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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
Initial Completion date: December 2011
New Completion date: March 2012

Total budget: US\$ 232,920
Cost-sharing:
Global Programme on Capacity Development
for Democratic Governance Assessments and
Measurement: USD 200,000
UNDP Trac 1.1.2: USD 32,920

Justification:

This revision of the project document aims at adding the municipality of Konce to the three previously selected municipalities of Jegunovce, Cair and Krusevo and allocating the remaining 11,900 US\$ from the project budget for covering the research related costs for the municipality of Konce.

Further utilization of the already developed assessment methodologies on governance issues in the frame of the *Strengthening evidence based policy processes – People Centered Analyses Reports* Project, in the same time will contribute for achieving the objectives of all components of the Social Services for Social Development and Cohesion project.

ACCEPTED:

FOR THE SEEU INIVERSITY:

By: 

Name: Mr. Zamir Dika

Title: Rector of SEE University

Date: _____

ACCEPTED:

FOR UNDP:

By: 

Name: Ms. Deirdre Boyd

Title: UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP
Resident Representative.

Date: 14 Dec 2011



ANNEX III

Strengthening evidence based policy processes

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

Background

Strengthening evidence based policy processes – People Centered Analyses Reports Project aims to strengthen national capacities for evidence based policy analysis; and to develop a nationally owned methodology for assessing governance. The People-Centred Analyses (PCA) report series track people's views on issues such as inter-ethnic relations, social services, and their trust in central and local government. Thorough analyses were made on the segregation and vulnerability along ethnic lines, especially regarding Roma as one of the most vulnerable groups facing poverty and exclusion. The Reports also examine how decentralization is impacting on the delivery of social services at local level, putting special focus on women. Another aspects tackled with the report are the socioeconomic situation of different ethnic groups, the issues of equitable representation, and the role of political parties and leaders.

As the ultimate project goal is to strengthen the capacities of national institutions, in 2009 UNDP partnered with the Southeast European University of Tetovo (SEEU). The preparation and production of the 2010 edition was led by SEEU. The project supported the Government to set-up a system for monitoring and evaluating governance. Undertaking such assessments are expected to result in better understanding among governments and citizens on what democratic governance means. This system will enable the Government to measure the quality of social services and make improvements where needed.

The project *Social Services for Social Development and Cohesion* started at the end of 2010. The main partner of the project is the Ministry of Finance, while other partners are the Ministry of Local Self-government, the National Association of Units of Local Self-government (ZELS), the State Statistic Office, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and other line ministries. So far the project activities were focused at assessing the de jure form of governance in the social service sectors and the fiscal parameters for improvement of social service delivery.

The main implementing partner in the project- Georgia State University team has assessed the situation and provided several policy options for re-arranging the fund distribution system in order to provide more equitable and just service delivery. Several rounds of stakeholder consultations were performed and a policy statement on the reforms is being prepared. In parallel, a dialogue was opened with the State Statistic Office for providing a more suitable data set, for incorporating new variables in the VAT distribution formula, but also for analysis and monitoring. The next steps are issuing of the final documents on expenditure and revenues

assignment studies and a study on capital grants, followed by capacity building activities. In parallel, civil society organizations and academia will be selected and involved in the process.

Description of amendments

The Annex III to the Project document-00061401-1 11 2011, regulates the addition of one more municipality, the municipality of Konce to the three previously selected municipalities of Jegunovce, Cair and Krusevo as well as the allocation of the remaining 11,900 US\$ for covering the research related costs for the pilot municipality of Konce

Rationale for amendments

A team of academic experts will apply assessment tools, compile data and prepare governance assessments in all four pilot municipalities. A number of different methods will be used for data collection. Existing data and reports will be used to prepare an assessment of already researched issues. The team may use questionnaires for qualitative data and address them to ministries and municipalities to economize on costs. For a set of issues requiring a deeper understanding a number of focus group discussions will be held. For identification of constraint on de facto governance, key informant interviews will be held both in the municipalities and important entities in the central ministries.

Satisfaction of the users of the selected local services in the four pilot municipalities will be measured through a separate Users Satisfaction Survey based on representative sample. SEEU will establish cooperation with local CSOs from the four pilot municipalities for data collection and monitoring by identifying the level of service provision, especially among vulnerable groups, in the selected municipalities.

Time Frame:

The Governance Assessments should be performed in view of the finalization of the ongoing assessments of expenditure and revenue assignments and equalization and the capital grants study, at the end of 2011. Users Satisfaction Survey should be realized in the four pilot municipalities until the end of 2011. Afterwards SEEU will prepare Analytical Report with key findings and recommendations for improvement of the social services, social development and strengthening of the cohesion among the different ethnic communities and provide it until end of March 2012.

FINAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

Local experts	10,000 US\$
Workshops	4,000 US\$
Contractual services (basic surveys, focus group discussions)	8,000 US\$

Miscellaneous	870 US\$
Sub-total	22,870.00 US\$
Contractual services (Users Satisfaction Surveys in three pilot municipalities, focus group discussions)	21,000 US\$
Local experts	6,000 US\$
Miscellaneous	692 US\$
Sub-total (Leftover with SEEU)	27,692.00 US\$
Total	50,562.00 US\$
Research costs for the fourth pilot municipality of Konce (local experts, workshops, contractual services for the basic surveys and focus group discussions)	11,900 US\$
TOTAL	62,462.00 US\$