



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

**THE REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA'S 2014  
PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS  
HANDBOOK**

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INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY  
"SOCIETAS CIVILIS" SKOPJE

**POLITICS**

# THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA'S 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HANDBOOK

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## **INTRODUCTION TO THE 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE 5<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The 5<sup>th</sup> general presidential elections in the Republic of Macedonia will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014. There will be four candidates running for president of the Republic of Macedonia: the candidate of the non-parliamentary party Citizen Alliance for Macedonia (GROM) Zoran Popovski; the candidate of the Democratic Party of the Albanians (DPA), which is in opposition, Iljaz Halimi; the candidate of the party in opposition the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), Stevo Pendarovski; and the current president of the state, as a candidate of the ruling VMRO-DPMNE, Gjorge Ivanov.

The elections were called on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 when the president of the Parliament, Trajko Veljanovski, in accordance with the constitutional and legal duties, signed the resolution to call for presidential elections. According to the resolution, the elections are scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> April, which sets the possible second round two weeks later, on 27<sup>th</sup> April.<sup>1</sup> The voting abroad, which will take place in the Diplomatic-Consular Missions (DCM) is scheduled for a day earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> April, relative to the time zone in the appropriate state. On 12<sup>th</sup> April the ailed and infirmed persons will vote in their homes, as well as persons doing time in prison or who are sentenced with detention in a penitentiary institution, persons on parole in the places where they are constrained, and the internally displaced persons, who will vote in the collective homes or the response centers. In the case of a second round, these categories of voters will vote a day before the elections are held.

The procedure for collecting signatures for the presidential candidates started on 16<sup>th</sup> February, and closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The first candidate to reach 10.000 citizens' signatures in support of his candidacy was the

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<sup>1</sup> Call for the Republic of Macedonia's Presidential Elections Resolution, No. 08-608/1, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 Skopje, available at: [http://www.sec.mk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=214:resenie-za-izbor&catid=29&Itemid=1278&lang=mk](http://www.sec.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=214:resenie-za-izbor&catid=29&Itemid=1278&lang=mk) (last accessed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014).

member of the non-parliamentary party GROM, Zoran Popovski, who informed the public on a press conference, held on 17<sup>th</sup> March that the process has been closed successfully.<sup>2</sup>

The current President Gjorge Ivanov has also secured his candidacy with citizens' signatures. Ivanov concluded the procedure in the final 24 hours of the period assigned for collecting signatures, in the period when the convention of the ruling party VMRO-DPMNE was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, until the deadline on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The current President succeeded in collecting more than 60,000 signatures in support of his candidacy.<sup>3</sup> Prior to this, Ivanov secured the support of the majority of delegates at the party convention of VMRO-DMPNE. On the convention the university professor Jove Kekenovski, the lawyer Stavre Dzikov, and Bozidar Nocev MA in Architecture and Construction filed their candidacies as well. Ivanov got the support of 1099 out of 1234 present delegates, while his closest competitor Jove Kekenovski won 124 votes from the delegates.<sup>4</sup>

Iljaz Halimi, a former MP and vice-president of the Parliament, was promoted on the press-conference as a presidential candidate of the DPA on 26<sup>th</sup> February,<sup>5</sup> and succeeded in collecting the signatures until 1<sup>st</sup> March.<sup>6</sup>

There were two other candidates collecting signatures for candidacies, the independent candidate Biljana Vankovska - a university professor, as well as the president of the non-parliamentary party Dostoinstvo (Dignity), Stojance Angelov. Vankovska and Angelov did not succeed in collecting

<sup>2</sup> 10,000 signatures collected for Zoran Popovski's candidacy, Telma TV, 17.02.2014, accessed at: <http://www.telma.com.mk/index.php?task=content&cat=1&rub=15&item=35041> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

<sup>3</sup> 63,253 signature for Ivanov in total, Telegraf, 04.03.2013, accessed at: <http://www.telegraf.mk/aktuelno/114187-vkupno-63-253-potpisi-za-ivanov> (last visited on 13th March 2014).

<sup>4</sup> Gjorgje Ivanov elected for Republic of Macedonia's presidential candidate by VMRO-DPMNE, VMRO-DPMNE's official website, 01.03.2014, accessed at: <http://vmro-dpmne.org.mk/?p=21701> (last visited on 13th March 2014).

<sup>5</sup> Iljaz Halimi a presidential candidate from DPA, Alfa TV, 26.02.2014, accessed at: <http://www.alfa.mk/News.aspx?ID=72039#.UxXuTM51DiA> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

<sup>6</sup> DPA collected the necessary amount of signatures for Iliaz Halimi, Telma TV, 01.03.2014, accessed at: <http://telma.com.mk/index.php?task=content&cat=1&rub=15&item=35438> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

the signatures in the assigned period. The university professor was campaigning mostly on the Internet using the social media, where she complained for a series of inconsistencies in the process, primarily for the unpreparedness of the State Election Commission (SEC) for organizing such a process, for the pressure imposed by the rest of the political parties on the citizens and the monopolization of the regional offices of the SEC in the final day for collecting the signatures by the activists from VMRO-DPMNE, who turned out massively to give their support to the President Gjorge Ivanov.

The last but not the least to join the run for presidency was the candidate of the largest party in opposition SDSM, Stevo Pendarovski, who was elected on the party congress held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014. His candidacy was supported with the signatures of 30 members of the Republic of Macedonia's Parliament, members of the parliamentary group of SDSM and the coalition. On the congress, Pendarovski was the only nominated candidate and as such he was voted in unison by the 588 present delegates.<sup>7</sup>

The two largest parties chose different ways for nominating their presidential candidates, while the election was conducted within the two biggest bodies of both parties – VMRO-DPMNE on the convention with 1234 delegates attending, while SDSM on the congress with 588 delegates from the municipal organizations. The nomination of candidates in VMRO-DPMNE was conducted by the principle of self-nomination of the candidates (filing candidacies), as for SDSM the municipal organizations of the party filed the recommendations for presidential candidates, and the Executive Board confirmed the candidates based on the given recommendations.

<sup>7</sup> Pendarovski officially a presidential candidate of SDSM, Deutsche Welle, Macedonian service, 05.03.2014, accessed at: <http://www.dw.de/%D0%BF%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D1%84%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%BE-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BC/a-17476530> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

Previously, the largest party of the ethnic Albanians, the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), announced in public that they will not promote their presidential candidate and were in favor of the idea for "consensual president", i.e. president acceptable for all ethnic communities in Macedonia, who will "represent all citizens in Macedonia"<sup>8</sup>. In this way, DUI refused to support any of the nominated presidential candidates in the pre-election period, including the candidate of the coalition partner VMRO-DPMNE, Gjorge Ivanov.

After the two coalition partners, VMRO-DPMNE and DUI, did not succeed in finding a common solution in relation to the recommendation for a “consensual president” and after it became more probable that VMRO-DPMNE will support Gjorge Ivanov for a second presidential mandate, the parliamentary group of DUI filed a formal initiative to dissolve the Parliament on 1<sup>st</sup> March and to call for snap parliamentary elections.<sup>9</sup> On the same day, at the party convention for election of a presidential candidate, the Prime Minister and president of VMRO-DPMNE, Nikola Gruevski, announced to the delegates, the members and the public that VMRO-DPMNE accepts the recommendations of DUI to organize snap parliamentary elections in Macedonia.<sup>10</sup>

As a consequence to these events on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 the Republic of Macedonia's Parliament was dissolved, and the snap parliamentary elections were scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> April, on the same day as the anticipated second round of the presidential elections. The Parliament was dismissed in unison with 117 votes "FOR" out of 117 MPs attending. With this,

<sup>8</sup> DUI's General Secretary, Abdulahim Ademi's statement, DUI straight to the point: consensual president of the state, 24 News, 09.01.2014, accessed at: <http://24vesti.mk/dui-decidni-konsenzualen-pretsedatel-na-drzhavata> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

<sup>10</sup> VMRO-DPMNE in favour of snap parliamentary elections, Radio Free Europe in Macedonian, 01.03.2014, accessed at: <http://www.makdenes.org/archive/news/20140301/428/428.html?id=25281463> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

Macedonia will have the 8th parliamentary elections on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014, which are third snap elections.

The presidential candidates filed their formal candidacies to the SEC in the assigned period of 30 days prior to the Election Day – Zoran Popovski, Iljaz Halimi, and Gjorge Ivanov on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and Stevo Pendarovski a day later, on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March the State Election Commission (SEC)<sup>11</sup> adopted the timetable for the electoral activities for implementation the presidential elections.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the SEC supplements the municipal election commissions (MEC) with members to replace those whose mandate was terminated or whose dismissal was requested. According to the timetable, the MEC should inform the election boards (EB) latest by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014, and by then the SEC should establish the EBs in the DCMs.

The public inspection of the voters' list in the regional offices of the SEC, on the website <http://izbirackispisok.gov.mk/>, as well as the DCMs (for the voting abroad) was open in the period between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The citizens, who will determine that they are not registered in the Voters List in this period, but fulfill the criteria to have the right to vote, can request to be registered. In the period from the call for elections to the closure of the public inspection of the voters' list the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia living abroad who fulfill the criteria to vote abroad can register to exercise their right.

According to the deadlines determined by law and according to the SEC's timetable for implementing the 2014 presidential elections, the election

<sup>11</sup> For more information on electoral organs see Chapter 3 – The Macedonian Electoral System for Presidential Elections, section: Electoral Organs.

12 Timetable for conducting electoral activities in implementing the presidential elections in the Republic of Macedonia, State Election Commission, 13 April 2014, accessed at: <http://sec.mk/images/izbori2014/rokovnik.pdf> (last visited on 10th March 2014).

campaign for these elections will last from 24<sup>th</sup> March until 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014. According to the timetable, the financial reports of the organizers of the election campaign to the SEC, the State Audit Office (SAO), and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, these are the assigned deadlines:

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> April for the incomes and expenditures in the first 10 days of campaign;
- On 12<sup>th</sup> April if there is no second round of voting or on 26<sup>th</sup> April if there is a second round, for the incomes and expenditures in the second part of the election campaign;
- The final financial reports are filed latest by 11<sup>th</sup> May in case the elections are in one round, or by 25<sup>th</sup> May, in case there is a second round (to 30 days after the conclusion of the elections).

4<sup>th</sup> March marked the start of the period assigned with Article 8-a of the Election Code which does not allow paying subsidies which are not part of regular monthly wages, nor organizing public events to initiate construction work of facilities for public use, or infrastructure financed by the Budget resources, public funds, as well as resources from the public companies with state capital.

In accordance with the timetable, the requests for monitoring the elections by national and international observers can be filed in the period between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014.

### **LATEST CHANGES IN THE ELECTORAL LEGISLATION<sup>13</sup>**

At the meeting between the Government and representatives of the political parties that took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 an agreement was achieved to amend the Election Code which would adopt the remarks from

<sup>13</sup> Law amending and supplementing the Election Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 14/2014. Accessed at: <http://www.pravo.org.mk/documentDetail.php?id=665> (last visited on 15th February 2014).

the monitoring reports by the OSCE/ODIHR<sup>14</sup> and the opposition. The amendments in the Election Code were adopted in a shortened procedure on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 with the support of all the political parties, except the DPA. The amendments are related to all the key remarks on the normative framework for the elections, with the exception of the electoral voting system and the distribution of mandates in the constituencies abroad. The political parties did not achieve consensus on this issue and further debate was arranged for the period before the next parliamentary elections. The amendments and supplements to the Election Code are related to the following key aspects of the election process:

#### **I Separation of the state from the party**

With further amendments<sup>15</sup> of Article 8-a it is specified that from the day a resolution is made to call for elections until the conclusion of the election of the President of the Republic of Macedonia (this applies to the other elections as well) it is not allowed:

“- to spend resources from the Republic of Macedonia’s budget, the municipalities and the City of Skopje, as well as public funds, public companies, public facilities or legal entities managing state capital,  
- to initiate construction work with resources of the budget or public funds or public companies and other legal entities managing state owned capital of new facilities or infrastructure such as roads, waterlines, transmission lines, sewage systems, sports playgrounds and other facilities for social activities like schools, kindergartens and other amenities, unless resources have been allocated for the purpose of their construction from the Budget

<sup>14</sup> OSCE Office for democratic institutions and human rights. Republic of Macedonia, Local Elections 24th March and 7th April 2013, Final Report, Warsaw 9th July 2013. Accessed at: <http://www.osce.org/mk/odihr/elections/103832> (last visited on 15th February 2014).

<sup>15</sup> Previously, with amendments in the law adopted in November 2012 and February 2013 part of the OSCE/ODIHR’s remarks were addressed: Law on amending and supplementing the Election Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.142/2012 and the Law supplementing the Election Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 31/2013.

in advance and they are part of a program enforced by a law adopted in the incumbent year and

- to pay salaries, pension incomes, social welfare or other payments and material compensation from budget resources or from public funds other than monthly incomes, i.e. all annual transfer and payments or single transfers from budget resources or public funds, neither sell state owned capital nor sign collective agreements."

An additional change is that in the period of 20 days prior to the start of the election campaign until the conclusion of the elections it is not allowed:

„- to pay subsidies other than regular monthly incomes and

- to organize public events for initiating construction work of facilities for public use with resources from the Budget, or public funds, or public companies and other legal entities managing state owned capital, of infrastructure such as roads, waterlines, transmission lines, sewage systems, sports playgrounds or other facilities for social activities like schools, kindergartens and other amenities. The prohibition to organize public events does not apply exclusively on state officials or candidates for public office giving statements on public gatherings, interviews in the media, debates in the media, or responding to journalists' questions.

From the day of the resolution to call for the elections until the conclusion of the elections for the President of the Republic of Macedonia (as well as the other elections) the Ministry of Finance is obliged to publish all data of budgetary payments, other than regular incomes, pensions and communal expenditures, publically on the internet page in a special database for budgetary expenditures in the election period.

The Ministry of Finance files a pre-electoral financial report two weeks prior to the call for the elections providing a comprehensive overview of

all planned and realized revenues and expenditures from the Budget in sections from the start of the fiscal year to the day of filing the report, which is published on the Ministry of Finance's website."<sup>16</sup>

Any violation of these regulations is considered a criminal offence in accordance with the Criminal Law. The Ministry of Finance published the budgetary expenditures in the pre-election period and the pre-election financial report on its website.<sup>17</sup>

## **II Complaints**

In relation to deciding upon complaints, from now on the SEC will only pass a decision based on insight into the election material and other evidence (Article 31(2)), and the provision that compels the SEC to start a procedure if there are at least two complaints is removed.

## **III Electoral administration bodies**

According to the latest amendments in relation to the electoral administration bodies:

- The SEC is obligated to publish its report on the elections and the financial overview on its internet page in a period of 45 days after the announcement of the final results from the elections.
- The members of the Election Boards who are appointed upon recommendations of the political parties can be replaced before any elections, i.e. the political parties before each election should forward new recommendations for members of the election boards and their deputies.

<sup>16</sup> Election Code (Filtered text), Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 32/2014.

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Macedonia. Pre-election Financial Report, 17th February 2014, accessed at: [http://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u12/Predizboren\\_finansiski\\_izvestaj.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u12/Predizboren_finansiski_izvestaj.pdf) (last visited on 13th March 2014); Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Macedonia, Budget Expenditures in the pre-Election Period, accessed at: <http://www.finance.gov.mk/trosoci> (last visited on 13th March 2014).

- There are changes introduced in the composition of the election boards in the diplomatic-consular missions, i.e. the president of the EB is elected from the diplomats, employed in the specific DCM, by random choice for a period of four years, and his/her deputy as well as other members and deputies should comply with the conditions that apply to the members/deputies of the EB in the Republic of Macedonia.
- The SEC is obligated to publish the definite and single list of candidates for the election of the President of the Republic of Macedonia not later than 25 days, instead of 30 days, prior to the Election Day in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia.
- If the SEC should receive complaint for violation of any of the legal provision in relation to the timeframe and the forms of the election campaigns, the SEC is obligated to look into the matter and act accordingly in a period of 7 days after the complaints or appeals has been filed.

#### **IV Voters' list**

With the latest changes, besides the specific statement from the voters' lists prepared for the voting in the DCMs and the penitentiary institutions, there is another specific statement prepared for the voting in the State Election Commission for the members of the election boards for the voting in the DCMs, i.e. the consular offices.

The Ministry of Interior and the general courts which were obliged to file data to the SEC twice a year with insight into the voters' list, with the amendments they are obligated to do the same procedure four times a year in the periods between 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September, and 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The citizens temporarily working or living abroad during the elections, who have not filed a registration form for the voting in their corresponding DCM are not listed with an index mark in the voters' list any longer, but are registered in special statements of the voters' list for voting in the Republic of Macedonia.

There is an electronic system to confirm the personal identity of the voter at the polling station, and after the identification instead of using spray the voter is marked with a visible ink.

These amendments enable the members of the election boards for voting in the DCMs to vote at the State Election Commission three days prior to the Election Day in the Republic of Macedonia.

The period for public insight into the voters' list is extended to 20 days, instead of 15 days.

In addition, the political parties are granted the right to an insight and have the opportunity to file requests for registering, supplementing or deleting data from the voters' list after the public insight is concluded. The SEC is obligated to forward the voters' list to the political parties in a period of 5 days after the public insight is concluded. The political parties are also given a period of 5 days to forward their requests, and if they do so, the SEC should pass a decision not later than 3 days after receiving the request. After this, there is a period of 24 hours for the political parties to file complaints against the decisions of the SEC, which should be resolved by the Administrative Court.

#### **V Candidates**

With the latest amendments, the candidates are not obliged to forward written statements registered at the notary in accordance with the law that they have never cooperated with the state security bodies.

The presidential candidate lists, as well as the other lists of candidates for other elections, instead of 35 days prior to the elections, should be forwarded to the SEC or any other competent commission minimum 30 days prior to the Election Day by the official representatives of the recommenders.

## VI Media Presentation

The Election Code stipulates the responsibility of the Public Broadcasting Service and the commercial radiobroadcasters to report in a balanced and unbiased manner, as well as to enable each participant in the election campaign equal conditions for access to any form of media presentation, which was regulated by the Rulebook of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (the former Radio Broadcasting Council).

The amendments set some rules on how to avoid giving privileges to a specific political body while reporting on regular activities of national and municipal bodies conducted by persons who are representatives of or are appointed by that political body. The editors, journalists and presenters are also enabled to participate in the pre-election activities and election campaigns. If these persons decide to participate in such activities, then their engagement in the programs of the radiobroadcasters should be put to rest.

The radiobroadcasters are compelled to record the broadcasting signal of their program from the day when the elections are called to their conclusion and should keep that material safely for a period of 30 days after the elections, as well as forward it to the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, if requested.

In the period from the call for the elections to the start of the election campaign, the radiobroadcasters and the printed media are not allowed to broadcast, i.e. to publish paid political advertising, except for adverts and announcements for collecting signatures for the support of candidacies by a group of voters. The latest amendments stipulate the regulations

related to the way and form of publishing the adverts and announcements for collecting signatures for the support of candidacies.

From the day the elections are called until their conclusion, the radiobroadcasters and the printed media are not allowed to broadcast and publish commercials financed by the Republic of Macedonia's Budget, as well as the budgets of the municipalities and the City of Skopje as well all other persons holding public office.

Besides the State Election Commission and the State Audit Office, the printed media are obliged to forward their pricelists for paid political advertising to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the radiobroadcasters, and the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services.

The length and the equal distribution of the time for the radiobroadcaster to report on the political parties in power and the political parties in opposition in the informative program, and the time allocated to each of the parties is distributed proportionally to the results of the previous parliamentary elections. It is stipulated in details when, in what order and to what degree the public service will broadcast free political presentation of the participants in the election process. At the same time, the free political presentation should be appropriately and visibly marked as "free political presentation" during all the time of broadcasting. The public radio broadcasting service is obliged to provide regular informing on the election process for the persons with hearing impairment.

During the election silence the media are not allowed to publish, or broadcast any kind of information, photographs, audio and audiovisual materials related to, or in which participants in the elections appear, or to conduct any kind of media informing which is directly or indirectly in favor of someone's election campaign and can affect the voters' opinion, or publish data that reveal the identity of the political entities or persons involved in incidents or other irregularities on the Election Day, as well

as statements by candidates in the election process, by the participants in the election campaign, by members of the political parties and state officials in the governmental bodies.

In addition, there is another provision that regulates the publishing of the results from public polls conducted on the Election Day, which stipulates that such results cannot be published before 19:00 hours, i.e. prior to the closure of the polling stations.

These amendments specify that the programs intended for the juvenile audience should not be used for electoral media presentation.

There are also penalty provisions and fines anticipated for violations of these provisions, and instead of the chief editor, the responsibility for applying and following the provisions from the Election Code is concentrated to the CEO of the radiobroadcaster or the printed medium.

## **VII Financing of the election campaign**

The height of donations that legal entities can provide to finance the election campaign is altered from 5% of the overall income in the previous year to the amount of 50,000 EUR in MKD currency.

Another provision is introduced for the participants in the election campaign to file financial reports a day before the second round of voting takes place, for the incomes and expenditures on their transactional account for the election campaign for the second round of voting.

## **VIII Limitation to the size of the polling station**

The amendments in the Election Code introduced limitations to the number of voters registered in a single polling station, which should not

exceed 1000. With this amendment there are 504 new polling stations established, which increased their number from 2976 to 3480.

## HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA (1991-2009)<sup>18</sup>

### HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA (1991-2009)

The first president of the independent Republic of Macedonia was Kiro Gligorov. He was elected by a secret vote in the Macedonian Assembly on 27 January 1991 with 114 MP votes "for", from the total of 119 MPs present.<sup>19</sup> All the subsequent presidential elections took place on general and direct elections where all citizens were enabled to participate with their right to vote if registered on the voters' list.

The first direct presidential elections in Macedonia were held on 16 October 1994. There were only two candidates<sup>20</sup>, who took part in the elections, thus the elections were held in a single electoral round with a repeated voting in certain polling stations due to determined irregularities.<sup>21</sup>

The president at the time, Kiro Gligorov<sup>22</sup>, won 52.55% (715,087 votes) of the votes of the total number of citizens registered in the voters' list, and his opponent, the presidential candidate Ljubisa Georgievski 14.49% (197,109 votes). The turnout on the elections was 1,053,761 voters in total, or



**Kiro Gligorov,  
the First President of the  
Republic of Macedonia  
(1991 - 1999)**

<sup>18</sup> All photos have been downloaded from the President of the Republic of Macedonia's website: <http://www.president.gov.mk/> (accessed on: 11 February 2014).

<sup>19</sup> The shorthand notes from the Fifth Session of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, held on 27 January 1991. Skopje, 27 January 1991. Available at: <http://sobranie.mk/WBStorage/Files/05sed27jan91god.pdf> (Accessed on: 11 February 2014).

<sup>20</sup> The State Election Commission rejected the candidates Habit Shaban and Gjorgjija Atanasoski because of failing to reach the condition expressed in Article 6, paragraph 1 from the former Law on Presidential Election of the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Macedonia's Official Gazette, No.20/94. The Law stipulated support for candidacy of at least 10 000 voters or 30 MPs in the least.

<sup>21</sup> The repeated voting took place on 30 October the same year in 7 electoral units, at 11 polling stations in total.

<sup>22</sup> Kiro Gligorov on these elections was recommended as candidate of SDSM.

77.44% of the citizens registered in the voters' list.<sup>23</sup> One of the specifics of these elections was the fact that the State Election Commission invalidated a great many ballot papers – 130,820 votes were invalidated (12.41% of the ballot papers). Due to such a turn of events, the party Inner Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE), which nominated Ljubisa Georgievski for president, submitted a complaint to the State Election Commission (SEC), demanding the elections to be cancelled. The complaint was overruled, which made Kiro Gligorov the first President of the Republic of Macedonia appointed on general and direct elections. Kiro Gligorov was the Chief of State until 19 November 1999.<sup>24</sup>



**Boris Trajkovski,  
the Second President of the  
Republic of Macedonia**

The first round was held on 31 October, and the second round on 14 November 1999. Due to determined irregularities in the election process in the second

<sup>23</sup> The State Election Commission, a report on the conducted presidential elections in the Republic of Macedonia from 1994. Number 30-282. 8 November 1994.

<sup>24</sup> President Kiro Gligorov recessed from this position in the period between 3 October 1995 and 10 January 1996. The reason was the recuperation of the President after the survived assassination, and the temporary leadership of the state was assumed by the former president of the Assembly – Stojan Andov.

<sup>25</sup> The State Election Commission's website on presidential elections from 1999: [http://www.sec.mk/arfiva/1999\\_pretsedatelski/](http://www.sec.mk/arfiva/1999_pretsedatelski/) (Accessed on: 11 February 2014).

round the voting was repeated on 5 December 1999 in 230 polling stations in total. Boris Trajkovski was elected President of the Republic of Macedonia. After the voting in the first round, 32.71% of the votes (343,606 votes) belonged to the candidate Tito Petkovski, 20.85% (219,098 votes) to Boris Trajkovski, 15.54% (163,206 votes) to Vasil Tupurkovski, 14.85% (155,978 votes) to Muarem Nexhipi, 10.66% (111,983 votes) to Stojan Andov, and 4.35% (45,731 votes) to Muhamed Halili. In total, 11,013 ballot papers were invalidated (0.68%). The turnout in the first round was 1,039,602 voters or 64.44% of the registered voters in the voters' list.<sup>26</sup> Only two candidates took part in the second round of the elections, Tito Petkovski and Boris Trajkovski.

After the second round and the repeated voting in certain polling stations, Boris Trajkovski won 53.4% of the votes (582,808 votes), and Tito Petkovski 46.18% (513,614 votes). In total, 16,821 ballot papers were invalidated (1.01%). The turnout in the second round was 1,096,422 voters in total, or 68.08% of the registered voters.<sup>27</sup>

Boris Trajkovski was the President of the Republic of Macedonia from 15 December 1999 until 26 February 2004.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup> According to the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Republic of Macedonia, Presidential Elections, 31 October and 14 November 1999, Final Report. Warsaw, 31 January 2000. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/mk/odihr/elections/fyrom/15910> (last accessed on 11 February 2014). The results have been taken from the OSCE-ODIHR's report, which rely on official data published by the SEC. The website of SEC does not contain data on the results from the presidential elections in 1999.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> The President Boris Trajkovski died in a plane crash on 26 February 2004. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, in the period between 26 February and 12 May 2004, the position was temporarily held by Ljupco Jordanovski, the former President of the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly.



**Branko Crvenkovski,  
the Third President of the  
Republic of Macedonia  
(2004 - 2009)**

Sasko Kedev, 14.79% of the total number of votes (134,208) were won by Gzim Ostreni, and 8.67% of the total number of valid ballots (78,714 in total) by Zudi Xhelili. In the second round held on 28 April 2004, Branko Crvenkovski won the majority of votes, who became the third President of the Republic of Macedonia. He won the trust of 550,317 voters i.e. 60.5% of the total number of votes, as opposed to Sasko Kedev who got the support of 329,179 voters, i.e. 36.2% of the total number of valid ballots<sup>29</sup>. In the second round the turnout was 909,289 voters or 53.6% of the citizens registered in the voters' list.

Branko Crvenkovski was the President of the Republic of Macedonia from 12 May 2004 until 12 May 2009.

<sup>29</sup> According to the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Republic of Macedonia, Presidential Elections, 14 and 18 April 2004, Final Report. Warsaw, 13 July 2004. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/mk/odihr/elections/fyrom/35248> (last accessed on 11 February 2014). The results have been taken from the OSCE-ODIHR's report, which rely on official date published by the SEC. The website of the SEC does not contain data for the implementation and the results of the presidential elections in 2004.

The presidential elections of 2004 were the third presidential elections since the Republic of Macedonia's independence. The citizens in the first electoral round, which took place on 14 April 2004, could choose among four recommended candidates: Branko Crvenkovski (SDSM), Gzim Ostreni from the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), Zudi Xhelili from the Democratic Party of the Albanians (DPA) and Sasko Kedev (VMRO-DPMNE). The turnout on the day of voting was 935,372 voters or 55.2% of the registered voters in the voters' list. According to the statistics, 42.47% of the votes (385,347 votes) were won by Branko Crvenkovski, 34.07% (309,132 votes) by

The current President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov, was elected on the last presidential elections that were held in 2009. At these elections seven candidates, who fulfilled the conditions for appropriate candidacy, were running for president. In this cycle, there was a woman candidate running for president for the first time, Mirushe Hoxha, supported by DPA. After the first electoral round held on 22 March 2009, the first two best ranked candidates were Gjorge Ivanov supported by VMRO-DPMNE, who won 35.04% of the total number of valid ballots (345,850 votes) and the candidate supported by SDSM, Ljubomir Danailov – Frckoski, winning 20.54% of the total number of valid ballots (202,691 votes). Imer Selmani from New Democracy (ND) won 14.95% of the votes (147,547 votes), followed by Ljube Boskoski from United for Macedonia (OM) with 14.88% (146,878), Agron Buxhaku (DUI) with 7.46% (i.e. 73,629 votes), Nano Ruzin (LDP) who won 4.06% of the total number of valid ballots (or 40,042 votes), while Mirushe Hoxha (DPA) was supported by 3.06% of the voters (30,225 votes).<sup>30</sup> The turnout in the first round was 1,019,258 voters, or 56.88% of the overall number of citizens registered in the Voters List (1,792,028 citizens with the right to vote).

The second electoral round took place on 5 April 2009. Gjorge Ivanov won 63.14%, i.e. 453,616 of the total number of valid ballots, while the presidential candidate Ljubomir Danailov Frckoski won 36.86%



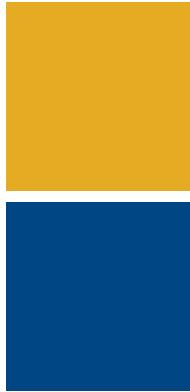
**Gjorge Ivanov,  
the Fourth President of the  
Republic of Macedonia  
(2009 - 2014)**

<sup>30</sup> The State Election Commission. Presidential Elections 2009. Announcement of the collected results from the voting in the first round. Available at: [http://www.sec.mk/arhiva/2009\\_pretsedatelskiIlokalni/2009/fajlovi/rezultati/konecni/PretsedatelDrzava.pdf](http://www.sec.mk/arhiva/2009_pretsedatelskiIlokalni/2009/fajlovi/rezultati/konecni/PretsedatelDrzava.pdf) (last accessed on 11 February 2014).

of the overall number of voters, i.e. 264,828 votes.<sup>31</sup> In the second electoral round the turnout was 764,039 voters, or 42.63% of the citizens registered in the voters' list.

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<sup>31</sup> The State Election Commission. Presidential Elections 2009. Announcement of the collected results from the voting in the second round. Available at: [http://www.sec.mk/arkhiva/2009\\_pretsedatskiIlokalni/2009/fajlovi/rezultati2/konecni/Pre/Predsedatel\\_konecni.pdf](http://www.sec.mk/arkhiva/2009_pretsedatskiIlokalni/2009/fajlovi/rezultati2/konecni/Pre/Predsedatel_konecni.pdf) (last accessed on 11 February 2014).

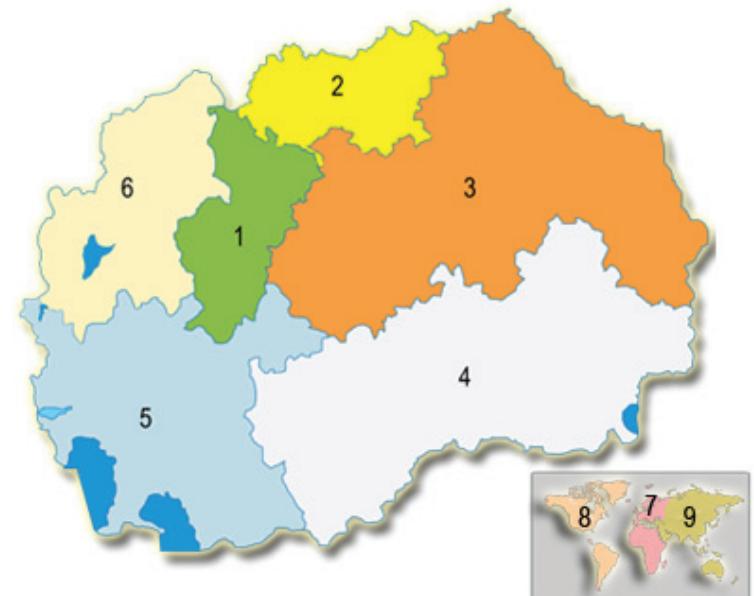


## MACEDONIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

### MACEDONIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS<sup>32</sup>

#### ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The President of the Republic of Macedonia is elected in general, direct, and free elections, with a secret voting for a mandate of 5 years. The election of the President of the Republic of Macedonia is determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and the Election Code. Therefore, in order to change certain regulations related to the election of the president of the country, the Parliament should make a decision to introduce changes in the Constitution, which should be supported by two-thirds majority of votes from the total number of MPs.



Election Units  
Source: State Election Commission

<sup>32</sup> This chapter is prepared on the basis of regulations in the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia with amendments from 1 to 32, published on [www.sobranie.mk](http://www.sobranie.mk), Election Code (filtered text), Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 32/2014, published on 12 February 2014, and the Law to Determine the Condition of Limitation for Public Office, Access to Documents and Announcement of Cooperation with the Organs of State Security, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 86/2012 published on 9 July 2012.

With the changes in the Election Code in 2009, besides the six Election Units on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, the voting for president (as well as the voting for the parliamentary elections) is conducted in the newly established Election Units abroad: Election Unit (EU) 7 for Europe and Africa, EU8 for North and South America, and EU9 for Australia and Asia. The whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia, including the EU 7, 8, and 9 are treated as one EU, and the president is elected by the majority model. In the first round the candidate with majority of votes of the total number of citizens registered in the voters' list will be elected. If there is only one candidate for president, and he/she does not have the required majority of votes in the first election round, the whole procedure will be repeated. If there are more candidates, and none of them wins the required majority of votes from the total number of voters, a second round is organized in a period of 14 days where only two candidates with the biggest number of votes in the first round will be voted. In the second election round the candidate with the majority of votes of those who voted will be elected. Again, if none of the candidates wins the required majority of votes or if the turnout is less than 40% from the total number of registered voters the election procedure will be repeated.

The election of the president should be completed in the final 60 days of the previous president's mandate, and if due to various reasons there is a termination of the president's mandate, then the election of the new president is conducted in a period of 40 days from the day of the termination of the mandate.

The termination of the presidential mandate could happen by the power of the Constitution or in case of death, resignation or a permanent impediment. Only the Administrative Court of the Republic of Macedonia could officially determine that the conditions for termination of the presidential mandate have been met. The Constitution does not allow any vacuum in the presidential functioning; therefore if the President is obstructed from holding this position, the Constitution stipulates that he/she should be substituted by the President of the Assembly, who could continue with his work in the Assembly during this period.

## ELECTORAL BODIES

The State Election Commission (SEC), together with the Municipal Election Commissions (MEC), the Election Boards (EB) for voting within the country and the Diplomatic-Consular Missions (DCM) of the Republic of Macedonia are the electoral organs responsible for implementing the presidential elections. The State Election Commission comprises of seven members elected by the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly with a 4-year mandate. The members of the SEC are elected in a period of 60 days after the constitutional session of the Assembly is held. The president of the SEC and two of its members are elected upon recommendations of the political parties in opposition, while the vice-president and three members of the SEC are elected upon recommendation of the governing political parties. The SEC holds an experts' office conducting administrative, organizational and technical work professionally.

The Municipal Election Commissions (MEC) are established within each municipality, and are responsible for implementing the elections on the territory under their auspices and monitoring the work of the election boards. They comprise of five members, one of which is the president, and each of the members has a deputy. The members and the deputies of the MEC are elected from the employees in the state, public, and municipal administration, with high qualifications, for a mandate of five years. Their selection is conducted by the SEC.

The Election Board is a body established for each polling station, comprising of five members, one of which is the president, and deputies for each of the members. The president of the Election Board and his deputy, two members and their deputies are selected from the employees in the state, public and municipal administration, by random choice for a period of four years. One member of the EB and his/her deputy are nominated upon the recommendation of the political parties in opposition with the biggest number of votes in the previous parliamentary elections, and the others upon the recommendation of the governing political parties with

the majority of votes in the previous parliamentary elections. The random selection of the members of the Election Boards (from the employees in the administration) is conducted by the MEC and the City of Skopje's Election Commission for their areas of responsibility, upon SEC's request. The number of polling stations in the country for the presidential elections is 3,480, i.e. there are 504 more polling stations than the previous elections. For the voting abroad there are 47 polling stations in the DCMs, but the elections will be organized only in those DCMs where there are minimum 10 voters registered.

### **THE RIGHT AND PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACIES**

Individuals running for presidency in the Republic of Macedonia should fulfill the following conditions:

- They should be citizens of the Republic of Macedonia;
- They should be over 40 years old on the day of the elections;
- They should have been citizens of the Republic of Macedonia for minimum 10 years in the last 15 years;
- They should not be elected presidents twice in a row;
- They should not be secret collaborators, operation liaisons, or confidential informants in operational collection of reports and data in the period from 2 August 1944 until the day of the enforcement of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance as stipulated in the Law to Determine the Condition of Limitation for Public Office, Access to Documents and Announcement of Cooperation with the Organs of State Security.

The presidential candidate should be recommended minimum by 30 MPs or 10,000 voters. The candidate lists can be filed by political parties, party coalitions registered in the State Election Commission, groups of voters

and MPs. The collecting of signatures by a group of voters should last 15 days. One voter can give his/her signature to one presidential candidate's list only, and the signatures are collected in the municipalities and the regional units of the State Election Commission with a form, witnessed by a public servant. The voters filing the list should be eligible to vote and permanent residents in the Republic of Macedonia.

The Republic of Macedonia's presidential candidacy should be filed by the official representative of the candidate to the State Election Commission, which should determine whether it meets the deadline and whether it is in accordance with the electoral provisions. If any irregularities are determined, the SEC will summon the official representative of the candidate filing the list to eradicate them in a period of 48 hours. When the list meets all provisions or the determined irregularities are eradicated in the given timeframe, then the SEC will sustain it, but if the determined irregularities are not eradicated in the given timeframe, the SEC will reject it in a period of 24 hours. In case of rejection, the representative of the candidate filing the list can complain against the SEC's decision at the Administrative Court. The complaint should be forwarded in a period of 24 hours, and the Administrative Court is obliged to decide on it in a period of 24 hours. The candidate files a written statement for candidacy, which is irrevocable.

The SEC is obliged to publish the list of the Republic of Macedonia's Presidential Candidates in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, minimum 25 days prior to the elections.

### **ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

The Election Campaign represents public presentation of the candidates confirmed by the competent electoral organs and their programs in the pre-election period, i.e. public gatherings and other public events organized by

the campaign manager, public display of posters, video presentations in public places, election media and internet presentation and distribution of printed materials. The organizer of the election campaign is responsible for its implementation as well as its legitimacy, including the campaign activities carried out by other people authorized by him/her.

The election campaign for presidential elections starts 20 days prior to the days of elections and ends one day before the elections. The day before the first and second voting round is the day of pre-electoral silence, i.e. the day when there should not be any election campaign.

For the purposes of the election campaign, the organizers of the election campaign open a separate bank account and the campaign can be financed only with resources from this account. The donors can be natural or legal persons from the Republic of Macedonia, where the natural persons can donate an amount up to 5,000 EUR, and the legal persons up to 50,000 EUR in MKD currency. The donation can comprise of money, goods, and services, but their value should not surpass the determined amounts. The election campaign can be financed from the political party's membership fee as well.

The election campaign cannot be financed with means deriving from public corporations and public institutions, associations of citizens, religious communities, religious groups and foundations, foreign governments, international institutions, organs and organizations of foreign states and other foreign persons, proprieties with mixed capital where the foreign capital is dominant, as well as from unidentified sources. The election campaign cannot be financed from the Republic of Macedonia's Budget, the municipal budgets and the budget of the City of Skopje, except from the compensations for election expenditures which are in possession of the election campaign organizers.

The organizers of the election campaign whose candidate is elected president of the Republic of Macedonia have the right to a compensation

for the expenditures of the elections, while the organizers of the campaign whose candidate is not elected president of the country have the right to a compensation if their candidate won 1.5% of the total number of votes from the citizens who voted on national level. The compensation amounts to 15 MKD per vote.

If the candidates' rights are violated during the public appearances and announcements, they have the right to press charges for protection of their rights. In such a case, the competent general court presides in urgency, and the decision is announced in the public media.

#### **THE ROLE OF PUBLIC MEDIA**

During the election campaign the public radio broadcasting service and the commercial radiobroadcasters when informing about the elections are obliged to do it in a just, balanced, and unbiased manner.

The Election Code clearly states which contents are considered to be suitable for elections media presentation, and which contents should not be broadcast before the start of the election campaign, as well as the way of conduct of the broadcasters from the day when the elections are called until the day determined for the start of the election campaign.

The Election Code obliges the radiobroadcasters to secure balanced media coverage of the elections and to apply the principle of equality in all forms of elections media presentation in the following way for the presidential candidates in the first and second round. The paid political advertising is extracted from the principle of proportional representation, i.e. equality.

In a period of 5 days after calling the elections, the radiobroadcasters and the printed media are obliged to determine their pricelists for paid political advertising of the participants in the election process. These pricelists should be announced publically at least twice before the start

of the election campaign, and should not be altered during the election campaign. In cases when the media provide discounts for the paid political advertising, the discounts are considered as donations in monetary value, not exceeding 50,000 EUR in MKD currency.

The paid political advertising should be appropriately and visibly labeled as "paid political advertising", there should be a clear indication who commissioned the advertisement, and it should be clearly separated from the other contents of the medium. The paid political advertising should not be broadcast as part of the news, special informative programs, educational programs, programs for children, and reports on religious, sports, cultural, entertainment and other types of events. Minors are not allowed to participate in paid political advertising.

The Macedonian Radio Television (MRTV) as a public radio broadcasting service should not broadcast paid political advertising. MRTV is obliged, in cooperation with the State Election Commission, to inform the citizens on the voting technicalities without any financial compensation, and should broadcast other information related to the election process. It is also obliged to broadcast free political presentations of the participants in the election process in accordance with the Election Code.

Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAAMS)<sup>33</sup> is the organ competent for monitoring the elections and voting media presentation and the program service from the day of the call for the elections until the end of the voting on the Election Day. If the AAAMS determines any irregularities, it should press charges against the radiobroadcaster that have violated the regulations. The organs of the AAAMS<sup>34</sup> are the Council and the Director. The Council comprises of seven members appointed by the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly upon recommendations by competent referees. Competent referees to members of the council are: the Majority

<sup>33</sup> The organ of competence was previously the Broadcasting Council, which was renamed into Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services with the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 184/2013.

<sup>34</sup> Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 184/2013. Accessed at: <http://www.avmu.mk/images/zakonotMKD.pdf> (last visited on 26th March 2014).

Association of Journalists, the Inter-University Conference, the Bar Association of the Republic of Macedonia, the Trade Union of Macedonia, the Commission on issues related to elections and the appointments by the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, as well as the Association of the Units of Local Self-government. All competent referees recommend one member to the Agency, except for the Commission on issues related to elections and appointments by the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly that recommend two members. The members of the Council are appointed to a period of seven years without the right to be nominated again. The Council selects the Director of the AAAMS through a public announcement. The director's mandate is seven years.

When announcing results from public opinion polls the media are obliged to provide information about the person commissioning and financing the poll, the institution conducting the survey, the applied methodology, the scope and structure of the respondents, and the period of conducting the survey. This information should not be published in the last five days prior to the Election Day, for the first and second round of voting.

After the end of the election process, more precisely 15 days after the campaign is concluded, the radiobroadcasters and the printed media are obliged to file a report on the advertising space used by each of the election campaign organizers and the amounts paid or requested in this regard. This report should be forwarded to the SEC, the State Audit Office, and the State Commission for Prevention against Corruption, which are obliged to publish it on their internet websites.

For any irregularities in relation to the media presentation and political advertising, the radiobroadcasters and printed media will be fined with 1,500 to 5,000 EUR depending on the offence. The AAAMS should start a settlement procedure and if it is not successful, infringement proceedings are initiated at the competent general court.

## LIMITATIONS FOR THE CURRENT STATE OFFICIALS

From the day a decision is made to call for elections until the end of the elections it is forbidden to:

- administer the Republic of Macedonia's Budget, and the resources from the municipality budgets as well as that of the City of Skopje, public funds, public proprieties, public institutions, or legal persons who own state capital, unless it is otherwise determined by law which regulates the financing of election campaigns of the political parties;
- initiate construction work with budget resources, public funds, public proprieties and other legal persons which own state capital, of new objects in the infrastructure such as roads, water conduits, transmission lines, sewage systems, sports playgrounds, and other facilities, or facilities for social activities – schools, kindergartens, and other facilities, unless there are already budget resources allocated to that goal, i.e. the construction work is part of a program set by a law introduced in the previous year;
- provide irregular payment of salaries, retirement incomes, social welfare;
- or any other payments from the budget, or the public funds;
- sell state capital;
- sign collective agreements.

If a certain minister or deputy minister violates these regulations he/she will be fined between 500 to 1000 EUR in MKD currency.

If any of the presidential candidates is a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Macedonia, the uniformed section of the police, the authorized personnel at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, or the Intelligence Agency, their professional engagement will be suspended

from the day their candidacy is confirmed.

## THE MANDATE OF THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The mandate of the President of the Republic begins with the signing and delivering of the Solemn Oath of Office at the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, which should occur 10 days after the final results are announced, but not earlier than the termination date of the previous president's mandate. The Solemn Oath is as follows:

"I affirm that I will faithfully and responsibly execute the Office of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, I will respect the Constitution and the laws and I will protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of the Republic of Macedonia."

By assuming duties of office, the president receives a mandate:

- to represent the country;
- to be a chief commander of Macedonia's armed forces;
- to determine the mandate for constituting the Republic of Macedonia's Government;
- to appoint and revoke with decree the ambassadors and representatives of the Republic of Macedonia abroad;
- to receive the letters of credence and revocation of the foreign diplomatic representatives;
- to recommend two judges in the Administrative Court of the Republic of Macedonia;

- to recommend two members of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia;
- to appoint three members of the Security Council of the Republic of Macedonia;
- to recommend members of the Council for International Relations;

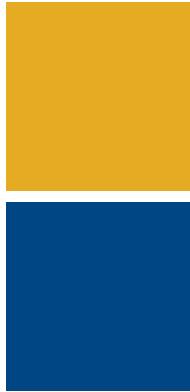
- to appoint and dismiss other state officials and public servants as determined by the Constitution and the laws;
- to award honors and recognitions in accordance with the law;
- to grant a pardon in accordance with the law, and
- to conduct other functions determined by the Constitution.

The President of the country informs the Assembly on issues of competence at least once a year, usually in December. The Assembly can request the President to provide his/her opinion on issues of competence.

The position of the president of the country is detached from any other public, political or professional function. The president enjoys immunity in conducting his/her function, but if he/she infringes the Constitution or the laws during his/her term of office, he/she is held responsible. The procedure for determining such a responsibility should be initiated by the Assembly with two-thirds majority of votes from the overall number of MPs, but it does not have the right to decide upon the president's responsibility. The Administrative Court brings the decision for the president's responsibility with two-thirds majority of votes from the overall number of judges, and can decide to revoke the president's immunity with two-thirds majority of votes from the overall number of judges.

## **MONITORING THE ELECTIONS**

The observers with accreditations issued by the SEC have the right to monitor the elections. The accreditation for observers can be issued to national citizen organization registered at least a year prior to the elections, and have incorporated the principle for protection of the human rights in their statute. The international organizations and the foreign representatives can also monitor the elections. The official representatives of the presidential candidates have the right to appoint their representative to monitor the work of the electoral organs.



## PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

### PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2014 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

#### Gjorge Ivanov<sup>35</sup>



Gjorge Ivanov is the current President of the Republic of Macedonia, elected on the 2009 Presidential Elections. On these elections he will run for the Macedonian citizens' trust again, as a candidate of the ruling party, VMRO-DPMNE.

Prior to his position as a President of the state, Gjorge Ivanov was known to the Macedonian public as a university professor. Between 2004 and 2008 he was a Pro-Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, as well as Head of the Political Studies Department, and a professor of political studies prior to that. He started working as an assistant professor at the Law Faculty in 1995, and in 1998 he was appointed a docent. Before his academic engagement, he worked as a journalist and editor of the third channel of the Macedonian Radio Television broadcasting service (1988-1995). In 2000 he became a lecturer at the master program in Southeast European Studies at the University of Athens.

Gjorgje Ivanov has graduated in legal studies from the Law Faculty Iustinianus Primus in Skopje, and has obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in political studies. He obtained his Master's degree in 1994 in the topic: "Civic Society – the New Contradictions of the Old Dispute", and has obtained his Doctor's degree in 1998 in the topic: "Democracy in Divided Societies: the Macedonian Model".

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<sup>35</sup> The photograph has been taken from: <http://www.president.gov.mk/mk/galerija/de-kemvri-2012/1799.html> (accessed on 11.03.2014).

During his academic engagement, Gjorge Ivanov published two books, and was a co-author in three other titles, as well as numerous academic papers in the area of political studies. He is the founder and the president of one of the first analytics centers in the area of social sciences in the Republic of Macedonia, the Institute for Democracy, Solidarity and Civic Society. He is also one of the founders of Political Thought, a publication dedicated to political studies, with a circulation for more than 10 years now.

Gjorge Ivanov is currently 53 years old, he was born on 2nd May 1960 in Valandovo. He is married to Maja Ivanova and is a father of one son.

### **Iljaz Halimi<sup>36</sup>**



Iljaz Halimi has graduated in philosophy, and he is the founder, long-term member and party official of the DPA. He will run for presidency on the forthcoming 2014 Presidential Elections as the only ethnic Albanian candidate.

He is a former deputy Minister of Defense in the Republic of Macedonia's Government (2006-2008) and member of the Republic of Macedonia's Parliament for two mandates (1998-2002, and 2002-2006). During his first mandate as an MP (1998-2002) he was positioned as a vice-president of the legislative body. He was also a member of the Security Council of the Republic of Macedonia in the period between 1998 and 2001. Previously (1979-1998), he was a sociology professor, and a deputy principal of the High School "Kiril Pejchinovic" in Tetovo. In the period between 2009 and 2013 he has worked as the head of the Public Affairs Sector at the municipality of Tetovo.

<sup>36</sup> The photograph has been taken from: <http://www.novini.mk/read/650169/ilierez-halimi-prezsedatelski-kandidat-na-dpa> (accessed on 11.03.2014).

From 1990 to 1997 Iljas Halimi was the president of the National Democratic Party (NDP) that merged with the Party for Democratic Prosperity of the Albanians (PDPA), which marked the founding of the DPA. In the period from 1997 to 2007, Halimi was the vice president of the DPA. He has been a member of the Central Presidency of the DPA since 2011.

Iljaz Halimi has completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy at the Philosophy Faculty, University of Pristina. He is currently 60 years old, and he was born on 7th February 1954 in the village of Sushice, Kosovo. He is married to Zejna Halimi and is a father of one son.

### **Stevo Pendarovski<sup>37</sup>**



Stevo Pendarovski works as a university professor in the Faculty of Political Studies at the University American College in Skopje (UACS), as an associate professor of International Security, Foreign Policy and Globalization. He will run for presidency on the forthcoming 2014 Presidential Elections as a candidate from the party in opposition, SDSM.

In the period between 2001 and 2004, Stevo Pendarovski worked as a national security advisor at the President Boris Trajkovski's Office, and in the period between 2005 and 2009 he was a foreign policy adviser at the President Branko Crvenkovski's Office. He was the Chairperson of the State Election Commission, in the period between 2004 and 2005. Previously, between 1998 and 2001, he was an assistant Minister at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as the head of the Analytics and Research Department within the same ministry.

<sup>37</sup> The photograph has been taken from: <http://www.makdenes.org/content/article/25286074.html> (accessed on 11.03.2014).

Stevo Pendarovski holds a Ph.D., and has obtained his doctor's and master's degree from the Institute for Sociological, Political and Legal Research, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje. He has obtained his M.A. in the topic: "New Geopolitics of the Republic of Macedonia: Contradictions of the Communist and Transitional Matrices", and has obtained his Ph.D. in the topic: "Foreign and Security Policy of the EU and the Small States: the Framework of the National Discourse". He has graduated from the Law Faculty in Skopje in the area of legal studies.

He is the author of several books and academic papers published in Macedonia and abroad, as well as a participant on many academic conferences, public debates and discussions.

Stevo Pendarovski is currently 51 years old, he was born on 3rd April 1963 in Skopje. He is married to Elizabeta Gjorgjevska and is a father of one son.

### **Zoran Popovski<sup>38</sup>**



Zoran Popovski is a university professor, Head of the Biochemistry and Genetic Engineering department at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences. He is a member of the Council of the Karposh municipality, after being elected on the local elections in 2013. He runs for presidency on the 2014 Presidential Elections as a candidate of GROM, a party which after being established in 2013 enters the general and direct elections for the first time.

In the period between 2002 and 2006 he was a state secretary at the Ministry of Education. He has worked at the Faculty of Agriculture and

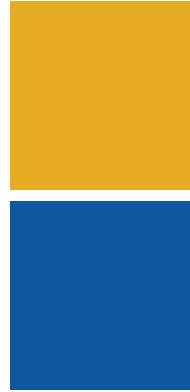
Food Sciences since 1992, and he is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy and the Faculty of Pharmacy in Skopje.

Zoran Popovski has graduated in biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Skopje. He has obtained his Master's degree in biochemistry at the same faculty in 1999, and in 2002 he has obtained his Ph.D. in applying modern DNA methods in animal biotechnology from the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

He has participated in several international and national commissions and working bodies dealing with educational policies and reforms. He has participated in the drafting of the National Program for Educational Development between 2005 and 2015. He is an author of more than 100 academic papers and publications, and has participated in many national and international conferences and events.

Zoran Popovski is currently 51 years old, he was born on 8th September 1962 in Skopje. He is married to Zlatka Stamboliska – Popovska and is a father of two children – a son and a daughter.

<sup>38</sup> The photograph has been taken from: <http://grom.mk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/sovetnik-dr-zoran-popovski.jpg> (accessed on 11.03.2014).



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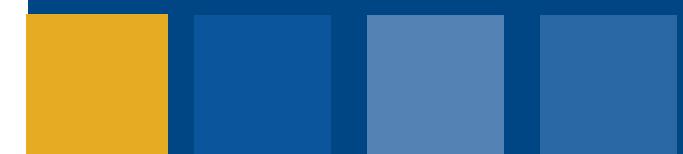
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