

Annual Report (Excerpts)

The main goal of the transformation of the Institute of Social Sciences into a regional center of excellence was established through an evaluation of its capacities by INOMER. In accordance with this goal, activities planned in the TP and the Contract were devised. All employees are involved in the transformation process, and the activities are led by the Transformation Team, heads of the Institute centers, the Board of Directors, and the Specialist Service. During the work on the transformation of the Institute, it was concluded that active efforts will be made in the coming years to achieve a substantive programmatic, organizational, and staff transformation of the Institute, which includes adaptation to the European research area.

In addition to the activities planned in the TP, the unique transformation plan also includes other activities such as: joining the multidisciplinary research network EU Fundamental Rights Agency/FANET, obtaining consultative status on social inclusion and ethnocultural policies in the bodies of the Council of Europe, active participation in the ESS ERIC infrastructure (European Social Survey), increased collaboration between researchers and scientific institutions and universities in the EU, and more.

It is important to mention that the reconceptualization of the IDN Strategy for the period 2023-2033 is currently underway, involving a national expert who will closely collaborate with the IDN research team. To create a sustainable Strategy, a survey of IDN employees and a public opinion survey on a representative sample have been organized.

One of the strategic directions of development is strengthening cooperation with scientific centers in the region. In this regard, activities within the Academic Network for Cooperation in Southeastern Europe (<https://ancsee.org/>), coordinated by IDN since 2017, have been intensified. Since the beginning of work on the SAIGE project, AMSJIE has held two lecture series on Multiculturalism and the Left, organized two international scientific conferences in Croatia and Serbia, and conducted three Network meetings (Ljubljana, Belgrade, Ulcinj). The results of AMSJIE's work were presented at the ESS ERIC conference in Brussels, co-organized by the European Commission (Brussels, April 2023). At the Ulcinj meeting, strategic decisions were

adopted upon the proposal of IDN, which contribute to the realization of the aforementioned basic strategic goal from the TP:

1. AMSJIE has been joined by the Center for Minorities Issues from Flensburg, the Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung from Regensburg, and the Institute for Minorities and Ethnic Studies from Maribor;
2. A work program has been developed to support the bodies of the Council of Europe in monitoring public policies on social inclusion and antidiscrimination in Southeastern Europe by the end of 2023;
3. The development of a regional project as a basis for a future HORIZON application.

In addition to these activities, IDN has revitalized its work in the regional WB ESS Network, which strengthens the capacities for empirical research in social sciences in WB countries. Finally, IDN has formed an International Advisory Board, bringing together experts who play a leading role in social sciences in the European perspective (Rory Fitzgerald, Director of ESS ERIC; Patrick Simon, INED, Paris; Georg Lutz, FORS, Lausanne; Sonja Novak Lukanovič, INP, Ljubljana; Martin Dietz, Helvetas; Andre den Exter, Rotterdam University).

The second strategic activity is focused on developing an Internet panel on a representative national sample (RIP), which aims to connect fundamental and applied research within IDN. The goal is to establish a link between research and public policies, economy, and civil society, as well as to provide a reliable method of conducting public opinion research based on commercial principles. This is a fundamental project for social sciences in Serbia, and a Consortium for the development of RIP has been established, including the Faculties of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Niš, and Belgrade, the Institute for Sociological Research, and the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. A strategic meeting was held in Sremska Kamenica within the TP framework, with the participation of representatives from NITRA, SAIGE, and partner organizations. An agreement on joint action and work on the development of RIP was reached, and NITRA was officially informed about it. The development of RIP requires a feasibility study, which will be prepared by an expert with the highest qualifications and experience, following an international call. It is expected that this activity will be completed by the end of September 2023.

The third strategic direction is strengthening IDN's capacity for equal participation in international calls for scientific research projects (HORIZON, ERC, SF, and others). In this regard, an international expert, Elke Dall, our IIC, has been engaged to lead IDN in developing an application for the Twinning Horizon program in collaboration with the National Demographic Institute (INED), Paris, and the Center for Advanced Studies (Vienna). Additionally, in a consortium involving nine institutes and faculties, a Concept Note for a HORIZON application from the Health Cluster is being developed with the support of EUTA agency. Both activities will be completed by September 2023. Meanwhile, IDN has obtained funding for one project from the Science Fund

within the Ideas Program, where it coordinates the activities and participates as a partner in two more projects. Five projects have been submitted to the Science Fund under the Prizma Program and one project under the Promis Program.