

# Sami Frasheri Institute

Inspiring ideas - framing policies



## ANNUAL REPORT

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[www.samifrasheri.org](http://www.samifrasheri.org)

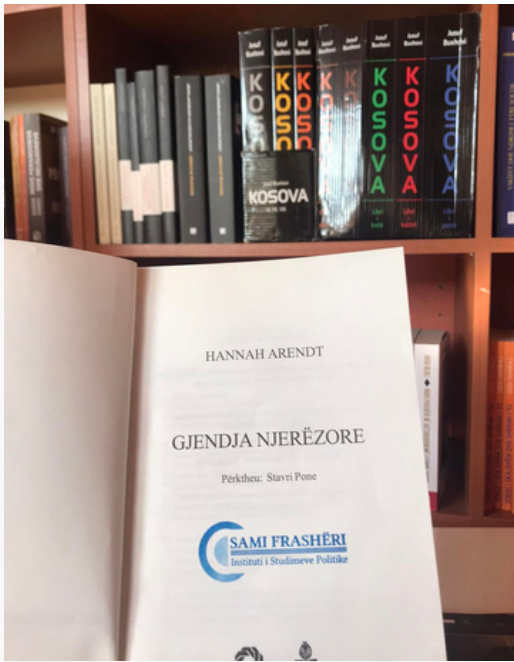
Rruga Pjeter Budi  
Qyteti Studenti  
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## Who we are? What we do?

The Institute of Political Studies "Sami Frasheri" is a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) based in Tirana, Albania, founded in 2021. It is named after Sami Frasheri, an Albanian renaissance writer, polyglot and civic activist. The organization's main focus is the promotion of democratic governance, civic participation, government accountability, the rule of law and human rights through civic participation, research, education and publication. It's a civic initiative of a group of academicians and public polemicists, open to all like-minded people, who wish to contribute to the transformation of Albania.



# Vision

To become a leading institution in the promotion of democratic governance, civic participation, government accountability, the rule of law and human rights. To produce knowledge and initiatives that are useful and relevant for the society; to support the development of critical thinking and support informed, evidence-based decision-making among policymakers and the broader public.

# Mission

01

**Research:** Conduct high-quality research on political science, international relations, and related fields in Albania, with a focus on democratic governance, civic participation, government accountability, the rule of law, and human rights.

02

**Education:** Develop and deliver educational programs and resources that promote critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making among policymakers, academics, and the broader public.

03

**Public engagement:** Engage with policymakers, civil society organizations, media, and the general public to promote informed and engaged citizenry, and to foster greater understanding and cooperation among different sectors of society.

04

**Publication:** Publish and disseminate research findings, educational materials, and policy recommendations to a wide audience, including policymakers, academics, civil society organizations, and the general public.



# Main activities of 2022



## 01 Balkans 2030

"Balkans 2030" is a joint project by the Institute of Political Studies "Sami Frasheri" and the Center for Advanced Studies, which aims to bring together intellectuals, academics, journalists, and other stakeholders from the Western Balkans Six countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) to discuss and promote cooperation in the field of security and regional integration.

## 02 Research Coaching

It is an initiative by the Institute of Political Studies "Sami Frasheri", supported by CNS that aims to improve the research skills of junior researchers and contribute to the development of a scholarly research culture in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. The program provides participants with support in developing competitive research proposals. Up to 10 participants are selected as fellows and have received a grant to conduct research.

## 03 Open Seminars

The Open Seminars program, organized by the Institute of Political Studies "Sami Frasheri" with the support of CNS, aims to promote informed public discourse on the key challenges facing societies in the Balkans. The program is ongoing, held every two weeks, and features a guest speaker addressing a group of 20-25 students on relevant topics.

## 04 Revista Politike

Revista politike (Political Review) is an online median platform supported by "Sami Frasheri". Apart from being the publication of the Institute, is an initiative to bridge the academic knowledge with the needs of the society. It aims to be a watchdogs against the wrongdoings of the government, support popular science articles and help evidence based policymaking process.

# Balkans 2030



Sarajevo, 09-10 June 2022

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## Security after Ukraine

Identify large problem areas with the eagle view approach so that this macro stage is useful for knowing the outcome of our work.

## Euro-Atlantic integration

Identify large problem areas with the eagle view approach so that this macro stage is useful for knowing the outcome of our work.

## Decline of democracy, rise of autocracy

Identify as many of these problems as possible but still have a relationship to each of these problems so that the work will be more focused on one topic.



# Research Coaching



## About Research Coaching Program

The program provides participants with support in developing competitive research proposals. In 2022, nine participants are selected as fellows and have received a grant to conduct research in different areas.



### Training I

The main goal of the training was to improve research skills of young researchers. The training was led by Jeton Mehmeti (PhD) from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo and was attended by 14 participants.



### Training II

The second stage of the training was held on November 19-20, 2022 at the Academy of Sciences. The training was led by Dr. Mentor Beqa, lecturer of Research Methods and it focused on empowering participants with the techniques and procedures of research.



### Mentoring and Review

The third stage of the program is ongoing and will be concluded with the submission of articles from the participants. During this stage, 9 selected fellows are being mentored by two lecturers, Dr. Jeton Mehmeti and Dr. Mentor Beqa.

# Open Seminars



## What is Open Seminars

"Open Seminars" is an intellectual discussion platform organized by the Institute of Political Studies "Sami Frasheri" in Tirana and the Center for Advanced Studies (CNS) in Sarajevo. The meetings take place on a weekly basis at the Institute in the Student City in Tirana and participation is open to all. Students who regularly attend the seminars will be awarded certificates of attendance by the organizers.



## Security challenges

The Open Seminar series discussed the topic "Security in the Balkans: cooperation versus rivalry" with guest speaker Professor Asoc. Dr. Ilir Kalemaj, Vice-Rector of New York University of Tirana. Professor Kalemaj discussed the historical and current developments in the region, focusing on the strategic dependence of Serbia on Russia and the challenges facing countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo in maintaining stability in the Western Balkans.



## Ethical challenges

The seminar "Public Ethics and Mass-media" discussed the negative impact of trashy television shows on public ethics and the importance of addressing this issue, particularly for young people. The speaker, Professor Zhilla, proposed that the cultivation of the institution of "shame" or "turp" would be the best way to prevent the vulgarisation of culture and art by promoting public discussions and raising societal expectations for the quality of art and culture.



# Revista Politike

[www.revistapolitike.com](http://www.revistapolitike.com)



Matching scientific expertise with popular understanding

"Revista Politike" is a publication of the Sami Frasheri Institute that aims to create an informed public discussion of the main challenges in Albania and abroad. It serves as a watchdog for government policies and brings together expertise from the academic world with public policy.

REVISTA POLITIKE

ESE PIKËPAMJE RAPORT HISTORI SHQIPTARE 🔍



ESE

## Besa e shqiptarëve: Një përgjigje bujare ndaj gjenocidit

Ndërsa vazhdoj të shoh me tmerr shpërnguljen e detyruar të refugjatëve nga vende ku shtëpia është bërë vend i...

By Hamza Karçiç · Jan 20, 2023



## Pikëpamja nga Uashingtoni e Janusz Bugajskit: Pse Perëndimi është i butë ndaj Beogradit?

Qeveritë perëndimore duken të pavëmendshme ndaj kërcënimit në rritje dhe madje mbështesin iniciativa të tilla si "Ballkani i Hapur", duke besuar se do të nxisë bashkëpunimin rajonal. Në praktikë, ...

PUBLIKUAR: OCT 10, 2022

Shkruar nga     
Janusz Bugajski

**N**ë Ballkan ka perceptime të përhapura se duke pajtuar Serbinë, qeveritë perëndimore kontribuojnë në fakt në



# Our growth in one year

In the course of one year of intense work, we have observed substantial growth. Our goal is to build on this success and expand in terms of numbers, quantity, and quality. Your help is essential in achieving this.



# The ones behind



**Dr. Ardian Muhaj**

Chair of the Board  
& Founder



**Dr. Mentor Beqa**

Executive Director  
& Founder



**Dr. Vehap Kola**

Director of Programs  
& Founder