



## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

### FORUM FOR REASONABLE POLICIES

Forum for Reasonable Policies is a think-tank organization, founded in 2017 with the aim of:

- Creating a basis for sustainable development in the domain of democracy, culture and economy;
- Promoting a society and political system grounded on democratic principles and values that continuously and relentlessly create fundamentals for better common living
- Launching a platform for the affirmation of real, tangible, common sense policies and principles, regardless of whether they are popular and "trendy" at the time of their utterance;
- Opposing compromises and false consensuses that offer palliative solutions, but in their essence deepen the discord in society and threaten long-term prosperity;
- Challenging and critically questioning the positions, policies and attitudes of any political and economic establishment, especially those that are openly undemocratic or problematically democratic.

In 2024, Forum for Reasonable Policies implemented the following projects:

#### **1. Project Title: Academy for Public Policies (Fourth Generation)**

**Implementation Period:** September 2024 – September 2025

**Donor:** Government of Switzerland, implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

The Academy for Public Policies is designed for representatives of political party youth wings in North Macedonia, aiming to educate and develop future political and social leaders equipped with general and specific values and knowledge about the country's political processes.

#### **Project Activities:**

- Four modules
- Mentorship and training for drafting public policy documents
- Engagement with local communities and stakeholders on relevant issues through thematic debates and discussions

#### **2. Project Title: "Enhancing Pro-democratic Forces in Political Parties in North Macedonia – support for political party democracy, women participation and inter-party dialogue"**



**Implementation period:** June 2024 – March 2025

**Donor:** UK Government with the support of the British Embassy Skopje

**Project Activities:**

- "Local is vital" – A specialized program for supporting municipal party organizations supporting members of local party branches to develop procedures for better transparency, internal and external communication, and ethical standards.
- "MP's Academy" -Through three modules, including training, educational sessions, and mentorship, the program works intensively with first-term MPs and those looking to improve their parliamentary performance.
- "High-level debates"- Three high-level debates under Chatham House rules on topics crucial for the country's long-term perspectives and current affairs. The debates aim to foster a culture of greater cooperation among politicians from different parties while addressing issues of national importance, interethnic relations, and the need for more effective policymaking and democratic governance.

**3. Project Title: "Political party transparency index in North Macedonia"**

**Implementation Period:** February 2024 – December 2024

**Donor:** British Embassy, implemented by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

The Transparency Index serves as an annual reminder and a potential roadmap for political parties to identify areas for improvement in their operations. It measures party progress but also encourages parties to engage in self-competition for development.

The 2024 results show evident improvements in some parties that actively worked on their transparency. This report also includes, for the first time, comparative analyses of individual parties—not for ranking purposes, but to assess the progress of each party individually.

The analysis was conducted by the Forum for Reasonable Policies (FRP) in collaboration with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) for the Transparency of Political Parties Conference held in December 2024.

**4. Project Title: "Ethics and Politics – Tying the Knot"**

**Implementation Period:** March 2024 – February 2025

**Donor:** National Endowment for Democracy (NED)



In the specific context of the 2024 parliamentary and presidential elections, several activities were implemented to address pressing societal issues in North Macedonia, such as the widespread culture of corruption (both moral and institutional), political (ir)responsibility, reckless behavior among politicians, and the low public trust in political processes.

### **Project Activities:**

- “Warm Up. Elections are coming– an in-depth educational session for 20 representatives of political party youth wings
- “Cool down. Elections are over” a two-days seminar for young MPs (newly elected firstcomers but also young MPs serving a second term) on the specifics of the parliamentary practice, guideline on the secrets of the parliamentary debate, the art of compromise and specifically the benefits of a compromise, the “analysis of power” within the parliament.
- “Straighthen up! Let’s set some standards.” a two-days intensive workshop centered around setting the ethical and procedural standards of a virtuous politician, politically responsible and accountable to the public and the voters.
- Research Study: “A Guide for Virtuous Politicians – Election Ethics Report” during 2024 parliamentary and presidential elections

### **5. Project Title: “Advocacy for Inclusive Growth”**

**Implementation Period:** December 2023 – September 2026

**Donor:** Government of Switzerland through the Civica Mobilitas program

The project’s main goal is to contribute to better and higher-quality higher education, deeply integrated into the national and international economic framework, where research and science directly feed into the real sector and public policymaking. This will provide young, talented students with a secure academic and economic future, ultimately reducing brain drain.

### **Project Activities:**

- **Thematic Forum:** (original title) „Густа плетка: за потребата од вмрежување на образованието, науката и економија базирана на иновации“
- **Roundtable:** (original title) „Густа плетка: кон вмрежување на образованието, науката и економија базирана на иновации“
- **Establishment of a network** (original title) „Густа плетка: вмрежување“
- **Development and publication of two analyses:**
  - „Густа плетка: за потребата од вмрежување на образованието, науката и економијата базирана на знаење“ (original title) – A policy analysis published by the Forum for Reasonable Policies in April 2024
  - A short policy document on the idea behind “*Advocacy for Inclusive Growth*” and why civil society, the broader public, and institutions must commit to the consistent



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implementation of the Bologna Process, developed by experts from the Institute for Social and Humanistic Sciences (IOHN) Skopje