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ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Based on Article 75, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, the President of the Republic of North Macedonia and the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia issue

DECREE FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE LAW ON THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Law on the National Development Strategy is proclaimed, which the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted at the session held on February 6, 2024.

No. 08-913/1
6 February 2024
Skopje

Претседател на Република
Северна Македонија,
Stevo Pendarovski

President
of the Assembly of the Republic
of North Macedonia,
Jovan Mitreski

LAW ON THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subject to the Law

Article 1

This law regulates the status, structure, development, adoption, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter: the Strategy).

Status of planning documents

Article 2

(1) The planning documents for national development shall be: the Strategy and the Programme for the implementation of the Strategy (hereinafter: the Programme).

(2) The Strategy is the hierarchically highest long-term strategic planning document for the national development of the Republic of North Macedonia.

(3) The Strategy shall reflect the fundamental values of the constitutional order of the Republic of North Macedonia, the goals for sustainable development of the United Nations Organization, the fundamental values of the European Union and other international organizations.

(4) The Strategy shall support and enable the reforms for the integration of the Republic of North Macedonia into the European Union.

(5) The implementation document for the operationalization and implementation of the Strategy, which shall enable a complete overview of the structure of all measures, shall be the Programme.

Structure of the Strategy

Article 3

(1) The Strategy shall, as a long-term planning document, define the key strategic goals and shall, in its structure, especially contain:

1. Vision for the development of the Republic of North Macedonia;
2. Development needs and opportunities;
3. Development areas;
4. Goals and priorities for each general goal;
5. Performance indicators that shall enable monitoring, reporting and assessment of performance in achieving general goals and priorities;
6. Principles;
7. Indicative financial plan;
8. Framework for monitoring of the implementation and
9. Reporting and assessment.

Development and implementation of the Strategy

Article 4

The development and implementation of the Strategy shall reflect the values and goals referred to in Article 2, Paragraph (2) of this Law and shall be based on the following principles:

1. **"Principle of partnership and cooperation"** shall represent continuous inclusivity and coordination in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national planning documents for national development and other development planning documents between the Parliament, the Government, the municipalities, the municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje, the economic and social partners and civil society representatives;
2. **"Principle of compliance and consistency of policies"** shall represent compliance of created policies, goals and results of hierarchically lower planning documents with the Strategy;
3. **"Principle of long-term"** shall be a long-term process of the Strategy, which determines the main parameters towards which the state should strive;
4. **"Principle of a systemic approach"** shall be the coordination of institutions and capacity building for cooperation with a greater focus on horizontal strategies;
5. **"Principle of built-in adaptability"** shall be sustainable and adaptive contributions, which shall require transition, change and development by all relevant stakeholders over a long period of time;
6. **"Principle of complementarity"** shall be the integration of all current processes and priorities in all segments of the state's development;
7. **"Principle of compliance with the policies of the European Union"** shall represent the alignment of the areas and objectives of the Strategy with the strategies, policies and legislation of the European Union in the relevant areas of policies and priorities, determined in the strategic agenda of the European Commission;
8. **"Principle of comprehensive financing"** shall mean encouraging comprehensive financing (from domestic and international public and private funds) by promoting existing and innovative sources for the realization of the priorities foreseen in the Strategy;
9. **"Principle of transparency"** shall be transparent consultation and involvement of all stakeholders, in all stages of the process of planning, implementation and reporting of planning documents;
10. **"Principle of sustainability"** shall be the basis of the Strategy on the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental sustainability);
11. **"Principle of fiscal sustainability of policies"** shall be the establishment of fiscally sustainable policies in the long term, and in the medium term aligned with the fiscal limitations, established in the Fiscal Strategy and the medium-term budget framework;
12. **"Principle of relevance, reliability and evidence-based"** shall represent a previously conducted comprehensive and reliable analysis of situations and key factors, movements, conditions and circumstances in all areas of action, as a basis for defining development needs and opportunities based on reliable, verifiable and comparable data, as well as assessment of the impact of policies in the areas covered by the Strategy;

13. **"Principle of economy, efficiency and effectiveness"** shall represent defined appropriate performance indicators for all set goals that are understandable, measurable and economical, with cost optimization, and the ratio between cost and benefits shall be acceptable.

(2) The policies determined by the Strategy should ensure the development of a sustainable, socially just and climate neutral economy.

(3) The determined measures should not create a disproportionate financial or other burden for future generations.

(4) The process of planning, implementation and evaluation of the performance and effects of implementation should be cyclical and based on experiences and lessons learned from the previous processes of planning and implementation of the Strategy.

Adoption of the Strategy and Programme

Article 5

(1) The Strategy shall be adopted for a period of 20 years.

(2) The Programme shall be adopted for a period of five years, along with the Strategy, respectively, no later than six months before the end of the current planning period.

(3) The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter: the Assembly) shall, on the proposal of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter: the Government), adopt the Strategy and the Programme.

Harmonization of strategic planning documents with the Strategy

Article 6

(1) All strategic planning documents, prepared and proposed in accordance with the law, an international agreement ratified in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia or in accordance with the established need for improving the situation in a certain area or several related policy areas, shall be aligned, respectively, shall contribute to the achievement of the development goals and priorities determined by the Strategy.

(2) The structure, content and method of development, implementation, monitoring, reporting and assessment of the strategic planning documents referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the Government with a bylaw, unless otherwise prescribed by law.

(3) The manner of harmonizing the strategic planning documents referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Article with the Strategy shall be prescribed by the Government with a bylaw.

II. PLANNING, MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND THE ASSESSMENT

Planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategy and the Programme

Article 7

(1) When planning the implementation of the Strategy and the Programme, the Government shall, taking into account the statement on fiscal policy, fiscal principles and rules, the Government's Work Program, the analysis of the achieved results from the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Government from the previous year, the development strategic planning documents, sectoral strategies and the assessment of the current socio-economic and social conditions in the country, by December 15 of the current year at the latest, determine the strategic priorities, at least for the next five years.

(2) The necessary costs for the implementation of the activities contained in the programs, subprograms, projects and measures included in the Strategic Plan shall be within the maximum amounts of expenditures (expenditure limits) established in the Fiscal Strategy. The Strategic Plan shall be harmonized and determined according to the revised Fiscal Strategy and the adopted budget.

(3) The municipalities, the municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje shall

ensure the implementation of the Strategy within their competences.

(4) Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy in accordance with the Programme and the Annual Work Program of the Government shall be carried out by the General Secretariat of the Government with an Annual Report on the implementation of the Strategy, containing a cross-section of implemented activities in the current year.

(5) Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy in accordance with the planning acts, i.e. documents referred to in Paragraph (2) of this Article, the municipalities, the municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje is carried out with a report, adopted by the Council of the Municipality, i.e. the Council of the City of Skopje no later than the end of December in the current year, that shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Municipality, i.e. of the City of Skopje.

(6) The data from the planning documents, i.e. acts from paragraph (5) of this article and other data for the preparation of the annual report referred to in Paragraph (4) of this Article shall be obtained by the General Secretariat of the Government and they shall be an integral part of the Annual Report on the implementation of the Strategy.

(7) The Government shall submit the Annual Report on the implementation of the Strategy from the previous year to the Assembly by the end of March in the current year for the following year.

Assessment of the Strategy and the Programme

Article 8

(1) The General Secretariat of the Government shall ensure assessment of the success of the implementation of the Strategy, at least once for a period of five years from the Strategy adoption date. The assessment of the effectiveness of the Strategy can be carried out for a period shorter than five years at the initiative of the Government. The results of the assessment shall be published within the Report referred to in Article 7, Paragraph (4) of this Law.

(2) The manner of conducting the assessment on the success of the the Strategy implementation referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the Government by means of a by-law.

(3) After the assessment referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Article, the Government or the Assembly can propose an update of the Strategy.

III. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Management structure

Article 9

The planning of the implementation of the Strategy and the Program shall be carried out by the National Council for Development as part of the management structure, which shall also consist of the auxiliary bodies: Management Board and Working Committee.

Organization of the Council and the auxiliary bodies of the Council

Article 10

(1) The Council and the auxiliary bodies of the Council shall be organized on the basis of this Law and the Act establishing the Council.

(2) The manner of working of the Council and the auxiliary bodies of the Council shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.

(3) Professional, administrative-technical support for the work of the Council and the auxiliary bodies of the Council and the coordination of the work of the Work Committee referred to in Article 14 of this Law shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Government.

(4) The General Secretariat of the Government shall provide the spatial and technical conditions for the smooth execution of tasks from the scope of activities of the Council and the auxiliary bodies of the Council.

National Development Council

Article 11

- (1) The Government shall establish the National Council for Development (hereinafter: the Council), as a permanent advisory body of the Government.
- (2) The members of the Council shall be appointed and dismissed by the Government.
- (3) Members of the Council shall be:
 1. The President of the Government and his deputies;
 2. One representative from the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia;
 3. One representative from the Office of the President of the Assembly;
 4. The coordinators of the parliamentary groups and one deputy each from the political parties represented in the Assembly that are not organized in a parliamentary group;
 5. The Minister of Finance;
 6. The Minister of Economy;
 7. The Minister of Defense;
 8. The president of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts;
 9. The Secretary General of the Government;
 10. One representative each from:
 11. The President of the Community of Local Self-Government Units;
 12. The Presidents of the eight Councils for the Planning Regions Development;
 13. One representative each from the representative Trade Unions;
 14. Representatives from institutions of higher education, with a narrower specialty in the field of strategic development, economy, social development and environment protection, nominated by public universities;
 15. Three representatives of associations nominated by the Council for Cooperation between the Government and civil society, of which at least one representative of the Associations working in the field of marginalized persons protection and
 16. Two youth representatives, nominated by the National Youth Council.
- (4) The members of the Council referred to in Paragraph (3) Points 10, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of this Article shall be appointed for a period of three years.
- (5) Representatives of other state bodies or associations may participate in the work of the Council.
- (6) The Council shall be chaired by the President of the Government or, in his absence or inability to attend, one of the deputies of the President of the Government designated by him.

Jurisdiction of the Council

Article 12

- (1) The Council shall organize the development of the Strategy and the Programme, review the draft text and submit the draft text to the Government.
- (2) The Council shall give opinions and recommendations on the planning, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy, the determination and application of the means and methods for the financing of the Strategy.
- (3) The Council shall also perform the following tasks:
 1. Give opinions and recommendations on the vision and key development directions and strategic goals and priorities of the Republic of North Macedonia;
 2. Review issues in the field of strategic development policies in the Republic of North Macedonia;
 3. Develop cooperation with relevant institutions in the country and abroad in relation to strategic development issues;
 4. Consider specific issues and problems related to strategic development;
 5. Make proposals related to the content, methodology and dynamics of development of the Strategy;
 6. Propose a financial framework to the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the Strategy;
 7. Make proposals to the Government for updating the Strategy and
 8. Consider other issues of importance for the strategic development of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Steering Board

Article 13

(1) The Steering Board is an auxiliary body of the Council, providing strategic and partnership cooperation of the Council with the international community, international financial institutions and donors.

(2) Members of the Steering Board shall be the President of the Government or the Deputy of the President of the Government, proposed by the President and the Minister of Finance.

Work Committee

Article 14

(1) The Work Committee is an auxiliary body of the Council that shall provide expert and technical support to the Council.

(2) The Work Committee shall be organized and work in groups and subgroups by area, ensuring the representation of experts from the administration bodies, other public institutions, associations, the economy and institutions of higher education.

(3) The members of the Work Committee shall be elected by the Council through a public call from among the employees of the state administration bodies, the Municipalities, the Municipalities in the city of Skopje and the City of Skopje, other public institutions, associations and the private sector.

(4) The Work Committee shall carry out the technical preparation of the text of the Strategy and the Programme and shall submit a draft text to the Council.

IV. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15

Within one month from the date of entry into force of this law, the Council shall be established.

Article 16

(1) Strategic planning documents from Article 6, Paragraph (1) of this Law, adopted prior to the adoption of the Strategy, shall remain valid until the expiration of the period to which they refer.

(2) With the exception of Paragraph (1) of this Article, strategic planning documents whose strategic framework, i.e. the vision for the development of the area or areas included in the Strategy, the general and special goals are in conflict with the vision of long-term national development, goals and priorities determined by the Strategy, shall comply with the Strategy within two years from the day of adoption of the Strategy.

Article 17

The Government shall adopt the by-laws from Article 6, Paragraphs (2) and (3) and Article 8, Paragraph (2) of this Law no later than six months from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 18

The application of the provisions of Article 7, Paragraphs (2), (4) and (5) of this Law shall begin one year from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 19

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the day of its publication in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".