in countering Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference. These included:
 - a. Shadow [report](#) on media freedom in North Macedonia
 - b. Enablers and [Incentives](#) of Election-Related Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference in North Macedonia
 - c. Evaluating North Macedonia's [Media Law](#) Reforms—A Partial Step Toward European Standards
 - d. State [funding](#) in North Macedonia: Making the system fairer, stronger and more transparent
 - e. Towards [Inclusive](#) Internet Portals and Election Advertising in North Macedonia
 - f. From bot farms to ballot boxes: The [digital assault](#) on Balkan elections and democracy
 - g. Position [Paper](#): Blueprint for Protection of Democracy from Information Threats
 - h. Geopolitical Perspective of [Disinformation Flows](#) in the Western Balkans; as well as quarterly

- i. Multiple periodical media monitoring reports, analyses of the [geopolitical aspects](#) and other [publications](#) about the disinformation flow in Western Balkans
- j. Documentary film explaining disinformation in Western Balkans [“In pursuit of truth”](#)

2. The Metamorphosis’ Media and Information Integrity program has developed to be one of the few, if not the only source for civil society support for local journalism. Metamorphosis is acting upon the widening news deserts in North Macedonia, which are seen as a crucial issue for limiting freedom of speech, and an incentive for spreading malign narratives.

a. During 2025, the Metamorphosis Foundation, through its Media and Information Integrity program [awarded](#) grants to five local media outlets to produce public interest content. The goal of this activity is not merely one-time financial assistance, but the creation of a safe environment and structure for the long-term development of small media outlets with local or specialized significance. The grants were awarded as part of the regional project [SMS Facility](#) – Small Media Support in the Western Balkans, co-financed by the European Union.

b. For the second time, [Metamorphosis granted the annual “Ilija Zhupanoski” Award](#) for the best journalistic work and for educational multimedia content prepared for young people tackling disinformation in North Macedonia.

3. As part of the multiple investigative stories published in the framework of the Anti-disinformation Hub project financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Meta News Agency published an investigative series titled [Hostages of the Past](#) dealing with the complex relations between North Macedonia and Bulgaria. Authored by journalist Borjan Jovanovski, and edited by the Meta.mk editor-in-chief Goran Rizaov, the feuilleton analysed how through various harmful influences and propaganda over many years, the relations between the two neighbouring countries has been obstructing the progress of the Macedonian state toward the necessary reforms that would contribute to improving the quality of life within the framework of the country’s accession process to the European Union. The 4-part series was republished by several Macedonian media as well as by the renowned regional media [SEE News](#).

4. To mark 2 April, [International Fact-Checking Day](#), the Anti-Disinformation Network for the Balkans (ADN-Balkans) organized two regional events which took place in Skopje and Tirana, gathering fact-checkers, journalists, researchers, policymakers, and civil society leaders from across the Western Balkans and Europe. A full-day international conference in Skopje hosted by Metamorphosis Foundation, focusing on disinformation threats, FIMI, election integrity, fact-checking, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

5. The International [e-Society](#) annual conference was organized in 2025 under the title "Integrity at the core of digital transformation." The conference brought together 272 participants from civil society, academia, institutions, embassies, media, business sector and citizens from 15 countries, Western Balkan region and Europe. As part of the conference, the documentary film [In Pursuit of the Truth](#) premiered, offering both analytical and human perspectives on disinformation and collaborative efforts to counter it. The film highlights the project’s investigative work, fact-checking, and in-depth reporting and was designed for wide outreach through online and traditional media, with subtitles in all project working languages.

6. The Metamorphosis Foundation, through its “[Disinfo Radar](#)”, has been selected among the 30 solutions presented at the Paris Peace Forum 2025, a global platform that highlights concrete innovations for peace and democratic resilience. The presentation of “Disinfo Radar” at the Forum confirms the Foundation’s regional impact and opens [new opportunities](#) for cooperation with global partners and mentorship through the Scale-Up Program (SCUP).

7. Truthmeter continued the cooperating with the international fact-checking partners, such as the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) and International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) on implementing national and joint European projects, especially in the area of promoting the importance of information integrity in a democratic society by starting a video podcasting project in order to inform the public on the importance of countering disinformation and nurturing truthful information in the public discourse as precursor for a healthy and democratic public agenda. This dedication helped reinforce public trust in reliable information sources, positioning Metamorphosis as a regional leader in the fight against disinformation.

8. In 2025, the Albanian language news outlet Portalb.mk [remained](#) at the top of the list of the most trusted media outlets in North Macedonia. Ever since the International Republican Institute (IRI), started measuring (survey conducted by Brima Ltd) the trust level of online media in North Macedonia, Portalb has consistently ranked first. This was the case in 2014 ([photo](#)), 2015 ([photo](#)), and continues a decade later, in 2024 ([photo](#)) and 2025 ([photo](#)), whenever online portals are included in the survey.

9. The professional community formally recognized the quality of the newsroom's work when journalist Fisnik Xhelili received the Annual Award from the Association of Journalists of North Macedonia (AJM) for his reporting on student violence. Fisnik Xhelili won the Annual award of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia for the [Best reporting on topics of local](#) and regional importance.

10. Additionally, the British Council [showcased Portalb.mk](#) as a regional success story for its professionalism and focus on underrepresented voices.

11. Following a Portalb.mk investigation into the Municipality of Tetovo's expenditure of over 1.6 million euros on temporary employment contracts through private agencies, the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) opened an official case. Similarly, the SCPC launched an investigation into the Municipality of Çair after the portal uncovered the allocation of funds to a cafeteria owned by a Deputy Minister without a public call.

12. During 2025 Truthmeter has published over 650 fact-checks covering various disinformation narratives and topics being shared on the online platforms. Most widely shared topics containing disinformation concerned war in Ukraine, attacks on EU, US, the West in general, as well as Western values, scams of all kinds (sales of fake medicines, crypto scams, clickbait scams, fake discount scams, giveaway scams, etc.), as well as anti-vaxx, conspiracy, gender, LGBTQ+, and climate disinformation. Throughout the year the steady stream of scams, originating both from abroad and locally kept the fact-checkers busy, since the price users pay as scam victims

rises from year to year. Truthmeter also marked over 1.800 pieces of platform content adding additional information and context.

13. Political fact-checking is the oldest fact-checking segment Truthmeter is working on. We have been covering false statements of the public officials for 15 years now. 2025 was a year of local elections in North Macedonia and we checked the fulfillment of 57 election promises throughout the year, while being especially active before the elections helping voters to make sense of the political parties' truthfulness when it comes to their election promises. Truthmeter also continued fact-checking statements of the politicians doing so 49 times, almost once per week on average. Analyses section is one of our main sections and we published 157 analytical articles, and the main topic was by far the disinformation being spread by Kremlin on North Macedonia and the Western Balkans, as well as abroad in order to shed light on the Kremlin's Foreign interference, manipulation and information (FIMI).

14. In 2025 a new section on Truthmeter website was established titled Context, whose main goals are publishing 57 explainers in 2025 regarding current affairs issues where disinformation or lack of information dominates and hides or leads astray the public debate. Also, this section publishes pre-bunking articles trying to get ahead of disinformation by providing explanations on disinformation narratives permeating the public discourse or getting ahead of disinformation being spread abroad but still didn't reach North Macedonia. This is also an attempt to get ahead of this segment of disinformation and offer truthful content even before disinformation reaches local users.

15. The new podcast production project implemented throughout last year resulted in publishing 16 full size podcasts (93 video products together with the podcast segments and reels/shorts) on issues central and adjacent to the subject of disinformation in North Macedonia. Topics like online platform scams were extensively covered, but also topics like gender disinformation, Kremlin propaganda, domestic political disinformation, especially disinformation during the 20256 local elections, etc. The new podcast (titled Context) content was shared 568 times on 8 online platforms, reaching the audience of 1.28 views total, while the longer version of the podcast has total of 25.750 views.

16. Police Accountability and Auditing of Public Institutions: Persistent journalistic pressure of Portalb, including the naming of a specific anti-drug inspector, led the Ministry of Internal Affairs to launch internal investigations and eventually file criminal charges against two inspectors for obstructing justice. By late October, five inspectors were dismissed. Additionally, a State Audit Office report confirmed Portalb.mk's findings regarding systemic failures at the Student Dormitory in Tetovo, including its operation without technical inspections.

The projects and initiatives implemented within the Media and Information Integrity programme during 2025 are presented in the following table:

<p style="text-align: center;">Meta.mk - Independent news agency</p> <p>Meta News Agency was established in November 2014 and since then it has grown to be a reliable source of fact-based objective news on current events in Macedonian and English, as well as other Balkan languages, whose contents is republished by over thirty domestic and foreign media outlets. Meta.mk provides a professional news service, and the media and decision makers, including the highest representatives of the international community, use its reporting as a reference both.</p> <p>In 2025, the Meta News Agency increased its readership by more than 20% compared to the previous year. In the past year, Meta.mk published more than 3000 fact-based articles that reached more than a million users and two million pageviews.</p> <p>Additionally, Meta.mk published about 80 videos, more than 15 data visualizations, and 6 investigative stories on topics such as: Foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), cyber security, environment, education, healthcare, and youth.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">META.MK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.meta.mk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Portalb.mk – News portal in Albanian language</p> <p>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 North Macedonia. Its reputation based on strict implementation of journalistic standards is complemented with the popularity as one of the most influential online media among decision makers and general audience, with a fan base of over 235,000 social networks followers. Portalb focuses on stories often overlooked by mainstream media such as social justice, youth concerns and systemic problems helping to broaden public debate and bring institutional attention where needed.</p> <p>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 and other languages.</p> <p>In 2025, Portalb published more than 8000 articles. The Albanian language news site had more than 3.5 million views, and 9.5 million interactions, an increase of more than 17% compared to 2024. Portalb produced more than 1.100 videos during 2025, including 32 podcast episodes, and more than 2000 reels.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PORTALB DRITARE REALITETI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">portalb.mk</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Truthmeter - Fact-checking service</p> <p>Truthmeter is the only fact-checking service in North Macedonia, founded in 2021 and a certified member of the International Fact-Checking Network and a founding member of European Fact-Checking Standards Network.</p> <p>Since 2020, the Truthmeter has been a member of Meta’s Third-Party Fact-Checking Partnership that works with independent, IFCN-certified fact-checkers who identify, review and rate viral misinformation on Facebook and Instagram.</p> <p>Truthmeter fact-checked viral and harmful online platform content contributing to lower visibility of conspiracy theories, scamming content of various types, anti-vax content, Kremlin’s anti-Ukraine and anti-Western propaganda and narratives, misuse of artificial intelligence tools to fool users, etc.</p> <p>In 2025, Truthmeter produced more than 910 articles, out of which more than 500 were debunking articles, 60 counterspins, 20 analysis, and 10 investigative stories. Around 480 were translated in Albanian language and 160 in English language. The fact-checking tool had 310.000 views from more than 180.000 users, which is an increase of more than 27% compared to the previous year. Truthmeter.mk published 92 videos, including more than 60 reels, 17 podcast episodes, and 1 documentary.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"> vistinomer.mk vertetmates.mk truthmeter.mk </p>
<p>Western Balkans anti-disinformation hub: Exposing malign influences through watchdog journalism</p> <p>In 2025, the Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub continued to address the region’s structural vulnerability to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), which threatens democratic institutions and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. By refining monitoring methodologies, enhancing analytical tools and reinforcing cross-border cooperation, the Hub contributed to more effective early warning mechanisms, improved public debate, and stronger societal resilience to information threats.</p> <p>A key achievement in 2025 was the further consolidation of the Hub as a regional reference point. The multilingual platform antidisinfo.net continued to serve as a central repository for news, debunking content, investigative stories and in-depth analyses in English, Macedonian, Bosnian/Serbian/Montenegrin/Croatian and Albanian languages from all six Western Balkan countries, recording increased engagement from media professionals, institutions and the wider public.</p> <p>Production of twelve monthly “Disinfo Radar – Watch and Warn” early warning alerts provided timely insights into emerging narratives and cross-border trends. The recognition of the “Disinfo Radar” among the top ten selected</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">antidisinfo.net/hub</p> <p>Period: 01.11. 2021 – 31.12.2025</p> <p>Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</p>

[solutions](#) at the Paris Peace Forum 2025 confirmed the project’s international relevance, opening opportunities for global partnerships and further scaling.

Systematic media monitoring and investigative scrutiny expanded the Knowledge Hub database, enabling narrative tracking and trend analysis across the region. In 2025, the project published the [Position Paper](#) “Blueprint for Protection of Democracy from Information Threats,” developed jointly by Metamorphosis Foundation and the Anti-Disinformation Network for the Balkans (ADN-Balkans) through broad regional and international consultations, including the [conference](#) “Together for Truth: Whole-of-Society Approach to Safeguard Democracy” with events in Skopje and Tirana marking April 2, the International Fact-Checking Day, the Political Accountability and New Technologies - POINT Conference held in June in Sarajevo and International Conference e-Society.mk held in Skopje on December 10, as well as Media Literacy Days in November.

Additional analytical publications examined electoral disinformation, cross-border malign influence operations and geopolitical dimensions of disinformation flows in the Western Balkans, while quarterly monitoring reports strengthened the project’s evidence base and advocacy capacity.

The project generated a substantial volume of original journalistic output in 2025, including 18 investigative stories, 818 debunking and fact-checking articles, and 109 in-depth analytical pieces. These outputs were widely republished across regional media ecosystems, contributing to higher professional standards, improved accountability, and more informed public discourse. Research findings informed national and regional advocacy efforts, particularly in discussions related to election integrity, FIMI risks, and alignment with EU requirements. To mark International Fact-Checking Day, ADN-Balkans organized regional events in Skopje and Tirana, fostering dialogue among journalists, researchers, policymakers and civil society actors.

Capacity building and peer exchange remained central to the project’s regional approach. A study-visit to the Netherlands brought together 12 representatives from five Western Balkan countries, facilitating exchange with Dutch civil society and institutional stakeholders and strengthening cross-border cooperation. Public outreach and media literacy activities further amplified impact, including eight Balkan News Truck events reaching over 600 participants, an online regional webinar addressing anti-EU narratives, and the annual e-Society conference titled “Integrity at the Core of Digital Transformation,” which convened 272 participants from 15 countries. The documentary film “In Pursuit of the Truth” expanded public engagement by presenting investigative and fact-checking work in an accessible format.

Project activities supported legislative and strategic discussions, including the [renewed initiative](#) to develop a [National Strategy for Building Societal Resilience To Disinformation in North Macedonia](#). This initiative builds on




Partners:

- Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro
- Faktoje, Albania
- ISAC – International and Security Affairs Centre, Serbia
- Sbunker, Kosovo
- Zašto ne (Why Not), Bosnia and Herzegovina



“The Disinfo Radar,” an early warning service that emerged from the work of the Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub, was selected as one of ten global projects for the Paris Peace Forum’s esteemed Scale-up Program (SCUP) in 2025-2026.

<p>sustained advocacy for evidence-based, long-term policy responses in the region. The Ministry of Defence issued a positive opinion, reiterating that the strategy should be developed through a proposed whole-of-society approach, with the involvement of all relevant government institutions as the next step.</p> <p>Through sustained monitoring, research, investigative journalism, advocacy and regional cooperation, the project in 2025 reinforced professional capacities, strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration and contributed to a more coordinated and resilient response to disinformation and foreign information manipulation across the Western Balkans.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SMS Facility – Small media support in Western Balkans</p> <p>Metamorphosis Foundation in partnership with the Center for Civil Society Promotion (CPCD), and partners from Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Germany, is implementing a three-year regional project: SMS Facility – Small Media Support in the Western Balkans. The project is supported by the European Union and is dedicated to promoting media freedom and freedom of expression in the Western Balkan countries.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to provide an enabling environment and structure for professional media and to contribute to strengthening the capacities of local media, media organizations, and journalists to exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to information, and to promote media pluralism.</p> <p>As part of the project, Metamorphosis Foundation published a public call for small grants for support for small and local media outlets, to which as many as 29 applicants submitted their project proposals, and five media houses received financial and mentoring support for creating media content of public interest.</p> <p>The media outlets that received support are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inovativnost from Shtip Mollekuqja from Tetovo Drnka.mk from Strumica Umno.mk from Skopje Radio Kocani from Kochani <p>In addition to financial support for production, the project includes a substantial capacity-building component for media outlets. Awardees will have access to expert mentoring support, as well as educational courses, workshops, and trainings. Specialized tools and methodologies for self-assessment and organizational development have also been developed.</p>	<p>Period: 11.11.2024 - 11.07.2027</p> <p>Donor: Co-funded by the European Union</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Co-funded by the European Union</p> </div> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Center for Civil Society Promotion (CPCD) - Thomson Media - Center for Democratic Transition - Kosovo 2.0 - Center for Science and Innovation for Development (SCiDEV)

**Advocacy Transnazionale per la Libertà di Informazione nei Balcani – ATLIB 2
(Transnational Advocacy for Freedom of Information in the Balkans)**

The ATLIB 2 project implemented in cooperation with OBC Transeuropa (OBCT/CCI), contributed to strengthening transnational advocacy for media freedom in the Western Balkans, with a specific focus on North Macedonia. The project supported evidence-based monitoring and advocacy aligned with European standards and mechanisms, reinforcing civil society engagement in safeguarding press freedom and freedom of information across the region.

During the preparatory phase (February–March 2025), the project conducted research to identify key domestic stakeholders, journalists, experts, and institutional actors for interviews and consultations. This groundwork ensured an inclusive, context-sensitive shadow reporting process grounded in credible local expertise, strengthening the legitimacy and analytical depth of the forthcoming media freedom shadow report for North Macedonia.

In April 2025, representatives participated in an advocacy workshop in Rome, where partners aligned methodologies and agreed on the structure of the shadow report. The workshop harmonised standards across participating countries, ensured coherence with European media freedom monitoring frameworks, and reinforced cross-border cooperation among civil society actors.

Between April and June 2025, the project contributed substantively to the drafting and finalisation of the [shadow report](#) on media freedom in North Macedonia. The report assessed the state of media pluralism, journalist safety, institutional responses to violations, and broader structural challenges affecting press freedom. It formulated concrete recommendations directed at national authorities, regulators, and policymakers, with the aim of supporting reforms in line with EU accession requirements and international standards. Production within the framework of the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) mechanism ensured alignment with Europe-wide monitoring and advocacy efforts.

An in-person public event was organised in Skopje to present the shadow report to national stakeholders, including journalists, civil society organisations, institutional representatives and the diplomatic community. This event created space for dialogue around the report’s findings and recommendations, promoting accountability and encouraging follow-up action. In September 2025, the findings were further disseminated through an international webinar, broadening outreach and fostering regional and European debate on media freedom challenges in candidate countries.


Period:

1.02.2025 - 31.10.2025

Donor:

OBC Transeuropa / Centro
per la Cooperazione
Internazionale (OBCT/CCI)



<p>Throughout the project period (March–October 2025), communication and advocacy efforts were reinforced through a targeted social media campaign comprising approximately 20 posts across partner platforms.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Countering ethnicity-based disinformation on social media during the pre-election period in North Macedonia</p> <p>The initiative responded to the heightened risk of ethnicity-based disinformation in the run-up to the October 2025 local elections, particularly on platforms popular among youth. The intervention combined systematic monitoring with proactive counter-narrative production to reduce interethnic tensions and strengthen informed public discourse.</p> <p>During Phase I (June–September 2025), the project established a comprehensive monitoring methodology and conducted daily tracking of harmful narratives on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. Six internal monitoring reports (three in Macedonian and three in Albanian) were produced, mapping eight recurring narrative frames, including “Threat to sovereignty,” “Institutional bias,” “Us vs. Them polarization,” and “Victimhood and persecution complex.” Monitoring captured incidents of nationalist hate speech, manipulation of sports events, viral misinformation about language rights, and political instrumentalization of historical myths. This evidence-based mapping enabled the team to move from reactive debunking to structured narrative analysis.</p> <p>In Phase II (October–December 2025), findings were translated into three in-depth multilingual analytical stories published on Meta.mk and Portalb.mk: “Digital Trenches,” “Sports and Harmful Narratives,” and “Greater Albania as a Political Phantom.” These analyses deconstructed the mechanisms through which ethnic identity is weaponized during elections, debunked viral falsehoods, and exposed the recycling of historical myths for political mobilization. By grounding counter-narratives in verified data from the monitoring phase, the project ensured relevance, credibility and responsiveness to the evolving political context.</p> <p>A core strength of the project was the strategic adaptation of research findings into youth-oriented multimedia content. Short-form videos, satirical memes and interactive “True vs. False” carousel cards were disseminated across TikTok, Instagram and Facebook, reaching over 350,000 users and generating more than 48,000 deep interactions. Paid promotion was strategically deployed during peak election-related narrative spikes to ensure that fact-based content reached audiences before disinformation could consolidate. This significantly exceeded initial reach targets and demonstrated the effectiveness of combining investigative journalism with algorithm-aware dissemination strategies.</p>	<p>Period: 27.05.2025 - 26.01.2026</p> <p>Donor: TRANSTELE CANAL FRANCE INTERNATIONAL (CFI) Media Development</p> 

<p style="text-align: center;">Combating electoral Foreign Information, Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)</p> <p>The first phase of implementation involved a detailed review and localisation of the global methodology through a joint workshop with International IDEA. This ensured that the analytical framework reflected North Macedonia’s institutional architecture, media landscape, regulatory environment and political dynamics. The adaptation process enabled a systematic assessment of structural factors like political polarisation, regulatory gaps and weaknesses in oversight mechanisms, which may facilitate FIMI during electoral periods.</p> <p>Subsequently, the project team compiled relevant data and conducted interviews with key informants, including representatives of state institutions, election management bodies, media regulators, civil society organisations, journalists and independent experts. Guided by the adapted methodology, the research identified patterns and risk factors related to the misuse of social networks, opaque political financing, media professionalism gaps and external influence operations.</p> <p>The report mapped the ecosystem of enablers and incentives that may facilitate FIMI in electoral processes, offering concrete, context-specific policy recommendations. It examined political divisions, unregulated online spaces, and media sector vulnerabilities, while emphasizing the need for stronger inter-institutional coordination and preventive mechanisms. The analysis also positioned North Macedonia within broader regional and global electoral interference trends, highlighting country-specific dynamics.</p> <p>To ensure accuracy, legitimacy and stakeholder ownership, a national validation workshop was organised with the participation of experts, institutional representatives and civil society actors. The event provided a platform to present preliminary findings, collect feedback and refine conclusions and recommendations. Following the incorporation of expert input, the final report was completed and published.</p> <p>The project concluded with a public launch event in Skopje, bringing together policymakers, electoral stakeholders, civil society organisations, media representatives and international partners. The event stimulated an informed debate on election-related FIMI risks and policy responses, reinforcing awareness of structural vulnerabilities and reform priorities.</p>	<p>Period: 20.03.2025 - 30.10.2025</p> <p>Donor: The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring of third-party political campaign financing on social networks and online media during the 2025 Local Elections</p> <p>In 2025, Metamorphosis Foundation implemented the project “Monitoring of Third-Party Political Campaign Financing on Social Networks and Online Media during the 2025 Local Elections” in partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). The project consisted of two</p>	<p>Period: 17.08.2025 - 31.01.2026</p> <p>Donor:</p>

complementary snapshot analyses: (1) monitoring institutional and municipal communication on Facebook and official websites during the 20-day campaign period, and (2) forensic monitoring of sponsored political advertising on Facebook and Instagram. Together, these components provided a comprehensive overview of digital campaigning, misuse of administrative resources (MAR), and third-party financing risks in North Macedonia’s 2025 local elections.

The first snapshot [analysis](#), Institutional and Municipal Communication on Facebook and Their Official Webpages During the 2025 Local Election Campaign in North Macedonia.

The methodology included monitoring of 26 municipalities and 10 central institutions between 29 September and 17 October 2025. The findings revealed that 59.77% of Facebook posts were promotional in character, while only 40.12% were neutral informational content.

The second snapshot analysis was titled Sponsored Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram During the 2025 Local Elections in North Macedonia: Vivid, Yet Unregulated.

The team at Metamorphosis examined digital advertising expenditures of 52 mayoral candidates across the same 26 municipalities. Of these, 28 candidates (54%) actively sponsored advertisements during the monitored period, generating €23,308 in tracked spending across 812 ads. Most of the ads (92.6%) were financed directly by candidates, while 7.4% were funded by political parties acting as third-party financiers.

A broader longitudinal analysis of the top 50 political spenders during the same period revealed total digital expenditures of €153,342, demonstrating that the financial backbone of the election was centralized at the national party level.

Together, the two snapshot analyses provide evidence-based recommendations for strengthening Electoral Code provisions, regulating third-party digital spending, expanding institutional oversight to social media, and safeguarding equal electoral competition in the digital sphere.

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)





Balkan News Truck initiative

In 2025, Metamorphosis Foundation coordinated the regional initiative Balkan News Truck, a mobile civic engagement and media literacy programme implemented by CFI – the French Media Development Agency, in partnership with Metamorphosis, with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs under the Shared Horizons project. The initiative aimed to combat disinformation and nationalist narratives by empowering young people, journalists, and citizens across the Western Balkans to think critically and defend democratic values.

Period:
07.10.2025 - 17.12.2025

Donor:
Transtele Canal France International (CFI) Media Development

<p>Balkan News Truck is a travelling media space that brings interactive media literacy programming directly into public spaces, schools, universities and community hubs. The concept combines expert-led discussions, fact-checking workshops, verification exercises, simulations, quizzes, film screenings, and storytelling formats.</p> <p>Between October and December 2025, the tour was implemented in six Western Balkan countries: Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia. The programme reached 1,518 direct participants, including high school and vocational students, university students, journalists and media workers, educators, civil society representatives and members of the general public. Including facilitators, guest speakers and local partners, the total number of engaged individuals reached 1,606. The initiative’s mobile format enabled direct engagement with audiences that are often outside traditional conference or training spaces.</p> <p>In North Macedonia, the Balkan News Truck tour was implemented in four cities, bringing media literacy discussions into accessible, visible public environments. These activities fostered dialogue among youth, journalists, and educators on how to recognize manipulation techniques, resist polarization, and strengthen community resilience.</p> <p>A key added value of the initiative was its cross-border dimension. By showcasing how disinformation narratives and nationalist framings travel regionally, the project encouraged participants to view information integrity as a shared Western Balkan challenge rather than an isolated national issue. The presence of journalists and facilitators from different countries facilitated peer exchange and reinforced regional solidarity in countering harmful narratives.</p>	
<p>Truthmeter - Meta Third Party Fact-Checking Program (3PFC)</p> <p>Truthmeter continued working as 3PFC partner for Meta Platforms Inc. In 2025 fact-checking content from the on-line platforms owned by this partner.</p> <p>During 2025 over 650 fact-checks were published and over 1.950 pieces of on-line platform content were marked as a content requiring additional information to establish proper context and truthfulness. Truthmeter journalists and editors also took part in workshops run by Meta representatives in making the fact-checking efforts more effective.</p>	<p>Period: 17.08.2020 - ongoing</p> <p>Donor: Meta Platforms Inc.</p> 
<p>Increasing Fact-Checker Capacities for Video Podcast Production</p> <p>The goals of the project implemented by the Truthmeter team include building and enhancing in-house video production capacity by developing the necessary skills, acquiring the appropriate equipment, and establishing streamlined processes for producing high-quality video podcast, as well as production and promotion of high-quality video content, incl. podcast on</p>	<p>Period: 01.12.2024-15.01.2026</p> <p>Donor: International Fact C hecking Network – Global Fact-Checking Fund</p>

<p>information integrity and market it to as wide audience as possible through most widely used on-line platforms in N. Macedonia.</p> <p>For this project 16 podcast episodes were produced, as well as 4 trainings for the podcast team and all the journalists in the Metamorphosis Foundation. Complete visual identity for the podcast was created, as well as podcast marketing strategy including creation of segments and shorts and content sharing to 8 on-line platforms.</p>	
<p>Truthmeter – Prebunking at Scale</p> <p>In 2025 Truthmeter started with the implementation of the Prebunking at Scale project as one of the partners among the 48 fact-checking organizations, Members of the European Fact-Checking Standards Network. The project envisages creating, publishing and disseminating pre-bunking content as a notice and forward looking information for the national and wider European publics regarding the possible disinformation expected to be spread, after analyzing the prevalent disinformation narratives and the existing disinformation spreading such narratives.</p> <p>The explanatory content produced by the partners will be widely shared in order to ensure visibility and knowledge about the most harmful national, regional and Europe-wide disinformation narratives expected to rise in visibility and influence throughout the public discourse. The partners on the project were working on setting up the joint platform using AI in identifying the most prevalent narratives, as well as agreeing on the joint methodology in producing the pre-bunking content. Truthmeter content contribution will be produced in 2026 as per the project timelines.</p>	<p>Period: 01.01.2025-31.06.2027</p> <p>Donor: European Fact Checking Standards Network</p> 

Awareness raising and advocacy

Representatives of the Media and Information Integrity Program were featured in multiple interviews for local, regional and world media, to discuss issues like spread of disinformation, countering FIMI, hate speech, election financing, capacity building.

- a. Goran Rizaov, Program Manager, editor-in-chief at Meta.mk
 - i. Samo Prasaj ([Rizaov: The Digital Services Act is necessary for the protection of citizenso](#))
 - ii. International Center for Journalists ([ICFJ Voices - Goran Rizaov](#))
 - iii. International IDEA ([Report Launch: Enablers and Incentives of Election-Related FIMI in North Macedonia](#))
 - iv. 360 Degrees ([In these elections also, politicians are influencers – with money for which no accountability is required.](#))

- v. 360 Degrees ([How foreign information-manipulation operations exploit institutional passivity to create deep polarization in society.](#))
 - vii. 360 Degrees ([Political pressure, economic insecurity, and disinformation are the main challenges to media freedom in the country](#))
 - viii. Balkan Insight ([20 years on, new threats worsen outlook for free media in Balkans](#))
- b. Elida Zylbeari, editor in chief, Portalb
- i. MRT, Macedonian public broadcaster ([Motive: Girls in the media](#))
 - ii. TV 21 ([Assessing fulfilment of politicians' promises](#))
 - iii. Portalb ([Trust in the media in crisis, facts should return 'in fashion' again](#))
 - iv. MRT in Albanian ([Disinformation in the pre-election period, Zylbeari: They create confusion among citizens](#))
 - v. [Youth event in Tetovo](#) organized by The Embassy of the Netherlands and Institute for Leadership and Public Policy
- c. Vladimir Petreski, Editor-in-Chief, Truthmeter
- i. TV 24 News ([Studio 10: Conversation on disinformation with Vladimir Petreski](#))
 - ii. Racin.mk ([Vladimir Petreski, Metamorphosis: Fact-checking is not censorship](#))
 - iii. Racin.mk ([Vladimir Petreski, Metamorphosis: In the EU, fact-checking is an obligation for large online platforms](#))
 - iv. Ima.mk ([Vladimir Petreski, editor of Truthmeter: Fact-checkers do not engage in censorship | "What's New?" #8](#))
 - v. Kas.de ([Fact-Checking Organisations in the Balkans after US Funding Cuts](#))
 - vi. Samoprasaj.mk (["Stale" narratives are fueling the Macedonian–Bulgarian dispute](#))
 - vii. Racin.mk ([Vladimir Petreski: Media literacy is the strongest weapon against disinformation](#))
- d. Filip Stojanovski, Director for Partnership and Resource Development
- ii. Parliament TV PBS (["Economic Briefing" debate on cybersecurity & resilience to disinformation](#))
 - iii. 360 Degrees ([Fight against disinformation: How it was supposed to unfold, and how it is actually unfolding](#))
 - iv. CIVICUS Lens ([Without ads, most civil society groups risk their voices being drowned out](#))
 - v. Hybrid CoE ([The Western Balkans Hybrid Threat Conference and Simulation Exercise](#))
 - vi. Kosovo Peace and Democracy Summit - KPDS ([Panel 2 – From Within and Without: How Malign Narratives Shape the Western Balkans](#))