

Institutional Chronology of Nation Building

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The Republic of Macedonia declared its independence from Yugoslavia on 19 November 1991. In 1944, the People's Republic of Macedonia (NRM) had been established as one of the six constituent republics of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. In 1963, the republic's name was changed into Socialist Republic of Macedonia (SRM).

1. Census-related Issues (after 1945)

1.1 Institution in Charge for Statistical Data and Censuses:

By the decision of the Government of the PR of Macedonia on June 1, 1945, the Macedonian Federal Statistical Bureau was formed. Concomitant to the establishment of the national Statistical Bureau, local statistical bureaus were created as well with the task to participate in collecting basic statistical data and carry out statistical research for the needs of the state.

1.2 Years of Census

Since the end of the Second world War, 8 population censuses were conducted in the Republic of Macedonia: 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1994, 2002.

Since the first post-war census, the ethnonym "Macedonians" was used for the majority population of Macedonia, in contrast to the decades before, when they were counted as "Serbs" in the censuses of inter-war Yugoslavia. The largest minority are the Albanians, today comprising about 25 percent of the total population.

1.3 Share of Macedonians and Albanians of the Total Population

| Year | Total population <i>in 1,000</i> | Macedonians <i>in % of the total population</i> | Albanians |
|-------------|--|---|------------------|
| 1948 | 1,115 | 68.5 | 17.1 |
| 1953 | 1,305 | 66.0 | 12.4 |
| 1961 | 1,406 | 71.2 | 13.0 |
| 1971 | 1,647 | 69.3 | 17.0 |
| 1981 | 1,909 | 67.0 | 19.8 |
| 1991 | 2,034 | 65.3 | 21.7 |
| 1994 | 1,946 | 66.6 | 22.7 |
| 2002 | 2,041 | 64.2 | 25.2 |

The numbers for other minorities in 2002 were: Turks 77,959 (3.85 %), Roma 53,879 (2.66 %), Serbs 35,939 (1.78 %), Bosniaks 17,018 (0.84%) and Vlachs 9.596 (0.48 %).

2. National History: Institutionalization, Production and Representation

2.1 Historical institutes

The by far most important institution for the production of historical knowledge, both in terms of number of researchers as well as output, is the **Institut za nacionalna istorija** (Institute of National History, <http://www.ukim.edu.mk/index.php?lan=en&pon=i_ini>) founded by a Decree of the Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia on July 22, 1948. The decree stated its purpose as studying the history of Macedonia, of the Macedonian nation, and of the national minorities and ethnic groups living in the republic. As the name of the Institute indicates, its main aim is to create a genuinely national history for the Macedonian nation, which continues to preoccupy the historians of the institute.

At the time of the 1948 decree, the Institute commenced its activities with few research fellows, most of them without historical training, in inappropriate premises. Later it was transformed into a professional institution and provided with the necessary infrastructure and means to accomplish its stated tasks. In 1957, the Institute started publishing its academic journal "**Glasnik na Institutot za nacionalna istorija**" ("*The Herald of the Institute for National History*"), which has become the most important Macedonian historical journal, now counting more than 80 published issues. From time to time, a digest of selected articles of the journal appear in English and other foreign languages. The Institute produces many monographs and collective volume, and twice has been editing a multi-volume "**Istorija na makedonskiot narod**" ("*History of the Macedonian People*"). The first edition started to appear in 1969, the second in 2000.

Aside from the Institute for National History, history is studied in a systematic way also by the Department of History at the Philosophical Faculty of the Kiril and Metod University of Skopje and by the Institute for Old-Slavonic Culture in Prilep, which has also a branch in Skopje (in the building of the Institute for National History).

2.2 Historical Museums

The **Museum of Macedonia**, established in Skopje in 1944, has also a section for history. Very important for the national narrative is the **Historical museum in the town of Kruševo**, which commemorates the failed 1903 Ilinden uprising against Ottoman Rule. This event is considered by Macedonian historiography as a product of the national movement among the Macedonians for independence from the Ottoman Empire.

2.3. Authoritative Historical Publications

- *Istorija na makedonskiot narod* (The History of the Macedonian People), eds. Mihailo Apostolski et al., 4 vols. Skopje: Nova Makedonija, 1969.
- *50 godini Institut za nacionalna istoria*, eds. Aleksandar Trajanovski et al. Skopje: Institut za nacionalna istorija, 1988.
- Blaže Ristovski: *Istorija na makedonskata nacija*. Skopje: MANU 1999.

- *Istorija na makedonskiot narod* (The History of the Macedonian People), ed. Branko Panov et al, 5 vols. Skopje: Institut za nacionalna istorija, 1999-2003.
- *Makedonski istoriski rečnik* (Macedonian Historical Dictionary), eds. Stojan Kiselinovski et al. Skopje: Institut za nacionalna istorija, 2002.

3. Institutionalization of Folk Culture

3.1 Institutions

The main institution for the collection and study of folk culture in Macedonia is the **Marko Cepenkov Institut za folklore** (Institute for Folklore) in Skopje, established by the government in 1950. In June 1979, the Institute was named after the most outstanding and prolific collector of Macedonian folklore treasures, Marko Cepenkov. In carrying-out its activities, the Marko Cepenkov Institute of Folklore sets itself the following main tasks:

- to follow and study systematically matters of folklore;
- to implement its scholarly achievements in order to be of service to the community;
- to perform various scholarly activities, and if necessary teaching and applied activities as well, in the field of the folklore of the Macedonian people, of the national minorities and the ethnic groups living in the Republic of Macedonia.

The institute edits the journal "**Makedonski folklor**" ("*Macedonian folklore*") since 1968.

Another institution dealing with popular culture in Macedonia is the **Zavod za etnologija i antropologija** (Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology) in Skopje, established in December 1946 as Centre for Ethnology at the Institute of Geography. In 1958, it was renamed into *Zavod za Etnologija*, and in 2005 into *Zavod za entologija i antropologija*, affiliated with the University of Skopje.

It publishes the journals "**Etnolog**" (since 1992; it is the review of the Ethnological Association of Macedonia) and the online-journal "**Ethnoanthropozoom**" (<<http://www.iea.pmf.ukim.edu.mk/ENG/EtnoAntropoZum.html>>).

The **Institut za staroslavanska kultura** (Institute for Old Slavic Culture; <<http://www.isk.edu.mk/>>) in Prilep also deals with Macedonian folklore, mainly from a historical perspective. From 1972 to 2003 it published the journal "**Balkano-Slavica**".

The **Department for Ethnomusicology** at the Kiril and Metod University Skopje, Faculty of Music, studies, among others matters, Macedonian folk music.

The major museum for folk culture in Macedonia was the **Etnološki Muzej na Makedonija** (Ethnological Museum of Macedonia), founded in Skopje in 1949. Its first permanent exhibition was "Traditional Costumes from Macedonia". It operated as an independent institution until 1977, when it became part of the **Muzej na Makedonija** (Museum of Macedonia), which also has historical and archaeological departments.

Every local museum also boasts its ethnological Collection, such as with "Old City Costumes" in Bitola, or dresses and other artifacts of folk culture in the local museums of Kichevo, Kumanova, Tetovo, Struga and Veles. The first officially established private collection is "The Crosses from Macedonia" by Trifun Kostovski.

3.2 Authoritative Publications

- **Penušliski**, Kiril: *Makedonskiot folklore* (Macedonian folklore). Skopje 1981.
- **Ristovski**, Blaže: *Makedonskiot folklor i nacionalnata svest* (The Macedonian Folklore and National Consciousness), 2 vols. Skopje 1987.
- *Etnologija na Makedoncite* (Ethnology of the Macedonians), ed. Krum Tomovski. Skopje 1996.
- *Etnologija na Makedonija* (The Ethnology of Macedonia), ed. Muzej na Makedonija, Skopje 2002.
- A multimedia encyclopedia of Macedonian Musical Folklore was published in 2004

3.3 Folk ensembles

Since socialist times, Macedonia has a large number of professional as well as amateur ensembles for folk music and dances. The most professional ones are the State ensemble for Dances and Songs "**Tanec**" in Skopje and the Professional Orchestra for Authentic Musical Instruments of the Macedonian Radio and Television, which plays traditional Macedonian instrumental music; and the professional "**Čalgija Orchestra**" of the Macedonian Radio and Television, which plays old urban instrumental music and songs.

Aside from these state-supported ensembles, there are many amateur dance groups and orchestras. In 2007, 132 of them applied for financial support from the government, and in 1988 111 amateur associations for folk music, dance and drama were counted (see below in the section on arts).

4. National Language and its Formalization

4.1 Standardization of the Macedonian Literary Language

The official Macedonian language was proclaimed on August 2, 1944, when the first session of the Anti-Fascist Assembly for the National Liberation of Macedonia (ASNOM), considered to be the first national assembly of Macedonia, proclaimed the Macedonian Republic and made Macedonian its official language. It should be noted, however, that there had been some attempts to standardize the Macedonian language prior to that date, gathering pace during World War Two, when Partisan press appeared in Macedonia and Macedonian partisans conducted their business in Macedonian. As pointed out by the most outstanding foreign scholar of Macedonia, Victor Friedman, the proclamation of 1944 has rather to be seen as a symbolic act, which marked the beginning of the implementation of the standard. The new standard was based on the central Macedonian dialect of the Veles region, which was chosen because its distance to Bulgarian was greater than that of other dialects. The daily "**Nova Makedonija**" ("*New Macedonia*"), published by the "People's Liberation Front of Macedonia" and most important newspaper in socialist Macedonia, was the first broadsheet to appear in the new Macedonian language, starting with its first issue on November 14, 1944.

The first official Macedonian grammar was published by Krume Kepeski in 1946. The probably most important linguist for the standardization of the Macedonian literary language, though, was Blaže Koneski (1921–1993). He published grammars, dictionaries and histories of the Macedonian language, and he was also instrumental for the decision on the alphabet in 1944–45: a version of the Cyrillic alphabet was adopted for Macedonian, which contained two special letters and also took some letters specific to the Serbian version of Cyrillic. By that, Macedonian has become an almost perfectly phonetic script.

While the Macedonian Language was soon recognized not only in Yugoslavia but also abroad, Bulgaria declined to recognize the existence of a Macedonian language until the 1990s. Today it is reckoned that, apart from the population of Macedonia, up to 250,000 people in northern Greece (Aegean Macedonia) speak Macedonian and an estimated 250,000 people in southwestern Bulgaria (Pirin Macedonia) as well, although they are not officially recognized as minorities neither in Greece nor in Bulgaria (in the Bulgarian 1956 census, 256,000 people in southwestern Bulgaria stated "Macedonian" as their nationality). The only recognized Macedonian minority lives in eastern Albania and number according to estimates 30,000-50,000 people. Macedonian is also spoken by emigrants from Macedonia, in particular in Northern America and Australia.

4.2 Institutes for the Macedonian Language

The leading institution for the study of Macedonian, which was also instrumental for the further development of the standard, is the *Institut za makedonskiot jezik "Krstе Misirkov"* ("Krstе Misirkov" Institute for the Macedonian Language), founded in Skopje in 1954.

In 1946, the **Seminar for Macedonian Language** was established at the Chair for South-Slavic Languages, the first department of the newly founded Philosophical Faculty of the University of Skopje. Today, the Philological Faculty has two departments for Macedonian: The **Department for Macedonian Language and South-Slavic Languages**, and the **Department for Macedonian Literature and South-Slavic Literatures**. Both departments do research on Macedonian language and literature and train teachers for school.

Both departments are involved in the organization of the annual International Seminar for Macedonian Language, Literature and Culture, which takes place in Ohrid every year and now runs into its 40th year. This seminar is the main state sponsored attempt to disseminate the knowledge of Macedonian among foreigners.

The chair for South-Slavic Languages at the University of Skopje publishes the journal "*Makedonski jazik*" ("*Macedonian Language*") since 1950.

The **Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts** (MANU) runs a Department for Linguistic and Literary Sciences, which studies also Macedonian, and a Lexicographic Centre (est. 2000), which prepares a Macedonian encyclopedia.

The **Society of the Macedonian Language** publishes the journal "*Literaturen zbor*" ("Literary Word") since 1954.

4.3 Major Language Textbooks

- DIMITROVSKI, Todor: *Rečnik na makedonskiot jazik* (Dictionary of the Macedonian Language), vol. 1: Skopje 1961, vol. 2: Skopje 1965, vol. 3: Skopje 1966 (new edition 1983--2001).
- KEPESKI, Krume: *Makedonska gramatika* (Macedonian Grammar). Skopje 1946.
- KONESKI, Blaže: *Makedonskata literatura vo 19. vek* (Macedonian Literature in the 19th century). Skopje 1950.
- KONESKI, Blaže: *Gramatika na makedonskiot literaturn jazik* (Grammar of the Macedonian Literary Language), part 1: Skopje 1952, part 2: Skopje 1954 (and later editions).
- KONESKI, Blaže: *Istorija na makedinskiot jazik* (History of the Macedonian Language). Skopje 1965.
- KONESKI, Blaže / Krum TOSEV: *Makedonski pravopis so pravopisen rečnik* (Macedonian Orthography with an Orthographic Dictionary). Skopje 1950.

5. Arts and Nation-building

Arts and culture were particularly supported by the government of socialist Macedonia, which had to build a 'national' art scene from the scratch. In a few years, institutions for teaching, promoting and staging art were built. Concomitant to the creation of a cultural infrastructure, artists also established their own associations, which operated on a national scale.

5.1 National Associations of Artists

- **Association of Macedonian Composers** (Macedonian acronym: SOKOM), founded on June 6, 1950. It had emerged from the former **Association of Macedonian Musicians**. It publishes the journal "*Makedonska muzika*" ("*Macedonian Music*"), since 1997 called only "*Musika*". The Association of Macedonian Composers has also been running the Office for Music Copyrights Protection (ZAMP) since 1950, in 1969 together with the **Association of Composers of Light Music** (pop and rock composers).
- **Association of Macedonian Conductors**, established in 2001.
- **Association of Music Performers**, emerging from the **Association of Macedonian Musicians**.
- **Association of Artists of Macedonia** (DLUM), founded in Prilep on November 10, 1944 and organizing the painters. It gained official recognition in 1946.
- **Association of Applied Artists of Macedonia** (DLUPUM), founded on April 16, 1950.
- **Macedonian Architects' Association** established in 1954 as the Macedonian Union of Architects' Associations. From 1980-1999 it was called the Macedonian Union of Architects, being renamed into its current name in 1999.
- **Photo Association of Macedonia**, organizing the photographers of the Republic, established on March 12, 1950.

5.2 Art Institutions and Festivals

Fine Arts

- **Secondary Art School**, founded in 1950 by the resolution of the government to join two schools: the school for wood-carving in Ohrid and school for public art in Skopje.
- The **National Art Gallery "Daut Pashin Amam"** opened its permanent exhibition on August 2, 1951.
- The first exhibition of Macedonian artistic photography was also opened in 1951, in the town of Veles.
- **Contemporary Art Museum** was established in Skopje on February 12, 1964.
- The **Faculty of Fine Arts** at the University of Skopje was initiated on May 31, 1980.
- There are regular festivals for fine arts, such as the "**Autumn Painters Exhibition**" (since 1946), the "**Spring Painters Exhibitions**" (since 1957) and the **Biennial of Macedonian Architecture** (BIMAS, established in 1981).
- In 2000 the **Macedonian Centre of Photography** was established.

Theater

- The **National Theater** in Skopje opened in 1946.
- The **Faculty for Dramatic Art** in Skopje was established in 1969 within the High School for Music. Since 1981 it operates as an independent institution.
- In 1998 the "**Multimedia**" centre for performing arts was established.

Music

- The **Macedonian Radio Symphony Orchestra** was founded on November 24, 1944, and the **Radio Choir** in 1945.
- The **Macedonian Opera and Ballet** in Skopje was established on January 1, 1948. The first Macedonian Opera "*Goce*" by composer Kiril Makedonski was performed on May 24, 1954. The first Macedonian ballet "*Macedon's Story*", composed by Gligor Smokvarski in 1952, was first put on stage on June 21, 1953.
- The **Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra** was established on May 20, 1950, and gave its first concert three years later.
- The **Association of the Music and Ballet Teachers of Macedonia** was founded in 1957.
- The **Culture and Art Office**, which organizes concerts, musical and other cultural events, was founded in 1957.
- The **Macedonian Radio Television Big Band** was established in 1961 with the purpose to perform Macedonian pop and jazz music.
- The "**Ohrid Summer Festival**" was established on August 4, 1961.
- In 1962 the first "**Ohrid Festival of Folk Songs and Amateur Dance Ensembles**" took place, in which ensembles from all Yugoslav republics participated. In 1968 it became an international festival under the name "**Balkan Festival of Traditional Songs and Dances**".
- **Musical Youth of Macedonia** founded in Skopje on January 31, 1964. In 1986 the National Youth Chamber Orchestra was organized under the umbrella of this organization.
- The **Faculty of Music** at the University of Skopje was established in 1966.

- The **State Festival for Folk Songs and Dances** called the "**Ilinden Days**" in Bitola, was established on July 7, 1968 as an organization. The first festival actually took place July 30 – August 8, 1971. Since 2004 this festival is organized by the Centre for Culture in Bitola. One of its aims is to initiate dance activities among the Macedonian Diaspora.
- In 1972, the **Youth Cultural Center Skopje** (MKC) was founded, to which in 1981 the **Mandolin Youth Orchestra** was attached.
- The "**May Opera Evenings**" festival was in September 1972 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Macedonian Opera house in Skopje.
- Since 1972, the **Youth Female Choir** exists.
- The "**Tetovo Choral Echo**" festival was initiated on November 6, 1973 as biannual competition for choral music.
- In the village of Dolneni the "**National Festival for Traditional Folk Music Instruments and Songs 'Pece Atanasovski'**" takes place annually since 1974.
- The organization of "**Struga Music Autumn**" as a manifestation of medieval music, musicology, ethno-musicology and musical pedagogy, began in 1972, the first actual event taking place in 1975.
- The "**Day of Macedonian Music**", which is a festival of contemporary Macedonian music of various genres, was established in 1977.
- The first "**Skopje JAZZ Festival**" took place in 1982; it has become an international highly valued Jazz festival.
- The "**Folk Festival Valandovo**" as a festival of authentic folk Macedonian songs was established in 1985. After 1990 it was joined by similar festivals, such as for patriotic songs ("**Goce Fest**", "**Trimeri**") in Strumica, for humoristic songs ("**Tumba Fest**") in Kumanovo, the festivals "**Tetovski filigran**", "**Ohridski Trubaduri**", "**Serenada**" (in Bitola), "**Tetovski folk fest**", "**The Song of The Summer**" in Ohrid, etc.
- The folk festival "**Istibansko zdravo živo**" in the village of Istibanje, municipality of Radoviš, was established in 1985.
- The "**Makfest**", the first festival of Macedonian pop and rock music, was established in 1986.
- The **Bitola Opera House** was established in 2006. The town of Bitola also hosts the "**Interfest**" festival for classical.

As concerns the organization of concerts, the Macedonian Concert Agency, established in 1981, played an important role. In 1991 it became part of the **Culture an Information Centre**, but in 1997 these two institutions were separated again. It is also noteworthy that Macedonian first participated in the **Eurovision Song-Contest** in 1998.

Film

- The **Association of Film Workers in Macedonia** was established on May 21, 1950.
- The **Macedonia Film Distribution** agency was established in 1952, the same year the first Macedonian feature film "**Frosina**" was screened (screenplay by Vlado Maleski, director Voislav Nanović).
- The **Bureau for Cultural and Educational Films 'Vardar Film'**, which was the first educational institution for film in Macedonia, was founded on February 8, 1956.
- The **Academic Cinema Club of Film Amateurs** was created on January 7, 1959.

- The **International Amateur Film Festival** in Skopje was established in July 1968.
- The **Cinematheque of Macedonia** opened in 1976.
- The **International Film Festival "Manaki Brothers"** in Skopje took first place in 1979.

The first major international award for a Macedonian film was the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for Milčo Mančevski's film "**Before The Rain**" in 1994.

Minorities

The minorities in Macedonia have established their own cultural associations and events. For example, in 2001 the **Association of Albanian Music and Ballet Teachers** was founded. The "**Kenge Jeho**" **Festival of Albanian Traditional Songs, Dance and Music** in Struga and the "**Shara Sings**" **Festival of Albanian Folk Music** in Tetovo are among the most important Albanian cultural events. Turkish culture is staged at the "**Hid bah şen**" festival in the village of Čalakli, established in 1991.

6. Religion

The independent Macedonian Orthodox Church (<<http://www.mpc.org.mk/>>) was established under communism. The first initiative toward this end took place shortly before the end of the World War Two, when the Initiative Board for the Organization of the Macedonian Orthodox Church was formed in the village of Gorno Vranovci. In March 1945, the First Assembly of the Clergy and Laity in Skopje passed the resolution to restore the Archbishop of Ohrid as the (autocephalous) Macedonian Orthodox Church. This decision was submitted to the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church, since before World War Two the Orthodox parishes of Macedonia were under the authority of the United Orthodox Church of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, known as the Serbian Orthodox Church, seated in Belgrade. The Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church did not accept this decision. As a result, the Initiative Board in Macedonia reformulated its petition and, instead of demanding the creation of an autocephalous church, asked for the recognition of the Macedonian Church as an autonomous entity. This request was also rejected by the Serbian Orthodox Church. In 1958, the Second Assembly of the Clergy and Laity in Macedonia was held in Ohrid. It accepted the proposal to restore the Archbishop of Ohrid as the head of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. The first appointed Macedonian archbishop was Dositej.

The Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church finally accepted the decisions of the Macedonian Assembly of the Clergy and Laity in 1959. As a sign of agreement, a liturgy was celebrated together with the Serbian Patriarch German in the church of Saint Menas in Skopje on July 19, 1959. At the same time, Kliment was ordained as bishop of Prespa and Bitola. This meant that the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church gave autonomy to the Macedonian Orthodox Church, which remained in canonical unity with the Serbian Church under their Patriarch. A few days later, in the church of St. Nicholas in Štip, Naum was ordained as bishop of the diocese of Zletovo and Strumica. The Holy Synod of the Macedonian Orthodox Church was established together with other administrative bodies in the

Archdiocese and the dioceses in conformity with the statute of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

In 1967, the Holy Synod in Ohrid proclaimed the Macedonian Orthodox Church as autocephalous, which was a result of conflicts with the Serbian Orthodox Church. No other Orthodox church has officially accepted the autocephalous status of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

7. National Symbols

7.1 National Holidays

August 2: Day of the Ilinden Uprising. Since the early 1970s, large-scale festivities attended also by the leading politicians of the country are held every year in the town of Kruševo to commemorate the "Ten Days of the Kruševo republic" (in Kruševo, the insurgents of 1903 achieved to liberate the town from the Ottomans for a few days, proclaiming it a republic).

September 8: Independence Day

October 11: People's Uprising Against Fascism

October 23: Day of the Macedonian Revolutionary Struggle

Two religious holidays are also very important from a national point of view, being connected with the preeminent medieval scholars and clergymen in Macedonia: **May 24**, the day of Sv. Kliment and Metod (Saints Cyril and Methodius), and **December 8**, the day of Sv. Kliment of Ohrid.

7.2 Macedonian Coat of Arms

The first coat of arms of socialist Macedonia was established by the Act on the Coat of Arms of the People's Republic of Macedonia, adopted by the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Macedonia on its second extraordinary session held on July 27, 1946. It was later changed by Article 8 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, and is still in use in the independent state. The coat of arms represents, according to the constitution "the richness of our country, the struggle and the freedom".

7.3 Macedonian Flag

The current flag was adopted on October, 1995. It shows a rectangular red field with a golden sun in the middle, with eight rays thickening towards their end. Previous to this flag, independent Macedonia had used a similar looking flag with a 12-rays sun, which had been found on the grave of the ancient Macedonian ruler Philip II (the "Sun of Vergina"). However, the use of this symbol was fiercely challenged by Greece, who considers the ancient Macedonians part of their own national patrimony. After heavy pressure by Greece on Macedonia, the Macedonian republic eventually adopted the new flag, which was not contested by Greece.



Left
Current Macedonian flag (adopted 1995)

Center
Contested flag, 1991-95

Right
Coat of Arms

7.4 National Anthem

The national anthem of Macedonia, "*Denes nad Makedonija*" ("Today Above Macedonia") was composed in 1943 or 1944 by Vlado Maleski, a poet from Struga. It was adopted as the national anthem of the Republic of Macedonia in 1991, after it had been in use as anthem only for few months after World War II.

8. Finalized (Achieved) or Pending Membership to Main International Organizations

The Republic of Macedonia is, among others, a member in:

OSCE (1992), **United Nations** (1993), **Council of Europe** (1995), **World Trade Organization** (2003), **Partnership for Peace** (1995).

Macedonia has been granted official candidate status for membership in the **European Union** (since 2005) and in **NATO**. In 2001 Macedonia had signed a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, which came into effect in 2004.

9. Main NGOs

- **Open Society Institute – Macedonia**

Established in 1992

The Open Society Institute – Macedonia (FOSIM) was originally founded as the representative office of a foreign legal person, and in 1999 eventually became a national legal person (foundation) in accordance with the Law on Associations of Citizens and Foundations. FOSIM is part of the Soros network in Central and Eastern Europe. Its mission is to support the internal integration of Macedonian society as a prerequisite for EU membership and the facilitation of an open society and strong civil society.

FOSIM supports and implements a wide spectrum of programs.
Internet: <<http://www.soros.org.mk/>>

- **Euro Balkan**

The "Euro Balkan" Institute was founded in 1999, together with the Research Centre in Gender Studies was also established. Its mission is focused on the dissemination and implementation of the ideas and policies of the European Union, and to promote trans-Atlantic co-operation. One of the central goals of Euro Balkan is the development and prosperity of Macedonia as well as the international exchange of ideas. This institution supports the idea of regional integration and propagates "European" identity, culture and values in the Balkans.

Internet: <<http://www.euba.org.mk/eng/index.asp>>

- **Macedonian P.E.N.**

The Macedonian P.E.N. Center has a prominent place among the non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Macedonia. Founded in 1962 as part of the Yugoslav Association of P.E.N. Clubs, it became independent in July 1967 on the Oslo Congress of the P.E.N. and acquired separate voting rights in the International P.E.N.

Internet: <<http://www.pen.org.mk/>>

- **First Children's Embassy**

The First Children's Embassy in the World - *Megjaši* (FCEWM), Republic of Macedonia, was founded in Skopje on April 29, 1992.

Internet: <<http://www.medzasi.org.mk/>>

- **NGO Info-Center**

The NGO Info-center is the public relations agency for the Macedonian civil society sector. It provides PR expertise to all civil society organizations, as well as all interested clients in the business sector. It also provides training in the field of public relations.

Internet: <<http://www.nvoinfocentar.org.mk/default.asp?lang=eng>>