

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Institute for Social Change - InSoC advocates for the transformation of social structure, institutions and relationships in society through activism and innovative approaches. The work of the Institute for Social Change - InSoC includes monitoring, analysis, information, promotion, education, advocacy, and networking. Using empirical, scientific and media methods, InSoC promotes democratic values, the rule of law and human rights.

The Institute for Social Change – InSoC initiates a rights-based approach, ensuring participation, accountability and equal opportunities for all, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, especially Roma. Through its activities, InSoC fosters active citizenship and social inclusion, creating conditions for sustainable social change.

CONTENTS

1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	3
2. INTRODUCTION.....	5
3. FINANCIAL REPORT 2024	6
4. REPORT AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024.....	7
1. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION.....	7
2. INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC POLICIES AND DECISION-MAKING.....	7
3. EDUCATIONAL AND CAPACITY PROJECTS	8
4. PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP	8
5. DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND SOCIAL SOLUTIONS	8
6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT.....	9
7. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION.....	9
8. EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND THEIR RESULTS	10
5. CONCLUSION	11
6. ORGANIZATION	13
Secretariate.....	13
Advisory Board.....	13
7. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NGOs	13
8. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.....	13
9. PLANS OF THE ASSOCIATION.....	14

1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Official Name of the Association:

Citizens' Association: InSoC Institute for Social Change

Date of establishment: 16.03.2009

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Name of the person responsible:

(Person authorized for advocacy and advocacy)

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Organizational structure:

Advice

(Number of members): 6

a) women 30%

b) Ethnic communities 100%

Executive Office (2 employees)

Action Level:

Local

Regional (Polog region)

National level (Republic of North Macedonia)

Sectors of work

- Democracy and the rule of law
- Promotion and protection of human rights and anti-discrimination
- Economic and Sustainable Development
- Young people
- Social Protection and Child Protection
- Protection of Marginalized Persons
- Environmental protection
- Interethnic relations
- integration and policy in the EU

Target groups

- General target group (Roma)
- Women
- Young people and students
- Children
- Entrepreneurs
- Unemployed
- Ethnic communities
- People without a birth certificate
- Packaging Waste Collectors and Setters

Resources

- Technical equipment of the devices:
- Computers x 5 computers.
- Printers x 2 pieces.
- Tables x 5 pieces.
- Chairs x 15 pieces.
- Closets for documents
- Internet
- Fax phone

2. INTRODUCTION

The Association of Citizens - InSoC - Institute for Social Change was established in March 2009 on the initiative of activists from several non-governmental organizations working on issues related to the Roma in the Republic of North Macedonia. Since its inception, InSoC has become a significant platform for social change and advocacy for the rights of the Roma community.

Membership in InSoC is voluntary and is made up of activists who have many years of experience in civil society and local development processes. These activists actively participate in the creation of public policies aimed at improving the situation of the Roma in North Macedonia. They have made a significant contribution to the preparation of the National Strategy for Roma and action plans within the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, including their revised versions.

In the last few years, InSoC has been working intensively to create a favorable environment for the integration of the Roma community. Through various initiatives and advocacy, the organization focuses on systemic and lasting solutions for their full social inclusion in society.

The vision of InSoC is:

"The Roma live as socially equal actors in society."

The mission of InSoC is:

"We actively contribute through collaboration, networking, analysis, advocacy, support, and education to social change and a predictable society."

The goals of the InSoC include:

- Fostering partnerships and good cooperation between Roma NGOs and state institutions to improve the social inclusion of Roma.
- Strengthening the capacities of Roma organizations and their access to EU funds and other bilateral funding opportunities.
- Advocating for systemic and sustainable solutions that enable greater inclusion of Roma in all spheres of society.
- Fostering the development of human capital and providing opportunities for maximum individual development of each person.
- Creating a society in which self-realized individuals function harmoniously towards sustainable shared development.

InSoC's activities are aimed at creating social change and equitable national development. This entails working to transform social structure, behavioral patterns, social relations and normative values towards advancing justice and equity in society.

The InSoC values are:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Human rights
- Human Capital

Through its activities, InSoC continues to be a significant driver of social change, contributing to improving the quality of life of Roma and promoting inclusivity and equality in Macedonian society.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

NO.	Description	Revenues in Denari	Expenses in Denari
1	Previous year's 2023 transfer	65916	
2	Grant - Ministry of the Environment	300000	
3	Grant - ADI - Civica Mobilitas	335288	
4	Membership fee	90248	
5	Loan	166575	
6	Fees		-360616
7	Gross pay		-393008
8	Material costs - various		-58254
9	Material Costs - Fuel and Transportation		-10000
10	Equipment Rental		-49200
11	Accounting services		-50000
12	Banking Provisions & Services		-12512
13	Phone and internet costs		-24310
	In total:	958027	-957900
	Balance:		127

4. REPORT AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

InSoC – The Institute for Social Change is emerging as a leading center for research and implementation of strategies for social transformation. With a long tradition of academic and practical work, the institution has played a key role in shaping public debate, creating the basis for evidence-based public policies, and focusing on social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic justice. Since its inception, InSoC has advocated active cooperation with various stakeholders – from government institutions and non-governmental organizations to academia and the public – to address the most pressing social challenges and propose practical solutions to solve them.

The main mission of the institution is to promote social change through innovative research, analysis of social processes and active support of civic initiatives. This engagement is reflected in every project and initiative, making InSoC's achievements significant to society as a whole. Below is a detailed look at some of the institution's most significant achievements and areas of work.

1. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

One of the fundamental pillars of InSoC is intensive research activity that fosters the creation of new knowledge and analytical frameworks for understanding complex social processes. Through long-term research projects and collaboration with local and international experts, the institution manages to build an extensive database and records that are key to the development of effective and innovative public policies.

InSoC's research focuses on various social segments – from social inequality and economic challenges to issues of social integration and citizen participation. These studies are not only theoretical but are designed to inform practical policies and provide concrete recommendations for improving the quality of life of communities. Through publications, analytical reports, and thematic workshops, research results are presented to the public and used as a basis for public and policy debate.

One of the significant aspects of the research work is the integration of multidisciplinary methodologies that unite sociology, economics, political science, and environmental studies. This multidisciplinary approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of complex social challenges and the development of interdisciplinary strategies to address them.

2. INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC POLICIES AND DECISION-MAKING

The Institute for Social Change has successfully translated its research results into concrete public policy recommendations, which are undertaken by government institutions and local communities. Through reports, analysis, and public forums, InSoC creates a platform for dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and civil society, fostering reforms that have a direct impact on improving the environment and social fabric.

The Institute plays an important role of bridging theory and practice, enabling the implementation of innovative models for decision-making based on proven data and analysis. His recommendations in the areas of social policy, economic strategies, and public resource management are often used as a basis for planning long-term social reforms.

One example of such impact is the creation of specialized working groups and expert panels, where InSoC researchers collaborate with government authorities to establish dialogue and find concrete solutions to current challenges. Through this collaboration, the institution is positioning itself as a trusted partner that drives change with critical analysis and strategic direction.

3. EDUCATIONAL AND CAPACITY PROJECTS

One of the most important areas of InSoC's work is the provision of platforms for education and capacity building. Through a series of seminars, workshops, and training, the institution provides knowledge and skills to young researchers, professionals, and activists. These activities are aimed at promoting critical thinking, the development of analytical skills, and the ability to participate effectively in public life.

The Institute organizes numerous conferences and symposia that bring together experts from different disciplines, creating a space for the exchange of experiences and best practices. Through these activities, InSoC manages to create a network of professionals who share a common vision for social equity and sustainable development. Training and educational programs are designed to not only impart theoretical knowledge, but also to provide practical tools for applying learned concepts in the real world.

One of the significant initiatives in this direction is the formation of the "Academy for Social Change", where regular courses and trainings for young leaders and activists are organized. This project focuses on developing capabilities for effective planning and implementation of social projects, as well as supporting innovative ideas for community development. The result is increased awareness and increased ability of the younger generations to actively engage in decision-making processes.

4. PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Social inclusion is a central part of the InSoC's mission. Through various projects and programs, the institution advocates the creation of a society where all citizens, regardless of their social status, ethnicity or economic status, have equal opportunities for development and participation.

One of the most significant initiatives is working with marginalized groups, where support is provided for their integration into society through education, employment and social integration programs. With specific projects to foster active citizenship, InSoC aims to reduce social nodes and create conditions for better communication and collaboration between different communities.

In addition, the institution actively organizes public debates, forums and dialogue sessions, where citizens can present their ideas and participate in public policymaking. These activities foster democracy and increase transparency in decision-making processes, which is key to building trust between citizens and institutions.

Through collaboration with local NGOs and activist groups, InSoC manages to establish a network of partnerships that fosters inclusive initiatives and builds the community's capacity base. This network serves as a platform for sharing experiences, thinking about common solutions and coordinating activities aimed at improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

One of the key aspects of InSoC's work is the development and implementation of innovative projects that have a direct and measurable effect on society. Through the application of new technologies, digital tools and innovative approaches, the institution successfully addresses the challenge of social modernization.

The institute has initiatives aimed at the digital transformation of public administration, providing platforms for e-respect and e-participation of citizens in public life. These projects are designed to increase the degree of transparency and accountability of state institutions, as well as to facilitate communication between citizens and government. At the same time, InSoC is working on projects that foster innovation in the field of social services, such as pilot programs to involve young people in the local community, projects to support ageing in society, and initiatives for environmental awareness and sustainable development. Through such projects, the institution not only responds to current social challenges but also creates conditions for long-term change, which is based on innovative solutions and multifaceted cooperation.

One example of this innovation is the development of digital democracy platforms, where citizens can make their own proposals and participate in virtual consultations. This type of project not only modernizes decision-making processes but also encourages the active involvement of the younger generations and tech-savvy citizens, which is key to building a dynamic and technology-oriented society.

6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT

In a global context, InSoC emphasizes the importance of international cooperation as a key component for successfully addressing social challenges. Through partnerships with outstanding research institutes, NGOs and academic centers from Europe and beyond, the institution manages to integrate the latest global trends and practices into its work.

International cooperation not only provides additional resources and expertise but also fosters the exchange of experiences and ideas that are key to creating innovative solutions. InSoC participates in numerous international projects, working groups and conferences where current topics such as social inclusion, economic justice, public resource management and sustainable development are discussed.

Partnerships with international institutions also provide a platform for sharing data, methodologies, and best practices, which enriches the national research base and improves the institution's ability to respond to global challenges. This international network also increases the impact of the InSoC in the regional context, allowing it to be an active participant in transnational debates about the future of social policy.

Through these collaborations, the institution positions itself not only as an innovator but also as a trusted partner in creating strategies that have a positive and long-term effect on local and regional communities. This reinforces its role as a catalyst for social change, successfully translating local challenges into global development opportunities.

7. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

One of the personifications of InSoC's work is its commitment to promoting public awareness and education on social issues. To ensure an active and informed public, the institution organizes regular public events, discussions and campaigns aimed at raising awareness of current social problems and possible solutions.

Through the publication of analytical reports, blog posts, and media publications, InSoC reaches its audience and creates a social debate around key social issues. These activities are aimed at generating support for reforms and encouraging active civic participation, which is the basis for the functioning of modern democracy.

The Institute also organizes educational programs that introduce citizens to the processes of critical thinking and analysis, allowing them to understand the complexity of social processes and to actively engage in their solution. These programs, which include online platforms, are designed to provide easy access to information and encourage critical thinking among different demographics.

8. EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND THEIR RESULTS

To illustrate the practical results of InSoC's work, the following are a few examples of specific projects that have brought about significant change:

1) **Project: Beyond Barriers – Supporting Roma in the Western Balkans**

Funded by the European Union

The overall objective of the project is: To strengthen the regional inclusion of Roma in the Western Balkans through policies and initiatives to address economic disparities, combat Antigypsyism and promote social integration, while the specific objectives of the project are 1. Establish a cohesive and well-coordinated regional network of Roma civil society organizations. 2. Targeted economic empowerment initiatives in the WB that lead to measurable improvements in the economic conditions of Roma communities across the region. 3. Establish a regional cooperation network that strengthens awareness and action against Antigypsyism at the regional and national levels through effective advocacy.

2) **Project "Civic Participation and Public Policies"** – This project enabled local communities to participate in the creation and implementation of public policies through a series of public consultations, workshops and debates. The result was the establishment of multiple platforms for dialogue between government and citizens, which led to more inclusive and transparent decisions at the local level.

3) **Project: Youth Empowerment – Fostering Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurship in the Polog Region** – The project is supported and funded by the Civica Mobilitas project of the Swiss Embassy implemented by the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC), NIRAS from Denmark and FCG from Sweden.

The overall objective of the project is: To improve the social context in which the youth of Polog operate, especially in relation to awareness of the problem of migration, fostering their civic engagement and entrepreneurship.

The specific objectives of the project are: 1. Assessment of the causes and status of youth migration from the Polog region. 2. Strengthening the capacities of the youth of Polog for their civic engagement and future entrepreneurial activities. 3. Promoting coordination and knowledge transfer between civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders

stakeholders, the business community, and local governments to raise awareness of the issue of migration and opportunities for youth.

4) **Project: An integrated approach to improving conditions for informal packaging waste collectors. Funded by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.** In the context of environmental protection, the InSoC analyzed the social aspects of environmental policies, resulting in concrete recommendations for the establishment of sustainable development models. These measures are aimed at creating a society that cares about nature, as well as at fostering responsible management of resources.

5) **This year, InSoC was active as a member of the network of civil society organizations, which includes:** the Network for Advocacy for Systematic and Lasting Solutions for the Integration of Roma in the Republic of North Macedonia and the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Republic of North Macedonia.

6) **InSoC 2024 participated in a training session to build and advance the integrity of the organization.** It has also adopted an integrity strategy and action plans to be implemented in 2025.

- **InSoC is a signatory to the Code of Civil Society Organizations as an initiative of MCIC and the Civica Mobilitas program.**

5. CONCLUSION

- 1) The achievements of **the InSoC – Institute for Social Change** are the result of a long-standing, integrated multidisciplinary approach to addressing the social challenges that shape our world. Through innovative research work, impact on public policies, education and capacity building, and promotion of active citizenship and international cooperation, the institution demonstrates its commitment to creating a more innovative, inclusive and democratic society.
- 2) With its ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with the practical needs of the community, the InSoC not only informs public debates but also directly participates in the transformation of political and social structures. Through concrete projects that have a measurable and long-term effect, the institution positions itself as a catalyst for positive change, providing a stable foundation for the future.
- 3) In an era of global challenges and rapid social transformations, the role of research institutions such as InSoC is becoming increasingly important. They are not only sources of knowledge but also active participants in creating more sustainable and equitable communities. Through its research, projects, and partnerships, InSoC reasserts its place as a trusted point of development and as an engine for social innovation.
- 4) Looking to the future, it means that by continuing this work, InSoC will continue to drive reform, develop new generations and inspire all those who want to participate in creating a society that can face the challenges of the modern world. With an awareness of global trends and local needs, the institution leaves a deep and lasting mark on the community, providing a space for innovation, partnerships, and active civic engagement.
- 5) In conclusion, the achievements of InSoC are a testament to their ability to bring together different actors in society, create synergy between theory and practice, and drive changes that directly affect the quality of life of citizens. These results are not only measurable in numbers and reports but are a living example of how research and innovation can be tools to create a better society.
- 6) Considering all the above aspects, **InSoC – Institute for Social Change** continues to be a leading light on the path towards social justice, sustainable development and inclusive society. Its commitment to scientific progress, dialogue and active citizenship is an inspiration to all those striving for the improvement of public policy and community development.
- 7) At a time when rapid social changes and challenges are becoming more complex, the role of institutions such as InSoC is becoming indispensable. Through integrated projects, international cooperation, educational programs and active dialogue, the institution demonstrates the potential of collective action and the importance of civic awareness. Every initiative, every project, and every publication released by InSoC reaffirms the importance of knowledge as the key to solving societal problems.
- 8) As a result of their work, a positive impulse has been created that not only improves the functioning of public institutions but also motivates all members of society to actively engage in the process of social transformation. This momentum reflects a vision for a more innovative, inclusive and inclusive future, where every citizen has the chance to contribute and develop following the principles of fairness and democratic progress.
- 9) Ultimately, InSoC is an example of how the combination of academic knowledge, practical initiatives, and strategic partnerships can create a profound and long-term effect on society. His work leaves a lasting legacy, inspiring the next generations of researchers, leaders, and activists to continue the fight for social justice and sustainable development.
- 10) With confidence in the power of knowledge and a love of social justice, **InSoC – Institute for Social Change** continues to lead the way towards a more innovative, inclusive and responsible society, where every citizen will have the opportunity to participate in shaping their own future.
- 11) With this report, we summarize the key achievements of InSoC across six dimensions: research work and knowledge generation, impact on public policies, education and capacity building, promotion of social inclusion, development of innovative projects and international cooperation, as well as promotion of public

awareness. All these activities together create the foundation for long-term social change, which transforms the community towards a better, more just and sustainable society.

- 12) With a continuous commitment to high standards of research, practical application of knowledge, and active involvement of all social actors, InSoC demonstrates its leadership in the field of social change. His projects and initiatives are not only of local importance but are an inspiration and model for the region and beyond, encouraging all of us to believe that through knowledge, cooperation and active citizenship, better living and development conditions can be built.
- 13) Considering all the achievements and activities, InSoC leaves a lasting and positive imprint on society, fostering changes that have a long-term impact on the quality of life of all of us. This institute continues to be a bridge between academia, policy institutions, and civic engagement, providing a platform for innovative ideas, dialogue, and practical solutions that shape future generations.

6. ORGANIZATION

Secretariate

No.	Name Surname	Position	Education	Contact
1.	Nadir Redzepe	Executive director	Sociology and social inclusion	Nadir.redzepe@insoc.org.mk
2.	Samet Skenderi	Program Coordinator	Economic science	Samet.skenderi@insoc.org.mk

Advisory Board

No.	Name Surname	Ethnic Affiliation	Contact
1	Muhamed Tochi	Roma	m.toci@mesecina.org.mk
2	Shenaj Osmani	Roma	shenaj.osmanov7522@gmail.com
3	Ljatifa Shikovska	Roma	sikovska@yahoo.com
4	Nahida Zekirova	Roma	nahidaze@gmail.com
5	Besnik Sulejmani	Roma	sulejmani.besnik@yahoo.com
6	Enes Shikovski	Roma	e.sikovski89@gmail.com

7. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NGOs

Name of Program/Project	Name of CSOs/groups	Person for Contact	Short Description
Advocacy Network for Systemic and Durable Solutions for Roma Integration in the Republic of North Macedonia	Citizens' Associations Who is working on issues of Exercising the rights of Minority communities	Jana Mihailova	Network of Associations citizens working to achieve the rights of minority communities
Advocacy Network for Systemic and Durable Solutions for Roma Integration in the Republic of North Macedonia	Citizens' Associations Who is working on issues of integration of the Roma	Muhamed Tochi	Partnership in the implementation of projects and activities for systemic and permanent
Financial consulting and management for transparent and transparent operations;	REC "Ambrela" / Skopje HDZR "Mesecina" Gostivar RBIC - Skopje	Ljatifa Shikovska Muhamed Tochi Zoran Dimov	Joint advisory and logistics services for transparent and accountable organizational work

8. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Name of the program/project	Name of CSOs/groups	Contact person	Short description
Developing opportunities for the realization of the rights of non-Hispanic communities	Agency for the Implementation of Community Rights in the Republic of North Macedonia	Eeran Kurtish	Exercising the rights of minority communities
	Inter-Party Parliamentary Group on the Integration of Roma in Society	Ljatifa Shikovska	
	Committee on Community Relations	<u>Arbana</u> Pasholi	
Mapping funding opportunities for projects related to Roma integration	Civil Society Organizations of the Republic of North Macedonia working on issues of Roma integration	Zoran Dimov	Mapping funding opportunities for projects related to Roma integration

9. PLANS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Key points such as the 2025 plan for the operation of the InSoC:

1) Expanding research initiatives

Development of new research projects focused on current social challenges, such as digital transformation, social inequality and environmental sustainability. This will enable the generation of new data and knowledge to inform public policies.

2) Increasing the impact on public policies

Establish strategic partnerships with government institutions and local communities to integrate record-based recommendations into the decision-making process. This will enable more innovative and transparent policies based on real data.

3) Capacity Building and Education

Organizing seminars, training, workshops, and conferences to develop professional skills for researchers, young leaders, and activists. The aim is to increase the capacity for critical thinking and the application of innovative social solutions.

4) Promotion of social inclusion

Implement projects and programs to support marginalized groups and foster active civic participation. This includes the development of programs that encourage different social strata to engage in public life.

5) Development of innovative social projects

Implementation of pilot projects using new technologies and digital tools to modernize public administration and social services. This will encourage innovative approaches to solving social challenges.

6) International and regional cooperation

Expand partnerships with international research centers, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to share the best practices and methodologies. This collaboration will strengthen capacities and expand the institution's impact in a regional and global context.

7) Developing Digital Democracy Platforms

Development and implementation of electronic tools and online platforms to increase transparency and direct participation of citizens in public debates and decision-making.

8) Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Development

Conduct research and projects that analyze the social aspects of environmental policies in order to create recommendations for sustainable development and environmental protection.

9) Monitoring and evaluation of projects

Establish systems for monitoring and analysis of implemented projects in order to measure their social impact and ensure the continuous advancement of InSoC activities.

10) Promoting communication and public dialogue

Development of integrated communication strategies and media campaigns to better inform the public about the achievements and activities of the institution, in order to encourage transparency and active civic participation.

These points will not only strengthen the research and expertise capacities of the InSoC, but will also contribute to creating a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable society in 2025.

Executive Director,
Nadir Redzepi