



# ANNUAL REPORT

20

23

# FOREWORD

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2023 marked a significant chapter in the journey of INDEP. Stepping into our 13th year, we reflect on the remarkable achievements that have shaped our organization over the years. For us as a team, 2023 proved to be a transformative period, as we delved deep into our core mission and vision for fostering a democratic society—one that is capable and willing to operate as a functional state while remaining integrated in the regional and international community.

Throughout 2023, INDEP made substantial progress in its endeavours related to democratic governance, sustainable development, and regional cooperation. While our country is engaging in bilateral dialogues with Serbia and actively contributing to the harmonization of policies in the European integration process, INDEP, and its allied civil society organizations, steadfastly advocated for a just transition and sustainable development.

This report aims to illuminate our ongoing projects and future mission, showcasing the continued impact of our programs on society. Through our projects in the past year, we generated over 150 recommendations for stakeholders, steering the development of a green and transformative agenda.

The Institute for Development Policy remains a pivotal player in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023, we strengthened our collaboration with the Council for Sustainable Development, resulting in successful projects involving municipalities, research and analysis, as well as national forums and conferences. As we conclude the year, we take pride in the fact that our work has left an undeniable mark on policy-making processes and the green transition in Kosovo. None of this would be possible without the generous support of donors, partners, activists, local and international collaborators, and institutions that provided us with the space to contribute.

Burim Ejupi  
Executive Director



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# ABOUT US

The Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) is comprised of policy analysts, researchers, and civil society activists. Functioning as both a research institute and advocacy center, INDEP provides strategic solutions for public policies. Serving as a think-tank, INDEP conducts independent research with the overarching goal of establishing a democratic state grounded in sustainable development principles, yielding concrete policy recommendations, and presenting a substantive vision for Euro-Atlantic integrations. Additionally, INDEP is dedicated to fortifying democratic governance and assumes the role of a public policy supervisor in Kosovo.

As INDEP entered its second decade of operation, it remains at the forefront of shaping green transition policies in the country. Drawing on exemplary practices from the region and beyond, INDEP continues to be a key strategic partner for governmental institutions in Kosovo.

INDEP's efforts are channelled through three primary programs: Democratic Governance, Sustainable Development, and Regional Cooperation.



The **Democratic Governance** program seamlessly integrates policy research with advocacy, concentrating on the functionality of political parties, ensuring the integrity of free and fair elections, strengthening the rule of law, and advancing media freedom.



The **Sustainable Development** program focuses on economic and energy projects in Kosovo and the region. Pioneering in the region, INDEP promotes economic development that enhances social and political conditions while safeguarding the environment.



The **Regional Cooperation** program strives to promote collaboration in the realms of security and Euro-Atlantic integrations. INDEP acknowledges that regional cooperation is essential for the Western Balkan countries journey toward the European Union.

# IMPACT IN 2023

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20

Publications

150+

Recommendations

18

Working Groups

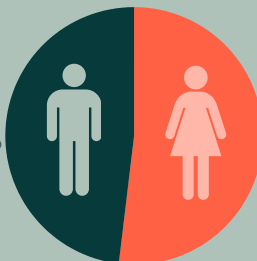
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Public Consultations and Debates

134.000+

Citizens Reached

Men  
48.1%

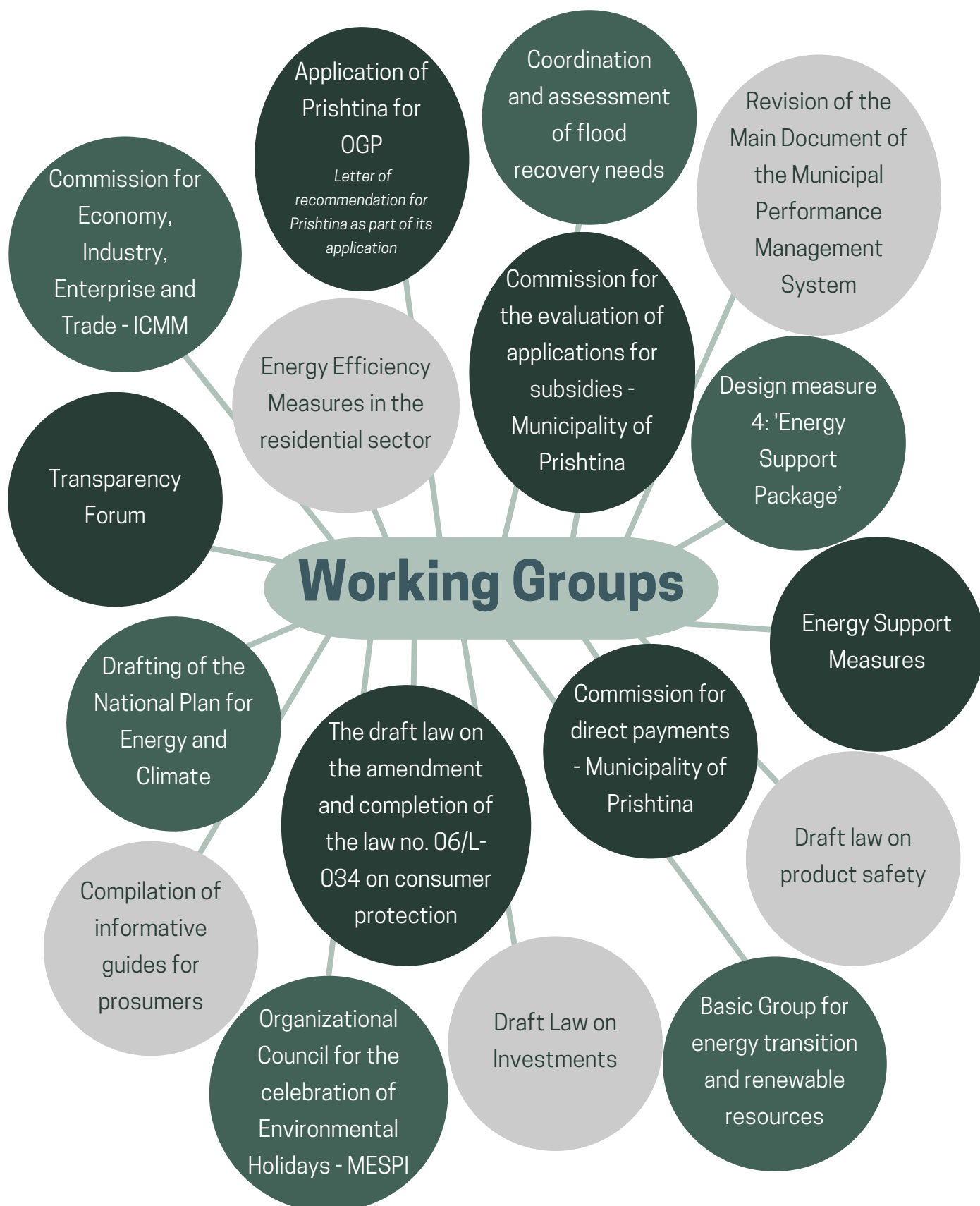


Women  
51.9%



# IMPACT IN 2023

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# OUR PROGRAMMES

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## Democratic Governance

Within the Democratic Governance program, our initiatives are diverse and encompass the following key areas:



### Consumer Protection

Throughout 2023, we have persistently volunteered our efforts to engage with consumers and provide guidance. This commitment strengthens our advocacy for fair trade practices and transparent market conditions, empowering consumers to make informed choices.



### Combating Corruption

Our active engagement in monitoring public institutions has focused on critical processes, including the issuance of permits, licenses, and the allocation of grants and subsidies. This proactive stance reflects our dedication to promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, crucial elements in the ongoing fight against corruption.



### Public Consultations

In our role as INDEP, we have been exceptionally active in fostering public dialogue. Over the course of 2023, we participated in more than seven diverse public consultations and debates. This commitment ensures that the voices of the public are heard, fostering a participatory and inclusive approach to policy formulation.

# OUR PROGRAMMES

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## Sustainable Development

In the Sustainable Development program, our strategic focus is structured around three fundamental pillars:



### Climate Change

Our unwavering commitment lies in advocating for policies that alleviate the impacts of climate change and enhance resilience at both local and national levels. This involves close collaboration with municipalities to formulate and execute Local Energy and Climate Plans. Additionally, we actively participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at instilling sustainable practices in various sectors.



### Energy Transition

Our efforts in this domain are dedicated to expediting Kosovo's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. We actively engage in policy discussions, contribute to the formulation of strategic documents, and collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations to advocate for a more sustainable energy landscape.



### Environment Protection

Our focus extends to promoting circular economy practices, particularly in waste management. We channel our efforts into policy advocacy that champions recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, thereby contributing to the creation of a more sustainable and environmentally friendly society.



# OUR PROGRAMMES

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## Regional Cooperation

The Regional Cooperation program stands as a cornerstone in our strategic framework, amplifying the influence and effectiveness of our various programs and initiatives. This program is enriched by our active participation in key networks and collaborations, both regionally and internationally.

### Southeast Europe Energy Transition Network (SE3T.net)

As integral members of this network, we engage with stakeholders across Southeast Europe to expedite the energy transition in the region. This collaborative platform facilitates the exchange of best practices, joint research endeavors, and advocacy for regional-level policy changes.

### RCC's Civil Society Monitoring Mechanism for the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan

Our involvement in this mechanism allows us to meticulously monitor and contribute to the implementation of the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans. This structured platform empowers us to influence policy decisions and ensures the active representation of civil society's voice in environmental governance.

### INETTT - The International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks

Our collaboration with INETTT reached a pinnacle with our participation in COP27, the United Nations Climate Framework Convention. This engagement has not only expanded our international network but also fortified our institutional capacity and expertise in global climate action.

We have forged collaborative ties with entities such as AGORA Energiewende in Germany and the Energy Community, among other regional and European mechanisms. These collaborations provide us with access to a broader pool of expertise and resources, augmenting our programmatic impact.

In addition to these collaborations, it is noteworthy that we are actively engaged in joint projects with our regional partners. Through these concerted efforts, the Regional Cooperation program serves as a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, collaborative initiatives, and collective strategies to address regional and global challenges.

# PROJECTS



## AlterGreen – transforming policies for an enabling environment for investigative journalism

This project aimed to create a map of environmental degradation cases with the objective of increasing the knowledge on the types of violations, locations and their frequency. During this project we designed a comprehensive curricula and trained journalists for investigative green journalism. The main focus was to advocate for policies and practices that promote the work of journalists in protecting the environment and informing the public. Mapping of Environmental Corruption Cases as well as Investigative Green Journalism Master Course were some of the activities within this project.



## SDG Bridge - Connecting Local and National Actors for Sustainable Development in Kosovo

The main objective of this project was to include the SDGs in the policy framework of the COVID-19 recovery by promoting localization, implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the local level and creating a bridge of communication and support between central level policies and local initiatives. Through research and advocacy work, INDEP aimed to inform stakeholders about the initiative in general, as well as provide concrete comparative examples from the region that would improve the economic, social and environmental standing in Kosovo.



## CORR Watch - Support for Civil Society to Increase Public Oversight and Accountability of Kosovo's Public Institutions

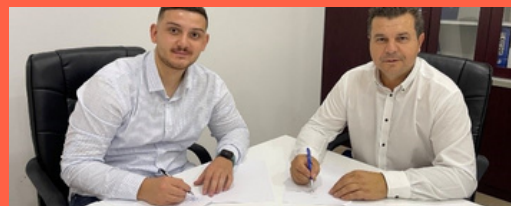
Ensuring merit-based recruitment processes and transparency within the administration, monitoring public procurement and contract management practices, monitoring the process of granting grants and subsidies, monitoring in the field of granting licenses, permits and fees, as well as support of concrete performance and improvement of the government of Public Enterprises are the main components of the project.



# PROJECTS

## Young NEETs: new opportunities for work and increased employability - UNEETED

The overall objective of the project is to improve the social position of the young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs). Through a strategic combination of ethnographic research, policy advocacy, digital networking, and the establishment of a labour mobility scheme, UNEETED endeavours to unlock new possibilities for a brighter future for the youth in Kosovo and Montenegro.



## Tracking the Progress of Kosovo's Sustainable Transition: A Comprehensive Monitoring Approach

The objective of the Kosovo Energy Project “Tracking the Progress of Kosovo's Sustainable Transition: A Comprehensive Monitoring Approach” is to promote the monitoring and implementation of sustainable and green policies and practices in Kosovo. Additionally, it aims to foster inter-institutional and public dialogue, aligning with INDEP's scope of work to promote green growth and sustainable policies, as well as advance agendas such as the Green Agenda and 2030 Agenda.



## Multi-level structural support for improving energy efficiency in buildings in Kosovo and Albania (RenovAID)

RenovAID aims to address the issue of inadequate progress in improving the energy efficiency of buildings in Kosovo and Albania by providing multi-level structural support. The project is based on the rationale that energy efficiency is crucial in energy transitions, as it simultaneously helps affordability, supply security, and climate action. RenovAID further enhances INDEP's program and mission on sustainable development.



# KOSOVO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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The sixth edition of the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW) underwent a comprehensive reformatting, resulting in a fresh and distinct event experience. KSDW 2023 introduced a novel approach to structuring conference days by incorporating workshops involving key stakeholders. These workshops provided a unique platform for direct contributions to policy drafting and the formulation of recommendations.

Centered around the overarching theme of '**Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for the WB6**,' this edition of KSDW aimed to advance a green, resilient, and inclusive economy. Its primary objective was to transform the formidable challenges posed by COVID-19 and climate change into opportunities for a brighter future. Notably, the event placed significant emphasis on regional green initiatives, inclusivity, digital transformation, and financing strategies for a just transition toward a sustainable future.

*This year, the KSDW team welcomed two new important partners: The Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure within the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, and the Municipality of Prishtina.* These partnerships were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event. This collaboration ensures that the ideas and proposals discussed during the event have the potential to shape policies and regulations related to sustainable development in Kosovo.

The sixth edition of KSDW		
<b>3</b> Conference Days	<b>8</b> Panel Discussions	<b>2</b> Workshops
<b>4</b> Talks	<b>12</b> Side Events	<b>60</b> Speakers
<b>3</b> Awards	<b>14</b> Media Appearances	<b>1000+</b> Participants

# KOSOVO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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The First Day of KSDW specifically brought together high-level representatives from various governments in the region, including the [Ministries of Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, and Croatia](#).

The remaining part of the week featured two more conference days with panel discussions and workshops focused on different aspects of the main theme, as well as side events that were more focused on fun and grassroots-based activities implemented by core and external partners of KSDW. These events aimed to provide a more engaging and hands-on approach to sustainability.



A distinguishing feature of KSDW is its ability to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders. The event serves as a meeting ground for policymakers, industry leaders, academics, civil society representatives, and members of the public, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge sharing and collective action. As KSDW is now well-renowned for its regional approach, KSDW hosted this year more than 20 regional and international speakers.

In recognition of the importance of environmental reporting and promoting sustainability, three prestigious awards were dedicated to empowering Green Journalism in Kosovo. These awards aim to honor outstanding contributions and raise awareness about pressing environmental issues.

**60 Speakers**  
6 International  
15 Regional

## 3 Prestigious Awards for Green Journalism in Kosovo

# KOSOVO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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Kosovo Sustainable Development Week is a transformative platform that places great emphasis on generating valuable recommendations from each edition. These recommendations are vital as they serve as a roadmap for achieving sustainable development goals and fostering positive change in the Western Balkans region.

## 71 Recommendations

To ensure the impact of these recommendations, KSDW takes proactive steps to disseminate them to each relevant stakeholder, including governments of other Western Balkan countries. Through targeted communication channels, conferences, workshops, and official reports, the valuable insights and proposals derived from KSDW are shared with policymakers, civil society organizations, academia, businesses, and citizens. This collaborative effort strengthens regional cooperation and empowers stakeholders to collectively work towards a greener, more sustainable future for the entire Western Balkans.

10 Media  
Appearances  
4 Radio Features  
5 Prominent Portal  
Headlines  
Over 40 000 Reach  
Engagements

# GREEN AGENDA MONITORING

2023, marks the third consecutive year of INDEP's monitoring of the policy implementation of the Green Agenda, as such we recognize it as a **fundamental pillar of our organizational focus**. The involvement of civil society in steering the implementation of the Green Agenda remains pivotal. The Council for Regional Cooperation has already drafted an Action Plan for implementing the Green Agenda, while a regional Forum of civil society organizations actively supports its implementation. In Kosovo, the INDEP Institute, as part of this regional forum, is dedicated to establishing a monitoring mechanism for the Agenda's implementation.



This report is meticulously prepared to serve as an advocacy instrument, enabling us to track recommendations, identify progress areas, and pinpoint areas where advancement is lacking. Our model for evaluating the Declaration's implementation treats each point as an indicator, assigning evaluation scores based on their level of execution. The recommendations outlined at the report's conclusion will form the foundation for our continued advocacy efforts in the coming year.



This report serves the explicit purpose of creating an assessment tool so that, each year **following the signing of the Sofia Summit Declaration**, we can assess recommendations, gauge progress, and identify areas needing attention. Employing an indicator-based approach, each statement from the Declaration is evaluated and scored. Moving forward, our advocacy endeavours will be shaped by the recommendations derived from this report.

The evaluation indicators primarily draw from two foundational documents: the "Guide for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans" published by the European Commission and the "Guidelines for the Implementation of the

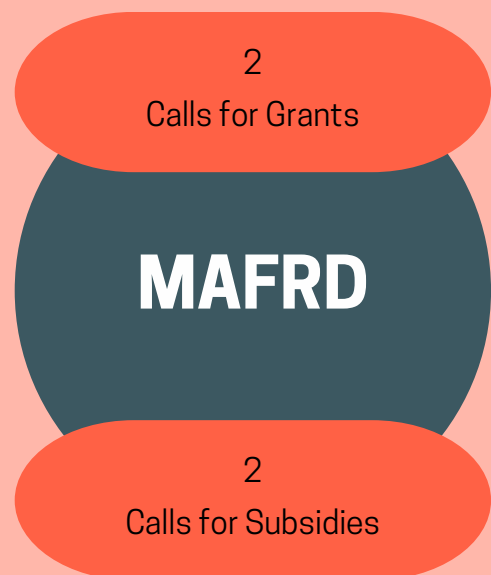
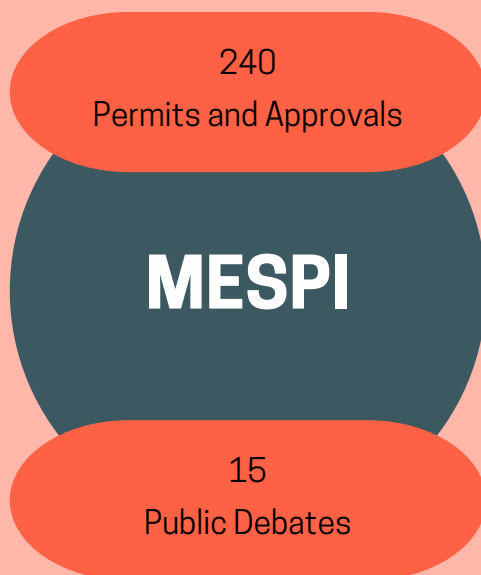
Green Agenda" created by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). These documents serve as benchmarks, offering detailed guidelines, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and implementation strategies. By aligning our evaluation process with these documents, we ensure that our assessments align with the intended goals and objectives of the Green Agenda.

# MONITORING OF INSTITUTIONS

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INDEP, with the support of the British Embassy in Prishtina, is providing continuous support to public institutions to eliminate irregularities and legal violations that may be encountered in the process of granting environmental and water permits from Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, and the distribution of grants and subsidies from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, issuing of licences from the Energy Regulatory Office and the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, in so that they can improve them and establish good practices.

## Monitored Procedures





# ACTIVITIES



# REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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**European Union Sustainable Energy Week**  
Brussels, Belgium

**Transparency International School on Integrity**  
Vilnius, Lithuania



**Western Balkan EUKI Networking Conference**  
Tirana, Albania

**Energy Finance 2023: Pathways to Accelerate the Global Energy Transition**  
San Francisco, USA



# REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



## NDI International Conference

"Exchange of Knowledge and Ideas for Open and Transparent Administration in Montenegro"

Kotor, Montenegro

## Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue

Berlin, Germany



## Wise Europa meeting on Coal-Phase Out

Warsaw, Poland

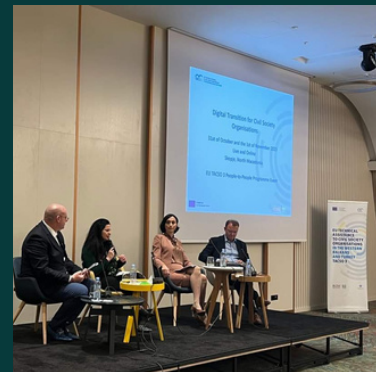
# REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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**28th Athens Electricity Forum**  
Athens, Greece

**Digital Transition for Civil Society Organisations**  
Skopje, North Macedonia



**EU TACSO 3 “2023 EU Year of Skills”**  
Tirana, Albania

**IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme - Training on Publicity and Visibility**  
Istog, Kosovo



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