



THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA'S 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS HANDBOOK

second updated edition

INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY "SOCIETAS CIVILIS" SKOPJE

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Ilina Mangova Jovan Bliznakovski Aleksandar Talimdžioski contributed by Aleksandra Murgoska

Impresum

Title:

The Republic of Macedonia's 2013 Local Elections Handbook

Publishers:

Konrad Adenauer Foundation in the Republic of Macedonia Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis - Skopje

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This publication can be downloaded free at: http://www.kas.de/mazedonien

Note:

The viewpoints expressed in this publication do not represent the positions of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis – Skopje, but are personal views of the authors.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS

On 24th March 2013 the fifth local elections will take place in the Republic of Macedonia. There are 350 candidates running for mayoral positions on the local elections as well as 480 councilor lists.

During the last mandate of the local government, from March 2009 until March 2013, the majority of mayoral positions have been held by members of the ruling party VMRO-DMPNE (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity), which won 56 positions of mayors and 460 councillor positions. The second most successful party in terms of mayoral positions secured in the last elections was the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), which won 15 positions of mayors (one within the coalition) and 179 councillor positions. SDSM have their mayors in 7 municipalities¹, and they won 282 councillor positions at the 2009 elections. The second largest party among the Albanian electorate, the Democratic Party of the Albanians (DPA) has only one mayor and 52 councillor positions. Besides these parties, each of the following won a mayoral position: the New Democracy, the Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia, the Union of the Roma, the Radical Party of the Serbs in Macedonia and two independent mayors.² VMRO-DPMNE has been a ruling party on a national level since 2006 after winning the early parliamentary elections twice in a row, on 1st June 2008 and 5th June 2011.

At the end of his mandate, on 17th February 2013, due to disobeying the decision to boycott the elections and submitting candidacy under the Serbian Advanced Party, one of the seven mayors, Stevčo Jakimovski was excluded from SDSM.

OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Presidential and Municipal Elections 22 March and 5 April 2009. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, June 2009

These elections will be held with enforced changes in the territorial organisation of the local government as prescribed by the Local Government Territorial Organisation Law from 2004, which was postponed with its amendments from August 2008.³ In 2012 the municipalities of Vraneštica, Zajas, Drugovo, and Oslomej became part of the municipality of Kičevo, which reduced the number of local government units (LGU) in Macedonia from 85 to 81.

The local elections are taking place after a two-month political crisis that Macedonian entered into over the Republic of Macedonia's Budget resolution for 2013. Namely, the oppositional parliamentary parties SDSM, DPA, and the National Democratic Revival (NDP) applied the filibuster method to prevent the voting on the Republic of Macedonia's Budget Proposal for 2013. The three parties from the coalition have submitted 1225 amendments in total to the Finances and Budget Committee. The parliamentary opposition has accused the government of accumulating debt of EUR 600 million with the proposed budget, including the following year. According to the opposition, the budget was also intended for "buying the votes of the pensioners, and social welfare users during the election period".4 On the other hand, the MPs from DPA and NDP accused the Government that the Budget has been designed to the benefit of the Macedonian ethnic community and is discriminatory towards the Albanian ethnic community.⁵ Facing the possibility for a postponed adoption of the budget,⁶ the Legislative Committee has commenced with its sessions on the proposed amendments, which according to Article 79 from the Rules of Procedure should be held after the amendments are reviewed in the

mainstream committee. Because of this, the MPs from the opposition have started obstructing and disabling the work of the Legislative Committee and have accused the majority of violating the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.⁸ On 22nd December 2012, session reports from the Finances and Budget Committee and the Legislative Committee related to the Republic of Macedonia's Budget Proposal for 2013 were filed to the President of the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. The first was signed by the majority of MPs from the ruling parties reporting on the Committee minutes, the voting in the Committee in relation to the amendments from 1 to 161, with a notion that for the rest of the amendments from 161 to 1225 a written statement by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia was read.⁹ The second report was signed by the Committee's Chairperson reporting on the Committee's review of the amendments from 1 to 137, with a notion that for the rest of the amendments, from 137 to 1225, written statements by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia were read, due to the obstructions by the MPs from the opposition and the lack of working conditions. 10 The President of the Assembly delivers these reports to the Government, which adopted and submitted the altered Budget to the Assembly for voting on 23rd December. 11

On 24th December 2012, the Budget was put to vote at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and the MPs from the opposition started obstructing the work of the Assembly. After series of incidents, the parliament security removed the MPs of the opposition coalition "Union for the Future" from the Assembly. After this, the Budget was adopted by the parliamentary majority, and the opposition from the "Union for the Future" started the boycott of the Assembly, with regular protests demanding early parliamentary elections. NDP, which has two MPs, joined the boycott of the Assembly after this event, which left DPA as the only party from

Local Government Territorial Organisation Law in the Republic of Macedonia. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.55/04 from 16.08.2004; Amendments and Additions Law to the Local Government Territorial Organisation Law in the Republic of Macedonia. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 98/08 from 04.08.2008.

⁴ Mitevska, M. "Real or pre-election budget?", Free Europe Radio, 19th November 2012.

DUI to block voting on the non-Albanian budget", Kapital, 20th December 2012, and I.M., "Budget 2013: to VMRO it is for development, to SDSM it is pre-electoral, to NDP it is ethnic!", Faktor, 19.11.2012.

According to the Budget Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.64, 03.08.2005, the budget of the Republic of Macedonia should be adopted by 31st December of the current year. If this is not the case, the deadline is set to 31st March the proceeding year, a period when, after the approval of the Ministry of Finances, resources can be used by one third of the expenditures in the first quarter of the previous year,

Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 130/2010.

^{8 &}quot;Tense atmosphere in the legislative committee", 24 Vesti, 22.12.2012.

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Session Report No. 43 of the Legislative Committee meeting held on 22.12.2012.

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Session Report No.70 of the Legislative Committee meeting held on 22.12.2012.

¹¹ "The Budget Adopted and Brought to Parliament" Sitel, 23rd December 2012.

the opposition that took part in the parliamentary procedure.¹² On the same day, the journalists reporting from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia were removed by force from the gallery where they monitor the parliamentary procedures, which resulted in a unified protest reaction by the Macedonian media organizations.¹³

Macedonia has been a candidate country for the EU since 17th December 2005, although it still has not started the negotiations for membership in the European Union. For four years in a row, the progress reports prepared by the European Commission have recommended a start of the negotiations. However, the EU Council has not given its consent, which is why a start date for the negotiations has not been assigned yet. The key problem for the start of the negotiations is the name dispute between the Republic of Macedonia and Greece. In the absence of the accession negotiations with the EU, a mechanism for High-Level Accession Dialogue was established, focusing on the specific reforms in the key priority areas. The EU representatives, as well as other international factors, have placed their efforts to establish dialogue between the government and the opposition to provide solution to the current political crisis. The crisis intensified when, in the period before the deadline for filing candidacies for the local elections, 16th February 2013, the oppositional coalition under the leadership of SDSM failed to announce their candidates, which resulted from the previously announced boycott of the elections. On 26th February, the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, under Government's recommendations, proceeded with amendments to the Electoral Code under fast track procedure, which enabled to postpone the deadline for submitting candidate lists for councillors and mayors by all subjects who failed to do it in due time. 14 With this amendment the deadline for submitting candidate lists was postponed to 3rd March 2013. On 1st March 2013, the EU Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Commissioner Štefan

Füle as head of the EU delegation, the MEP reporting on the Republic of Macedonia Richard Howitt, and the MEP from the European People's Party Jerzy Buzek, in cooperation with the President of the Republic of Macedonia PhD Gjorgje Ivanov made their final and successful attempt to achieve agreement between the two largest political parties in the Republic of Macedonia. With mediation of the high EU representatives an agreement was achieved between VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM as a result of which SDSM agreed to participate on the local elections. Within these talks the two parties agreed to:

"to resume normal political life: all parties to return to Parliament and participate in the scheduled local elections to support immediate key reform measures, including:

- improving the functioning of parliament, including President's initiative to convene an ad hoc Commission of Inquiry (to look into, inter alia, the events on and before 24 December, including their constitutionality, security in and outside of Parliament, and revision of the parliamentary rules of procedure), the results of which would be reflected in the Commission's Progress Report in Autumn 2013
- electoral reform, after the local elections, including in relation to the voters> registry (e.g. post-election audit of list) and other OSCE/ODIHR recommendations
- freedom of expression, e.g. resumption of dialogue with journalists,
 led by the Association of Journalists, and other confidence-building
 measures

to an election calendar:

to give adequate time to register the lists of candidates for the local elections

to meet immediately after the local elections to discuss the internal political situation, including the findings of the Commission of

Later, in January, the MPs from NDP ceased the boycott and joined the Assembly. "NDP returns to parliament", Dnevnik, 23.01.2013.

Macedonian Association of Journalists. Joint statement of the media organizations on the incident at the Assembly, 27th December 2012.

¹⁴ The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Draft-law on Supplements to the Electoral Code, fast track (second reading). 26th February 2013.

Inquiry on the 24/12 events, and to continue the discussions, in good faith, on all options, and without prejudice for defining the timing of the next parliamentary elections, on the basis of the implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, so that the results can be taken into account in the next Commission Progress Report

The EU:

a fourth meeting of the HLAD to be scheduled with the European Commission (March), involving the government and the National Council for European Integration

the European Commission to present its Report, as requested by Council, by mid-April

the European Parliament to schedule a vote on its Report in a positive and constructive framework" 15

As a result of this agreement on 2nd March 2013 the oppositional MPs returned to the Parliament, and the Electoral Code was amended again, more specifically the deadline for filing candidacies was postponed to 8th March 2013.¹⁶

PARTICIPANTS ON THE ELECTIONS

There are 15 political parties participating on the local elections, which have submitted candidate lists independently or as coalitions, however none of them has announced candidates for mayors in all of the 81 Local Government Units. From the more active parliamentary parties, VMRO-DMPNE with its coalition has announced 68 candidates for mayors 5 of which are women, the coalition of SDSM has announced 67 candidates

for mayors, out of which 4 are women. DUI has announced 23 candidates for mayors one of which is a woman, DPA has announced 27 candidates non of which is a woman, and NDP has announced 14 candidates (one with the coalition) for mayors, non of which is a woman as well. Out of 350 mayoral candidates in total only 28 are women (8 %). There are regulations that oblige the parties to announce candidates of the less represented gender on every third position on the candidates for councillor lists, which do not apply for candidates for mayors. All parties participating on these elections have fulfilled this precondition, since their lists would be rejected by the administration if all regulations have not been implemented. Besides these parties, the smaller political parties have announced their candidates, such as the Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia (DPTM), People's Movement of Macedonia (NDM), United Democratic Forces of the Roma (ODSR), Party for European Future (PEI), Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDPM), Social Democratic Union (SDU), Union of the Roma from Macedonia (SRM) and the Serbian Advanced Party in Macedonia (SNSM). There are 27 candidate lists for mayors supported by a group of voters. There are also 84 candidate lists for submitted by a group of voters.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Even before the start of the election campaign, several parties have announced part of their candidates for mayors and councillors. On 26th October 2012, the coalition led by SDSM promoted their candidates for mayors in the Skopje municipalities, including the City of Skopje. ¹⁷ Until the decision for boycott of the elections was placed in effect, this coalition announced 21 candidates, after which no further candidates were promoted. The coalition of VMRO-DPMNE has started promoting its candidates for mayors in December 2012, some of the candidates from DUI were promoted publically in January 2013, while some of the candidates from DPA were determined in July 2012.

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Joint statement of Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, Rapporteur of the European Parliament on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Richard Howitt, and former President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, on their mission to Skopje, 1st March 2013. Accessed on 11.03.2013:http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/fule/headlines/news/2013/03/20130301_en.htm

The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Draft-law on Supplements to the Electoral Code, fast track. 2nd March 2013. Accessed on 06.03.2013: http://www.sobranie.mk/ext/material-details.aspx?Id=a8c87be7-1d6f-4c88-bcd9-6906b2bb4b32

¹⁷ "SDSM introduces candidates for mayors in the capital city". Telma, 26th October 2012.

Besides the fact that the election campaign officially starts on 4th March 2013, the parties that have already announced their candidates have also started with promotion activities. Every party applies a gradual announcement of the candidate names.

In the period between 26th January and 9th February the Voters List was released for public review, and every citizen was able to check the status of their data. The Voters List contains data for all adult citizens (over 18 years old) with permanent address on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia who hold biometric identification documents. The Voters List also contains data for the Macedonian citizens who stay or work temporarily abroad and hold valid passports.

For a long period, **the Voters List** was exposed to criticism and remarks by the OSCE/ODIHR, the political parties and the public. The criticism was directed towards the quality and the validity of the Voters List, which consisted of 1,821,122 voters on the early parliamentary elections in 2011, demanding its revision. In March 2012 within the State Election Commission (SEC) a working group was established to revise the Voters List in order to update it in relation to deceased persons, and citizens of the Republic of Macedonia living abroad that hold valid passports. Besides the members of the SEC, the working group consisted of representatives from the state institutions, the largest political parties, as well as international and national organizations. The working group determined that the Voters List of citizens, who hold valid IDs, latest by 24th February 2013, consists of 1,743,403 citizens, i.e. 77,719 citizens less than in 2011.¹⁸ The SEC was running a campaign on the national broadcasting service to inform citizens who do not hold valid IDs that they will not be able to vote without valid documents.

Moreover, in order to incorporate the recommendations of OSCE for the Electoral Code, a working group coordinated by the Ministry of Justice was established in April 2012 for amendments in the electoral legislation,

more precisely the Electoral Code and the Law on Financing of Political Parties. The working group comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretariat for European Affairs, the State Election Commission, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the State Audit Office, the Broadcasting Council, the EU Delegation, the USA Embassy, the OSCE Mission in Skopje, the Civic Association MOST, the parliamentary groups, SDSM, VMRO-DPMNE < DUI, NDP, and PEI/Sandzak League, and a national expert Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, prepared amendments to these two laws, which were adopted in November 2012. The alterations covered a portion, but not all of the 28 recommendations from the OSCE/ ODIHR report from 2011.¹⁹ The alterations have primarily introduced regulations related to the restrictions of the current state officials from the benefits they enjoy when holding executive functions, ²⁰ specifying certain ambiguous acts, mechanisms to increase sanctions and control over the financing of election campaigns, clear deadlines for objections and complaints, regulating the voters rights for people with disabilities and those who are on parole, as well as harmonizing the Law on Territorial Organisation of Local Government in the Republic of Macedonia. In addition, the Law on Financing of Political Parties was amended with an obligation for the political parties to publish the registry of donations on their website latest by 30th April each year, to introduce suspension of the resources granted to the parties from the Republic of Macedonia's budget, if they fail to submit their reports to the State Audit Office (SAO) in due time, to increase the role of SAO in this control system, as well as to restrain from regular financing for a period of three months if the party fails to publish the report.

These changes were introduced in the absence of the opposition, which organized a boycott of the voting, dissatisfied with the fact that their recommendations were not incorporated.²¹

 $^{^{18}}$ State Election Commission. Information related to the closing of the Voters List. Accessed on 25th February 2013. http://www.sec.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92

OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Early Parliamentary Elections 5 June 2011. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, October 2011

²⁰ More details in the chapter on *Restrictions for Current State Officials*.

²¹ Fidanoski, Z. "The Electoral Code voted without opposition". TV Alfa, 9th November, 2012.

In addition, there are 28 recommendations that the OSCE/ODIHR give in their Mission Final Report after the 2011 Elections with explanations whether they are integrated in the Electoral Code.

A. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS²²

- 1. Authorities should consider developing safeguards to ensure sufficient separation between the state and party as required by paragraph 5.4 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document. Existing legislative safeguards, such as Article 9 of the Electoral Code, should be interpreted in a way to prevent the inherent conflict of interest between executive government positions requiring independence and those of candidates pursuing political advantage. Such provisions could also be expanded to include enforcement mechanisms.
 - Partially fulfilled. Additions have been introduced to the article 8 from the Electoral Code specifying that state officials (members of the Government, vice Ministers, MPs, council members, mayors) from the day they are confirmed as candidates for elections they perform only technical function and take only necessary action. It furthermore defines the necessary activities that cannot be conducted; however the phrase 'technical function' is not clearly defined. At the same time, there are no sanctions for violations of this regulation. Article 5.4 from the Copenhagen Document of OSCE from 1990 defines "clear distance of the state from the political parties; particularly, the political parties will not be united with the state" which requires additional measures.
- 2. Consideration should be given to addressing all gaps and ambiguities in the Electoral Code that have been identified through the election process, including those specifically mentioned in these recommendations. To

this end, an inclusive consultative process should be established well in advance of the next elections.

- Started, but not finished.
- 3. A thorough audit and revision of the voter lists is long overdue. This should be done following the census in October 2011. It should focus on entries of deceased people and citizens residing abroad.
 - Fulfilled.
- 4. Allegations of intimidation of voters should be swiftly, thoroughly, and effectively investigated by the authorities and those found responsible prosecuted. Citizens should be encouraged to report allegations supported by verifiable evidence.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 5. Steps should be taken to resolve conflicts of interest with regard to the control of private broadcasters by those engaged in politics. This practice is contrary to the law and undermines balanced political coverage during an election campaign.
 - In 2012 the Broadcasting Council commenced the implementation of article 11 from the Law on Broadcasting services, according to which, state officials and members of their families can have property and be founders of a broadcasting service. The private broadcasters were given a deadline until 30th September 2012 to harmonize their property structure. As a result of this measure the member of parliament Ljubisav Ivanov-Dzingo, whose son was the owner of Sitel TV resigned from his MP position, ²³ and Kanal 5, whose owner was the son of Borislav Stojmenov, was sold. ²⁴ Additional research and monitoring is necessary to determine whether "individuals involved in politics" exercise control over the private broadcasters.

OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Early Parliamentary Elections 5 June 2011. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, October 2011, pages 20-23.

²³ Kaziovska, S. "After Sitel, Kanal 5 also seeks way out". Dnevnik, 25th September 2012.

^{24 &}quot;Kanal 5 sold to Vanja Gavrilovski – a close person to Stojmenov?", Bukvar, portal, 28th September 2012.

- 6. Shorter deadlines should be established for courts to rule on complaints brought against broadcasters by the Broadcasting Council during the campaign and pre-campaign period. This would ensure that the Broadcasting Council can enforce the regulations in a timely fashion and also allow broadcasters the opportunity for a prompt and effective remedy if their rights have been infringed.
 - Fulfilled.

Б. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Legal Framework

- 7. The authorities should review the current system of allocation of mandates in out-of-country electoral districts to ensure that the number of votes needed to elect MPs does not significantly diminish the equality of the vote, as guaranteed by the Constitution and Electoral Code.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 8. The right to vote of EB members abroad and those citizens who have been registered abroad for less than three months should be ensured.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 9. The Electoral Code should clearly state that the voting rights of persons sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months are reinstated after their sentence is served.
 - Not fulfilled.

Election Administration

10. The effective administration of future elections would benefit greatly from the adoption of timely and comprehensive regulations to guide the election process and compensate for gaps or inconsistencies in the Electoral Code.

- Partially fulfilled. The State Election Commission has given recommendations which provide directions related with the election process, however there are still ambiguities in the Electoral Code.
- 11. To enhance transparency, the minutes of SEC sessions could be made public.
 - Fulfilled. It has been introduced as a legal obligation and is implemented by the SEC. (Article 43-6)

Voter Registration

- 12. Information outlining the procedures for out-of-country citizens to register should be publicized overseas a significant time in advance of the next elections.
 - Not fulfilled.

Election Campaign

- 13. Campaign regulations should be fully respected and enforced. Authorities could consider reviewing regulations that are regarded by many parties as too restrictive, such as those limiting the length of the campaign, defining campaign activities, and regulating the placement of posters.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 14. Voter education campaigns, be they conducted by the authorities, civil society, or political parties, should focus on the secrecy of the ballot as the ultimate tool to counter intimidation or pressure to influence voters' freedom of choice. Voters should be encouraged to demand that the secrecy of their ballot is respected.
- The recommendation refers to the time of the election campaign.

Campaign Finance

- 15. Provisions on campaign finance reporting should be expanded to provide more effective mechanisms for audit. Consideration should also be given to adopting a more detailed template for the reports that requires contestants to itemize expenditures.
 - Not fulfilled.

It should also allow the possibility to adopt a more detailed form for financial reporting by obliging the organizers of the electoral campaigns to publish their expenditures by specific propositions.

- Not fulfilled. A new more detailed form for financial reporting for the expenditures and the disbursements for the electoral campaign, after the one adopted in 2011, has not been adopted.²⁵
- 16. Deadlines should be introduced for auditing campaign finance reports before Election Day.
 - Not fulfilled.

Responsible institutions should strengthen their resources to enable an accurate and timely audit.

- Not fulfilled.
- 17. The discrepancy in the nature of thresholds for campaign donations between individuals and legal entities should be revised. The current provisions are discriminatory and grant an unfair advantage to large entities.
 - Not fulfilled.

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Media

- 18. For appointments to the Broadcasting Council, priority should be given to the professionalism and impartiality of the prospective members, rather than political affiliation. This is particularly salient after amendments to the Law on the Broadcasting Activity, passed on 18 July, increased the number of members of the body from 9 to 15.
 - Further monitoring of the Broadcasting Council's work needs to be done.
- 19. To continue to retain its substantive independence, the Broadcasting Council requires pre-determined and adequate financial support.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 20. Detailed campaign coverage rules for the media could be incorporated in the Law on Broadcasting Activity and the Electoral Code, rather than being adopted for each election.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 21. Independence of the public broadcaster could be strengthened by ensuring adequate financing.
 - Not fulfilled.

Participation of Women

- 22. The authorities should pay more attention to the practice of family voting, which is especially high in smaller ethnic communities. They should explore ways to eliminate it and seek consistent application of Article 112 of the Electoral Code.
 - Needs to be monitored on the Election Day.

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The Ministry of Finance 25th May 2011. Form "Financial Report on the Expenditures and Disbursements on the Electoral Campaign's Account." Accessed on 25.02.2013. http://www.finance.gov.mk/node/1961

Election Observation

- 23. The Electoral Code or election regulations should state clearly that domestic and international observers are entitled to receive copies of the entire EB and MEC results protocols, rather than just the tabulation parts.
 - Fulfilled. There amendments to article 118, 126 and 131.
- 24. The SEC and MECs should enforce the requirement for EBs to publicly post copies of the results protocols, immediately following the completion of the count.
 - Needs to be monitored on the Election Day.

Complaints and Appeals

- 25. Procedures for complaints and appeals should be simplified and widely publicized. The SEC should adopt detailed procedures on how to file and resolve complaints to ensure a consistent and effective application of the Electoral Code.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 26. Consideration should be given to removing the restriction in Article 73 of the Electoral Code which limits the rights of electoral contestants to only complain about the actions undertaken by other electoral contestants.
 - Not fulfilled.
- 27. Article 31(2)(35) of the Electoral Code, which mandates the SEC to inspect voting material upon a complaint only if at least two complaints are submitted for a respective polling station, should be removed as it undermines the right to effective legal remedies. There should be no threshold for the number of complaints to be filed before they are considered.
 - Not fulfilled.

- 28. Article 105 of the Electoral Code should be clarified to clearly state whether or not it is a prerequisite when filing an Election Day complaint to the SEC that the complaint must first be mentioned in the protocol of the relevant EB or MEC.
 - Not fulfilled.

Considering the fact that the alterations of the election legislation did not cover all problematic areas, the Working group at the Ministry of Justice will continue its work on the remaining recommendations.

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA

The first local elections in the independent Republic of Macedonia were held in 1996, where the average voter turnout for the election of councillors for the municipalities was 60.17%, while for the City of Skopje it was 53.20%. The average voter turnout for the election of mayors was 60.28%, while for the City of Skopje it was 53.20%. During these elections the votes in some municipalities were cancelled, which means that the data do not include the results from the election of mayors or council members from 9 municipalities in total. These local elections were held in accordance with the territorial organization from 1996, according to which 123 municipalities were established with the City of Skopje as a separate unit. On these elections, SDSM won the majority of mayoral positions, 51 in total, VMRO-DMPNE and MAAK-Conservative won 27 positions, and the Socialist Party won 19 positions. On these elections, 1,495,288 voters had the right to vote.

On the local elections in 2000 there were considerable violations in the election process according to the international standards for free and democratic elections. The elections took place with a series of incidents

The Law on Territorial Division of the Republic of Macedonia and Determination of the Areas of the Local Self-Government Units. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 49/1996 from 14.09.1996.

MOST Citizens' Association. Final Report, Domestic Monitoring of the Presidential and Local Elections 2009. Skopje, 2009.

and outbursts of violence, as well as intimidation of the citizens. In several municipalities, Gostivar, Tetovo, Labunista, Dzepciste, and Mavrovi Anovi, the elections were accompanied with armed incidents. In several electoral units in other municipalities the ballot boxes were opened and destroyed by force. The violence occurred in various places in the second round voting. The mission of OSCE/ODIHR registered group voting in 25% of the monitored locations, in 8% an open voting was registered and in 5% voting for someone else. After these elections, the SEC did not publish full and comprehensive results of the elections. In the first round, the coalition "For Macedonia Together" led by SDSM won 38% of the votes for mayors, the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and Democratic Alternative (DA) 27%, DPA 13%, and PDP 6%.²⁸ The final results showed victory for the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and Democratic Alternative "For Changes" in 48% of the municipalities, which implied 59 mayoral positions, and the coalition led by SDSM "For Macedonia Together" won 32 mayoral positions.²⁹ On these elections, 1,634,859 voters had the right to vote.

The local elections in 2005 again did not meet the key international standards for universality, equality and secrecy of the right to vote. Unlike the previous, these elections were not marked with violence, but there was a considerable amount of irregularities in the western and northwestern regions of the country, as well as Skopje. At the same time, the elections in 2005 were the first held according to the territorial organization from 2004 which established 84 municipalities on the territory of Macedonia, preserving the status of the City of Skopje as a separate unit of the local government.³⁰ The mission of OSCE/ODIHR registered 30 cases of stuffing the ballot boxes and over 50 cases of voting for someone else. In 9 municipalities, among which the City of Skopje, as a result of the

complaints related to the irregularities in the first voting round, the first round had to be repeated. The second round of voting was to take place in these places as well, which resulted in delays of the second round that was held on 10th April 2005. The voter turnout in the first round was 56.36% and in the second round on 27th March 53.66%, and on 10th April 35.6%. On these elections the coalition led by SDSM won 36 mayoral positions. VMRO-DPMNE and their coalition won 21 mayoral positions, DUI 15, VMRO-NP 3, DPA 2 and the Union of the Roma 1. Seven independent candidates became mayors, among which the candidate for the City of Skopje, Trifun Kostovski, who was supported by VMRO-DPMNE.³¹ On these elections 1,711,293 voters had the right to vote.

The local elections in 2009, which were held on the same day as the presidential elections, were the first local elections which took place in general accordance with the international and OSCE standards for democratic elections. However, the OSCE/ODIHR mission had major remarks related to the intimidation of voters on these elections as well. The monitoring report points at intimidations and pressure on the voters, particularly on those employed in the public administration as well as social welfare beneficiaries, who were threatened to vote for the ruling party.³² In the 2009 elections there were also cases of family votes, voting for someone else (3% of the cases), one person "assisting" several other voters (4%), intimidation of voters and members of electoral boards (EB) (1%), identical signatures in the registry of the Voters List (2%) and multiple voting (1%).³³ VMRO-DPMNE won the elections in 56 municipalities, DUI in 15, SDSM in 7, and DPA, ND, DPTM, SR, PDSM won one mayoral position each. Two independent candidates also won mayoral positions. On these elections 1,792,082 voters had the right to vote.

In this context, the priority recommendations from 2009, which replicate in the report on the early parliamentary elections from 2011, require the

OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Municipal Elections 10 September 2000. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, 2000

MOST Citizens' Association. Final Report, Domestic Monitoring of the Presidential and Local Elections 2009. Skopje, 2009.

³⁰ The Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Macedonia. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 55/2004 from 16.08.2004.

Закон за територијална организација на локалната самоуправа. Службен Весник на РМ 55/2004 од 16.08.2004

³¹ MOST Citizens' Association. Final Report, Domestic Monitoring of the Presidential and Local Elections 2009. Skopje, 2009.

OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Presidential and Municipal Elections 22 March and 5 April 2009. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, June 2009

³³ Ibid.

government to take measures and deal with the pressure on citizens and their intimidation. Besides this, the OSCE/ODIHR report provided five other priority recommendations: to separate the state from the party; to eliminate all drawbacks and ambiguities in the Electoral Code; to review and update the Voters List; to take measures in order to settle down conflicts of interests among those involved in politics who control the private radio broadcasting services; to introduce deadlines for court decisions related to objections by the Broadcasting Council. In both reports OSCE/ODIHR recommends reviewing the Voters List, which was one of the recommendations that were fulfilled. The European Union recognizes the Republic of Macedonia's success achieved during the implementation of these elections and replicates the conclusions and recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR. The US Ambassador at the time, Philip Reeker, assessed the elections as well implemented.³⁴

Table 1: Local Elections Turnout from 1996 to 2009,³⁵ for the first and second round³⁶

Year	1996	2000	2005	2009
Voter turnout	60%(51%)	59% (53%)	56%(53%)	57% (43%)

³⁴ Popovski, R. Interview with Philip T. Reeker, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia. X/0 talks show, Kanal 5 TV. 8 јуни 2011.

OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Municipal Elections 10 September 2000. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, 2000; OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Municipal Elections 13 and 27 March, and 10 April 2005. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, June 8, 2005; OSCE/OIDHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Presidential and Municipal Elections 22 March and 5 April 2009. OSCE/OIDHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, June 2009

The first percentage refers to the first round turnout, and the second in brackets refers to the second round turnout. The percentage is rounded.



THE MACEDONIAN VOTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

THE MACEDONIAN VOTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS³⁷

VOTING MODEL

In the Republic of Macedonia, the elections for **mayors** in the Local Government Units (LGUs) follow the majority rule, and the selection of **council members in the Local Government Units** is done by the proportional representation model. The elections for mayors and council members are held **each fourth year**, simultaneously in all municipalities, in the second half of March. The President of the Assembly calls for new elections with a suitable act published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, and the period after the call for elections until the day of the elections should not be more than 90, or less than 70 days.

The **election of mayors** in the Local Government Units is done by the **majority voting model**. The candidate who has won the majority of votes in the first round is appointed as mayor, if the turnout is at least a third from the number of registered voters in the Voters List for the proper Local Government Unit. If none of the candidates fulfills the necessary preconditions, the elections are repeated in the second round for the two candidates with the biggest number of votes. If there is only one candidate participating in the elections, who fails to win the necessary majority, the voting procedure is repeated. The second round of voting is conducted 14 days after the end of the first round. In the second round, the candidate with the majority of votes is appointed as mayor.

According to the Electoral Code (revised text). Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No.54 from 14.04.2011 and the Law Amending the Electoral Code. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.142 from 13.11.2012

The **proportional representation model** is applied for the **election of council members** in the LGUs, and the D'Hondt formula is applied when distributing mandates. According to this formula, the total number of votes cast for the proposed candidate lists is divided first by 1, then by 2, then 3... right up to the number of seats to be allocated for the proper constituency. The distribution figures are ordered by size, and the highest distribution figures are taken into consideration when allocating seats in the council. One candidate list is allocated as many seats in the council as there are highest distribution figures from those taken into consideration.

ELECTORAL ORGANS

The organs that conduct elections are: the State Election Commission (SEC), the municipal election commissions (MEC) and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, the electoral boards, as well as the electoral boards in the diplomatic and consular offices. The SEC is the main body responsible for conducting the elections. The municipal election commissions and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje are responsible for their Local Government Units, and the electoral boards are responsible for conducting the elections at the polling stations. The members of the SEC (president, vice president and five members) are selected by the Assembly, 60 days after the constitutional session of the Assembly for a mandate of four years. The Electoral Code prescribes that the selection of SEC members should be done with recommendations of the political parties, thus the opposition parties recommend the president and two members, while the ruling parties recommend the vice president and three members. If the political parties fail to forward their recommendations to the Assembly for president, vice president and members of the SEC, the Elections and Appointments Parliamentary Committee will proceed with the matter. After the President of the Assembly's notification, the parties have a period of three days to forward their recommendations.

The SEC is responsible for the **entries in the Voters List** where all adult citizens (over 18 years old) with permanent address on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia are registered, including those who temporarily live abroad, and hold a valid identification document or passport. The citizens whose legal capacity has been terminated with a final court decision are not registered in the Voters List.

The municipal election commissions, consists of the president and four members (as well as their deputies), who are randomly selected from the employees in the state and municipality administration, and who have obtained a graduate diploma. Their mandate is 5 years, and the selection is made by the SEC. The composition of the **electoral boards** is a combination of the employees in the state, public and municipality administration (the president, the vice president, two members and their deputies) and representatives from the political parties. The parties that are in opposition, and have won most of the votes in the last parliamentary elections, each propose one member and deputy for the board. Thus, the ruling parties that won the last elections each propose one member and deputy for the board. The mandate of the electoral board members is four years. The random selection of electoral board members (from the administration) is conducted by the MEC and the Electoral Commission of the City of Skopje for the electoral districts in question, following a legal act by the SEC.

In the municipalities with at least 20% minority population, the principle for equal and just representation is applied for the composition of the MEC and the Electoral Boards. The law prescribes each gender to be represented by minimum 30% in the composition of the electoral organs. The members of the MEC and the electoral boards cannot be selected or appointed by state officials in the Government, the Assembly or by employees in the state administration of the Ombudsman, the Ministries of Justice, Defense, Internal Affairs, the Secretariat for Legislation, the State Statistical Office, the Crisis Management Centre, the technical and expert services of the Administrative Court, the SEC and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC).

The electoral organs are functional and they can make decisions only if there is a majority of members present on the sessions. If a certain member of the MEC, the Electoral Committee of the City of Skopje and the Electoral Board, their deputies who are also appointed by the SEC participate in the work of these organs.

ELECTIVE RIGHTS

A candidate for mayor or council member can be any person over 18 years old with legal capacity. Persons sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and over, with a final court decision, whose sentence has not started yet, or who serve time for committed crimes cannot run for these positions. Besides these conditions, the candidate for mayor or council member should maintain a permanent place of abode in the LGU for which they are appointed.

In 2008 an additional condition to the elective right was introduced with the Law on Additional Criteria for Public Office (also known as the Lustration Law). It stipulates that the mayors of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, as well as the council members are not allowed to hold their office if it is confirmed that they have been listed in the secret files of the state organs as informers or secret agents for conducting surveillance and violating the basics freedoms and rights of the citizens for political and ideological reasons. Each candidate for mayor or councillor has fulfilled the additional condition when the Commission for Verification of the Facts will verify their written statement for non-cooperation with the State Security organs. The candidates submit written statement for non-cooperation together with their personal consent for candidacy, and in case they fail to submit, the electoral organs proceed with this act as an irregularity in the electoral proceeding. The Commission starts a procedure for verification of the candidate's statement, immediately, not later than 24 hours after the statement has been received.³⁸

Only those who fulfill the additional condition have the right to be appointed as candidates for mayors or councillors.

RESTRICTIONS FOR CURRENT STATE OFFICIALS - CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS OR COUNCILLORS

With the latest alterations of the Electoral Code from November 2012, the members of the Government and the deputy ministers, if they are announced as candidates for mayors or council members (the same applies if they run for presidency or the position of MP), are restricted in executing their activities within the functions they hold. The holder of such function, who is a candidate, has no access to the budget of the Republic of Macedonia, the public funds of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, the public companies' resources, the institutions and other legal entities under the state budget, as well as other facilities providing social services (kindergartens, schools, sports facilities etc.). These individuals cannot provide irregular income, pensions, and social welfare, as well as other payments related to the budget or other public funds. Moreover, these individuals cannot enter into a contract for alienating state capital nor sign collective agreements. These restrictions enter into force on the day when a decision is made for calling the elections, until the day of concluding the elections for mayors and councillors, i.e. until the establishing of the City of Skopje and the municipality councils.³⁹

THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The number of council members in each of the Local Government Units is determined in proportion with the size of the population living within that district. The municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants establish councils consist of 9 members, between 5001 and 10,000 – 11 members, between 10,001 and 20,000 – 15 members, between 20,001 and 40,000

³⁸ Law on Additional Criteria for Public Office, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.14 from 29.01. 2008. See articles 2, 5, 9 and 12.

³⁹ Law Amending the Electoral Code. Article 2. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 142 from 13.11.2012.

- 19 members, between 40,001 and 60,000 - 23 members, between 60,001 and 80,000 - 27 members, between 80,000 and 100,000 - 31 member, and over 100,000 - 33 members.⁴⁰ The City of Skopje Council consists of 45 members.

THE PROCEDURE AND THE RIGHT TO APPOINT CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS AND COUNCILLOR LISTS

The right to propose candidate lists for councillors and candidates for mayors belongs to the registered political parties, individually or as part of coalitions, as well as groups of voters. Depending on the size of the LGU, the groups of voters have to collect a certain number of signatures: from 100 signatures for LGU with less than 10,000 inhabitants, to minimum 450 for LGU with more than 100,001 inhabitants, while for the City of Skopje it requires 1,000 signatures to run for mayor.

In the candidate list for councillors, the candidate belonging to a less represented gender should be placed on every third position.

The candidate list for council members and the candidate for mayor is proposed with a specialized form forwarded to the MEC at least 35 days before the elections take place. The MEC should announce the lists at least 25 days prior to the elections.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The election campaign starts 20 days before the elections take place and should finish 24 hours before the start of the elections. There cannot be an election campaign on the day of the elections.

The election campaign can be financed from party membership, as well as donations that should not exceed 5,000 EUR for physical entities

and 5% of the overall income in the previous year for legal entities. The campaign can be financed with money, property and services. The election campaigns cannot be financed from public funds such as public proprieties and institutions, resources from civic associations, religious communities, religious groups and foundations, resources from foreign governments and international institutions, as well as resources from companies with mixed capital where the foreign capital is dominant, and also from unidentified sources.

The campaigns cannot be financed directly from the state budget, nor from the budgets of the Local Government Units. However, the elected candidates for presidents, MPs, mayors, and councillors are **entitled to compensation** from the state budget with 15 MKD per vote if they win at least 1.5% from the voters' turnout on central level, local level or in the electoral unit. These resources are transferred no later than three months after filing the financial report for the election campaign, which is submitted no later than 15 days after the campaign is finished. The financial report for the election campaign is submitted to the SEC, the State Audit Office, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, and the Assembly, while in case of local elections to the councils of the LGUs. The SEC, SAO, and SCPC are bound to sign a memorandum for cooperation for exchange of information for the determined irregularities related to the submitted financial reports and the measures taken against the audited subject.⁴¹

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC MEDIA

The media are obliged to **enable equal access towards presenting the election programs and candidates.** The Broadcasting Council is obliged to prepare Rules for Conduct of Broadcasters in the Period before the Start of the Election Campaign and Rules for Equal Access to the Media during the Election Campaign. All media organisations, both

Law on Local Government. Article 34. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.5 from 29.01.2002.

⁴¹ Law Amending the Electoral Code. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 142 from 13.11.2012.

electronic and printed, are obliged to comply with these regulations. The Broadcasting Council is obliged to monitor the electoral presentation in the public media, and in cases of violation of the principle for equal access the Broadcasting Council is obliged to press charges against the responsible broadcaster. The Broadcasting Council is also obliged to monitor the behavior of the **public broadcasting service**, which enables **free presentation** of the election programs following the equity principle. The public service is also obliged to inform the citizens, without any compensation, for the manner and method of voting, as well as other issues related to the election process.

The results from public opinion polls related to the candidates should not be announced in the public services in the last 5 days before the elections.

ELECTION MONITORING

The right to monitor elections belongs to accredited election observers, with accreditations granted by the SEC. The accreditation for observers can be given to national civic organizations registered at least one year prior to the elections, following the principle of human rights protection that should be integrated in their statute. International organisations and representatives of foreign countries can also monitor the elections. Official representatives of those who submit the lists have the right to assign their representative to monitor the work of the electoral organs.



POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITIONS

POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITIONS

VMRO - DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR MACEDONIAN NATIONAL UNITY (VMRO-DPMNE)

VMRO-DPMNE is a party which declares as people's centre-right party, with Christian-democratic ideology. It was established on 17th June 1990, with its main goal in that period to separate Macedonia from the Yugoslav federation in order to establish the independent Republic of Macedonia. The president of the party since its foundation, at the age of 24 until



the party congress in May 2003 had been Ljubco Georgievski. On the first parliamentary elections held on 11th November 1990, VMRO-DPMNE won most of the votes (24.24%), however, it did not secure absolute majority in the Assembly.

Since the independence until today, VMRO-DPMNE has been one of the two major parties among the ethnic Macedonian electorate. It has participated in almost all parliamentary and local elections except for the parliamentary elections in 1994 when they boycotted the second round. The party won the third parliamentary elections held in 1998 with 49 MP seats in a coalition with the Democratic Alternative, which won 13 MP seats, and PDPA-NDP (later DPA) with 11, as well as several smaller parties, thus establishing the Government for the first time. VMRO-DMPNE remains in power until 2002. However, during the conflict from May to November 2001, a broad coalition government was established, which included ministers from SDSM and LDP. In 2002, VMRO-DPMNE won 33 MP seats, lost the elections and operated as opposition until 2006. In 2003 on the party congress, the president of

the party for many years Ljubco Georgievski resigned, and was succeeded by Nikola Gruevski. The following year, most of the party officials led by the former president Ljubco Georgievski left the party, which resulted in major changes in the party leadership. On the parliamentary elections in 2006, the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE with several smaller parties won 45 MP seats and established the Government in coalition with the New Social-Democratic Party (NSDP) and DPA. For the first time on these elections the party introduced a specific program with deadlines, which was a novelty in the electoral competition. On the early parliamentary elections in 2008 VMRO-DPMNE won 63 seats, which was its greatest electoral victory so far. On the following early parliamentary elections in 2011, VMRO-DPMNE won again with 53 seats and 3 more seats from the Diaspora, which was introduced during these elections for the first time. During the whole period since 2006 onwards, the president of the party has been the leader of the party Nikola Gruevski.

On the first local elections in 1996, VMRO-DPMNE together with MAAK-Conservative was victorious in 27 municipalities. On the following local elections in 2000 the party won 59 mayoral positions, but it lost 37 positions in 2005, i.e. together with the coalition partners and the support of the independent candidate for Skopje the party won 22 mayoral positions. On the following local elections held in 2009 the party won 56 mayoral positions which brought it back in power on local level. The results from the local elections in 2009 placed VMRO-DPMNE as a dominant party in power on both national and local level.

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION OF MACEDONIA (SDSM)

The Social Democratic Union of Macedonia declares as centre-left party, with social democratic ideology. This is the second largest party in Macedonia. It was founded on the congress of 21st April 1991 as a legal heir of the Communist Union of Macedonia – Party for Democratic Transformation (SKM-PDP). On



the same congress, Branko Crvenkovski, aged 28, was elected the first president of the party, who was the leader of the party until his appointment as the president of the Republic of Macedonia in May 2004. Today, Branko Crvenkovksi is the president of the party again.

On the fist parliamentary elections in November 1990, SDSM, at that time called SKM-PDP, won 24.08% from the votes. In September 1992, after the fist expert government was dismissed, SDSM receives the mandate to establish the first political government of the Republic of Macedonia under the leadership of its president Branko Crvenkovski. On the parliamentary elections in 1994, the party won 85 MP seats together with its coalition partners, and established the Government whose president was again Branko Crvenkovski. On the parliamentary elections in 1998 SDSM won 27 MP seats and lost the power, but it became the largest opposition party in the period until 2002. In the period between May and November 2001 SDSM became part of the broad coalition government. On the regular parliamentary elections in 2002 SDSM won 60 MP seats, thus forming the Government again, under the leadership of Branko Crvenkovski. After the appointment of Branko Crvenkovski as the president of the Republic of Macedonia in 2004, Hari Kostov was appointed as the president of the Government, who was previously the Minister of Internal Affairs. After his resignation in November 2004, Vlado Buckovski was elected as the president of SDSM, which granted him the mandate to form the Government. On the elections in 2006, the coalition of SDSM with the smaller political parties won 32 MP seats, lost the power and became opposition again. In the period between November 2008 and September e2008 Radmila Šekerinska was the president of the party. On the early parliamentary elections in 2008 the same coalition won 27 MP seats. On the following early parliamentary elections in 2011 the coalition led by SDSM won 42 MP seats which increased its influence as opposition in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly.

On the local elections in 1996 SDSM won 54 mayoral positions which made it a party with the biggest number of mandates won on these elections. In the recent democratic past of Macedonia, the coalition led by SDSM won 32 mayoral positions on the local elections in 2000, increasing their success in 2005 by winning 36 mayoral positions which placed SDSM in a dominant position on a local level. In 2009 SDSM lost the elections in most of the municipalities where it held positions, winning 6 mayoral positions plus one extra as part of the coalition.

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DEMOCRATIC UNION FOR INTEGRATION (DUI)

The Democratic Union for Integration emerged from the former members of the former People's Liberation Army (ONA) that started the military conflict in 2001. Ideologically, DUI declares as center-left party which strives for greater rights to the Albanians as



well as implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. The party was established on 5th May 2002 and was introduced for the first time on the parliamentary elections of the same year, when they won the majority of votes among the ethnic Albanian electorate and became part of the government led by SDSM. Ali Ahmeti has been its president since its foundation. DUI was part of the Government from 2002 until 2006, represented by the greatest number of ministers that any Albanian party had in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

On the parliamentary elections in 2006, DUI again won the majority of votes among the Albanian electorate (12.2%), but after the unsuccessful negotiations with VMRO-DPMNE, was excluded from the government coalition of the time. As a result of this, DUI boycotted the work of the Assembly throughout most of the time between 2006 and 2008 when the early parliamentary elections were called for.

On the parliamentary elections in 2008 DUI won 12.8% of the votes and as the largest political party that represents the ethnic Albanians formed the Government under the leadership of Nikola Gruevski. On the following parliamentary elections in 2011 DUI is the third largest party by the votes and mandates won in Macedonia (10.28%), i.e. 15 MP seats which secured its position in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

Since its formation, DUI has taken part in two electoral cycles for the local government. On the elections in 2005 and 2009, DUI won 15 mayoral

positions, but lost Tetovo and Gostivar in 2009, which are municipalities with predominantly Albanian population.

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE ALBANIANS (DPA)



The Democratic Party of the Albanians was established in June 1997 by uniting the Party for

Democratic Prosperity of the Albanians (PDPA) and the National Democratic Party (NDP). PDPA was established in 1994 after the radical wing of the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP) Arben Xhaferi and Menduh Taci left the mother party. DPA declares as centre-right party and strives for greater rights of the Albanians in Macedonia as well as for redefining the constitutional frame set by the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

The president of DPA is Menduh Taci, who was elected to this position on 30th June 2007. Taci was appointed to this position after the resignation of the previous president Arben Xhaferi.

On the elections in 1998, DPA won 24 MP seats and was part of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia under the leadership of VMRO-DPMNE. During the conflict in 2001 DPA remains in the broad coalition government which later signed the Ohrid Framework Agreement. The signee of the Framework Agreement from DPA was its president at the time Arben Xhaferi. After this government was dismissed, DPA remained part of the government coalition.

On the following parliamentary elections in 2002, DPA won 5.2% of the votes and 7 MP seats which placed it in opposition in the Assembly. DPA became part of the government after the elections in 2006, after it successfully concluded the negotiations with VMRO-DPMNE, which won the mandate to establish the Government. On these elections DPA won 7.5% of the votes and 11 mandates, which was less than their rival DUI. On the early elections in 2008 DPA won 11 mandates, and in the early elections in 2011, 8 MP seats. After the early parliamentary elections in 2008 the largest parliamentary party VMRO-DPMNE interrupted the traditional partnership with DPA and formed a coalition with the greatest Albanian party in the parliament, DUI.

On the elections in 2005 DPA won 2 mayoral positions, and on the following elections in 2009 won the mayoral position in Tetovo.

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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVIVAL (NDP)

The National Democratic Revival was established in March 2011 as the youngest political party of the Albanian ethnic block. Ideologically, NDP is centre-



right party with democratic and national orientation striving to advance the individual and national rights and freedoms of the ethnic Albanians in Macedonia. The president and founder Rufi Osmani is currently the mayor of Gostivar. NDP has 12 councillors in the municipality council of Gostivar, which consists of 31 members. The members of this party entered the local elections in 2009 as independent candidates. On the parliamentary elections in 2011, NDP won 2.67% of the total votes and two MP seats.

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (SDU)

The Social Democratic Union was established in 2008 after the early parliamentary elections by the three members of the New Social Democratic Party's leadership (NSDP) Lazar Elenovski, Vera Rafajlovska and Vele Mitanovski. Lazar Elenovski



was elected the first president, and since June 2012 Čedo Nikolovski has been the president of the party. SDU is a citizen party with social-democratic ideology and it strives for Macedonia's integration into NATO and EU. SDU has five councillors in the Local Government Units, and has

no appointed mayors or MPs. On the last early parliamentary elections in 2011, SDU won 2,207 votes, (app. 0.20%).

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MACEDONIA (SDPM)

The Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDPM) was established in 1990. Its first president was Slavko Milosavlevski. SDPM is left from the center and it declares as social democratic ideology based on its actions. Its current president is Branko Janevski, who is the leader of the party for a third consecutive mandate.

Macedonia. On the 2013 Local Elections, SDPM will act independently, with



At the moment, SDPM has two councillor positions in the Local Government Units. This party has taken part in all electoral cycles in pluralistic Macedonia, but without any significant success. On the parliamentary elections in 2011 SDPM won 1807 votes (0.16%) on the territory of the Republic of

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its own candidates for mayors and councillors.

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PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT OF MACEDONIA (NDM)

The People's Movement of Macedonia (NDM) was established on 18th May 2002 as a party with national orientation founded on the Macedonian people's tradition, striving for a social state and



taxation for the wealthier. The party's president is Janko Bačev. NDM is part of the coalition "For Better Macedonia", but on the forthcoming local elections it will appear independently. It has no appointed mayors or MPs.

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ndm@ndm.org.mk www.ndm.org.mk

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF THE ROMA (ODSR)

The United Democratic Forces of the Roma (ODSR) was established in December 2012 by uniting the United Party for Emancipation (OPE) and the Democratic Forces of the Roma (DSR) with the aim to strengthen their joint promotion on the political scene for the 2013 Local Elections. Shaban Saliu is the president of ODSR. The party strives for a just and



equal representation of the Roma community in the public administration and all the social spheres. At the moment, ODSR has 6 councillors in the Local Government Units. This party is in coalition with VMRO-DPMNE.

United Democratic Forces of the Roma Ul. Šuto Orizari Br. 56 1000 Skopje



UNION OF THE ROMA OF MACEDONIA (SRM)

The Union of the Roma of Macedonia is a party that represents the interests of the Roma ethnic community in Macedonia, active on the political scene since the end of the 1990s. The president of the party is Amdi Bajram. In the period between 1998 and 2002 this party participated in the work of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia with one MP. Since 2006 until today SRM again holds one MP position in the Assembly as part of the coalitions with VMRO-DPMNE.

On the last local elections of 2009, the Union of the Roma won 6 councillor positions and one mayor in the municipality of Šuto Orizari. On the 2013 Local Elections, this party will promote one candidate for a mayor and one councillor list for the municipality of Šuto Orizari.

Union of the Roma of Macedonia Ul. Vashingtonska Br. 67 1000 Skopje

SERBIAN ADVANCED PARTY IN **MACEDONIA (SNSM)**

The Serbian Advanced Party in Macedonia is one of the political parties of the Serbian community in the Republic of Macedonia. It declares and strives for preserving the Serbian ethnic identity in Macedonia. It was established in 2006 and its president is Dragiša Mitetić. SNSM has one MP in the Assembly and five councillors in the Local Government Units in Macedonia.





COALITIONS

"UNION OF THE FUTURE"

"Union of the Future" is the coalition block of the



parties from the opposition in the Republic of Macedonia, led by SDSM. The coalition includes the New Social Democratic Party, Party for European Future, Liberal Party of Macedonia, Movement for National Unity of the Turks in Macedonia, Serbian Advanced Party in Macedonia, Party for Total Emancipation of the Roma, New Alternative, Union of Tito's Left Forces, Party for the Movement of the Turks in Macedonia, Democratic Union of the Serbs in Macedonia, Democratic Union of the Vlachs in Macedonia, Party of Free Democrats, Party of the Pensioners of the Republic of Macedonia and the Sandzak League.

In October 2012, the Liberal Democratic Party,⁴² VMRO-People's Party, Dignity, and United for Macedonia joined the oppositional coalition block. The coalition was confirmed by joint Declaration for Cooperation for the forthcoming local elections. The main goal of the "Union of the Future" is to change the government under the leadership of VMRO-DPMNE.

The "Union of the Future" will not participate on the local elections; however, two parties from this coalition, the Party for European Future and the Serbian Advanced Party have filed candidacies in several municipalities. This coalition is currently operating as extra-parliamentary opposition as a protest against the policy of the ruling party.

On the 24th February 2013 "Union for the Future" promoted its Declaration for Reconstruction of Democracy, Freedom and Justice in the Republic of Macedonia. With this, the decision for boycott of the 2013 Local Elections was confirmed by all coalition partners, except for the Liberal Party and the Serbian Advanced Party of Macedonia. The declaration in five points calls the citizens to support the boycott and announces the return

of the parliamentary mandates of the oppositional MPS the day when the elections will take place. The forthcoming elections are assessed as illegitimate, suggesting revision with cancellation and rescheduling of the elections after the change of the current central government on early parliamentary elections.⁴³

With the agreement from 01.03.2013 which was achieved between VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM, SDSM agreed to participate on the local elections.

"FOR BETTER MACEDONIA"

On the last local elections in 2009 the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE consisted of 18 parties, the Socialist Party of Macedonia, Democratic Union,



Democratic Renewal of Macedonia – DOM, Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia, Democratic Party of the Serbs in Macedonia, Union of the Roma from Macedonia, United Party for Emancipation, Party of Justice, Party of the Democratic Action of Macedonia –SDA, Party of the Vlachs from Macedonia, Party for Integration of the Roma, Bosniak Democratic Party – BDP, Democratic Forces of the Roma – DSR, Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification – TMRO, New Liberal Party, People's Movement for Macedonia, VMRO- Democratic Party, VMRO-United, Fatherland's Macedonian Organization for Radical Renewal – Vardar – Aegean – Pirin TMORO – VEP, Macedonian Alliance and VMRO-Macedonian. This coalition does not have a specific logo, and applies the logo of VMRO-DPMNE. The platform that unites these parties for the forthcoming local elections in 2013, as in the previous electoral cycles, is the electoral program of VMRO-DPMNE. The last program from 2011 was titled "Manifesto for reforms and growth".

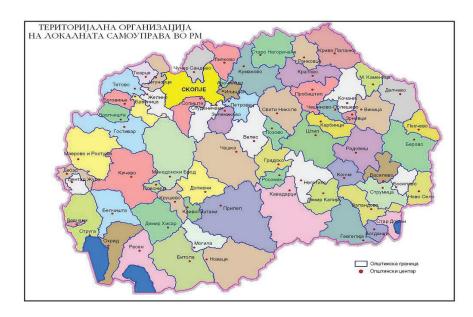
The coalitions of VMRO-DPMNE have secured victories in all electoral cycles since 2006, on parliamentary, presidential and local elections.

⁴² Ivon Veličkovski, president of the Liberal Party "We are going alone in the next local elections, but the coalition with SDSM continues" Nova Makedonija, 7th March 2013

⁴³ The full text of the Declaration of the "Union for the Future" can be found on the website of SDSM, accessed on 25.02.2013:http://sdsm.org.mk/default.aspx?mId=55&agId=5&articleId=7982



OVERVIEW OF THE CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS



Teritorial organization of the local self-government 2013.⁴⁴ Source: State Election Commission

This part is presenting the candidates for mayors⁴⁵ which will run to gain the citizens' trust on the local elections 2013. The individuals nominated in 29 municipalities and the City of Skopje⁴⁶ are presented with their biographies and photos, whereas the candidate of the remaining

⁴⁴ The exact link of the source is indicated for all photos that are downloaded from the Internet. The photos of the candidates for mayors from VMRO-DPMNE are taken from http://gradonacalnici.mk/

Within the additional deadline for submission of candidatures - March 8, 2013, candidatures for mayors and Lists of Councilors were submitted by the coalition "Alliance for the Future", led by SDSM, and consisted of the Liberal Party, the Republican Alliance (RA) and the Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET).

⁴⁶ The overview of the candidates for mayors in the 29 municipalities and the City of Skopje is given alphabetically (Cyrillic alphabet)

municipalities are only listed with their names and surnames as well as the submitter of their candidacy.⁴⁷

The comprehensive overview encompases only the major municipalities located in the urban areas, including all municipalities that fall under the City of Skopje. The following criteria were used to select the municipalities in the sample: urban status, number of citizens (the major municipalities were included), the ethnic structure of the population (where due attention was paid to include as many as possible multi-ethnic municipalities) as well as the number of nominated candidates for mayors.



City of Skopje

Surface	1854 км ²
Population	506,926
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (66,75%), Albanians (20,49%), Roma (4,36%), Serbs (2,82%), Turks (1,70%)
Number of Council members	45
Budget for 2012 ⁴⁸	5,903,415,000
Address	Blvd. Ilinden No. 82, 1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 297 255; 02/ 3 297 536; 02/ 3 297 265; 02/ 3 297 236;
Web	http://www.skopje.gov.mk

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF CITY OF SKOPJE



Artan Grubi (DUI)⁴⁹ is currently working as the Chief of the Cabinet of the President of DUI. He has fourteen years of work experience in various international organizations in Macedonia and in the region, including NATO, The Hague Tribunal and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Skopje. He is one of the founders of the civic organization "Wake up!". He graduated and acquired his Masters degree at the Faculty of Law in Skopje, Journalistic Studies, and is currently a PhD candidate at the same faculty. He is 35 years old.

During the preparation of this brochure we have contacted many candidates and the parties they represent in order to obtain their biographies and photos of the nominated individuals. In what follows we are presenting only those candidates that have provided us with their biographies and photos, and of those whose photos are publicly available on the Internet. Those candidates who are not presented with their biographies and photos are those that have not submitted their information within the given deadline and therefore are presented only with their names and surnames and the submitter of their candidacy.

 $^{^{48}}$ The budgets for all municipalities given in this brochure are in Macedonian denars.

⁴⁹ http://zhurnal.mk/data/news/Artan-Grubi_1.jpg



Bekim Fazliu (DPA)⁵⁰ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is the President of the current Inquiry Committee, Committee on the Protection of the Citizens Rights and Freedoms, and is a member of the Legislative and Legal Commission and the Local Self-Government Commission. From 2009, before he was elected as Member of Parliament, he was acting as councilor to the Council of the City of Skopje. Since the early elections for Mayor of Saraj in 2007 and until 2009 Fazliu is acting as Mayor of this municipality. He graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. Fazliu is 33 years old.





Gabriela Arsova Milosevska (Republican Alliance)51 is the founder and the President of the Republican Alliance. She worked in the past in several construction companies. She also served as a councilor for monitoring and supervision of education related projects in the Ministry of Education, Unit for Construction works (1999-2001) and councilor to the Bureau for Underdeveloped Regions (2001-2002). She graduated at the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering in Skopje, industrial management, and she upgraded her diploma with teaching curricula at the Faculty for Philosophy in Skopje. Currently she is pursuing her PhD degree at the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering. She is 43 years old.

Zlate Vojnovski (NDM)



Goran Nikolovski (LP) is a docent at the Faculty for Veterinary Medicine in Skopje where he works for the past 19 years. From 2005 to 2009 he served as the President of the Management Board of the PE ZOO of the City of Skopje. He graduated at the Veterinary Faculty in Zagreb and he acquired his Masters and PhD degree at the Faculty for Veterinary Medicine in Skopje. He is 44 years old.



Jani Makraduli (SDSM)⁵² is the Vice President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is the President of the Council of the Parliamentary Channel, and is a member of the Commission for European Issues and the Commission of Transport, Connections and Environment, He holds the position of a Member of Parliament for the past 12 years, that is, since he is elected on the majority additional elections for members of Parliament in September 2001. Prior to becoming member of Parliament he was working as the Head of the Laboratory at the Institute for Computer Technique and Informatics at the Electro-technical Faculty in Skopje, where he also acted as an assistant for 11 years. He has published over 40 scientific papers and works. Makraduli graduated and acquired his Masters degree at the Electrotechnical Faculty in Skopje. He is 48 years old.



Koce Trajanovski (VMRO-DPMNE) is the current Mayor of the City of Skopje. Previously, from 2005 to 2009 he was the Mayor of the Municipality Gazi Baba, a municipality within the City of Skopje. From 2008 he is the President of the Community of the Local Self-Government Units (ZELS). From 1998 until 2005 he was Member of Parliament in the Republic of Macedonia. Prior to entering into politics he owned a computer company, and has worked for 15 years in MZT-Hepos. Trajanovski graduated at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Skopje. He is 57 years old.



Lulzim Faziri (NDP) is working as a state official in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Previously, from 2009 to 2011 he was working in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia within the Department for the Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, and from 2004 to 2009 he worked at the Ministry of Justice. He acquired his PhD degree at the Faculty of Law - University "Sts Cyril and Methodius" Skopje where he got his PhD in Political Sciences. He has excellent computer skills and is fluent in English. He is 28 years old.

⁵⁰ http://zurnal.mk/content.asp?id=201212301932

⁵¹ https://www.facebook.com/paradise.ag?fref=ts

⁵² https://www.facebook.com/janimak?fref=ts



of Aerodrom

Surface	21 км ²
Population	72,009
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (89,42%), Serbs (4,28%), Albanians (1,41%)
Number of Council members	27
Budget for 2012	1,785,561,126
Address	Venjamin Mancukovski St. No., 1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 400 970
Мрежно место	http://www.aerodrom.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF AERODROM



Dime Velkovski (SDSM)⁵³ is working in the Public Enterprize "parkovi I zelenilo" where from 2005 to 2006 he acted as its CEO, and from 2006 to 2009 as CTO. Velkovski is a graduated agricultural engineer and is currently enrolled at the postgraduate studies in Agroeconomy at the Faculty for Agriculture in Skopje/ He is also certified food quality evaluator. Velkovski is 39 years old.

Dragoljub Jakoski (SDPM)



Ivica Konevski (VMRO-DPMNE) is the mayor of the Municipality of Aerodrom since 2009. Previously, from 2006 until he was elected mayor he was acting as general manager of the Public Enterprise for Administration of Residential and Business Facilities of the Republic of Macedonia. From 2005 to 2006 he is a member of the Council of the City of Skopje. Konevski is a graduated lawyer with judicial exam. He is 34 years old.

Maja Milovanovik-Mihalovik (SDU)



Mimica Antovska (LP) is a financial manager. From 2005 to 2009 she was member of the Council of the Municipality of Aerodrom. Antovska is a graduated economist. She is 48 years old.

⁵³ https://www.facebook.com/DimeVelkovskiZaAerodrom?fref=ts



Municipality of Butel

Surface	55 км ²
Population	36,154
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (62,25%), Albanians (25,19%), Turks (3,61%), Serbs (2,86%), Bosnjaks (2,68%), Roma (1,55%)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	400,000,000
Address	Blvd. Bosnia and Herzegovina n.n., 1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 600 506
Web	http://www.opstinabutel.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF BUTEL

Alil Paloshi (DUI)

Gjogje Sekovski (SDU)

Ermond Miftari (DPA)



Kosta Nacevski (SDSM)⁵⁴ graduated business administration at the Euro College in Kumanovo. He is 35 years old.

Petar Mandalov (SDPM)



Petre Latinoski (VMRO-DPMNE) is in his second term as mayor of Municipality of Butel and is the first mayor of this municipality. From 1999 to 2003 he was working as a director of the SPS for Economy and Bureautechnics "Arseni Jovkov", and from 1978 to 1999 as a professor in the same school. He graduated Geography at the Faculty for Natural Sciences and Mathematics – University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius". He is 58 years old.

⁵⁴ https://www.facebook.com/KostaNachevskiZaButel?fref=ts



Municipality of Gazi Baba

Surface	92 км ²
Population	72,617
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (73,67%), Albanians (17,22%), Serbs (2,89%), Roma (2,87%)
Number of Council members	27
Budget for 2012	730,129,000
Address	Aleksandar Makedonski St. n.n., 1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 226 655
Web	http://www.gazibaba.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF GAZI BABA



Aleksandar Bezovski (LP) is manager of AB INKonsalt for the past 13 years. From 2001 to 2003 he worked as the Head of the Unit for International Customs Cooperation in the Customs Directorate of the Republic of Macedonia, and from 2000 to 2001 was Councilor for Euro-integration in the Ministry for Internal Affairs. Prior to entering the state administration from 1996 to 2000, for four years, he worked in the family owned company VIZA-B Skopje. Bezovski graduated at the Faculty for Law in Skopje where he also acquired his Masters degree in International Law. He is 37 years old.



Borce Stefanovski (VMRO-NP)⁵⁵ is the owner of the private company for whole and retail sales which he founded in 1990. From 1999 until today he was mayor of the Municipality Gazi Baba. From 2007 to 2009 he worked as coordinator of the work of the public enterprises of the City of Skopje as well as Assistant Head of the Department for Finance of the City of Skopje. Since 1996 he is Vicepresident of the Karate Club Metalurg-Skopje. He graduated and acquired his Masters degree at the Faculty for Economy in Skopje. He is 46 years old.

Goce Delcev Todev (SDU)

Muhadin Murtezani (DPA)

Nikola Papadinovski (SDPM)



Toni Trajkovski (VMRO-DPMNE) is serving his first term as mayor of the Municipality of Gazi Baba. Until he was elected mayor in 2009 he was working at "ELEM"AD, and prior to that as an engineer at "ESM"AD. From 2005 he was member of the council of Municipality of Gazi Baba, and from 2008 he was President of the Municipal Council. Trajkovski graduated at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in 2001 in Skopje. He is 39 years old.

⁵⁵ https://www.facebook.com/BorceStefanovskiKandidatZaGradonacalnikNaGaziBaba



Surface	67 км ²
Population	41,634
	Macedonians (85,16%),
Ethnic structure	Albanians (3,84%),
of the population	Serbs (4,16%),
	Roma (3,00%)
Number of	
Council members	23
Budget for 2012	726,913,000
A d dwood	Gjorce Petrov St. No. 73,
Address	1000 Skopje
Tolombono	02/ 2 039 307;
Telephone	02/ 2 039 308
Web	http://www.opstinagpetrov.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF GJORCE PETROV



Aleksandar Naumoski (SDSM)⁵⁶ works in Eurolink Insurance AD Skopje as liquidator of green card damages. Prior to 2011 he worked as collaborator in the Ministry of Justice in the department for support to the Governmental Agent, and he also worked as a councilor to the Director General for Legal Affairs in the Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia. Naumoski graduated and acquired his Masters degree at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He is 35 years of age.

Mirko Ristovski (SDU)

Svetozar Dimovski (SDPM)



Sokol Mitrevski (VMRO-DPMNE) is serving his second term as mayor of Municipality of Gjorce Petrov. He is one of the founders of the Faculty of Defense in Skopje, as well as a yearlong professor at the Military Academy in Skopje. He was acting as adjutant in the Cabinets of the Presidents of the Republic of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov and Boris Trajkovski. Today he is a retired general. He has acquired his education at the Military Academy in Belgrade, at the Military College in Paris, as well as at other military schools. He is 65 years old.

 $[\]begin{array}{ll} ^{56} & \text{https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=222169054596606\&set=a.1573995777402} \\ & 21.54206.157399447740234\&type=1\&theater \end{array}$



of Karpos

	1
Surface	35 км ²
Population	59,666
	Macedonians (88,51%),
Ethnic structure of	Albanians (3,27%),
the population	Serbs (3,66%),
	Roma (1,03%)
Number of Council	23
members	23
Budget for 2012	1,768,402,000
Address	Demir Trajko St. No. 43,
Address	1000 Skopje
	02/ 2 3 069 799;
Telephone	02/ 3 061 734;
	02/ 3 066 498
Web	http://www.karpos.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KARPOS





Andrej Petrov (SDSM)⁵⁷ is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, where he is member of the Commission on Health Issues. He has been member of Parliament for the past 5 years. Prior to that he acted as mayor of the municipality of Karpos from 2003 to 2008. From 1996 to 2003 he worked at the Clinic for Dermatovenerology. He also is a specialist-consultant and the Remedika Hospital in Skopje. He graduated at the Medical faculty in Skopje and specialized dermatovenerology at the same faculty. Petrov is 41 years old.





Jagnula Kunovska (VMRO-DPMNE) is a retired lawyer. She is one of the founders of the Movement for Macedonian Action (MAAK) in 1990, and in 2006 was elected as Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia as a candidate of the New Social-Democratic Party (NSDP). In the course of 2007 she crosses from NSDP into VMRO-DPMNE. She graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje and her master thesis is in criminal law. She has published many poetry books, and she also paints. She is a member of the Writers Society of Macedonia. Jagnula Kunovska is 70 years old.

Nebojsa Davidovski (SDU)



Stevco Jakimovski (SNSM)⁵⁸ is in his second term as mayor of Municipality of Karpos. His first term as a mayor was from 2000 to 2003. In 2003 he was appointed Minister of Economy, and since December 2004 is acting as Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Following his term as minister he worked at his private company. Prior to his political career he was also in the private business, and in 1992 he became Director of "Katlanovo Turs". Jakimovski graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He is 52 years old.

http://apostolka.com/stevce-jakimovski-proglasen-za-najdobar-gradonacalnik-vo-jugositocnai-sredna-evropa/#.USypNTBIXPU



of Kisela Voda

Surface	47 км ²	
Population	57,236	
	Macedonians (91,69%),	
Ethnic structure of	Serbs (2,49%),	
the population	Roma (1,25%),	
	Vlachos(1,13%)	
Number of Council	23	
members	23	
Budget for 2012	1,021,543,478	
Address	Prvomajska St. n.n.,	
Address	1000 Skopje	
Telephone	02/ 3 785 400	
Web	http://www.kiselavoda.gov.mk/	

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KISELA VODA



Biljana Belicanec Aleksic (VMRO-DPMNE) is working as an actress in the Drama Theatre – Skopje since 1997. Prior to that she has worked in the Peoples Theatre "Vojdan Cernodrinski" – Prilep. Until the present day she has played in many leading and supporting roles in numerous theatre projects within the Drama Theatre and other institutions and projects. She graduated at the Faculty for Dramatic Arts in Skopje as the youngest actor that has graduated there. She is 39 years old.

Saso Jovanoski (SDPM)





Ljupco Vasovski (SDSM)⁵⁹ works as operational director for retail sales at the Tinex company. He holds this position for the past 18 years, that is, from the very beginnings of this company. Prior to that he worked as commercial director at Interprogres company. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He actively plays basketball for the past 20 years and is member of the management Board of the Basketball Federation of the republic of Macedonia. He is 53 years old.



Municipality of Saraj

Surface	241 км ²
Population	35,408
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (91,53%), Macedonians (3,89%), Bosnjaks (3,16%)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	370,000,000
Address	Recreational Center Saraj n.n., Municipality of Saraj
Telephone	02/ 2 057 990; 02/ 2 057 996
Web	http://www.saraj.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF SARAJ



Azbi Nuredini (DPA)

Bekim Murati (DUI)⁶⁰ is serving his first term as mayor of Saraj. He came on this position following the early local elections in 2011. Since 2002 he worked as a journalist in many Macedonian print and electronic media. He graduated at the Faculty for Communication Sciences at the Southeast European University in Tetovo. He is 32 years old.





Zoran Boskovski (VMRO-DPMNE) worked in the past as a journalist, and from 1997 he works in the primary school "Gjorce Petrov" where he teaches Macedonian language. In 2006 he was appointed as director of this school. He is also author of several publications. He has graduated at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje. He is 45 years old.

⁵⁹ https://www.facebook.com/LjupcoVasovskizaKiselaVoda?fref=ts

⁶⁰ http://www.utrinski.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=94966CC74DD05B4A979FB4CE6FA3F416



1	Municipality
	of Center

Surface	10 км ²
Population	45,412
	Macedonians (85,39%),
	Serbs (4,49%),
Ethnic structure	Albanians (3,23%),
of the population	Roma (2,14%),
	Turks (1,08%),
	Vlachos (1,01%)
Number of	23
Council members	
Budget for 2012	486,530,000
Address	Mihail Cokov St. n.n.,
	1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 203 600
Web	http://www.opstinacentar.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF CENTAR



Andrej Zernovski (LDP)⁶¹ is the Vice-president of the Liberal Democratic Party. For nine years, from 2002 to 2011 he was member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, after which he was elected as Vice-president of LDP? From 1996 to 2000 he was councilor in the Council of the City of Skopje and Deputy Chairperson, and for the following two years he also served as advisor to the mayor of the City of Skopje. He graduated at the Faculty for Civil Engineering in Skopje. He is 44 years old.



Vladimir Todorovik (VMRO-DPMNE) is in his first term as mayor of the Municipality of Centar. He is the founder and the Executive Director of the Tinex company. Todorovik is investing in and supporting the handball club "Prolet". He was the president of Rotary Club Skopje from 2005 to 2006 and is also the president of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the Management Board of the Alliance of Chambers of Commerce. He graduated at the Faculty for Civil Engineering in Skopje. He is 56 years old.

Gorica Trajkovska (SDPM)
Cute Trajceski (SDU)

73

⁶¹ http://ldp.org.mk/PresoviSoopstenija.asp?rb=466



of Cair

Surface	4 км ²
Population	64,773
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (57,00%),
	Macedonians (24,13%),
	Turks (6,95%),
	Roma (4,76%),
	Bosnjaks (4,55%)
Number	
of Council	27
members	
Budget for 2012	858,090,420
Address	Blvd. Hristijan Todorovski No. 5,
	1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 5 101 855
Мрежно место	http://cair.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF CAIR



Besnik Telai (Independent candidate)⁶² is a professor at the State University in Tetovo and the State University in Pristina. Previously he has worked as a physical education teacher in the primary school "25th May" in Skopje. He graduated and acquired his Master degree at the Faculty for Physical Culture in Skopje, and later he acquired his PhD degree at the same faculty. He is 50 years old.



Gikten Haziri (NDP) is working in the Ministry of Culture since 2007 as the Head of the Unit for cultural development and development of cultural policies. Prior to that, from 2005 to 2007 he was working in the Department for implementation of the Framework agreement in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. He has acquired his master and PhD degree in International Law and International Policy at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He is 53 years old.



Izet Mexhiti (DUI)⁶³ is serving his second term as the mayor of Municipality of Cair. Prior to his election for mayor he has worked in "Macedonian Posts" and as a professor in SUGS "Arseni Jovkov" in municipality of Butel. Currently he is pursuing his Masters degree at the Faculty for Economy on Skopje, where he graduated in 2000. He is 36 years old.



Marija Angelova (VMRO-DPMNE) is a director of the kindergarten "Snezana" in Skopje. Between 2006 and 2010 she was working as a teacher in junior primary school "Brothers Ramiz and Hamid" in Cair, and prior to that in the Ministry of Defense. Between 1999 and 2002 she has worked in the Euro International Corp. and King Star Company. Angela has acquired her preschool teacher's degree at the Faculty for Pedagogy in Stip and has acquired her degree as a teacher in junior primary school at the Faculty for Pedagogy "St. Clement of Ohrid' in Skopje. Angelova also holds masters degree in Human resources management. She is 32 years old.

Muhamed Taci (DPA)



*Trajce Nedelkovski (SDSM)*⁶⁴ is retired inspector for violent crimes in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He worked in the MoI for 36 years, from 1976 to 2012. He graduated at the Technical faculty in Bitola – traffic engineer. He is 54 years old.

⁶² http://www.unitesport.edu.mk/stafiakademik/profesoret/61-profesoret/6-besnik-telai.html

⁶³ http://www.utrinski.com.mk/?ItemID=2A93E6FF84A0EF4EA93CCF033C7FBD8F

⁶⁴ https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=268240703310468&set=a.2671549867523 73.1073741825.267154206752451&type=1&theater



Municipality of Suto Orizari

Surface	7 км ²
Population	22,017
Ethnic structure of the population	Roma (60,60%), Albanians (30,32%), Macedonians (6,53%)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	193,366,349
Address	Vietnamska St. n.n, 1000 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 650 584
Мрежно место	http://www.sutoorizari.org.mk

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF SUTO ORIZARI



Elvis Bajram (Roma Alliance) is the current mayor of Suto Orizari. Prior to becoming mayor he was president of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Suto Orizari. He is involved in a family business. He has finalized his secondary education. He is 36 years old.

Ibrahim Suma (DPA)



Nexhat Mustafa (United Party for /ODSR)⁶⁵ is Minister without Portfolio in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and is the National Coordinator for the Roma Decade 2005-2015 and of the National Roma Strategy. He holds these functions since 2008. Prior to that, from 2002 to 2008 he was Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. In two terms, from 1996 to 2002 he was mayor of the Municipality of Suto Orizari. Prior to this he was working for three years as editor of the Roma Program of the Macedonian Radio and TV. Mustafa graduated philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy on Skopje. He is 50 years old.



Municipality of Bitola

Surface	792 км ²
Population	95,385
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (88,71,%), Albanians (4,36 %)
Number of Council members	31
Budget for 2012	1,379,732,776
Address	Blvd, 1st of May No. 61, 7000 Bitola
Telephone	047/234-234
Мрежно место	http://www.bitola.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF BITOLA





Vladimir Talevski (VMRO-DPMNE) is in his second term as mayor of Municipality of Bitola. Prior to being elected as mayor in 2005 he was working as an actor in the Bitola Theatre and has performed in numerous theatre plays, TV series and feature and TV movies. Also, he has directed theatre plays and TV documentaries. Talevski is a graduated actor and has specialized theatre directing in Sofia and got his Masters degree in theatre directing from Skopje. He is 53 years old.



Zoran Lazaroski – Paljo (Independent candidate) is owner of a fitness club in Bitola for 17 years. Prior to that he worked in many countries throughout the world. He became interested in sports since very early, first in cycling and then in karate and bodybuilding, where he achieved significant results. Lazarevski finished his education in his native town of Bitola. He is 52 years old.

⁶⁵ http://vlada.mk/clenovi/nezdet-mustafa



Jorgo Ognenovski (Independent candidate) is a professional actor. He has founded a motion pictures and TV series production company targeting also producers from Hollywood. He is also a founder of the humanitarian organization "For Better Health" - Bitola, which is assisting the hospital in Bitola. In the past he has produced 4 motion pictures in Hollywood, USA, of which one was co produced with the Ministry of culture of the Republic of Macedonia. Ognenovski plays one of the leading roles in that movie. He is founder of the Worldsings Company in Burbank, California, USA, that works in promotion worldwide the tourism in Macedonia, the Ohrid and Bitola region. He has graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He is 58 years old.





Ljubomir Gruevski (NDM)⁶⁶ is a Macedonian poet. Currently he is working as the Chief Editor in the publishing house "Misirkov" – first publishing house in Macedonia that operates outside of its capitol. Gruevski has founded and is the director of this publishing house. Prior to this he has worked as editor in other publishing houses, was a director of "Herakleia Linkestis" and was Director of the Peoples Theatre in Bitola. He has graduated literature at the Faculty for Philology in Belgrade and Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. He is 64 years old.



Mende Dinevski (SDSM)⁶⁷ is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia since 2008. From 2002 to 2008 he worked as a dentist in the Home for People's Health in Bitola. As member of parliament he also serves as president of the Commission on Health Issues, and is member of the Committee on the Relations between the Communities, the Commission on the Political System and on Relations between the Communities and the Commission on Election and Nomination related Issues. Dinevski is doctor in dental medicine and specialist in oral surgery. He is 39 years old.

Djoko Damevski (SDU)

⁶⁶ http://emirsokolovic.com/gallery/vi-me-unarodni-poetski-festival-heraklea-2011-bitola-makedonija

⁶⁷ http://www.mendedinevski.mk/



of Veles

Surface	464 км ²
Population	55,108
	Macedonians (84,86%),
Ethnic structure of	Albanians (4,17%),
the population	Turks (3,13%),
	Roma (1,45%)
Number of Council	23
members	23
Budget for 2012	722,263,477
Address	Panko Brashnar no. 1,
	1400 Veles
Telephone	043/232-966
Web	http://www.veles.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF VELES



Ace Kocevski (SDSM) is owner and manager of the Society for Civil Engineering and Consultancy Services AFION – Veles. Prior to that Koceski was mayor of the municipality Veles for two consecutive terms from 2000 to 2009. From 1999 to 2000 he acted as Vice-secretary in the Ministry for Local Self-Government. He also was member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 1994 to 1998. During his studies he was member of the youth organization at the University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" from 1982 to 1983. He is graduate civil engineer. He is 51 years old.

Marjan Spasovski (SDU)



Slavco Cadiev (VMRO-DPMNE) is a member and the president of the Council of Municipality of Veles in two terms, that is, from 2005 to present date. Cadiev holds master degree in defectology – surdologue and is working at the PHO General Hospital in Veles, ORL Unit. He is the Vice-president of the Alliance of Defectologists of Macedonia, yearlong collaborator to the Alliance of Deaf and People with Impaired Hearing of the Republic of Macedonia and of the Bureau for Deaf "Koco Racin" Bitola, as well as of the branch offices of the Alliance of deaf and people with impaired hearing in Veles. He graduated at the Faculty for Defectology in Belgrade. He is 54 years old.

Tanja Petrovska (SDPM)



of Gevgelija

Surface	485 км ²
Population	22,988
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96,82%), Serbs (1,60 %)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	511,208,660
Address	Dimitar Vlahov No. 4, 1480 Gevgelija
Telephone	034/213-899
Web	http://gevgelija.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF GEVGELIJA



Ivan Frangov (VMRO-DPMNE) is serving his first term as Mayor of the Municipality of Gevgelija. Previously, from 2007 he has worked as the Head of the Tax Unit in the Public Revenue Office in Gevgelija. From 2002 to 2007 he had worked in the private company "Solun 53" AD Gevgelija, first as the Head of Marketing and then as executive member of the Board of Directors. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje, External Trade and Marketing. He is 43 years old.

Jovan Platanski (SDPM)
Petar Eftimov (SDU)



Save Marackov (SDSM) is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 2011. He is a member of the Parliamentary Commission on e Rules of Procedure and Mandatory-Immunity Issues and Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy. Marackov is graduated forest engineer. He is 46 years old.



Municipality of Gostivar

Surface	519 км²
Population	81,042
	Albanians (66,68%),
Ethnic structure of	Macedonians (19,59%),
the population	Turks (9,86%),
	Roma(2,76%)
Number of Council	31
members	31
Budget for 2012	962,700,000
Address	Braka Ginoski No. 61,
Address	1230 Gostivar
Telephone	042/213-511
Web	http://www.gostivari.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF GOSTIVAR



Zoran Angelov (SDSM) is a professor in mechanical related subjects in the secondary technical school in Gostivar from 2001. He graduated at the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering. He is 43 years old.



Miat Sadiku (DPA) is an electrical engineer by profession.



Nevzat Bejta (DUI) from February 2011 until February 2012 was the Minister of Local Self-Government in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. IN 2005 he was elected as mayor to the Municipality of Gostivar and Vice-president of ZELS. In the period from 2002 to 2005 he was Member of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2000 he was elected as councilor in the Council of Municipality of Gostivar. Prior to that he worked as a History teacher in the village of Cegrane and in Gostivar. He graduated at the Faculty of Philosophy in Pristina at the Institute for History and got his Masters degree at the University in Tirana. He is 51 years old.

⁶⁸ http://www.sobranie.mk/?ItemID=769677A13C93A14B8AA437CBB0C39219

⁶⁹ http://a1on.mk/wordpress/archives/113629

⁷⁰ http://dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=5B94516126CA094281A6BB9867DD9248

⁷¹ http://mls.gov.mk/index.php?news=5



Rufi Osmani (NDP) is the mayor of Gostivar since 2009, and is the founder and president of the National Democratic Reformation (NDP). Until 2009 he was working as professor at the Southeast Europe University (UJIE) and from 1994 to 2003 was lecturer at the University of Tetovo.

In 1994 he was elected as Member of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, and in 1996 becomes the Mayor of Gostivar, a position he holds until April 1997. In 1997 he was arrested and imprisoned for disrespecting the rulings of the Constitutional Court that prohibited placement of flags of the ethnic communities. In 1999 he was acquitted on the basis of the Amnesty Law. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Pristina and later acquired his PhD in Economic Sciences. He has published numerous scientific and publicist papers. He is 52 years old.



Saso Akimovski (VMRO-DPMNE) is working in AD ELEM branch HEC Mavrovo – Gostivar. He is responsible for the financial and commercial operations of this company. Prior to that he worked as director of the State Labour Inspectorate, Head of the Regional Unit of FZO Gostivar and as deputy director of the Enterprise for Use and Management of the Construction Land PE Gostivar. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje, and is currently enrolled at his postgraduate studies at the University for Management and Tourism in Skopje. He is 37 years old.



Municipality of Debar

Surface	145,67 км ²
Population	19,542
	Albanians (58,07%),
Ethnic structure of	Macedonians (20,01%),
the population	Turks (13,73%),
	Roma (5,53)
Number of Council members	15
Budget for 2012	250,643,000
Address	8 September No. 72, 91250 Debar
Telephone	046/831-015
Web	

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF DEBAR



Ibrahim Kolari (Independent candidate)⁷² owns a company for concrete. He has worked and lived in the USA, and upon return he has invested in the company CE "Korabi", today known as 'Korabi redi mijs". In 2012 he was awarded the Individual Philanthropy Award from the Diaspora, which is awarded by the Center for Institutional Development – CIRA. He has made donations to the Islamic Religious Community and the Macedonian Orthodox Church, as well as or sport and cultural activities.

Mexhit Dika (DPA) is a retired mechanical engineer. He is 66 years old.

⁷² http://www.facebook.com/ibrahim.kolari



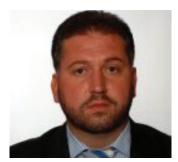
Ruzhdi Lata (DUI) is a lecturer at the Institute for Oriental Philology at the State University in Tetovo since 2009 and is Mufti in the Debar Mufti. He is working in the Islamic Religious Community since 1995 and is working at the Faculty for Islamic Sciences in Skopje in the period from 1993 to 1995 and later on from 2009 until present date. From 1980 until 1991 he worked at the Islamic Religious Community and at the University in Pristina. He has translated many works from Arabic and Turkish language, and had also published his works as well. He graduated at the Institute for Oriental Languages at the Faculty of Philology at the University in Pristina where he also acquired his Masters degree in philological sciences. He is 59 years old.



Mur	nicip	ality	,
of I	Delo	cevo	

Surface	423 км ²	
Population	17,505	
Ethnic structure of	Macedonians (95,04%),	
the population	Roma (3,72%)	
Number of Council	15	
members	12	
Budget for 2012	221,695,160	
Address	Metodi Mitevski Brico No. 40,	
	2320 Delcevo	
Telephone	033/411-550	
Web	http://www.delcevo.gov.mk/	

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF DELCEVO



Golub Angelov (SDSM)⁷³ is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 2011.. He is also member of the Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. From 2007 to 2011 he worked in the municipal organization of SDSM in Delcevo, and for four years prior to that he was sociology and civic culture teacher in OSU Aco Ruskovski, Berovo. He graduated sociology at the Faculty for Philosophy in Skopje and is currently pursuing his Masters degree in International Security. He is 36 years old.



Darko Shehtanski (VMRO-DPMNE) is working in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in the Republic of Macedonia. Prior to that from 1991 to 2001 he worked in his own company Almak-Delcevo. He is a graduated energy engineer. He is 46 years old.

Zlatko Pesov (SDU)

http://www.sobranie.mk/?ItemID=CF8E55AA84CABC498933C1D4F0AE4874



Zoran Makedonski (Independent candidate)⁷⁴ is a graduated mechanical engineer. Currently unemployed. He is 26 years old.

Kirco Gocevski (SDPM)



Surface	1132 км²
Population	38,741
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96,79%), Roma (1,75%)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	690,242,330
Address	Marsal Tito n.n. PO Box. 184, 1430 Kavadarci
Telephone	043/416-107
Web	http://www.kavadarci.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KAVADARCI



Aleksandar Panov (VMRO-DPMNE) is the current mayor of Kavadarci. Prior to becoming mayor, from the end of 2008 until 2009 he was Head of PE "Macedonian Posts" branch Kavadarci. In the period from 1999 until 2009 he was working at the PE "Komunalec" Kavadarci as a lawyer, officer responsible for defense and incrimination. From 2005 until 2009 he was member of the council and coordinator of the council group of VMRO-DPMNE in the Municipality of Kavadarci. He graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He is 43 years old.



Betian Kitev (SDSM) is the current councilor in the Municipality of Kavadarci. In 2008 he graduated at the Institute for Political Studies at the Faculty of Law in Skopje and is currently pursuing his Masters degree at the same faculty. He is 27 years old.

⁷⁴ http://www.kanal5.com.mk/Default.aspx?mId=120



Boris Davidov (Independent candidate) is currently working as a councilor in the Municipality of Kavadarci. He has worked for many years as a professor. Later he entered the private business of trade with Turkey and China. Prior to that he has worked as an officer in Pula, and later in the Management Bodies of Kavadarci. He graduated at the Military Academy in Belgrade. He is 66 years old.



Zoranco Bojkovski (Independent candidate)⁷⁵ is employed in ADOR "Makedonija", a company for insurance and is an external collaborator of several other smaller scale insurance companies in Macedonia and abroad. He was member of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Kavadarci from 2000 until 2005. He is also a member of the trade union organizations in Macedonia. He holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine that he acquired at the University in Zagreb, Croatia in 1991. Zoranco Bojkovski is 47 years old. .



Panco Minov (Independent candidate)⁷⁶ is currently working as a member of the Municipal Council of Kavadarci. He was mayor of Kavadarci for two terms from 2000 to 2009. From 1991 until 1998 he was member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. Prior to 1991 he worked in the Assembly of Municipality of Kavadarci. He graduated at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Political Sciences. Panco Minov is 55 years old.



unic	ipality
of Ki	cevo

Surface	839 км ²
Population	56,734
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (54,51 %), Macedonians (35,74%), Turks (5,28%), Roma (2,87%)
Number of Council members	23
Budget for 2012	480,769,445
Address	Boris Kidric No. 1, 6250 Kicevo
Telephone	045/223-001
Web	http://www.kicevo.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KICEVO



Blagoja Despotoski (VMRO-DPMNE)⁷⁷ is serving his first term as a mayor of Municipality of Kicevo. From 1999 until 2002 he was the General Director of REK Oslomej, and it was under his management that the coal mine Oslomej -West was opened. From 1989 until 1999 he was working at the Directorate for Protection against Fire and Explosions. Within the same period he was President of the Firefighting Alliance in Kicevo. He graduated at the Electro-Technical Faculty in Skopje. He is 54 years old.



Fatmir Dehari (DUI)⁷⁸ is the current mayor of Municipality of Oslomej. Prior to 2009 he was Deputy Minister in MoI and Deputy Director of DSCI. Immediately prior to becoming a mayor he was the Director of PE Macedonian Posts regional branch Kicevo. He graduated at the Faculty for Physical Education at the University in Pristina. He is 38 years old.

http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=4362773953923&set=a.1444278793368.20571 44.1425063729&type=1&theater

http://www.plusinfo.mk/vest/36948/Video-Pancho-Minov-eks-tatkoto-na-Kavadarci-so-zakani-na-protivnicite-vo-Sovetot-na-opshtinata

⁷⁷ The VMRO-DPMNE's candidate for this municipality is supported by SDSM as well. Also, both parties have submitted their joint list of councilors.

⁷⁸ http://kicevo.mk/dui-fatmir-dehari/



of Kocani

Surface	382 км ²
Population	38,092
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (93,12 %), Roma (5,12 %)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	541,312,000
Address	Rade Kratovce No. 1 PO BOX. 38, 2300 Kocani
Telephone	033/274-001
Web	http://www.kocani.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KOCANI



Goran Nisov (SDPM)

Mile Andonov (SDSM)⁷⁹ is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 2008 until present day. Prior to that he worked in the companies "Delikates" (1989-2002), "Aqua Vita" (2002-2005) and as manager of "Kodeks Teks" (2006-2008). From 2005 to 2006 he was director of the Bureau for Underdeveloped Regions. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He is 50 years old.



Ratko Dimitrovski (VMRO-DPMNE) is the current mayor of Municipality of Kocani. From 2006 until 2009 he was Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, and prior to that worked and is the founder of the printing house "Evropa 92" one of the largest printing houses in Macedonia. From 1997 until 1990 he worked at the printing houses "Kiro Dandaro"- Bitola and "Mladost" – Kocani. He holds a diploma in graphic engineering, which he acquired in Zagreb. Dimitrovski is 56 years old.

Simo Veselinov (SDU)



Municipality	

Surface	481 км ²
Population	20,820
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96,06%), Roma (3,21%)
Number of Council members	19
Budget for 2012	396,157,300
Address	Marsal Tito No. 175 1330 Kriva Palanka
Telephone	031/375-035
Web	http://www.krivapalanka.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KRIVA PALANKA



Arsenco Aleksovski (VMRO-DPMNE) is the current mayor of the Municipality of Kriva Palanka. He is owner of the private company "Transped Trejd DOOEL" which he has founded and managed since 2006. Prior to that he has worked at "Transped Komerc" as a manager of the branch office "Deve Bair". From 1986 until 1991 he worked in the Forest Management enterprise "Osogovo" in Kriva Palanka. Prior to that he worked as an inspector in MoI. He graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje in 1986. He is 52 years old.





Goranco Mladenovski (SDSM)⁸⁰ is a medical doctor – gynecologist and director of PHI "D-r Goran Mladenovski". From 1998 to 2006 he worked as Head of the Gynecology Department in the Health Home in Kriva Palanka. He specializes gynecology at the Department for Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Medical faculty in 1998 and graduated at the same faculty in 1987. He is 51 years old.

Milka Mihailovska (SDP)

⁷⁹ https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=428076390613217&set=a.335121746575349.7 8613.335121659908691&type=1&theater

⁸⁰ https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D0%A1%D0%94%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%9A%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%9F%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B0%D 0%BD%D0%BA%D0%B0/201747429856994



Municipality
of Kumanovo

Surface	509 км2
Population	105,484
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (60,43%), Albanians (25,87%), Serbs (8,59%) Roma (4,03%)
Number of Council members	33
Budget for 2012	11 Oktomvri n.n., 1300 Kumanovo
Address	1,686,731,548
Telephone	031/420-451
Web	http://www.kumanovo.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF KUMANOVO



Alil Kurtisi (DPA) is an Assistant at the State University in Tetovo. Currently Kurtisi is a councilor in the Municipality of Kumanovo. He is 36 years old.



Arif Latifi (DUI) is the current director of the General Hospital in Kumanovo. He was appointed on this position in 2009. From 2004 until 2009 he worked at the Clinic for Hematology in Skopje. Prior to that he worked at the Medical Center in Kumanovo. He graduated at the Medical Faculty at the Trakia Univerzity in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. He is a specialist in internal medicine, and is currently enrolled at his PhD studies in hematology at the Medical faculty in Skopje. Latifi is 46 years old.



Viktor Cvetkovski (Independent candidate) is a councilor in the Municipality of Kumanovo, and from 2009 until 2012 was the President of the Municipal Council. Since 2009 he is working as an assistant director of the public enterprise "Pazarista" Kumanovo. Cvetkovski is also the President of the Association of Penology of Macedonia. From 2004 until 2006 he worked at the Ministry of Justice, first as a director of the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, and later he was promoted into a state secretary. In 2002 he founds, and until 2004 acts as the director of, the company "Princip". Cvetkovski graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje, and since 2010 is enrolled at the postgraduate master studies in Criminal Law and Criminology at the same faculty. He is 38 years old.



Zoran Damjanovski (SDSM)⁸¹ is in his second term as mayor of Kumanovo. He graduated at the Medical faculty in Skopje in 1981 and got his Masters degree in gynecology in Zagreb and Ljubljana in 1987. In 1991 Damjanovski finalizes his specialization in gynecology and obstetrics. He is the Vice president of the Basketball Club in Kumanovo for the past 15 years. He is 56 years old.



Zoran Gjorgjievski (VMRO- DPMNE) is a warden at the Surgical Unit in Kumanovo, starting from 2010. From 2002 until 2010 Gjorgjievski was the Chief of the Surgical Unit. He graduated at the Medical Faculty in Nis, and in 1998 specialized general surgery in Skopje. He is 54 years old.

Predrag Bozickovik (SNSM)

⁸¹ http://www.kumanovo.gov.mk/biografija/



Fatri Saliu (NDP) is a professor in the secondary school OSTU "Nace Bugoni" in Kumanovo. He worked as a translator and interpreter in many organizations and companies. From 1992 until 1997 Saliu worked as professional basketball player and played from many clubs in Macedonia. He was studying at the Electro-technical Faculty at the "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje.



Municipality	
of Negotino	

Surface	414 км2
Population	19,045
	Macedonians (92,48%),
Ethnic structure of	Serbs (3,26%),
the population	Roma (2,36%),
	Turks (1,26)
Number of Council	15
members	13
Budget for 2012	423,262,643
A d duo o o	Aco Adzi Ilov No. 2,
Address	1440 Negotino
Telephone	043/361-045
Web	http://negotino.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF NEGOTINO



Vanco Apostolov (VMRO-DPMNE) is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is member of the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, the Legislative-legal Commission, the Commission for Supervision of the Counterintelligence Service and the Commission on European issues. He is a graduated agronomic engineer. He is 50 years old.



Silvana Filipova (SDSM)⁸² is a speech therapist in the Bureau for Rehabilitation of the Hearing, Speaking Abilities and Voice – Skopje, regional ambulance Negotino since 1996. Filipova acquired her PhD in speech therapy at the faculty for Philosophy in Skopje in 2008. He graduated and acquired her Masters degree in Belgrade at the faculty for Speech Therapy. She is 45 years old.

⁸² https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=503255296397484&set=a.404558869600461.9 1294.404556676267347&type=1&theater



Municipality of Ohrid

Surface	390 км²
Population	55,749
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (84,93%), Albanians (5,31%), Turks (4,07%)
Number of Council members	23
Budget for 2012	986,000,000
Address	Dimitar Vlahov No. 57 Po Box. 125, 6000 Ohrid
Telephone	046/262-492
Web	http://www.ohrid.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF OHRID





Aleksandar Petreski (SDSM)⁸³ is in his second term as the mayor of the Municipality of Ohrid. From 2003 to 2005 he was director of the municipal public enterprise "Ohridski komunalec" – Ohrid. Prior to that he has worked as director of "Transport i mehanizacija" EMO, and during that time he spent one year working in Baghdad (Irak). He graduated at the Electro-technical Faculty in Bitola, where he graduated as traffic engineer. He is 48 years old.

Vasil Risteski (SDU)

Nikola Bakraceski (VMRO-DPMNE) is the director of PHI Institution for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Cardiovascular Diseases – Ohrid. Previously he has worked as Head of the Intensive Care Unit and Head of the Hospital Department in the Medical Center in Ohrid. Also, Bakraceski has worked as the Head of the Echocardiography Cabinet and as assistant cardiologist in the specialized hospital for cardio surgery 'Filip II". He graduated and specialized internal medicine at the Medical Faculty in Skopje. He is 42 years old.

Fetah Elmazi (DPA)

⁸³ http://a1on.mk/wordpress/archives/71383



Municipality of Prilep

Surface	1194 км ²
Population	76,768
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (92,35%), Roma (5,77%), Turks (1,19%)
Number of Council members	27
Budget for 2012	1,073,871,000
Address	Pitu Guli No. 2, 7500 Prilep
Telephone	048/401-701
Web	http://www.prilep.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF PRILEP



Zoran Petreski (SDU) is a teacher in the PS "Straso Pindjur" in the village of Malo Konjari – Prilep. Previously he worked as a consultant in the Center for Development of Management and Human Resources, and he also worked in the PE "Komunalec", PHI Health Home and in the Medical Center in Prilep. Petreski holds a Masters degree in business management and is pursuing his PhD degree in public sector management. He is 48 years old.



Marjan Risteski (VMRO-DPMNE) is serving his second term as Mayor of the Municipality of Prilep. From 2005 he is also a member of the Management Board of ZELS. Prior to becoming mayor he worked for 7 years as a communal inspector in the local self-government in Prilep. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Prilep. He is 41 year old.



Hari Lokvenec (SDSM)⁸⁴ is a lecturer in Management Basics at the University American College Skopje. From 1992 to 2008 he was in the private retail business. He graduated at the Electro-technical Faculty in Skopje in 1996. He holds Masters degree in Business Administration from the Schiller University in Tampa, Florida, USA, and in 2008 acquired his PhD in Technical Management at the University "St. Clement from Ohrid" – Bitola. He is 43 years old.

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⁸⁴ https://www.facebook.com/harilokveneczaprilep



Municipality of Resen

Surface	739 км ²
Population	16,825
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (76,07%), Turks (10,68%), Albanians (9,13%)
Number of Council members	15
Budget for 2012	258,340,091
Address	Square Marsal Tito No. 20, 6310 Resen
Telephone	047/ 454 450
Web	http://www.resen.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF RESEN



Dimitar Buzlevski (Independent candidate)⁸⁵ is executive director of the branch offices of the international company "Link Consulting" in Resen. He is a former mayor of the Municipality of Resen from 2005 to 2009. From 1998 until 2002 he was Member of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, and from 1994 until 1996 he was Minister for Transport and Connections in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. He worked in the company "Agroplod" from Resen. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He is 60 years old.



Gjoko Strezovski (VMRO-DPMNE) works at the Ministry of Interior, SVR Bitola. However, he froze his employment to run for mayor. Prior to this he was Spokesperson for SVR Bitola.



Jordan Proevski (SDSM) is warden at the Department for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation at the Bureau for Rehabilitation in Otesevo. From 2003 to 2006 he was the director of the Bureau for Rehabilitation in Otesevo and prior to that he worked as medical doctor in the Health Home in Resen. Proevski specialized physiotherapy and rehabilitation at the University in Belgrade in 1987 and in 1970 he graduated at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade. He is 58 years old.

Muamer Sabriu (DPA)

Sukriu Osman (DUI)

⁸⁵ http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=C4323380C7825748817B32D5A8CB5BD1



Municipality

of Struga

Surface

Surrace	507 KM ²
Population	65,375
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (56,85), Macedonians (32,09%), Turks (5,72%)
Number of Council members	27
Budget for 2012	828,131,100
Address	Marsal Tito St. n.n., 6330 Struga
Telephone	046/781-223; 782-015
Web	http://www.struga.gov.mk/

507 KM2

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF STRUGA



Arben Labenista (DUI)⁸⁶ was Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 2011 until January 2013 when he resigned in order to run for mayor. During his term as a MP he was member of the Committee for Relations between the Communities, and the Commission for Labour and Social Policy. He graduated at the Medical faculty at the University in Tirana. He is 40 years old.



*Vladimir Kocovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁸⁷ is a specialist at the surgical unit of the General Hospital in Struga, since 1997. Prior to that he worked as a general medical practitioner in the Medical Centar in Struga. He graduated and specialized at the Medical Faculty in Skopje. He is 53 years old.



Zijadin Sela (DPA)⁸⁸ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is member of the Commissions for Health, for European Issues, for Political system and for Relations between the Communities. He graduated at the Medical Faculty at the University in Tirana. He is 40 years old.



Municipality of Strumica

Surface	32 км ²
Population	54,676
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (91,92%), Turks (6,87)
Number of Council members	23
Budget for 2012	1,033,224,111
Address	Sando Masev St. No. 1, 2400 Strumica
Telephone	034/348-030
Web	http://www.strumica.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF STRUMICA



Vasil Pisev (VMRO-DPMNE) is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is member of the Parliamentary Commissions for Economic Issues and Local self-government. Since 1984 he is owner of a company in the catering industry, and in 1997 he has established the company "Al-Maks" which produces "Biser" brand name for oil for consumption. He finished his secondary education at the economic high school "Veljko Vlahovik" in Strumica. He is 47 years old.



Zoran Zaev (SDSM)⁸⁹ is the current mayor of the Municipality of Strumica in his second consecutive term, a position he holds since 2005. From 1997 to 2003 he has worked in several companies that operate in the Municipality of Strumica. From 2000 to 2003 he was the President of the Management Board of JPKD "Komunalec" – Strumica, and from 2001 to 2003 he was director of "Trgoprodukt" – Strumica. From 2003 to 2005 he was member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2006 he was elected as Vice-President of SDSM. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje in 1997. He is 38 years old.

Pance Jankov (SDU) Risto Bozijanov (SDPM)

⁸⁶ http://www.sobranie.mk/default.asp?ItemID=23E142978094704C96057B44A97FBDBD

⁸⁷ The VMRO-DPMNE's candidate for this municipality is supported by SDSM as well. Also, both parties have submitted their joint list of councilors.

⁸⁸ http://www.sobranie.mk/default.asp?ItemID=CA3E6C96CD007449B59107D228D8E68E

⁸⁹ http://www.strumica.gov.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=100&Itemid=290



Mun	nicipality
of	Tetovo

Surface	1080 км ²
Population	86,580
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (70,32%), Macedonians (23,16%), Roma (2,72%), Turks (2,17%)
Number of Council members	31
Budget for 2012	1,721,725,739
Address	Dervis Cara St. No. 68, 1200 Tetovo
Telephone	044/338-499
Web	http://www.tetova.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF TETOVO



Goran Manojloski (VMRO-DPMNE) works as a medical doctor at the PHI Clinical Hospital, Tetovo. He finished his higher education at the Trakia University, Medical faculty in Stara Zagora – Republic of Bulgaria. From March 2010 he has started his specialization in internal medicine. He is 36 years old.



Ivica Zorik (SDSM)⁹⁰ is candidate for mayor of Municipality of Tetovo. He acquired his PhD in "Digital Catalogue of the Macedonia Choir Creation". He acquired his Masters degree at the Faculty for Music in Skopje, music pedagogy – methodic of teaching music, and he graduated at the Faculty for Music in Skopje. He is 64 years old.



*Izet Zegiri (NDP)*⁹¹ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia where he is a member of the Committee for Relations between the Communities, and the Commission for Education, Science and Sport. He holds PhD in Economic Sciences and is Associate professor at the Southeast Europe University. Prior to becoming Member of the Parliament from 2008 until 2011 he was the Dean of the Faculty for Business and Economy at SEEU. Zekiri performed other functions related to strategic management, economy and higher education. He has published many scientific papers in the area of economy and strategic management. Zekiri is 46 years old.



Sadi Bexheti (DPA)⁹² is the current mayor of Tetovo. He is a medical doctor. Since 2007 he was the Rector of the State University in Tetovo, where he was a professor at the Pharmaceutical Faculty. From 2000 until he was the Dean of the Medical Faculty at the Tetovo University. Prior to 2000 he builds his academic career at the Medical Faculty in Pristina. He has published many scientific papers in the area of medicine and is a member of several scientific and professional associations. He is 55 years old.



Teuta Arifi (DUI)⁹³ was Vice-president of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia from 2011 until February 2013. She resigned from this position in order to run for mayor in Tetovo. Prior to that, she was Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia from 2002 until 2011. She holds PhD in philological sciences, and is an Assistant professor at the Southeast European University, where she holds the position of a Dean of the Pedagogical Faculty from 2001 until 2006. She is also an assistant professor at the University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius". Before entering into politics she was active in several civic organizations. Arifi is a writer and an author of several scientific papers. She is 43 years old.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%80
2%D1%80%D0%BE-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%84%D0%B4-%D1%80%D0%98%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%9C-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1
1%87%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9E%D0
%BF%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A2%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE
%D0%B2%D0%BE/272264459572806

⁹¹ http://www.sobranie.mk/default.asp?ItemID=BC7C8AC066BB084C8C04A7280A31EAC2

⁹² http://www.tetova.gov.mk/mk/k/20/

⁹³ http://arhiva.vlada.mk/?g=node/6921



Municipality
of Stip

Surface	556 км ²
Population	47,796
	Macedonians (87,19%),
Ethnic structure of	Roma (4,59%),
the population	Vlachos (4,34%),
	Turks (2,66%)
Number of Council members	23
Budget for 2012	832,723,520
Address	Vasil Glavinov St. n.n., 2000 Stip
Telephone	032/266-600
Web	http://www.stip.gov.mk/

CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF STIP



Zdravko Kocev (SDSM)⁹⁴ hold Masters degree in Security and Control of Money laundering. Prior to 2006 he was director of the public enterprise for communal services. He is 51 years old.



Ilco Zahariev (VMRO-DPMNE) is a director of the Bureau for Drugs, a function he holds for the second term; his first term was from 2001 until 2003 and his second from 2006 until present day. In 2005 and 2006 he was a member and a president of the Municipal Council of Stip. From 1985 until 2006 with few interruptions he worked as Head of the Working Unit Pharmacies in the Medical Center in Stip. He also worked as associate professor in the Secondary medical School. He has produced more than 350 TV shows covering areas of pharmacology and medicinal plants. He graduated and acquired his Masters degree at the Pharmaceutical Faculty in Skopje, and is currently preparing his PhD thesis. Zahariev is 52 years old.

Marika Chaneva (SDPM)
Mijalce Pop Andonov (SDU)

⁹⁴ https://www.facebook.com/kocevzdravko

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR	SUBMITTERS OF THE CANDIDATURE
Brahim Ajvazi	DUI
Fekri Bilali	NDP
Bastri Bajrami	Group of voters
Brahim Ajvazi	DUI
Zvonko Pekevski	SDSM
Tomo Avramski	SDU
Vahid Golik	SDPM
Dragi Nadjinski	VMRO-DPMNE
Anastasija Olumceva	VMRO-DPMNE
Velko Gligorov	SDU
Zoran Prockov	SDSM
Hazabi Idrizi	DUI
Burhan Izairi	DPA
Agim Rahimi	NDP
Ljupco Kolev	VMRO-DPMNE
Zanko Zimbakov	SDSM
Zivko Mitev	SDPM
Slavco Misev	SDU
Stojan Todoroski	VMRO-DPMNE
Enver Pajaziti	DUI
Bejtula Kasami	DPA
Mirko Jovcevski	SDSM
Nikolce Curinovski	VMRO-DPMNE
Pavljo Pavlov	SDU
Jovan Sirtovski	SDPM
	Brahim Ajvazi Fekri Bilali Bastri Bajrami Brahim Ajvazi Zvonko Pekevski Tomo Avramski Vahid Golik Dragi Nadjinski Anastasija Olumceva Velko Gligorov Zoran Prockov Hazabi Idrizi Burhan Izairi Agim Rahimi Ljupco Kolev Zanko Zimbakov Zivko Mitev Slavco Misev Stojan Todoroski Enver Pajaziti Bejtula Kasami Mirko Jovcevski Nikolce Curinovski

	Vanco Stojanov	VMRO-DPMNE
Ma ailas sa	Vasil Kocev	SDSM
Vasilevo	Mile Janakiev	SDPM
	Donco Atanasov	SDU
	Vasil Radinoski	Group of voters
Vevcani	Saso Jankovski	SDSM
	Svetomir Ugrinoski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Venco Vuinov	NSDP
Vinica	Kiro Kurciski	SDU
VIIIICa	Ajri Sulejmanov	SDPM
	Emil Doncev	VMRO-DPMNE
	Isen Sabani	DPA
Vrancisto	Bajram Kadrija	DUI
Vrapciste	Lusuf Hasani	NDP and DPTM
	Zhuko Filipovski	SDSM
	Zaneta Causevska	VMRO-DPMNE
Gradsko	Ljupco Ivanov	SDSM
Grausko	Pavlina Najdova	SDPM
	Pero Kuzmanovski	SDU
	Dimce Andreski	SDU
Debarca	Zoran Nogaceski	Group of voters
Debarca	Igor Trajkoski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Ljupco Kojcinovski	SDSM
	Trajce Dimitriev	VMRO-DPMNE
Domir Kanija	Dragan Popovski	SDPM
Demir Kapija	Zoran Misev	SDSM
	Zvonimir Budimirovik	SDU

	Dragan Jovanovski	SDSM
Demir Hisar	Marina Tanasovska	SDPM
	Zlate Petkovski	SDU
	Ljupco Blazevski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Borce Stamov	VMRO-DPMNE
Dairea	Kosta Gogov	SDU
Dojran	Nikola Ajcev	SDSM
	Blagoj Kortov	SDPM
	Bose Miloseski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Abdula Bajramoski	DUI
Dolneni	Izudin Karisik	SDSM
	Sevganija Ibrahimi	DPA
	Ibraimali Asanoski	NDP
	Latif Arifi	DPA
Zelino	Fatmir Izairi	DUI
	Bekir Cerkezi	NDP
	Vele Gruevski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Borce Gievski	Group of voters
Zelenikovo	Branislav Batardjiev	SDU
	Tome Nedelkovski	NSDP
	Dean Dimiskovski	SDPM
	Vasko Angelov	SDU
Zrnovci	Vanco Mitev	SDSM
	Blaze Stankov	VMRO-DPMNE
	Zika Stojanovski	VMRO-DPMNE
Ilinden	Dejan Ristovski	SDU
Illildell	Mile Velinovski	SDSM
	Mirce Kostovski	SDPM

	Darko Blazevski	SDSM
	Toni Kocevski	VMRO-DPMNE
Jegunovce	Nasir Abazi	DUI
	Cvetko Marinkovski	SDU
	Kuitim Ibisi	DPA
	Goce Sarafimov	LP
	Dean Trajanov	SDPM
Karbinci	Sasko Gicev	SDU
Karbilici	Zoran Ninov	VMRO-DPMNE
	Riste Banjaglav	Dostoinstvo
	Goran Paunov	Group of voters
	Blagoj Jovanov	VMRO-DPMNE
Konce	Vaso Iliev	SDU
Konce	Zivka Georgieva	SDPM
	Toni Petrov	VMRO-NP
	Save Antonovski	SDU
Kratovo	Mite Andonovski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Zoran Mitevski	SDSM
	Vlado Bozinovski	SDSM
Krivogastani	Toni Zatkoski	VMRO-DPMNE
Kiivogastaili	Toni Pasoski	NDM
	Dean Paskoski	SDU
	Nikola Jovanoski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Dasmir Jusufi	DPA
	Tasuli Juca	SDSM
Krusevo	Svetlana Milorad Cvetkovska	NDM
	Aknan Sulejmanski	NDP
	Arif Ajrusoski	DUI

l	Murtezan Idrizi	DPA
Lipkovo	Elham Ademi	NDP
	Sadula Duraki	DUI
	Aco Velkov	SDSM
	Orce Cvetkovski	VMRO-DPMNE
Lozovo	Slobodan Jovanovski	Group of voters
	Gorance Velkov	Group of voters
	Trajce Gjorgjievski	Group of voters
	Zunun Zununi	PEI
Mavrovo and Rostuse	Mukrem Mehmedi	VMRO-DPMNE
	Samir Ajdini	SDSM
	Goce Stojanovski	SDU
Makedonska	Dimce Veselinovski	SDPM
Kamenica	Darko Mitevski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Stojan Jefremov	VMRO-NP
	Aneta Simoska Dimoska	SDSM
Makedonski Brod	Vlatko Mitreski	SDPM
Makedonski brod	Milosim Vojneski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Vlatko Stojanoski	SDU
	Slavko Velevski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Stevo Pivkovski	Group of voters
Mogila	Tome Stojanovski	NSDP
	Ljube Prostrizenoski	Group of voters
	Nikolce Trajkovski	SDU
	Lazar Kotevski	VMRO-DPMNE
Novaci	Kirce Zdravkovski	SDU
INOVACI	Blagojce Kitanovski	SDPM
	Mendo Talevski	SDSM

	Dragan Trajkov	NDM
Novo Selo	Lazo Velkov	VMRO-DPMNE
	Petar Spasov	SDSM
	Bosko Dilberovski	Group of voters
	Borce Mitevski	VMRO-DPMNE
Petrovec	Blagoja Blazevski	SDPM
	Boban Gjeorgiev	SDU
	Pero Arsovski	SDSM
	Dragan Trencevski	SDSM
Pehcevo	Igor Popovski	VMRO-DPMNE
rencevo	Sebastijan Aliovski	SDU
	Branko Markovski	SDPM
Plasnica	Enver Satioski	DPTMM
riasilica	Ismail Jahioski	DUI
	Toni Tonevski	VMRO-DPMNE
Probistip	Jordanka Milanova	SDPM
Frobistip	Slavco Nikolov	SDSM
	Ubavka Conkinska	SDU
	Tasko Nikolov	VMRO-DPMNE
Radovis	Igor Milev	SDSM
Nadovis	Mare Karamanova	SDPM
	Gjorgji Karakasev	SDU
	Slavko Mladenovski	SDU
Rankovce	Mirce Ristovski	SDPM
Raimovee	Momcilo Aleksovski	SDSM
	Orce Todorovski	VMRO-DPMNE

	Aneta Jonovska Ljubenova	SDSM
Rosoman	Stojance Lazov	VMRO-DPMNE
	Goce Velickovski	NDM
	Toni Mitev	SDU
	Zoran Tasev	VMRO-DPMNE
Sveti NIkole	Marijanco Janev	SDPM
	Kire Aleksov	SDSM
	Riste Andonov	Group of voters
	Stefce Trpkovski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Aleksandar Cvetkovik	SDPM
Sopiste	Zoran Jovanovski	SDU
	Ljupco Kec Mickovski	SDSM
	Sevdil Ajrulovski	DPA
	Vidan Mitrovski	SDU
	Vlaste Dimkovik	Serbian Progressive Party of Macedonia
Staro Nagoricane	Milovan Stojkovski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Dragana Bozinovska	SDPM
	Goran Stojanovski	Group of voters
	Radivoja Dimkovski	SDSM
	Fati Iseni	DUI
Studenicani	Azen Sadiki	DPA
	Meshahi Ismaili	NDP
	Isen Asani	DUI
Tearce	Ruhan Ilazi	DPA
	Ramadan Idrizi	NDP
Centar Zupa	Mazlum Hasan	Group of voters
Centar Zupa	Arijan Ibraim	DPTM

	Dean Andonovski	Group of voters
Caska	Sanja Dimovska	SDU
Caska	Goran Copanovski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Marina Andonova	SDSM
	Vane Efremov	LP
	Goranco Krstev	SDSM
	Kostadin Lickov	VMRO-DPMNE
Cesinovo-Oblesevo	Slavce Zasov	SDPM
	Jordanco Levkov	NDM
	Vesna Goreva Malinova	SDU
	Jovan Pejkovski	Group of voters
Cucer Sandevo	Kiro Pirkovik	Group of voters
	Vuislav Kirandjik	NDM



THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA'S 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS – RESULTS, CAMPAIGN, ASSESSMENTS

List of abbreviations

VMRO-DPMNE – Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization

- Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity

VMRO-NP – Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – People's party

SAO – State Audit Office

SEC - State Election Commission

SCPC - State Commission for Prevention of Corruption

DNET - Movement for National Unity of the Turks

DOM - Democratic Renewal of Macedonia

DPA - Democratic Party of the Albanians

DPTM - Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia

DUI – Democratic Union for Integration

ZELS – Association of the local self-government units of the Republic of Macedonia

IDSCS – Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje

ECCS - Electoral Commission of the City of Skopje

EB - Electoral Board

LDP - Liberal Democratic Party

LPM - Liberal Party of Macedonia

MI – Ministry of Interior

MPAP - Macedonian Platform against Poverty

MCIC - Macedonian Center for International Cooperation

NDI - National Democratic Institute

NDM - People's Democratic Movement

NDP - National Democratic Revival

 ${\tt OSCE/ODIHR\ Organization\ for\ Security\ and\ Cooperation\ in\ Europe\ /\ Office}$

for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ODSR - United Democratic Forces of the Roma

MEC - Municipal Electoral Commission

NLA - National Liberation Army

PEI - Party for European Future

RA – Republican Alliance

SDPM – Social Democratic Party of Macedonia

SDSM - Social Democratic Union of Macedonia

SDU - Social Democratic Union

SNSM - Serbian Advanced Party in Macedonia

BC - Broadcasting Council

SRM - Union of the Roma in Macedonia

STLS - Union of Tito's Left Forces

INTRODUCTION

The local elections in the Republic of Macedonia are held every fourth year in the second half of March. The voting process is conducted by a triple electoral administration administered by the State Election Commission (SEC) as a professionally elected body, then the municipal electoral commissions as non-professional organs and 2,976 electoral boards that carry out the elections at the polling stations.

The fifth local elections since the independence of the Republic of Macedonia took place on 24th March 2013. The elections were held in 80 municipalities and the city of Skopje, applying the majority voting system for a mayor for the municipalities and Skopje, while the councilors were elected applying the proportional model. The local elections were called for on 11th January which set the deadlines for their implementation.

The election campaign started officially on 4th March, twenty days before the day set for the first round of the local elections, and continued until 22nd March at midnight, when the election silence were announced. The campaign for the second round continued after the day of the elections on 24th March and continued until 5th April at midnight, when the election silence was announced for the second round of elections.

The elections were monitored by 8,781 national and 410 international observers. 95 The general assessment by the election observers was that the local elections were conducted in peaceful atmosphere, with certain inconsistencies in some polling stations. The main remarks are directed towards the attempts to intimidate the voters, abuse of the state resources and the biased coverage of the majority of media. The governing parties assessed the elections as fair and democratic, while the opposition parties declared the elections illegitimate.

⁹⁵ State Election Commission. http://217.16.84.26/index.php?option=com_content&view = article&id=92&Itemid=102. Accessed on 10.04.2013.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND FINANCING

Before the official start of the election campaign for the 2013 Local Elections there was a period of political crisis caused by the discrepancies between the two major political parties, VMRO-DMPNE and SDSM. The MPs from the oppositional "Union for the Future", led by SDSM, boycotted the work of the Assembly since 24th December 2012 and threatened to boycott the elections. This coalition did not submit its candidate lists for mayors and councillors and missed the dead-line which was set for 16th February 2013.

In the period before the official start of the election campaign the political situation was shaken when the Government appointed the MP Talat Xhaferi for a new defense minister from DUI. The minister took the position on 19th February, and right after his appointment there was a series of reactions by part of the public who were not satisfied with this choice, and who organized protests in the center of Skopje that culminated with physical assaults with ethnic background. ⁹⁶ Several public figures insisted on reducing the tensions, while the violence did not hold sway and did not continue throughout the campaign.

On 1st March, with the mediation of the EU representatives, the two major political parties achieved consensus which envisioned the return of the oppositional MPs in the Assembly, the participation of the "Union for the Future" at the local elections, the establishing of an ad-hoc survey commission to clear up events in the Assembly since 24th December 2012, the continuation of the election reforms and recommencing the

dialogue with the journalists.⁹⁷ Besides this, the subject of the agreement was the prolongation of the deadline for submitting candidate lists for the local elections. To this goal, the Assembly voted on amendments in the legislation which enabled the parties (but not the group of voters) to submit their lists by the date set by law.⁹⁸

As a result of these events, the campaign started in an atmosphere of ethnic tensions and polarization of the interparty relations which showed the deep discrepancies between the two major political parties. This specific context created the conditions to link the local elections not only with local but national issues as well. This defined the rhetoric of the candidates and the members of the party leaderships. On the first pre-election public rallies in Ohrid and Strumica the leaders of VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM were explicit in linking the local elections with national issues in the light of the recently concluded political crisis, while the leaders of VMRO-DPMNE and DUI on their public rallies in Kičevo addressed the interethnic issues.⁹⁹

In some municipalities an untimely start of the campaign was recorded, although it is strictly forbidden by law. 100 While preparing the publication, SEC did not make any announcement related to the objections for the early start of the campaign forwarded by some political parties and civic organizations, as well as in relation to the violations of these legal provisions, which they recorded.

⁹⁶ The primary reactions came from certain groups from the Macedonian ethnic community who opposed the appointment of the new minister due to his past actions as a commander of the National Liberation Army (NLA). After the protests held on 1st March when people belonging to the Albanian ethnic community were attacked, the following day a group of ethnic Albanians organized violent protests in the center of Skopje. See: "protests and counter-protests because of the defense minister", Deutsche Welle, 02.03.2013. ассеssed on 10.04.2013: http://www.dw.de/протести-и-контра-протести-порадиминистерот-за-одбрана/a-16641481.

⁹⁷ Joint statement of the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, the EP rapporteur on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Richard Howitt, and the former president of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, during their mission in Skopje, 1st March 2013. Accessed on: 11.03.2013: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/fule/headlines/news/2013/03/20130301 en.htm>

⁹⁸ The Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. Supplements to the Electoral Law Bill, fast track procedure. Accessed on 06.03.2013: http://www.sobranie.mk/ext/materialdetails.aspx?Id=a8c87be7-1d6f-4c88-bcd9-6906b2bb4b32

On the fist pre-election rally on 4th March in Strumica, the leader of VMRO-DPMNE stated that the local elections represent a form of referendum for the country's future, and on the same day the leader of SDSM stated on the rally organized in Ohrid that the local elections will determine whether there will be snap parliamentary elections. OSCE/ODIHR monitoring mission for the 2013 Local Elections in the Republic of Macedonia. Local Elections 24th March 2013. Periodical report (25th February – 11th March), pp. 5-6, Skopje 13th March 2013.

¹⁰⁰ The OSCE/ODIHR mission reported an untimely start of the campaign, on 2nd March in Kičevo (DUI) and in Štip (VMRO-DPMNE). Ibid, pp. 5-6. The Citizens Association MOST also reported campaign activities before the official start.

The candidates mainly addressed their ethnic communities. This was most evident in Kičevo and Struga where the two ethnic blocks were competing for the elections. In the extended period for submitting candidate lists, VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM announced that a consensus was achieved to form a coalition in the municipalities of Kičevo and Struga in order to win the position of a mayor with an ethnic Macedonian candidate. The two political parties supported a joint candidates for mayors and councilors lists. Previously, DUI promoted their own candidate for mayor of Kičevo, who was supported by DPA, while in Struga DUI and DPA promoted their own candidates in the first round. In this way the election competition in Kičevo and Struga had strong interethnic dimensions, which conditioned the public speaking. Part of the monitoring missions for the elections assessed and characterized the campaign with "ethnically dividing public speaking", and that "its intensified use has been recorded after a longer period". The negative campaign, i.e. the negative rhetoric against the political opponent, was widely applied by almost all political stakeholders.

As part of the campaign, some of the organizers displayed many billboards, posters, and other propaganda material throughout the whole territory of the state. The candidates were introduced to the citizens on public rallies, organized public gatherings with the citizens at the polling stations, and by applying the "door-to-door" method. The candidates presented their election programs via the public media as well, both printed and electronic, but also via the social networks and the Internet. During this election cycle there was an increased use of the internet space and the social networks.

The monitoring mission "My Choice" conducted by MCIC and IDSCS followed the internet presence of the mayoral candidates in 14 municipalities, or 75 candidates in total, members of 13 parties. Almost a third of the candidates (31%) had their own internet websites, while more than half of the candidates (57%) used some of the social networks to reach the voters¹⁰¹.

On the other hand, the pre-election debates between the candidates were again not in the limelight. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) organized debates in three municipalities, where not all the relevant stakeholders were present. The debates were broadcast on 24 Vesti TV station and online. The first channel on the national TV service did not broadcast any debate, while the second channel organized 17 debates between candidates from the Albanian ethnic block. Part of the local TV stations broadcast duels between the candidates.

The analyses of the financial reports submitted to the SEC, SAO, and SCPC confirm that during the campaign before the first round of the elections the overall income of the political parties from donations by individuals and legal entities, as well as their own party accounts reached the amount of 39,342,436 MKD (639,714 EUR). The largest amount of registered income was recorded for the coalition led by SDSM with 21,720,000 MKD (353,170 EUR), followed by DUI with 6,806,800 MKD (110,679 EUR), and the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE with 6,700,000 MKD (108,943 EUR). The coalitions of SDSM, VMRO-DPMNE and DUI are the electoral stakeholders which received about 90% of the overall donations during the campaign in the first round of the elections.

According to the financial reports submitted to SEC, SAO and SCPC after the campaign for the first round of the 2013 local elections, the overall expenditures of the political parties for the local elections reached the amount of 126,234,423 MKD (2,052,592 EUR). The largest amount of expenditures was recorded with the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE with 92,764,501 MKD in total (1,508,365 EUR) during the first round of the elections. Next in line, according to the amounts spent on campaigns is SDSM with 20,427,026 MKD (332,146 EUR), DUI with 8,282,117 MKD (134,668 EUR), then NDP-DPTM with 2,537,028 MKD (41,252 EUR), DPA with 892,884 MKD (14,518 EUR). The rest of the political party reported expenditures below 10,000 EUR.¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ The data presented here are from the monitoring mission by 16th March. Internet representation of the candidates during the 2013 elections. MCIC and IDSCS, Ristovski Boris. Skopje, March 2013. Accessed on 03.04.2013: http://www.mojotizbor.mk/izbori-2013/kandidati/analizi/601-internet-prisustvo-na-kandidatite-vo-izborite-2013-g.html.

[&]quot;Foreign Attempts for MTV Duels Fail", TV Nova, 28.03.2013, accessed on 08.04.2013: http://novatv.mk/index.php?p=1&navig=8&cat=2&vest=2056>.

The financial reports can be downloaded from the SEC website: http://217.16.84.26/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92, Accessed on 10.04.2013.

MEDIA

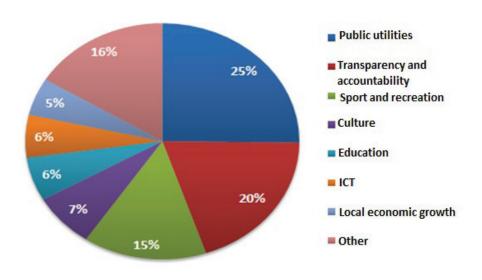
Parts of the media were biased in their party's media coverage of the election campaign. The monitoring of the campaign for the first round was conducted by the Broadcasting Council (BC)¹⁰⁴, a body which is legally bound to monitor the electronic media during the election process, which noticed that most of the electronic media enabled greater representation in the informative section for the governing parties in relation to the parties from the opposition.

There has also been a noticeable political biasness towards the governing coalition by some of the media services. The public broadcasting channels, MTV1 and the first programme of the Macedonian Radio are the media which according to the BC were the least balanced in their approach towards informing the public for the participants in the election campaign. From the private media stations, TV Sitel was the least balanced in covering the election campaign. The media services with a balanced approach in their informing were Alfa TV, 24 Vesti and Kanal 77 radio. The monitoring of the BC confirmed that most of the media do not distinguish between the regular governmental activities and activities related to the election campaign. All of these indicators jeopardize the equality in representing the candidates in the election competition.

Regarding the topics that appeared in the media, according to the MCIC and IDSCS as part of the project "My Choice", out of 62 media with their own online editions, the three most frequent topics monitored by the media during the election campaign in the first round were *the*

public utilities (25%), transparency and accountability (20%) and sport and recreation (15%). Culture (7%), education (6%), information and communication technology (6%) and the local economic growth (5%) were also represented in the media broadcasting (Image 1). However, the local issues covered by the monitoring were quite often overshadowed by the national issues, particularly the ones with ethnic background, but also those emerging from the discrepancies between the government and the opposition in the context of the political crisis.

Image 1. "My Choice": cross-section in media reporting on topics (4-24 March 2013)



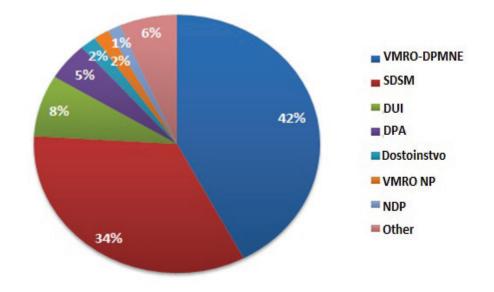
Regarding the representation of the political parties in the media announcements, the monitoring within "My Choice" registered greater representation of the two major political parties, which were represented in more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the media space (VMRO-DPMNE with 42% and SDSM with 34%). Regarding the parties from the Albanian block, DUI was more represented than DPA (8% and 5%). The smaller parties were significantly less represented in the media announcements during the monitoring period (Image 2). 106

The monitoring of the BC covered 137 commercial media services on national, regional, and local level (66 TV stations, and 71 radios). The subject of the monitoring is the programme broadcast in the news, the special informative editions, interviews, possible duels/debates between candidates, as well as editions which are not related to the elections, but cover people who are organizers of the campaign or representatives of the government bodies. The monitoring of the BC covers the free political presentation of the candidates on the public broadcasting service as well as the paid political advertising.

See: The Broadcasting Council of the Republic of Macedonia. Media coverage report on the 2013 local elections in the news during the election campaign. (4-22 March 2013).

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

Image 2. "My Choice": cross-section in media reporting by political parties (4-24 March 2013)



RESULTS FROM THE 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS¹⁰⁷

In the first round of the local elections which were held on 24th March 2013 there was a turnout of 1,167,757 voters out of 1,743,403 citizens registered in the Voters List, which makes it 66,81%. There was a high turnout of 64,90% (1,131,426 voters) in the second round that was held on 7th April. This high turnout rate is untypical particularly for the second round of elections when there is a usual decline of turnout for 10%. The turnout on these local elections is bigger than the snap parliamentary elections that took place on 5th June 2011, when there was a turnout of 1,156, 049 voters (63,48%). When compared to the previous elections, the number of registered voters for these local elections is smaller than the number of voters on the snap parliamentary elections which amounted to 1,821,122 voters, i.e. the Voters List has been reduced in relation to the one from 2011 for 80,719 voters. The turnout rate is bigger in relation to the local elections from 2009 when there was a turnout of 56,32%,

but the number of registered voters for these elections was also bigger than the Voters List from 2013, which amounted to 1,792,082 voters, i.e. 48,679 voters more than in 2013.¹⁰⁸

There were 350 candidates competing for mayoral positions in 80 municipalities and the city of Skopje. There were 480 submitted candidate lists for councilors with 8,528 candidates. Independent or as part of a coalition, there were 15 parties that submitted candidate lists for mayors: VMRO-DPMNE (as a coalition consisting of 20 parties), DPA, DPTM (in one municipality in a coalition with NDP), DUI, NDM, NDP, ODSR, PEI, SRM, SDPM, SDU, SNSM, LPM, SDSM (as a coalition consisting of 12, 13, and 14 parties) and the RA. 27 independent candidates for mayors were supported by a group of voters. 17 parties submitted candidate lists for councilors, independently or as part of a coalition: VMRO-DPMNE (as a coalition of 18 or 19 parties), DPA, DPTM, DUI, NDM, NDP, ODSR, PEI, SRM, SDPM, SDU, SNSM, DOM, STLS, LPM, SDSM (as a coalition of 12, 13, and 14 parties) and DNET. On the other hand, 85 councilor lists were submitted by a group of voters.

In the first round of the elections 49 municipal mayors were elected. In the second round there was voting for the mayor of the city of Skopje as well as 29 other municipalities, and the voting was repeated in 2 municipalities, i.e. there was a second voting in 3 polling stations in Strumica and one in Dolneni. On 21st April there was a second round of voting in Dolneni and repeated voting in the polling stations in the municipalities of Centar, Struga, and Gjorče Petrov.

VMRO-DMPNE won the biggest number of mayors in both rounds (56), followed by DUI (14), SDSM (4), DPA (2), two independent candidates, while SRM, DPTM and SNSM won one position each. The voting for the first round was repeated on 7th April in the municipality of Dolneni, and the second round was held on 21st April. In relation to the number of

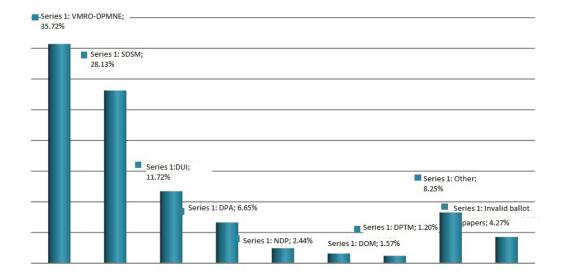
All data related to the local elections results are taken from the State Election Commission's website: http://217.16.84.17/Results.aspx?RaceID=1&UnitID=1&IsPS=0&Turno ut=0&LangID=1

Citizens Association MOST. Final Report – National Monitoring of Presidential and Local Elections 2009. August 2009, Skopje. Accessed on 28th March 2013. http://www.most. org.mk/images/transparency/elections2009/Izvestaj%20izbori%202009_Final_3%20 jazici.pdf

votes per candidate lists for mayors, VMRO-DPMNE won 487,593 votes (41,75%), SDSM won 311,061 votes (26,64%), DUI won 138,261 votes (11,84%), DPA won 82,025 votes (7,02%), NDP won 26,962 votes (2,31%). In the first round of the elections 40,289 invalid ballot papers were registered, while in the second round there were 39,066. 47 of the elected candidates have already held a mandate between 2009 and 2013, while 33 candidates are newly elected.

VMRO-DPMNE won the majority of votes for the councilor lists 417,135 (35,72%), followed by SDSM with 328,540 votes (28,13%), DUI with 136,916 votes (11,72%), DPA with 77,661 votes (6,65%), NDP with 28,565 votes (2,45%), DOM with 18,414 votes (1,58%), DPTM with 14,097 votes (1,21%), while the rest of the parties won less than 10,000 votes (less than 1% of the votes). These elections were characterized with a great number of invalid ballot papers for councilors, which amounted to 49,911 votes, i.e. 4,27%.

Image 3: Votes for councilor lists won by parties on a national level for the 2013 local elections.



These figures do not include the data for the mayor of the municipality of Dolneni, which will be determined after the second round of the elections in this municipality.

PROTECTION OF THE ELECTIVE RIGHTS

The Electoral Code guarantees the protection of the elective rights of those who submit the lists as well as the voters. If the authorized representatives of those who submit the lists have certain objections for the work of the electoral board during the voting, they have the right to highlight the irregularities in order to eliminate them. These objections should be listed in the registry and based on it the entities submitting the lists can start a procedure for protection of the elective rights. If these objections are not listed in the registry, the representatives of those submitting the lists should forward them to the municipal electoral commission not later than 5 hours after the registry has been signed. Contrary to this, the accredited observers should not influence the work of the electoral organs, but if they have any objections, they should list them in the registry at the polling station.

The legal entities submitting the lists and the voters have the right to forward their objections and file complaints if they consider that there has been violation of their rights. The objections forwarded by the entities submitting the lists can be related to the voting procedure, the summing up and determining the results, while the voters can file complaints if their voters' rights are violated during the voting procedure. The procedure for the protection of the elective rights is an urgent one, due to the fact that filing complaints and pressing charges on this account cannot be done via mail.

The complaints filed by the entities submitting the lists should be forwarded to the SEC not later than 48 hours after the end of the voting, i.e. the publishing of the initial results, and the SEC is obliged to decide upon it not later than 48 hours after the complaint has been received. The SEC should inform the entities filing the complaint of their decision via electronic mail, which will be marked as delivered, five hours after the email has been forwarded.

If the SEC has decided unfavorably on the complaint, the entities submitting the complaint have the right to file charges in the Administrative Court not later than 48 hours after the decision has been received. The Administrative Court should decide upon it not later than 48 hours after chargers have been pressed. The Administrative Court can either confirm or reject the decision made by the State Election Commission and this judgment is legally binding, i.e. no appeal or any other means of legal protection is possible after this.

If there is violation of the voters' rights, complaints can be filed to the SEC in a period of 24 hours, and SEC is obliged to decide upon this objection not later than 4 hours after its reception. The decision made by the SEC can be revoked by lodging an appeal to the Administrative Court, in a period of 24 hours after the decision has been received. If all deadlines are met during the voting process, and the decision is positive for the voters, they will be enabled to exercise their right to vote.

Within legal time frame, the political parties lodged 428 objections in the first round of elections, 373 objections by SDSM, 38 by DOM, 5 by VMRO-DPMNE, 4 by ODSR, 15 by DPA, 1 by NDP, 2 by DPTM, and 2 by DUI. The SEC sustained 3 objections by VMRO-DPMNE and 2 by DPA and partially sustained 20 objections lodged by SDSM. As a result of these objections the voting was annulled in three polling stations in Strumica, and one in Dolneni, and the second voting was held on 7th April in these places.

142 complaints against the decisions made by the SEC on the objections lodged by the legal entities submitting lists were filed to the Administrative Court, for not sustaining these objections. Therefore, 101 complaints were filed by SDSM, 35 by DOM, 2 by VMRO-DPMNE, 1 by DUI, 1 by DPTM, and 1 by DPA. The Administrative Court rejected 141 complaints, and sustained 1 complaint related with the polling station 0734 in the municipality of Kičevo which was filed by the coalition led by VMRO-

DPMNE, but the results from this polling station do not affect the final outcome for that municipality.¹¹¹

For the second round of the elections 387 objections were lodged by the political parties, 252 by SDSM, 113 by VMRO-DPMNE, 16 by NDP, 4 by DUI, and 2 by DPA. The SEC fully sustained 2 objections by VMRO-DPMNE. 136 complaints in total were filed to the Administrative Court, out of which 72 from VMRO-DPMNE, 60 from SDSM and 4 from DUI. The Administrative Court sustained 29 complaints from VMRO-DPMNE, 7 from SDSM, and 4 complaints from DUI were rejected. As a result of the sustained complaints, the voting in the second round was repeated in three municipalities, i.e. in 29 polling stations in the municipality of Centar, in 9 polling stations in the municipality of Struga and one polling station in the municipality of Gjorce Petrov.

OBSERVERS' ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

For the first round of the local elections in Macedonia 8,781 national and 410 international observers were accredited. Most of the national accredited observers amounting to 3,976 were from the Citizens Association MOST, followed by "Sinergija-Štip" with 3,726 observers, the Citizens Associations Union "Macedonian Platform against Poverty" (MPAP) with 540 observers, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIS) with 406 observers, CIVIL with 128 and 5 accredited observers from the Institute for Democracy – Societas Civilis – Skopje (IDSCS).

Most of the international observers were from the international organization OSCE/ODIHR with a total number of 205 observers, then the permanent mission of OSCE in Macedonia with 38 observers, the USA Embassy with 40 observers, the EU Delegation with 33 observers, and the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Kanal 5, SEC to decide on 428 objections in the first election round, 27th March 2013. http://kanal5.com.mk/vesti_detail.asp?ID=2648 Accessed on 1st April 2013.

Radio Free Europe. Zorana Gadžovska Spasovska, 2nd April 2013. Accessed on 2nd April 2013. http://www.makdenes.org/content/article/24945321.html

with 16 observers. The first election day was also monitored by several observers from the Embassies of France, Slovenia, Great Britain, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Croatia, Albania, Slovakia, Austria, Serbia, Turkey and China, as well as the NATO Liaison Office, Kosovo's Central Election Commission, the Election Complaints and Objections Commission (ESAR) of the Republic of Kosovo and the State Election Commission of the Republic of Slovenia. Two international journalists from Bulgaria and Croatia were also accredited for the first election round.¹¹²

The report on the initial findings and conclusions by OSCE/ODIHR is that the local elections were conducted in the most efficient and peaceful atmosphere, with certain procedural inconsistencies in some of the polling stations. The main remarks of the mission were related to the attempts for intimidation, the abuse of state resources and the biased coverage of the majority of the media stations. The monitoring mission of OSCE/ODIHR covered the work of the State Election Commission (SEC), the work on the election campaign, as well as the work of the media.

The campaign was assessed as "generally peaceful" in both election rounds by the mission of OSCE/ODIHR, although there were several cases registered of destroying campaign material, breaking into election headquarters and physical assaults on participants in and organizers of campaigns.¹¹³

The observers from OSCE/ODIHR and MOST registered abuse of the state and public resources during the campaign, as well as emphasized support for the mayoral candidates from the governing parties by state officials on a central level. The mission of OSCE/ODIHR reported on displays of

campaign material on state property. The blending of governmental and party activities was visible during both election rounds.

The observers from OSCE/ODIHR who were assigned to continually monitor the media came to conclusion that the media secured wide coverage of the political campaigns, but their remark was that some of them were biased towards certain political parties and were blending the government and party activities which lead to unjust competition among the candidates. The head of the Congress delegation Jüri Landberg showed his concerns for the biasness and political inclination of the media that did not allow equal representation of the candidates.

The observers assessed the SEC as efficient and transparent, but with ethnic and political biasness of the members on formal issues. However, the general assessment of OSCE/ODIHR is that the SEC was suited for the task and managed to meet the election deadlines. In relation to the annulations of 119,000 voters from the Voters List due to lack of proper documentation which was sustained by most of the political parties, and due to the additional objections in relation to it, the observers from OSCE/ODIHR recommended urgent improvements in the quality and validity of this list. In most of the municipal election commissions (MEC), the voting and summarizing the results was assessed as positive.

The Monitoring Mission of OSCE/ODIHR covered the second round with decreased capacity and did not conduct an overall and systematic monitoring, but visited certain polling stations. The expert mission noticed again that in future more attention should be given to the improvements in the Voters List. The general assessment for the SEC was that it conducted its work in a transparent and efficient manner, but in relation to the objections lodged by the political parties, the SEC's decisions were based on party affiliation. 118

The State Election Commission. 2013 Local Elections. Accessed on: 10.04.2013 http://217.16.84.26/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Item id=102

See the two reports of the mission of the OSCE/ODIHR: OSCE/ODIHR Monitoring Mission of the Elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Local Elections 24th March 2013. Initial Findings and Conclusions Report, Skopje 25th March 2013; and OSCE/ODIHR Monitoring Mission of the Elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Local Elections, second round 7th April 2013. Initial Findings and Conclusions Report, p.8, Skopje 25th March 2013.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

In the report of OSCE/ODIHR there was criticism for certain irregularities, such as family voting, in relation to the use of state resources by the government in the election campaign, employments, subsidies for the farmers, increase in retirement pay, all of it during the election campaign. The Citizens Association MOST announced that the first round of the local elections on 24th March was conducted in peaceful atmosphere. According to the observers' reports, there was a significantly greater turnout of voters, and more efficient electoral boards. MOST also registered minor technical inconsistencies on the day of elections, such as group of family voting, not using the UV lamp, taking photos of the ballot papers and registering voters by authorized party observers at the polling station. However, the intensity of these irregularities is reduced in relation to the previous years.

MOST also registered cases when the voters were not listed in the Voters List, although they had biometric IDs. MOST confirmed that the work of the SEC was not consistent in the decision making on the objections lodged regarding the summing up and determining the results from the voting. According to MOST, the members of the SEC were not in line with the agenda, but digressed with political discourse, representing certain political positions which affected the impartiality of the institution. 119

For the second round of the local elections MOST assessed the election day as peaceful with reduced number of irregularities in relation to the first round. Some of the major inconsistencies were related to the validity of the Voters List. In the municipality of Centar there were voters who were not inhabitants of this municipality.

IDSCS and MCIC monitored the first Election Day with 250 stationary and 17 mobile observers, who monitored the voting process as well as the counting of votes. The assessment for the voting process is that in 90.3% of the total number of monitored polling stations which was 112 the process went well, and in 9.7% of the total number of polling stations the

voting process was assessed as satisfactory. The observers from IDSCS and MCIC registered biased attitude by members of the electoral board in 8.5% of the total number of polling stations observed.¹²⁰

The assessments of the Great Britain's Embassy and the EU Delegation for the local elections were generally positive highlighting the peaceful atmosphere of the elections without outburst of violence, but their final assessment depends on the report of OSCE/ODIHR on the election results. The Euro-commissioner for EU Enlargement's Spokesperson, Petar Stano supported the peaceful election turnout, but also announced that the EC looks forward to the results from the SEC and the OSCE/ODIHR's report in order to provide more thorough recommendation for Macedonia. 121

POLITICAL PARTIES' ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTIONS

The governing parties assessed the elections as fair and democratic, while for the oppositional parties these elections were illegitimate. The leader of VMRO-DPMNE, Nikola Gruevski, announced that the first election round was conducted in fair and democratic manner, and that it was victory for the deeds. He also considers that the Election Day is another passed exam for democratic Macedonia and great advantage for the European integration. The head of the Election Headquarters of DUI, Abdulaqim Ademi, announced that the Election Day was peaceful in fair and democratic atmosphere. He also highlighted the objections related to the validity of the Voters List, by emphasizing that several members of DUI were not able to vote because they were not in the lists. 123

Citizens Association MOST. "Perception and assessment from the monitoring of the work of the election bodies in the first election round". Skopje, 01.04.2013 http://www.most.org.mk/index.php/mk/ongoing-projects/-2013/269-perception-and-assesment-of-the-monitoring-of-the-work-of-the-election-bodies-in-the-first-election-rund

The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis". Report and recommendations for the work of the election administration for the 2013 local elections. Skopje, 10.04.2013

[&]quot;Stano-EC supports peaceful election turnout". Radio Free Europe, 25th March 2013. Accessed on 04.04.2013 http://www.makdenes.org/archive/news/20130325/428/428. html?id=24938357

Markovski, Gradimir. "Gruevski: Victory for Macedonia, victory for VMRO-DPMNE, victory for the deeds". Alfa TV. 25th March 2013. http://www.alfa.mk/News.aspx?ID=53290#. UWZ r5NTDzw

[&]quot;DUI: Fair and democratic elections". Radio Free Europe. Accessed on 09.04.2013: http://www.makdenes.org/content/news/24937729.html

On the other hand, the first man of the oppositional SDSM, Branko Crvenkovski, announced that SDSM assessed these elections as unfair, undemocratic, and fully illegitimate. The oppositional party confirmed that there were many irregularities during the Election Day, such as inconsistencies in the Voters List, abuse of the budget resources, as well as abuse of the state institutions and media. The SDSM's position is that the state institutions were abused by the governing party. The MP and a candidate for mayor of the City of Skopje from DPA, Bekim Fazliy stated that the government failed in organizing free, fair and democratic elections. Table 125 Fazliu accused DUI for intimidating and blackmailing the voters from the Albanian community, by obstructing their free voting, while great many Albanians were not allowed to exercise their voting rights.

The assessments for the second round were similar. The Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, assessed the second round as successful, and at the same time encouraged the new mayors to commence their activities as soon as possible. The spokesperson of DUI, Bujar Osmani, announced two victories: victory of the democracy and victory of all the citizens of Macedonia. Osmani emphasized that the citizens demonstrated their will in a free manner, which set the standards and the image of this country. The leader of the oppositional SDSM, Branko Crvenkovski, again assessed the second round of the local elections as undemocratic and illegitimate. Crvenkovski announced that the citizens witnessed the totalitarian regime of Nikola Gruevski on these local elections. The leader of DPA Menduh Thaçi, announced that the defeat in Tetovo is a result of an unfair battle by the government, because the victory of DUI was won with the help of the Macedonian votes. The leader of DPA Menduh Macedonian votes.

CONCLUSIONS

In general, the election campaign was conducted in peaceful atmosphere without any major incidents. However, the monitoring missions were continually reporting on abuse of the state and public resources during the campaign, as well as the emphasized support for the mayoral candidates from the governing parties, by state officials on central level. The mission of OSCE/ODIHR registered display of campaign material on state property. The blending of governmental and party activities was visible during the two election rounds.

The political crisis before the elections and the appointment of the new defense minister involved national issues into the campaign. The two major political parties framed the local elections as "referendum for the future of the country" and a "precondition for snap parliamentary elections". The candidates addressed their ethnic communities exclusively. This was more evident in Kičevo and Struga where the electoral competition was between the two ethnic blocks.

The governing coalition of VMRO-DPMNE spent about 73.49% of the overall expenditures of all the political parties in the first round, which made it the major stakeholder in the election campaign. SDSM, the second major stakeholder, spent five times less during the campaign in the first round.

Some of the media stations were qualified as unbalanced in their media coverage of the election campaign, and biasness on their party's reporting. The public broadcasting service, MTV1 and the first programme of the Macedonian Radio are the media stations which according to the BC were the least balanced in informing on the participants in the election campaign. From the private media stations, TV Sitel was the least balanced in its media coverage of the election campaign. The media stations with balanced approach in informing were Alfa TV, 24 Vesti, and Kanal 77 radio. In general, the media often did not distinguish between the regular governmental activities and those related to the election campaign.

Video recording from the official website of SDSM. Accessed on 09.04.2013: http://www.sdsm.org.mk/default.aspx?mId=55&aqId=6&articleId=8341

^{*}DPA: Government fails in organizing free, fair, and democratic elections". A10H. 24th March, 2013. http://a1on.mk/wordpress/archives/124898?utm_source=daily.mk

[&]quot;Victory for VMRO-DPMNE, for SDSM illegitimate elections". Radio Free Europe. 11th April 2013. http://www.makdenes.org/content/article/24950542.html

[&]quot;Democratic Union for Integration has announced victory in the municipalities of Čair, Brapčište, Tearce, and Tetovo". Today's Journal. 7th April 2013. http://denesen.mk/ web/2013/04/07/dui-proglasi-pobeda-v-tetov/?utm_source=daily.mk

[&]quot;Victory for VMRO-DPMNE, for SDSM illegitimate elections". Radio Free Europe. 11th April 2013. http://www.makdenes.org/content/article/24950542.html

¹²⁹ Ibid.

The fifth local elections in the Republic of Macedonia are qualified with a high turnout rate in both rounds, but with many annulated ballot papers as well. The governing VMRO-DPMNE won positions in most of the municipalities, 55 and the City of Skopje in total. Next in line is the second major governing party DUI, which won positions in 14 municipalities. DUI won the mayoral positions in Tetovo and Gostivar, which are municipalities with Albanian majority, and lost the battle in Struga. The oppositional SDSM reduced the number of positions won by municipalities from 7 to 4, while the candidate from their coalition partner LDP won the position in the municipality of Centar. DPA won mayoral positions in two municipalities, with victory in Struga but losing the battle in Tetovo.

Similar to the previous elections in the Republic of Macedonia, the independent candidates could not easily impose their views on the public. Out of 27 mayoral candidates in total, only 2 independent candidates won the trust of the voters, but these candidates were supported by the major political parties to win, i.e. the independent candidate in Mogila was supported by SDSM, while the candidate in Čučer Sandevo by VMRO-DPMNE.

These elections were characterized with a significantly small number of women candidates for mayoral positions; however there was a positive increase in the number of women mayors elected in relation to the previous mandates of the local self-government units without women mayors at all. On these elections 4 women were elected as mayors in the municipalities of Bogdanci, Gradsko, Kisela Voda and Tetovo.

The general assessment for the Election Day by the international and national organizations for the first round of the local elections was that it was organized in a peaceful manner with emphasized efficiency and competitiveness, and with a certain amount of registered inconsistencies. The interethnic tensions were minute and without consequences, although the political actors treated these elections as an important test for the common aspiration to promote the EU integration process of the country.

The observers monitored the election process freely. There were minor procedural irregularities registered, such as group voting, violating the secrecy of voting, voting for someone else, and irregularities in sealing the ballot boxes. In most cases of counting votes there was a positive assessment. The summing up of results is positively assessed in almost all municipal election commissions. The results from the elections were objected mostly by the oppositional SDSM which lodged 373 objections to the SEC in the first round, and filed 101 complaints to the Administrative Court, while in the second election round it lodged 328 objections to the SEC.

The assessments for the second round of the local elections which were held on 7th April 2013 were similar. The main criticism in both rounds was addressed to the political biasness by the SEC, and the biased approach by most of the media stations which did not allow equal media representation and competition among the candidates. Since 36 complaints related to the second round of the elections were sustained, on 21st April the voting was repeated in the municipalities of Centar, Struga and Gjorče Petrov, while in the municipality of Dolneni the second round of voting took place.

ANEX 1 – Mayors elected by municipalities

MUNICIPALITY	ELECTED MAYOR	POLITICAL PARTY ¹		
City of Skopje	Koce Trajanovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Aerodrom	Ivica Konevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Butel	Petre Latinovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Gazi Baba	Toni Trajkovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Gjorče Petrov	Sokol Mitrovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Karpoš	Stevčo Jakimovski	SNSM		
Kisela Voda	Biljana Beličanec-Aleksić	VMRO-DPMNE		
Saraj	Bekim Murati	DUI		
Centar	Andrej Žernovski	SDSM / LDP		
Čair	Izet Mexhiti	DUI		
Šuto Orizari	Elvis Bajram	SRM		
Aračinovo	Brahim Ajvaz	DUI		
Berovo	Dragi Nadžiski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Bitola	Vladimir Taleski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Bogdanci	Anastasija Olumčeva	VMRO-DPMNE		
Bogovinje	Hazbi Idrizi	DUI		
Bosilovo	Ljupčo Kolev	VMRO-DPMNE		

Brvenica	Enver Pajaziri	DUI
Valandovo	Nikolče Čurlinovski	VMRO-DPMNE
Vasilevo	Vančo Stojanov	VMRO-DPMNE
Vevčani	Cvetomir Ugrinoski	VMRO-DPMNE
Veles	Slavčo Čadiev	VMRO-DPMNE
Vinica	Emil Dončev	VMRO-DPMNE
Vrapčište	Bajram Kadrija	DUI
Gevgelija	Ivan Frangov	VMRO-DPMNE
Gostivar	Nevzat Bejta	DUI
Gradsko	Žaneta Čauševska	VMRO-DPMNE
Debar	Ruždi Lata	DUI
Debarca	Igor Trajkoski	VMRO-DPMNE
Delčevo	Darko Šehtanski	VMRO-DPMNE
Demir Kapija	Trajče Dimitriev	VMRO-DPMNE
Demir Hisar	Ljupčo Blaževski	VMRO-DPMNE
Dolneni	Boše Milošeski	VMRO-DPMNE
Dojran	Borče Stamov	VMRO-DPMNE
Želino	Fatmir Izairi	DUI
Zelenikovo	Vele Gruevski	VMRO-DPMNE
Zrnovci	Blaže Stankov	VMRO-DPMNE
Ilinden	Žika Stojanovski	VMRO-DPMNE
Jegunovce	Toni Koceski	VMRO-DPMNE

 $[\]overline{\ \ ^{130}\ \ \text{VMRO-DPMNE}}$ and SDSM participated on these elections as coalitions.

Kavadarci	Aleksandar Panov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Karbinci	Zoran Minov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Kičevo	Fatmir Dehari	DUI		
Konče	Blagoj Janev	VMRO-DPMNE		
Kočani	Ratko Dimitrovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Kratovo	Mite Andonovski	VMRO-DPMNE/ SPM		
Kriva Palanka	Arsenčo Aleksovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Krivogaštani	Toni Zatkoski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Kruševo	Gjorgji Damčeski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Kumanovo	Zoran Damjanovski	SDSM		
Lipkovo	Sadula Duraku	DUI		
Lozovo	Orce Cvetkovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Mavrovo and Rostuša	Mukrem Memedi	VMRO-DPMNE		
Makedonska Kamenica	Darko Mitevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Makedonski Brod	Milosim Vojnevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Mogila	Stevo Pivkovski	Independent candidate		
Negotino	Vančo Apostolov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Novaci	Lazar Kotevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Novo Selo	Blaže Velkovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Ohrid	Nikola Bakračeski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Petrovec	Borče Mitevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Pehčevo	Igor Popovski	VMRO-DPMNE		

Plasnica	Ismail Jahoski	DUI		
Prilep	Marjan Risteski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Probištip	Toni Tonevski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Radoviš	Sašo Nikolov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Rankovce	Momčilo Aleksovski	SDSM		
Resen	Gjoko Strezovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Rosoman	Stojanče Lazov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Sveti Nikole	Zoran Tasev	VMRO-DPMNE		
Sopište	Stefče Trpkovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Staro Nagoričane	Milovan Stojkovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Struga	Ziadin Sela	DPA		
Strumica	Zoran Zaev	SDSM		
Studeničani	Azem Sadiku	DPA		
Tearce	Isen Isani	DUI		
Tetovo	Teuta Arifi	DUI		
Centar Župa	Arijan Ibraim	DPTM		
Čaška	Gorančo Panovski	VMRO-DPMNE		
Češinovo-Obleševo	Kostadin Ličov	VMRO-DPMNE		
Čučer Sandevo	Jovan Pejkovski	Independent candidate		
Štip	Ilčo Zahariev	VMRO-DPMNE		

ANEX 2 – Councillors elected by municipalities

Municipality	Total number of Council members	VMRO- DPMNE (coalition)	SDSM (coalition)	DUI	DPA	NDP	DPTM	SRM	DOM	Group of voters	Other parties
City of Skopje	45	22	14	5	3				1		
Aerodrom	27	17	10								
Butel	19	10	5	3	1						
Gazi Baba	27	18	7	1	1						
Gjorče Petrov	23	12	10						1		
Karpoš	23	9	9								5 (SNS)
Kisela Voda	23	14	8								1 (SDU)
Saraj	19			11	8						
Centar	23	11	12								
Čair	27	5	2	13	5		2				
Šuto Orizari	19			3	1			11			4 (DNET)
Aračinovo	15			8	2					5	
Berovo	15	7	7								1 (LPM)
Bitola	31	17	14								
Bogdanci	11	5	6								
Bogovinje	19			9	8	1			1		
Bosilovo	15	6	7								2 (NDM)

Brvenica	15	5	2	4	3	1				
Valandovo	15	8	5						2	
Vasilevo	15	9	5				1			
Vevčani	9	6	2						1	
Veles	23	12	11							
Vinica	15	9	6							
Vrapčište	19			7	6	3	3			
Gevgelija	19	11	8							
Gostivar	31	5	3	10	2	9	2			
Gradsko	9	5	4							
Debar	15	2	1	8	2				1	1 (DNET)
Debarca	11	5	5						1	
Delčevo	15	8	7							
Demir Kapija	9	6	2					1		
Demir Hisar	11	7	4							
Dojran	9	6	3							
Dolneni	15	4	2	3	3	1				2 (PEI)
Želino	19			11	7	1				
Zelenikovo	9	4	1	1	1	1			1	
Zrnovci	9	5	2					1		
Ilinden	15	10	5							
Jegunovce	15	6	4	3	1					1 (NDM)

Kavadarci	19	9	6						4	
Karbinci	9	4	4						1	
Kičevo	23		11 ¹³¹	12						
Konče	9	2					1		5	1 (NDM)
Kočani	19	10	9							
Kratovo	15	10	5							
Kriva Palanka	19	9	8					2		
Krivogaštani	11	6	3						2	
Kruševo	11	6	5							
Kumanovo	33	12	12	4	2	1			2	
Lipkovo	19			9	9	1				
Lozovo	9	2	2						5	
Mavrovo and Rostuša	11	5	3							3 (PEI)
Makedonska Kamenica	11	7	4							
Makedonski Brod	11	2	2						7	
Mogila	11	5	3					1	1	1 (NDM)
Negotino	15	9	5							1 (NDM)
Novaci	9	7	2							
Novo Selo	15	8	7							
Ohrid	23	12	8						3	
Petrovec	11	6	3		1				1	
Pehčevo	11	6	4						1	

131	Include Councillors from VMRO-DPMNE

Plasnica	9				5		4				
Prilep	27	16	11								
Probištip	15	10	4							1	
Radoviš	19	10	7				2				
Rankovce	9	4	4						1		
Resen	15	8	3	1						3	
Rosoman	9	5	2								1 (1 NDM, 1 SDU)
Sveti Nikole	15	10	4								1 (NDM)
Sopište	11	5	3	2	1						
Staro Nagoričane	9	4	1							1	3 (2 SNS, 1 SDU)
Struga	27		11 ¹³²	7	7	2					
Strumica	23	11	12								
Studeničani	15		1	6	5	2					1 (ODSR)
Tearce	19	1	1	7	7	2					1 (ODSR)
Tetovo	31	5	2	12	10	1	1				
Centar Župa	11		2		1		4				4 (DNET)
Čaška	11	4	1	3	1					2	
Češinovo- Obleševo	11	5	3						1	1	1 (LPM)
Čučer Sandevo	11	2	1	3						4	1 (NDM)
Štip	23	14	9								
Total	1347	537	381	166	103	26	20	11	10	55	38

¹³² Include Councillors from VMRO-DPMNE



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