

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH MACEDONIA-INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

UPR Info Pre-sessions

# Situation in North Macedonia – Issue 1-Judiciary independence

## **Previous cycle recommendations on judiciary independence:**

- France - “the should implement credible and visible reforms to effectively strengthen the rule of law, including ensuring the independence of judges and the reliability of proceedings”;
- Mexico to “continue reforming the judiciary to ensure its independence”;
- United States of America “fully implement the recommendations of the European Commission and the Council of Europe related to the reform of the judicial system”.

## **Developments and issues:**

- Legal changes are stipulating new rules for the appointment, promotion, discipline and dismissal of judges and prosecutors.
- The judicial council have adopted new methodology for evaluation of judges containing more qualitative criteria.
- There is partial implementation in the legislative and policy framework with no significant impact in practice.

# Recommendations – Issue 1- Judiciary independence

- Provide procedures that will ensure that the elected members of the Judicial council are persons with high integrity, free from any political party influence;
- Ensure transparency for appointments of lay members of the Judicial council, enable public interviews in the Parliament;
- Amend the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia to determine the minimum voter turnout needed for the election of Judicial council judges members and to determine the minimum number of votes needed to consider the candidate elected;
- Conduct mandatory training on judicial ethics for all judges according to international standards;
- Provide the legally stipulated amount of the state budget to the courts.

# Situation in North Macedonia – Issue- Political participation of persons with disabilities

## **Previous cycle recommendations on political participation of persons with disabilities:**

Republic of Korea - “ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly blind persons and persons with intellectual impairment, have the right to vote by secret ballot”.

## **Developments and issues:**

During the local municipal elections in 2020 blind and visually impaired people were able to independently vote.

The voting stations are still lacking accessible infrastructure for enabling persons with physical disability to independently exercise their right to vote.

Amendments to the Electoral Code indicate that voting rights are withheld only from persons whose legal capacity is fully revoked with an enforceable court decision

There are no positive measures for reasonable accommodation to ensure equal active participation of persons with disabilities in the political life.

There is lack of disaggregated data on disability

# Recommendations – Issue 2- Political participation of persons with disabilities

- Amend the Constitution and the Electoral Code in line with the CRPD to ensure that voting rights are not restricted based on a person's legal capacity;
- Introduce affirmative measures, such as reasonable accommodations, to facilitate equal and active engagement in political processes;
- Ensure accessible infrastructure of all voting stations;
- Ensure the adoption of the Washington Group's set of questions in census lists to accurately capture information on persons with disabilities (which are in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and United Nations standards).

# Thank you

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