

North Macedonia has joined NATO and is moving towards accession talks with the EU. It is unclear whether the positive reform momentum can be maintained due to external opposition to North Macedonia's EU membership and internal disappointment with the integration process. Democratisation challenges remain substantial, also in the security sphere.

Condition of democratic oversight of security



CULTURE

Effective oversight of security is affected by clientelism and a zero-sum mentality in politics between ruling parties and opposition.



CAPACITY

Oversight of security needs new talent whereas young people often move abroad instead of seeking a career in governance at home.



COOPERATION

The Assembly is not always fulfilling its 'marketplace' function of inviting and welcoming institutional input in oversight and taking on board views by civil society.

International democracy rankings

FREEDOM HOUSE, NATIONS IN TRANSIT – DEMOCRACY SCORE



3.75 in 2020 compared to 4.21 in 2010 (on a scale of 1 to 7, 1 is the lowest and 7 the highest level of democratic progress).

Measures 29 countries from Central Europe and Central Asia on National Democratic Governance; Electoral Process; Civil Society; Independent Media; Local Democratic Governance; Judicial Framework and Independence; and Corruption.

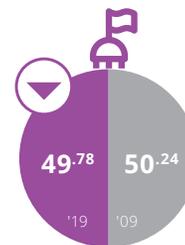
BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION – TRANSFORMATION INDEX



7.17 in 2020 (ranking 22 out of 137 countries), compared to 7.53 in 2010 (on a scale of 1 to 10).

Analyses and evaluates transformation processes of democracy, market economy and governance in 137 developing and transition countries.

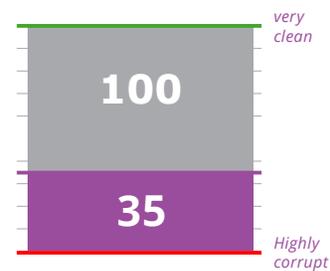
WORLD BANK – WORLD-WIDE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS



49.78 in 2019, compared to 50.24 in 2009 (average of 6 indicators) (ranking of 0 to 100 among countries worldwide).

Ranking over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996–2019 on six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; and Control of Corruption.

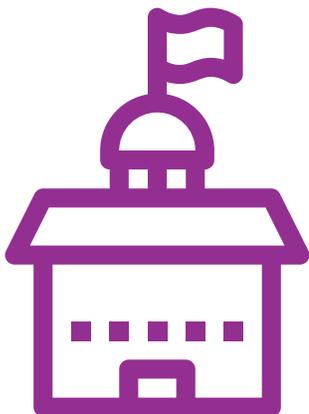
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX



35 points in 2020 (out of 100) (ranking 111 out of 180 countries).

Ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business representatives.

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



Unicameral Assembly that currently has **120 seats** (it could be expanded to 140).

MPs serve **4-year terms** and are elected through proportional representation. **6 electoral districts deliver 20 representatives each.** The Assembly has **73 male MPs and 47 female MPs.**

The youngest MP is a woman and is 23 years old.



73 MALE AND 47 FEMALE MPS

THE YOUNGEST MP IS A WOMAN AND IS 23 YEARS OLD.

The Committee on Defence and Security
(Chairman with 12 members and staff)

The Committee for Supervising the Work of the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Agency
(Chairperson and 8 members)

Regarding oversight, the Assembly:

- Adopts the Republic's budget and the budget's annual accounts; and
- Exercises political control and supervision over the government and other holders of public office.

The Committee on Defence and Security. In performing control in the field of defence and security it looks into issues of:

- Personal security and property of citizens as guaranteed in the Constitution;
- Public order and peace; and
- International cooperation on defence and internal policy.

The Committee for Supervising the Work of the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Agency. Among its duties are overseeing:

- Methods and means used by the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency in terms of respecting the law; and
- Financial, personnel and technical facilities of the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency.

The meetings of both committees are irregular and held when the chairperson or a group of members find it necessary.

The Ombudsman of North Macedonia is an independent institution that:

- Protects the constitutional rights and legal rights of citizens when these are violated by state administration bodies or other bodies and organisations with public mandates; and
- Pays particular attention to safeguarding the principles of non-discrimination and equitable representation of communities in public bodies at all levels and in other areas of public life.

The Ombudsperson is elected by the Assembly for an 8-year term. The office employs about 80 staff. On average, the Ombudsman office receives **about 3,500 complaints** annually. Among the areas where the Ombudsman office is open to citizens' complaints are:

- Police procedures, such as violations of procedures by the police; and
- Defence, such as violations of the rights of conscripts.



**INDEPENDENT
8-YEAR TERM
3,500 COMPLAINTS**

Independent Audit Institution

The State Audit Office is the Supreme Audit Institution of North Macedonia, and has the objective of communicating audit findings timely and objectively to the legislature, executive and the general public.



The State Audit Office provides support to the Assembly in meeting its responsibilities by identifying and disclosing irregularities; cases of illegal operation; and potential cases of corruption and abuse of office.

The office has about 90 staff, of which around 80 are auditors.

Civil society

Freedom of association is enshrined in the Constitution of North Macedonia. Next to that, there is the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations that provides a holistic framework for the registration and termination of citizens' associations and foundations.



15,477 NGOS REGISTERED (2019)

According to the Central Registry of North Macedonia, in 2019 there were 15,477 registered civil society organisations.

The Assembly of North Macedonia is part of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which focuses on openness, transparency, and inclusion of the public in parliamentary work.

Introducing procedures and mechanisms in the Assembly, foremost post-legislative scrutiny and a merit-based system of appointments.

2

Discussing clientelism as an obstacle to transparent and accountable governance and oversight, while promoting a critical stance in scrutinising policy and spending.

1

Strengthening input of quality analyses to the Assembly by civil society actors, the Ombudsman and the State Audit Office.

3

About DECOS

The 'Developing Capacity, Cooperation and Culture in Overseeing the Security Sectors of Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia' project (2019-22) seeks to empower democratic institutions and actors in their function of democratic oversight of security. It does so by increasing *capacities*, enhancing *cooperation*, and fostering a culture of oversight of the security sectors of Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. DECOS consists of a *capacity building* and a *research component* that are directed at democratic oversight actors – parliaments, independent institutions, and advisory bodies; and civil society organisations – in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia.

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The Centre for European Security Studies (CESS) collaborates in DECOS with the Albanian Institute for Political Studies (IPS), the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) from Albania, the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), and the Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje (IDSCS) from North Macedonia. DECOS is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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