

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Project of the Government of
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Number: No. 00061401

Title: Strengthening evidence-based policy processes

Gov. Counterpart Agency: N/A

Management Arrangements: NGO Implementation /
University of South East Europe

Source of funds: Global Programme on Capacity
Development for Democratic Governance Assessments and
Measurement

Revision code:

Revision reason: Substantive

Operational start date: March 2009

Completion date: March 2011

Initial/revised input

Third-party cost-sharing:

Global Programme on Capacity
Development for Democratic
Governance Assessments and
Measurement

Previous input : N/A

Revised input: US\$ 200,000

UNDP Trac 1.1.2. US\$ 32,920

Total revised budget: US\$ 232,920

Justification:

This substantive revision of the project document is aimed to reflect activities for supporting governance assessment component. The undertaking of such governance assessment in the area of social exclusion is expected to facilitate the process of national efforts to monitor and evaluate the governance, bridging the existing gap of shared understanding among governments and citizens on the meaning of the democratic governance, through a participatory approach in the *process* of assessing it and with consequent activities for capacity development to do it on the regular bases.

As the project document foresees, the partnership built between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Local self Government, Parliamentarian commission, research institutions, civil society organizations and independent experts will result in strengthened transparency and accountability of the government vis-à-vis its constituents. The overall budget amounts to US\$ 232,920.

On behalf of:

Signature:

Date:

Name/Title:

Maria Luisa Silva Mejias,
UNDP Resident Representative

UNDP: _____



ANNEX I

Strengthening evidence-based policy processes

Strengthening national capacity for evidence-based policy making for poverty reduction and social inclusion

1. Background

The project “Strengthening evidence-based policy processes” was designed to provide policy analysts, decision makers and the public at large with an effective analytical policy tool that would continue analyzing people’s perceptions on key variables that affect their lives, while based on it exploring and suggesting possible policy options that are responsive to citizens' aspirations and concerns, and support the country's general development and its advance towards EU membership. The report will systematically address issues related to social cohesion, quality of governance and ethnic cohesion, while deepening its focus on a specific theme of particular importance – reflective of the country’s actual development and policy priorities.

To achieve this objective, the “People-centred Analyses” report series will continue monitoring people's perceptions through regular surveys, but in addition to the above it will complement with additional sources of data necessary for in-depth analysis of social inclusion and quality of governance, including statistical indicators, policy-oriented analysis of the important issues on social inclusion and governance that will simultaneously look at facts and perceptions to identify the correlations and recommend effective policy actions, and develop methods and monitoring tools for social exclusion and governance assessment.

2. Description of amendments

In the ongoing efforts to foster the approach of evidence-based policy process UNDP and its implementing partner South East Europe University have agreed to add additional activities that would contribute to the ongoing activities in producing the regular report. These activities consist of development of a nationally owned methodology for governance assessment and related capacity building activities of local pool of trainers and researchers to conduct the assessment. Such Assessment will contribute to further examine the governance in the area of poverty reduction and social inclusion policies and will mobilize a wide range of stakeholders that would participate in defining the indicators and consequent development of the methodology for governance assessment. In this way the developed methodology would be nationally owned and consequent capacity building activities that will enable continues monitoring of the progress and development of the quality of the governance. For that purpose, the current project document is amended to include activities related to development of the methodology, capacity and conduction of the governance assessment in the field of poverty reduction and social inclusion.

3. Rationale for amendments

Over the past 15 years, governance has become a key concept in the debates surrounding international development. Governance assessments vary according to the interests, needs and culture of the assessor. Some focus mostly on public sector corruption; others take a broader approach which can include elements of human rights and democracy examined across civil society, the private sector, the judiciary and government institutions. Until recently, governance assessments were dominated by bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as other external actors.

However there is good reason to believe that when assessment from part of the national actors' agenda, instead of that of external actors, assessment results are more likely to lead to real change. According to UNDP, such country-led democratic governance assessment differ from external assessments in that they are initiated, implemented and sustained by national actors. Through investing in the assessment, national stakeholders believe in its legitimacy and hold it to be relevant.

This is even more important in the light of country's aspiration for the membership to EU and its efforts toward EU accession process. Governance assessment when linked to these processes can be a powerful tool that generates endogenous process of assessment compared assessment done via regular EU progress reports that can be perceived as external, thus, imposed and not necessarily accepted by the national government.

Therefore, in view of the above and having in mind the results achieved so far with the ongoing People –Centered Analyses, UNDP and the South East European University with the support of the Global Programme on Capacity Development for Democratic Governance Assessments and Measurement, have decided to amend the current project document with a specific governance assessment component. The undertaking of such governance assessment in the area of social exclusion is expected to facilitate the process of national efforts to monitor and evaluate the governance, bridging the existing gap of shared understanding among governments and citizens on the meaning of the democratic governance, through a participatory approach in the process of assessing it and with consequent activities for capacity development to do it on the regular bases.

As the project document foresees, the partnership built between the involved line ministries, parliament commissions , research institutions, civil society organizations and independent experts will result in strengthened transparency and accountability of the government vis-à-vis its constituents.

4. Proposed budget for amended activities:	232,920 USD
UNDP Trac 1.1.2	32,920 USD
Global Programme on Capacity Development	
for Democratic Governance Assessments and Measurement	200,000 USD