

CSDG

Center
for the Study
of Democracy
and Governance

ANNUAL REPORT

2022





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Vission

The Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance believes in the necessity of radical transformation of the democratic processes in Albania and the need to establish new ways of governing and doing politics at local and national levels.

The Centre is committed to develop programs that link democracy and governance with the citizens' concerns. CSDG approach starts by identifying the issues that matter and then carrying out rigorous research that serves to advocate and stimulate debates at all levels of the society.



Mission

CSDG mission is to improve democracy, governance and policy making in Albania by generating:

- Evidence based research
- Monitoring public attitudes and opinions
- Promoting an informed engagement of the citizen

DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

The Democracy program conducts empirical research on democratic political processes and institutions (elections, voters, electoral system, political parties, parliament, government, and more). It focuses on the relationship between democratic ideals and norms and democratic practice through social scientific analysis informed by normative theories of democracy. The aim of the program is to ensure that citizens are at the center of politics rather than special individual, group, or partisan interests. The program's aim is to promote political responsiveness and accountability, political party democratization, improvement of the integrity of electoral processes, and democratic culture, space and values.

GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

The Governance program analyses policy issues, government institutions and processes, and governance challenges. It focuses on the examination of the five basic principles of good governance identified by the EU White Paper on Governance: openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence. Corruption, which is largely considered as the root cause of Albania's problems is often caused by governance failures. The governance program contributes to tackling corruption by promoting improved and sustainable governance. It identifies issues and problems and proposes recommendations aimed at improving government performance, informing public debate and providing policymakers with expert analysis and ideas to ensure better governance.

SECURITY PROGRAM

Security in a democracy is one of the essential conditions and a prerequisite for freedom, social and economic development. The Security program conducts in depth research and critical analysis on security issues, security sector reform and governance, security and human rights. It combines rigorous research and policy consultancy and functions as a bridge between academia and practice. The program contributes to informing the policy arenas and shaping the public discourse on security through the specialized publications.



CSDG TEAM



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Executive Director



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Researcher/Project
Manager



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Board of Directors: *Arben Puto* | *Prof. Assoc. Dr. Eva Tafili* | *Prof.Assoc. Dr. Indrit Baholli* | *Petrit Gaçi* | *Ylli Molla*

2022 IN REVIEW

OUR WORK AND REACH BY THE NUMBERS

14

Publications

1,628

Facebook Page Followers

16

Public Events

17,000+

Website views

15

Workshops &
Focus Groups

8,000+

Event views

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Publication Title: *"Challenges of Albania's approach to effectively tackle Organised Crime: Developing a More Efficient and Improved Legal Framework in aligning with EU approach"*

Project: *Improved Policy Debate and Accountability to Delivering on Fundamentals First, through the Establishment of Cluster One EU Negotiations Platform – Albania (C1-EU-NPA)*

Description & Goals:

1. Presenting a general overview of the main trends of organized crime in Albania, the main features of Albanian organized crime groups operating inside Albania and abroad, as well as the main criminal activities undertaken by these groups.
2. Presenting some of the main international assessments regarding Albanian organized crime.
3. Describing the steps and measures that the European Union has adopted in the fight against organized crime in recent years by aiming to assess the EU's approach in the fight against organized crime.
4. Addressing the approach followed by Albania in the fight against organized crime by focusing on its strategic framework.



CHALLENGES OF ALBANIA'S APPROACH TO EFFECTIVELY TACKLE ORGANISED CRIME DEVELOPING A MORE EFFICIENT AND IMPROVED LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN ALIGNING WITH EU APPROACH

Policy Paper



www.cluster1albania.com

EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Publication Title: *"Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime: On the Role of Special Prosecution (SPAK) and Special Courts in improving the country's preparation for membership in the European Union"*

Project: *Improved Policy Debate and Accountability to Delivering on Fundamentals First, through the Establishment of Cluster One EU Negotiations Platform – Albania (C1-EU-NPA)*

Description & Goals:

1. Encourage a discussion on a consolidated monitoring and analysis approach, in order to contribute to increasing support for the activity of the prosecution and courts as well as the overall progress of the process of European integration of Albania.
2. Through systematic and continuous monitoring of the activity of special institutions and based on the defined methodology, take the initiative to present a more complete and comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the fight against corruption and organized crime as key priorities for the country's preparation and progress in the European Union.
3. Contribute to the improvement of information and transparency as well as the identification of shortcomings and other relevant issues in order to improve criminal policies and address other necessary measures.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND
ORGANIZED CRIME:**

**ON THE ROLE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTION
(SPAK) AND SPECIAL COURTS IN IMPROVING
THE COUNTRY'S PREPARATION FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**
POLICY PAPER

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

www.cluster1albania.com

EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Publication Title: *"Strategic Communication on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. A practical model of its institutional implementation in Albania"*

Project: *Support the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism to delivering strategic communications on P/CVE through capacity building and research*

Description & Goals: This report aims to provide a detailed overview of all phases of implementation of the project.

The importance of this report lies in two main reasons. Until the start of the project, strategic communication was a neglected priority of the Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism Strategy in Albania, despite the proven value of this priority in preventing and countering violent extremism.

On the other hand, given that this is the first project implemented in Albania with the aim of implementing strategic communication, this report serves as a milestone which will give other practitioners of strategic communication against violent extremism an example of practical implementation of this communication and make it easier for them to take further action in this field.



U.S. EMBASSY
Tirana, Albania



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION
ON PREVENTING AND
COUNTERING VIOLENT
EXTREMISM
A PRACTICAL MODEL
OF ITS INSTITUTIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION IN ALBANIA

EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Publication Title: *"Self-Training Manual: Countering Violent Extremism Through Strategic Communications"*

Project: *Support the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism to delivering strategic communications on P/CVE through capacity building and research*

Description & Goals: The manual aims to provide practitioners at the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism, line ministries and subordinate institutions with information and tools in order to improve their knowledge in developing and deploying strategic communication for preventing and countering violent extremisms propaganda.

Furthermore, it can be valuable to the contact points in the education, social care, community policing, and penitentiary system, and also the PR & media departments of line ministries which are responsible for public communication.

The manual can be used as a valuable source of information for the onboarding of new practitioners, a reference for existing practitioners, and as an improvement tool. Through it new practitioners can quickly acquire knowledge to better understand and engage in strategic communication against violent extremism.



EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Publications Title:

1. *"The future is cooperative!?! Perceptions and reality from the Western Balkans"*
2. *"Harnessing the power of women in the security agenda: Achievements and challenges in mainstreaming and implementation of the women, peace, and security agenda in Albania from the public opinion perspective"*
3. *"Fight against corruption as a non-negotiable condition in the negotiations with EU: Bridging the gap between public opinion and government discourse"*

Project: *Debating SECURITY 2022*

Description & Goals:

- Provide in-depth analysis on important security issues in order to improve the security debate as well as promote a security research agenda.
- Encourage discussions and recommendations in order to improve the security debate.



THE FUTURE IS COOPERATIVE!?!
PERCEPTIONS AND REALITY
FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS

Dr. Mentor Beqa

Center for Strategic Studies
and Policy Analysis
CSDG

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG

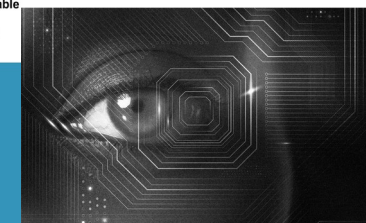


Fight against corruption as a non-negotiable
condition in the negotiations with EU:
Bridging the gap between public opinion
and government discourse

Geron Kamberi

Center for Strategic Studies
and Policy Analysis
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HARNESSING THE POWER OF WOMEN
IN THE SECURITY AGENDA

Achievements and challenges in mainstreaming and
implementation of the women, peace, and security
agenda in Albania from the public opinion perspective

Ertesa Proko

Center for Strategic Studies
and Policy Analysis
CSDG

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EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH



www.see-whistleblowing.org

Publication Title: *"Whistleblower Protection in Southeast Europe: Moving to the Next Step"*

Project: *Follow-up of the regional study, "Protecting Whistleblowers in Southeast Europe: A Review of Policies, Cases and Initiatives" published in 2017*

Description & Goal:

One of the main contributions of the civil society organisations since 2015 has been the continual review and evaluation of the whistleblower frameworks in 10 South-eastern European countries. The reports have served as a basis for identifying successes and shortcomings and for guiding stakeholders' future actions.

This report is timely as the countries of the region are aiming to stepping up their action to align legislation and practices with the EU Directive on whistleblowing, which constitutes one of the most advanced frameworks in the world.

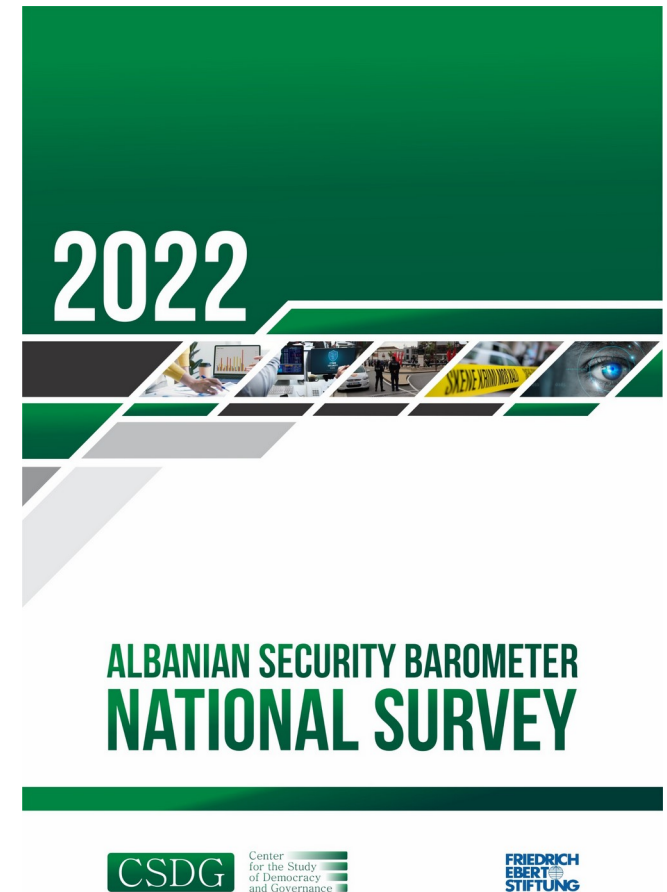
On the other hand, the report marks a new milestone in the commitment of the civil society organisations to continuing play an active role in the strengthening of whistleblowers protection, freedom of expression and rule of law.

MONITORING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS

Publication Title: *ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER 2022*

Description: The fourth edition of the Albanian Security Barometer focuses on four main themes.

- At first, it captures the opinion and attitudes of the citizens on different aspects of security threats.
- Secondly, drawing on the latest security developments spurred by Russia's aggression on Ukraine, it focuses on cooperative security. The barometer has captured the citizens' opinion on NATO, OSCE, EU, and UN, their role and contribution as well as the expectations that the Albanian citizens have of these organisations.
- The third theme of the barometer is gender security, equality and gender mainstreaming in general. A specific focus is dedicated to the women participation and equality in the security sector.
- The barometer dedicates a special attention to the theme of corruption by examining corruption factors and causes, institutional responses to corruption and trust in the anticorruption action by the state institutions. Given that organised crime and corruption intersect with and reinforce each other, the barometer also explores the nexus between corruption and organized crime.



MONITORING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS

Event Title: *"Linking Security Policy Making and Security Delivery with Citizens Attitudes and Concerns"*

Project: *Measuring citizens' attitudes towards security and justice in Albania*

Description & Goal: Present the main findings of the ASB 2022 and promote an informed security debate.

The fourth edition of the Albanian Security Barometer linking security with citizens opinions, in an effort to strengthen the influence of the public opinion on both the policy making processes in relation to security policies and security delivery.

- At first, it captures the opinion and attitudes of the citizens on different aspects of security threats.
- Secondly, it focuses on cooperative security.
- Thirdly, it focuses on gender security, equality and gender mainstreaming in general.
- Fourthly, this barometer dedicates a special attention to the theme of corruption by also exploring the nexus between corruption and organised crime.



MONITORING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS



Project: *To promote public oversight and accountability of security and justice institutions in Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia.*

In its third edition, CSDG has joined the WESTERN BALKANS SECURITY BAROMETER (WBSB) in its second edition to conduct an identical regional barometer in Albania, Kosovo and Serbia.

The results of the WBSB included four different reports:

1. Public perception towards security and justice institutions and corruption issues in Albania
2. Public perception towards public safety, internal and external threats in Albania
3. Public Perceptions towards bilateral relations, cross border cooperation and identity issues in Albania
4. Public Perceptions towards European integration and regional security in Albania

DISCUSSING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS



Event Title: *"Achievements and challenges in mainstreaming and implementation of gender equality in the security sector in Albania from the public opinion perspective"*

Project: *Measuring citizens' attitudes towards security and justice in Albania*

Publication: *ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER (ASB) 2022*



Event Title: *"Fight against corruption as a non-negotiable condition in the negotiations with EU"*

Project: *Measuring citizens' attitudes towards security and justice in Albania*

Publication: *ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER (ASB) 2022*



Event Title: *"The Future of Cooperative Security in the Western Balkans from the public opinion perspective"*

Project: *Measuring citizens' attitudes towards security and justice in Albania*

Publication: *ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER (ASB) 2022*

DISCUSSING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS



Event Title: *"Relations between Albania, Kosovo, and Serbia: The challenges of a virtuous ménage à trois from the citizens' perspective"*

Publication: *WESTERN BALKANS SECURITY BAROMETER (WBSB) 2022*

Description & Goals:

- Provide an opportunity to discuss the findings of the survey;
- Critically assess the regional cooperation and integration trends of the region in the light of the citizens' perspective.



Event Title: *"Regional security cooperation and accession to the EU: A citizens' perspective"*

Publication: *WESTERN BALKANS SECURITY BAROMETER (WBSB) 2022*

Description & Goals:

- Provide a platform for discussion of the findings of WBSB in the light also of the latest security developments in Ukraine.
- Promote more detailed assessments and analyses about the data and findings as well as the way on how citizens perceive or are informed about specific issues and topics.

DISCUSSING PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS

Event Title: *"Closing conference of the Western Balkan Security Barometer (WBSB)"*

Project: *To promote public oversight and accountability of security and justice institutions in Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia*

Publication: *WESTERN BALKANS SECURITY BAROMETER 2022*

Description & Goals:

Western Balkans Security Barometer has a regional dimension by measuring not only the perception of Albanian citizens towards their institutions and security issues, but also their perceptions on regional cooperation and specifically the relations between Albania, Kosovo, and Serbia.

In this context, the presentation of findings and panel discussions focused on highlighting important regional and cross-border issues and initiatives as well as challenges for improving and strengthening the cooperation between all countries of the region.



DELIVERING AND DISCUSSING FINDINGS

Event Title: *"Challenges of Albania's approach to affectively tackling organised crime: Developing a More Efficient Legal Framework in align with EU approach"*

Project: *Improved Policy Debate and Accountability to Delivering on Fundamentals First, through the Establishment of Cluster One EU Negotiations Platform – Albania (C1-EU-NPA)*

Description & Goals:

The policy document presented during this activity served to develop a discussion with actors from public and non-public institutions regarding the adoption of an improved approach of Albania in addressing the phenomenon of organized crime.

Given that the effective fight against organized crime will remain one of the main indicators for Albania's progress in the EU membership process, the main findings in this policy document aimed to encourage the strengthening of Albania's opportunities and capacities in addressing of the most effective instruments against this phenomenon.



DELIVERING AND DISCUSSING FINDINGS

Event Title: *"Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime: On the Role of Special Prosecution (SPAK) and Special Courts in improving the country's preparation for membership in the European Union"*

Project: *Improved Policy Debate and Accountability to Delivering on Fundamentals First, through the Establishment of Cluster One EU Negotiations Platform – Albania (C1-EU-NPA)*

Description & Goals:

1. Encourage discussions on findings in the fight against corruption and organized crime and generate necessary recommendations.
2. Contribute to discussions on the approach and mechanisms for assessing the performance of institutions against corruption and organized crime.
3. Encourage cooperation, interaction and involvement of institutions in order to improve appraisal and management performance.
4. Encourage the engagement of local and international actors as well as other stakeholders in order to identify and address key issues of importance.



DELIVERING AND DISCUSSING FINDINGS



Event Title: *P/CVE TABLETOP EXERCISES*

Project: *Support the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism to delivering strategic communications on P/CVE through capacity building and research*

Description & Goals:

- Identify needs related to strategic communication.
- Identify needs related to the management of incidents in the framework of the prevention of violent extremism.
- Explore mechanisms for information sharing and inter-institutional cooperation.
- Review policies, plans and protocols for responding to incidents related to violent extremism.
- Improve cooperation and coordination between responsible employees and respective institutions.
- Consolidate strategic communication and practices of its use within the framework of the prevention of violent extremism.
- Improve the overall response to incidents related to violent extremism as well as the shared decision-making process.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of responsible employees as well as expand existing knowledge.



DELIVERING AND DISCUSSING FINDINGS

Event Title: *WORKSHOPS (PHASE 1 & 2)*

Project: *Support the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism to delivering strategic communications on P/CVE through capacity building and research*

Description & Goals:

- Improve understanding of strategic communication to tackling violent extremism by the government institutions involved in the implementation of the NSCVE.
- Improve knowledge and expertise on developing and deploying messages for P/CVE purposes by line ministries and relevant agencies.
- Consolidate communications and delivery practices for P/CVE purposes by the CVE Center, the designated line ministries and agencies involved in front line action.
- Improve knowledge on capacity needs to effectively deliver messages and communications for P/CVE purposes and future action.



PROMOTING AN INFORMED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Event Title: "INTEGRITY-REPORT CORRUPTION, PROTECT THE TRUTH"

Project: *Young ambassadors of good governance: Strengthening youth engagement in the fight against corruption through art and communication*

Description & Goals:

The artistic installation "Integrity - Report Corruption, Protect the Truth", presents a whistleblower.

The installation aimed to raise public awareness, especially young people to identify problems creatively, engage in the fight against corruption and highlight the role of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption.

The installation focuses on conveying the message of the potential that young people have to prevent corruption through their engagement.



PROMOTING AN INFORMED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Events Title: *"Talking with Artists":*

MIRUSH KABASHI
ERLIND FUSHA
BUJAR KAPEXHIU

Project: *Young ambassadors of good governance: Strengthening youth engagement in the fight against corruption through art and communication*

Description & Goals:

- Deepen the knowledge of young people about the phenomenon of corruption.
- Empower young people to use art and visual tools to transmit this knowledge to their peers.
- Promote critical thinking and encourage the engagement of young people in the fight against corruption.



INTERNATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER DAY

Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance is one of the member organizations of the Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection which is comprised of more than 35 NGOs and other groups from 15 Southeast and East European countries, dedicated to strengthening the fight against corruption.

On May 12, 2022, Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection celebrated in Skopje, North Macedonia the International Whistleblower Day in a two-day event co-organized with Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat and Youth Education Forum and hosted by Coalition member Center for Investigative Journalism – SCOOP.

This day is considered an opportunity to celebrate whistleblowers the world over and acknowledge the work of SEE Coalition members and partners in enhancing rights of whistleblowers in the region and continue to promote this practice as one of the most effective practices in the fight against corruption.

Representatives from public institutions and international community, CSO activists and media professionals from North Macedonia and the region gave a special focus on some of the most challenging aspects regarding whistleblowing, such as whistleblowers protection, improvement of legislation and increased awareness on whistleblowing as an effective instrument in the fight against corruption.

www.see-whistleblowing.org



FUNDING

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Embassy of the United States of America
Tirana, Albania



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Hedayah



OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION
FOR ALBANIA



tirana
EUROPEAN
YOUTH
CAPITAL '22

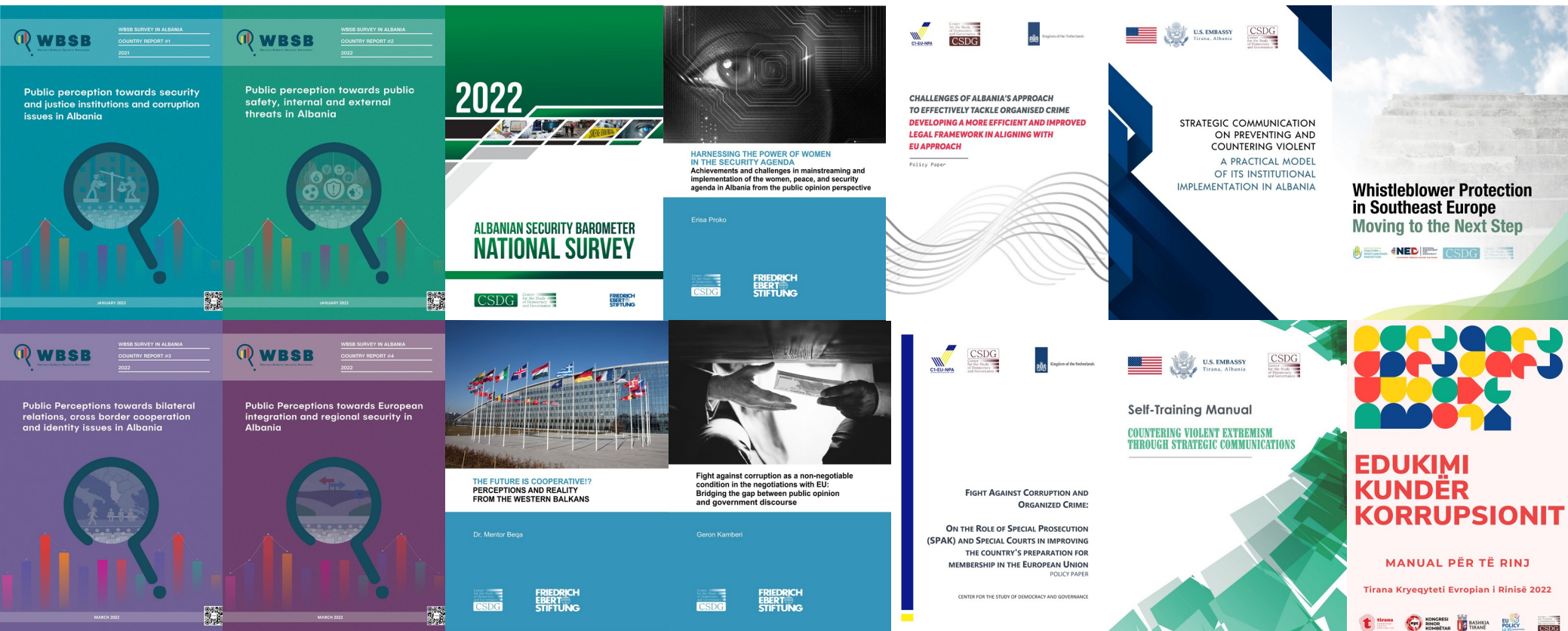


KONGRESI
RINOR
KOMBËTAR



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PUBLICATIONS 2022





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Center
for the Study
of Democracy
and Governance

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