

# 2021 DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPECT TO KEY SECTOR POLICIES IN THE AREA OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

## SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

### SWG FUNCTIONALITY

- In 2021, no changes were noted in respect to regulation of work by SWG Regional and Local Development. This sector group operates according to the rules of procedure adopted in 2019. Ministry of Local Self-Government's [website](#) hosts information on IPA cross-border and territorial cooperation, but there are no information related to performance of this sector group.

### CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

- **Seven (7) civil society representatives** participate in this SWG (15% from the total number of SWG members), with the status of members. **Invitations** for plenary sessions held in 2021 were timely distributed to civil society representatives and were accompanied by **all documents needed**. However, conditions need to be created for civil society representatives in this sector group to also participate in processes for identification, formulation and priority-setting of developmental goals, measures and projects for implementation of national policies and strategies in this sector.

### CSO CAPACITY

- The rules of procedure need to be amended in order to define the **model for selection of civil society representatives** and their role and mandate in work performed by this sector group. The current approach does not fully utilize capacity of civil society organizations.

### EFFECTS FROM SWG WORK

- SWG Regional and Local Development held **two plenary sessions** in the course of 2021. These meetings mainly concerned presentation of previously developed and adopted legal solutions, programs and projects.

2019

2 x meetings:  
20.03.2019  
19.09.2019

2020

1 x meeting:  
27.11.2020

2021

2 x meetings:  
04.06.2021  
06.07.2021

# KEY SECTOR POLICIES

## Decentralization

This process is covered under the *Program for Sustainable Local Development and Decentralization 2021-2026*, adopted on 6 April 2021. Priorities under this program are grouped into four components, as follows:

- Normative and local self-government financing framework
- Innovative and inclusive local economic development
- Quality local services with full population coverage
- Enhanced resilience of local governments and sustainable development



## Equitable Regional Development

Documents adopted in 2021 and related to regional development include:

- Law on Equitable Regional Development;
- Strategy for Regional Development 2021-2031;
- 7 x annual programs for development of planning regions.

## Cross-Border Cooperation

2021 was marked by implementation of projects under all five *IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes*:

- CBC Programme *Kosovo - North Macedonia*
- CBC Programme *Bulgaria - North Macedonia*
- CBC Programme *Greece - North Macedonia*
- CBC Programme *Albania - North Macedonia*
- CBC Programme *Serbia - North Macedonia*

Activities related to setting *IPA III* programming priorities concerned:

- IPA CBC Programme *Albania - North Macedonia 2021-2027*
- IPA CBC Programme *Kosovo - North Macedonia 2021-2027*
- IPA CBC Programme *Serbia - North Macedonia 2021-2027*
- INTERREG IPA CBC Programme *Bulgaria - North Macedonia 2021-2027*
- INTERREG IPA CBC Programme *Greece - North Macedonia 2021-2027*
- INTERREG Euro-Med Programme 2021-2027
- ADRION - transitional programme, post-2020 programming.

\*This infographic is developed with financial support from the European Union. The content thereof is sole responsibility of the Foundation Open Society - Macedonia, Eurothink - Center for European Strategies, Reactor - Research in Action and the Center for Civil Communications and does not reflect views of the European Union.