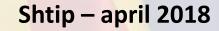




# WHAT WE GET AND WHAT WE LOST FROM THE ASSOCIATION WITH THE EU







Macedonia is a country with a long and tumultuous history. After more than 10 centuries, it gained it's statehood during the former SFRY and as such was part of the federation between 1945 and 1991.

The breakup of Yugoslavia left Macedonia at a crossroads. But, although according to the political division, the world has been balancing for more than a century between the East and the West, Macedonia has chosen the option to build ties with the West, with the EU and NATO. Our perspectives for 27 years have been determined to join the EU, and fulfilling all the tasks that the European Commission and the European Parliament will set for us in order to have a faster membership in the European family.







From a historical point of view, only for reminding, Macedonia gained its independence on **September 8, 1991**, before the turbulent years of the wars in the former Yugoslavia that claimed over 200,000 lives. Macedonia was the only republic that did not have a war on its territory and which during the time of bloodshed built diplomatic ties with the world.



Future of Europe Reload

Unfortunately, due to the opposition of our southern neighbor Greece to be named as the Republic of Macedonia, it was forced to use a temporary reference. By that name, "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" we became members of the UN, thus enabling initial guarantees for the survival of the state and possible protection from war, by coming to the UN blue helmets on our northern border.

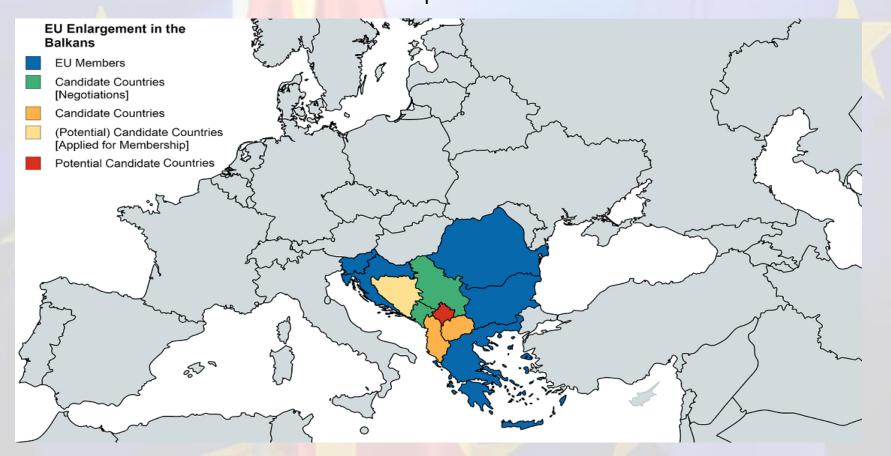
Everything that was going on in the next 27 years was related to our name and the Greek veto for membership in international institutions. But regardless of all, in these 27 years, Macedonia has not lost its spirit, nor the main goal than the basic one: to be part of the EU, as a full member of the Union and, of course, NATO member that will additionally provide guarantees on our borders.



www.stip.gov.mk



The experience of the past gives us the right to put hardest efforts to secure a place in the EU and NATO, because it is the basic principle that guarantees development and success, but also recognition of all the battles throughout history that led to the creation of the Macedonian state. History has so far been the cause of many wars in the Balkan, for unrest, distrust and many stereotypes that are a major obstacle to coexistence and development. Our goal is the EU and that is why we will briefly introduce you to the most important decisions on the European road to Macedonia.

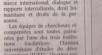




#### **8** GENEVE INTERNATIONALE TRIBLINE DE GENÈV

# **Iniversitaires et internationaux** nettent leur recherche en réseau

G Les huit premiers programmes enus ont recu 2,2 millions de francs.



The first contacts began in October 1992 when Macedonia appointed its first representative in the mission in Brussels. In February 1996, Macedonia raised the level of its mission to the EU in Brussels at the ambassadorial level and a month later became a part of the PHARE program aimed at reconstructing the economy.

The same year in December, diplomatic ties with the EU have been established, when several important agreements are also being signed, primarily in the fields of trade, finance and transport.



In February 1998, the first political dialogue at ministerial level was held in Ohrid, with Macedonia hosting high-level European delegations. With the implementation of a series of reforms, on January 24, 2000, the European Commission made the first decision to raise the level of cooperation between the EU and Macedonia and the formal decision to start negotiations for potential EU membership. The EU has appointed it's first head of the delegation to Macedonia, and a month later, the first negotiations that gave a result began, and in June 2000, Macedonia was assessed as a country with potential EU membership. On April 1, 2004, the historic decision was made for Macedonia to start the process.

💃 Македонија во Европска унија



Ervan Fuere and Vlado Buckovski

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Membership status

Candidate country

#### Background

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – along with other Western Balkans countries – was identified as a potential candidate for EU membership during the <u>Thessaloniki European Council</u> ( see Summit in 2003. Its Stabilisation and Association Agreement is in force since 2004, the first in the region. It applied for EU membership in March 2004 and the Council decided in December 2005 to grant the country candidate status, based on the Commission's favourable opinion. Since October 2009, the Commission has recommended to open accession negotiations with the country, until 2015 when it made this conditional on continued implementation of the Pržino agreement and substantial progress in the implementation of the "Urgent Reform Priorities".



Macedonia officially applied for EU membership on March 22, 2004.

On 9 November 2005, the European Commission recommended the status of a candidate and confirmed it on **17** December 2005.



European Neighbourhood Policy And Enlargement Negotiations



From 2005 to the present, the processes are in standstill due to the position of Greece to disagrees with the name Macedonia and because of that there is no date for the start of accession negotiations. The Greek veto is the main reason why Macedonia is still in the EU waiting room, despite the fulfillment of numerous tasks and reform efforts that have been confirmed by European Commission countries through the publication of the recommendations for Macedonian membership.

In 2008, Greece vetoed Macedonia's accession to NATO in Bucharest, which resulted in a lawsuit from Macedonia in front of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Court ruled that Greece violated Article 11 of the interim agreement between the two countries, with which Greece agreed not to block Macedonia from membership in international organizations. Although Macedonia received a court verdict that Greece is not right, Macedonia is still outside the Euro-Atlantic organizations, despite being completely ready to be part of them.



There is no doubt that the requirement for compromise remains between the two countries, ahead of further processes on the road to the EU and NATO.



## **POSITIVE ASPECTS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU**





If we measure the effects of associative membership with the EU and the negative, it is undoubtedly that Macedonia has great benefit and results from efforts to be part of the EU.

Economic development
Funds of the EU
Visa mode
Grants, donations, loans





## **1.ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Macedonia has great economic benefits from associative membership with the EU, primarily in terms of trade exchange and custom cuts. Macedonia actively joined the European market as an independent state, as an importer and exporter of products and services. The very presence on the big European market has enabled the expansion of the capacities of many companies and their development. On the other hand, this also means a reliable market for placing products, from agricultural crops to intellectual services. The very presence of the big companies from Macedonia led to their Europeanization, acceptance of the European rules of the game and thus growin and expansion.

As an example, we can apoint to Macedonian wine, which, entering the European market, received the highest quality grades, which additionally moved the economy in this sector by winning new markets in the EU. It all became possible in January 2002 when the Protocol on *Trade in Wine and Textile* was signed.



Shtip, as a city that is predominantly oriented towards **textile industry** and apparel, with over 70 larger or smaller textile factories, provided a future not only for placement of goods but also for the survival of those companies. Today, a large part of the confection in Shtip is exporting quality textile products to *Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy,* which has contributed to the growing of trust in these firms and a large number of foreign companies directly invested in Stip. These benefits also have a second side that is perceived precisely in foreign investments in which each country invests great efforts to attract foreign companies.

Stip provides conditions for the presence of foreign companies in Shtip, through **industrial zones** in which American, German, Italian and other companies operate. The economy is the driving force of the EU and therefore for Shtip it is of particular importance to provide conditions for foreign companies that want to win the Macedonian market, which, although small, is still an important part of Europe.







## 2.FUNDS OF THE EU

www.stip.gov.mk

A great benefit from the associative membership of Shtip and thus Macedonia, was the opening of the *EU pre-accession funds for cross-border cooperation projects*. On the one hand, we have a stronger connection with our neighbors and, on the other hand, a new economic cooperation in which both sides benefits. As a city, we have realized most of the projects in cooperation with neighboring Bulgaria, which is also geographically natural process, having in mind that Shtip is a city in the eastern region that borders with neighboring Bulgaria.



So far, a dozen projects have been realized, the largest in the period 2014-2015, when the municipalities of **Shtip** and **Goce Delchev** realized a project worth about **450,000 euros**. The Municipality of Shtip turned the formerly destroyed summer cinema into a multimedia center now named after the first president of independent Macedonia Kiro Gligorov while the Goce Delchev Municipality from Bulgaria reconstructed the people's reading-room in the village of Breznitsa. These projects are evidence of the European values and economic perspectives of Shtip and Macedonia. Together, we leave visible traces of such projects that remain an inheritance for the two countries involved in such projects. Apart from being the result of two municipalities from two countries, they also carry the European seal by providing funding for them.



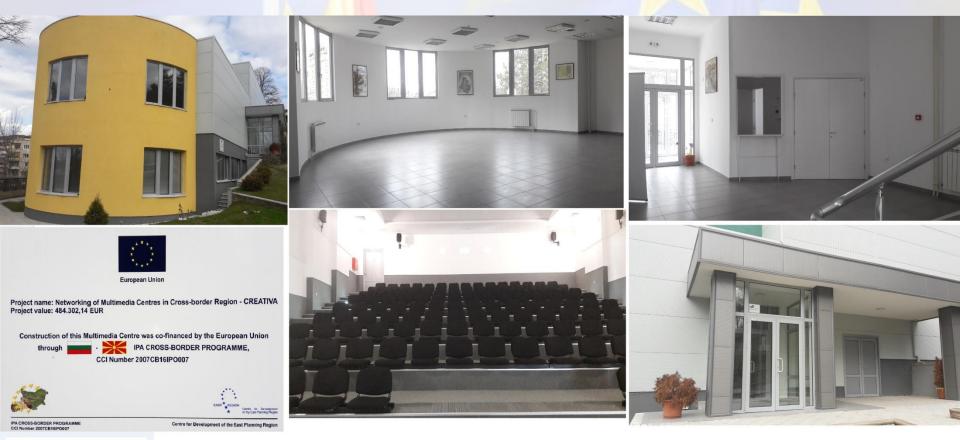


# **BEFORE...**



# Municipality media center "Kiro Gligorov"





AFTER...



Municipality media center "Kiro Gligorov"



### 3. VISA MODE

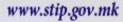
www.stip.gov.mk

The third benefit that Macedonia and Shtip has from associative membership with the EU is the **abolishing the visa regime**. Macedonia began a visa liberalisation dialogue with the EU in February 2008 and was added to the list of visa exempt nationals on **19 December 2009**, allowing their citizens to enter the Schengen Area. Thanks to the decision of the European Commission to abolish the visa regime for Macedonia, thousands of students and citizens can now travel freely to the EU Member States. The free flow of people is not only a physical opportunity through the decline of visas, but also an increase in the intellectual capacity of young people who are Europeanized and gaining positive experiences staying in the EU countries. It is worth mentioning the Erasmus program, which at the educational level included Macedonia in the EU to an even higher degree. And this is wonderful opportunity for Shtip because we have **a state University** with more then 20.000 students.





4. GRANTS, DONATIONS, LOANS





#### **IPA** INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE

**IPARD** 

**European Bank** for Reconstruction and Development



As a fourth point it is worth mentioning the benefits of support through **donations**, grants and cheap loans. Macedonia is a developing country and can not count on further development without cash. Our economy is still weak and subject to the influences of major economic trends, and therefore, since 1995, large amounts of funds have been invested by the EU in the institutional strengthening of Macedonia's capacities.

Some of them are non-refundable grants, part as loans and part as donations from individual EU member states. Such a benefit and opportunity for Macedonia can only be increased, having in mind that after entering the country in the EU, completely new opportunities and access to the joint budget will be opened for Macedonia.

### **NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Regarding the negativites, for now, the biggest problem Macedonia has in it's approach to the EU is the long waiting period for the start of negotiations. Turning back, we remind that the main reason for this is the name dispute with Greece. But regardless of the timeframe, one day, both Macedonia and Greece will settle this dispute, because it is of particular importance to both countries. Therefore, the current governments of both countries are putting extra efforts to overcome the differences. The resolved dispute for Macedonia will mean stability, and for Greece getting a neighbor in a European way.

Future of Europe Reload

Legal frameworks are one thing, but the spirit of people and the cultural benefits must reflect the European character of the city from which we come and the country in which we belong and live as their present representatives.





Acquis chapter	EC Assessment at Start	Current Situation <sup>[39]</sup> (2016)	Screening Started	Screening Completed	Chapter Opened	Chapter Closed
1. Free Movement of Goods	Very Hard To Adopt	Moderately prepared	- <u></u>	_	_	_
2. Freedom of Movement For Workers	Further efforts needed	Early stage	. <del></del>	-	-	-
3. Right of Establishment & Freedom To Provide Services	Further efforts needed	Moderately prepared		_		
4. Free Movement of Capital	Further efforts needed	Moderately prepared	5 <del></del> 6	-	-	-
5. Public Procurement	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared		-		
6. Company Law	Considerable efforts needed	Good level of preparation	· <u>-</u>	-		
7. Intellectual Property Law	Very Hard To Adopt	Moderately prepared	. <del></del>	-	-	-
8. Competition Policy	Very Hard To Adopt	Moderately prepared	- <del></del>	-	-	-
9. Financial Services	Further efforts needed	Moderately prepared		-	_	_
10. Information Society & Media	Considerable efforts needed	Good level of preparation	1 <del></del>	-		-
11. Agriculture & Rural Development	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared	-	-		
12. Food Safety, Veterinary & Phytosanitary Policy	Considerable efforts needed	Some level of preparation		-	-	-
13. Fisheries	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared	-	-		
14. Transport Policy	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared	2 <u>—</u> 3	-	222	<u>1</u> 2
15. Energy	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared	. <del></del> 8	-	-	
16. Taxation	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared		-		
17. Economic & Monetary Policy	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared	a <u>-16</u>	_	_	_
18. Statistics	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared	1 <del></del>	-	-	-
19. Social Policy & Employment	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared		-		
20. Enterprise & Industrial Policy	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared		-	-	-
21. Trans-European Networks	No major difficulties expected	Good level of preparation	-	-		
22. Regional Policy & Coordination of Structural Instruments	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared	2 <u></u>		1 <u>1</u> 1	<b>1</b> 20
23. Judiciary & Fundamental Rights	Considerable efforts needed	Some level of preparation		-	-	-
24. Justice, Freedom & Security	Considerable efforts needed	Moderately prepared	<u>-</u>	-		
25. Science & Research	No major difficulties expected	Good level of preparation		-	-	-
26. Education & Culture	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared	1 <del>911</del> 8	-	-	-
27. Environment	Totally incompatible with acquis	Some level of preparation	-	-		
28. Consumer & Health Protection	Further efforts needed	Moderately prepared		-	-	-
29. Customs Union	Considerable efforts needed	Good level of preparation		-		-
30. External Relations	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared	<u>-</u> 1	-	-	<u>1</u> 20
31. Foreign, Security & Defence Policy	No major difficulties expected	Moderately prepared		-	-	-
32. Financial Control	Very Hard To Adopt	Moderately prepared	-	-	-	-
33. Financial & Budgetary Provisions	No major difficulties expected	Early stage	4 <u></u>		-	_
34. Institutions	Nothing to adopt	Nothing to adopt		-	-	-
35. Other Issues	Nothing to adopt	Nothing to adopt	· <u> </u>	-		
Progress			0 out of 33	0 out of 33	0 out of 35	0 out of 35



## THE FUTURE OF THE EU

www.stip.gov.mk

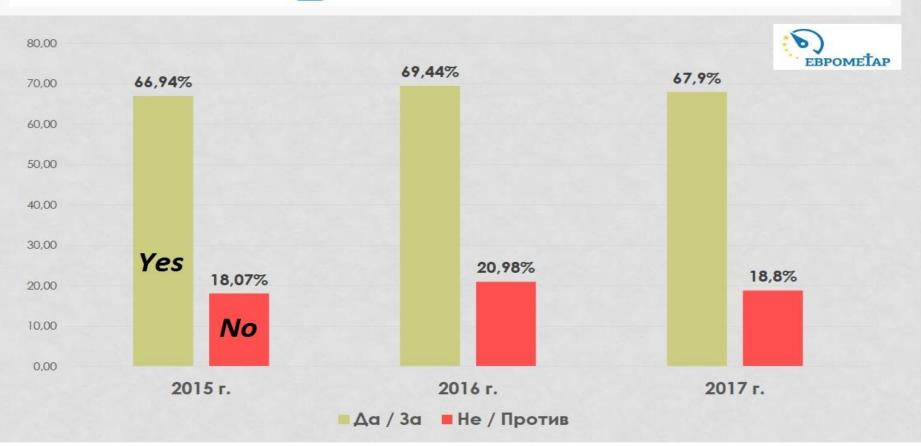
Further development of the EU, the future of the institution, is especially important for Macedonia. The EU's enlargement decisions, new opportunities for cooperation, discussion and new projects mean continuous Europeanization of Macedonia.

That is why the numerous public opinion polls, which continuously show a high awareness and desire for EU membership, are especially stimulating. According to the latest surveys, about 70 % of the citizens are about Macedonia's accession to the EU and NATO, which shows that our path is projected and there is no stopping on that road, nor turning left or right.





## ДОКОЛКУ ВО НЕДЕЛА СЕ ОДРЖИ РЕФЕРЕНДУМ СО ПРАШАЊЕ "ДАЛИ СТЕ ЗА ВЛЕЗ НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА ВО ?", КАКО БИ ГЛАСАЛЕ?



How will you vote on referendum for EU membership?



We understand the EU as a dynamic system that is constantly evolving, provides rights and values for all communities with a high degree of consensus among member states. That is why in the future I expect the EU to remain **open** to new members, because such a mechanism will mean hope for many countries to change collective consciousness and to turn to proven values. Europe without borders, with a single market, free flow of people and goods, but also with a single and common army as a guarantor of stability and peace. That for us, the smaller aspirant countries for membership, in an area such as the Balaknon, will mean a guarantee of the borders we live in. Such Europe and such an EU are of existential significance to us, but also a chance to show that although we are not big, we have historical values that will be another strong point in the quality of the EU.

#### Macedonian EU accession bid



# **ATTENTION !**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR

euroenAture (





www.stip.gov.mk