



CREATING FUTURE TOGETHER

NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Meet the
**National Development
Strategy.**



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is a long-term strategic document **outlining the path for** the country's and society's development **over the next 20 years**.

The main vision of the strategy is to create an environment in which **all residents of the country** will have a better and higher quality of life in the next 20 years. To achieve this goal, a **good plan** is needed.



This strategy is precisely that - a plan for a better future. It's a plan for the development of society that will contribute to a better life for citizens, where they can participate in decision-making about what is good for them and what isn't. To achieve this plan, a mutual agreement that will ensure security, equality, and predictability is needed. We need to know that what we do today will not be forgotten tomorrow, but it will be continued and improved.

That's why we can call this text a story, **a story about the future**.

In the midst of the story, imagine a road where everyone can move at different speeds, with different vehicles, yet everyone can reach the goal safely without being threatened by others. **To maintain order**, there are rules on the road, and the institutions that have been entrusted with this task ensure their respect equally for everyone.

Once we establish order on the road, further decisions about where our path will take us are **made by all of us** through our actions. Each of us needs to participate responsibly in building a better joint future with new ideas and proposals. Together, we must take care of and preserve what we have but also make joint plans for what we would like to have in the next five, 10, or 20 years.



Everyone, regardless of whether we are young or old, regardless of where we live, is part of the story and contributes to writing this joint story. Thanks to the National Development Strategy, we have a chance to make at least some of our dreams a reality in the next 20 years. Therefore, in order to make this story complete, a large number of citizens from different ages, categories, groups, organizations, and political parties participated in its creation.

Get ready to be part of this future, and let's make the story a reality together.

NORTH MACEDONIA IN 20 YEARS - OUR VISION



People in North Macedonia enjoy a high standard of living realized through an economy that is sustainable, competitive and provides equal opportunities for all.



Institutions are efficient, accountable, responsible, innovative, and open to civic participation.



The communities we live in are green, safe, resilient to modern risks, infrastructurally connected and digitized. These conditions contribute to creating the foundation for prosperous young people and satisfied, happy, healthy, and actively aging individuals.



Art and culture are the pillars of our society and contribute to improving collective well-being and the international perception of the country.



Our country is an active and respected member of international organizations and regional initiatives, promoting values, norms, and processes that result in improving the lives of all people.

HOW DID THIS VISION COME ABOUT?

In order to create a quality National Development Strategy that meets the demands and interests of all citizens, we conducted a **consultation process with various groups of citizens** from all generations, ethnic communities, professions, and all regions of the country. Everyone was invited to participate and to contribute in order to come to an agreement and **collectively decide on what the future of our country will look like**.

To achieve this, we organized **over 50 visionary workshops**, where **more than 14,000 citizens** participated.

We organized **more than 10 expert debates**, where **more than 200 experts** participated.



The following actors **actively participated** in the preparation of the NDS:

- More than **250 representatives** from all ministries/agencies
- More than **50 MPs** from the ruling and the opposition parties
- Over **60 mayors** from municipalities throughout the country
- More than **30 national experts, 10 international experts**, as well as the **Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts**
- All **chambers of commerce** and their members
- **25 think tanks** and **100 civil society organizations**
- Over **1,000 young people** and **55 youth organizations**
- More than **500 representatives** from **marginalized and vulnerable groups**

Every citizen can inform themselves and get involved in the process through **the digital platform** www.nrs.mk.

This plan for the future of our society is comprehensive and includes proposals for improving the quality of life for citizens of all ages and plans for all areas.

The vision for the future of our country reflects all our aspirations, expectations, and visions for the society that we collectively aspire towards.



The plan addresses the major economic, political, social, and environmental challenges our country is facing.

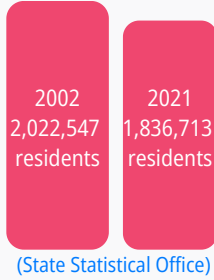
Everyone is welcome to contribute to the creation of this plan for the future of our society regardless of their generation, gender, ethnic or party affiliation, or place of residence.

NORTH MACEDONIA IN FIGURES

Population



The population is shrinking...



(World Bank 2021)

The population is aging...

Life Expectancy

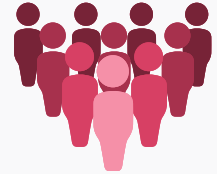


77 years for females

72 years for males



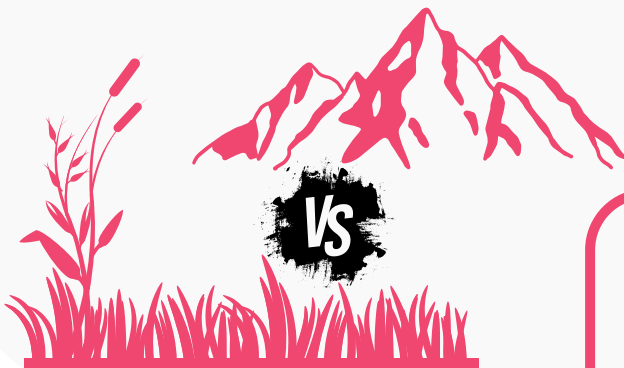
17.17% of residents are over 65 years old



17.7% of residents are under 29 years old

The territory of the country is elevated...

- 80% of the total territory of the country is mountainous
- 20% is flat lowland



We have many settlements - a total of 1,767,

34 of which are urban,



as many as 1,733 are rural,

and 205 are abandoned.



The literacy rate in North Macedonia is 95.8%.



45.7% of the population is employed, and these are the sectors with the largest share in GDP:



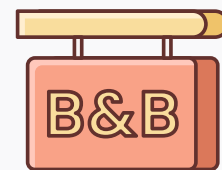
Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles



Wholesale and retail trade



Transportation and storage



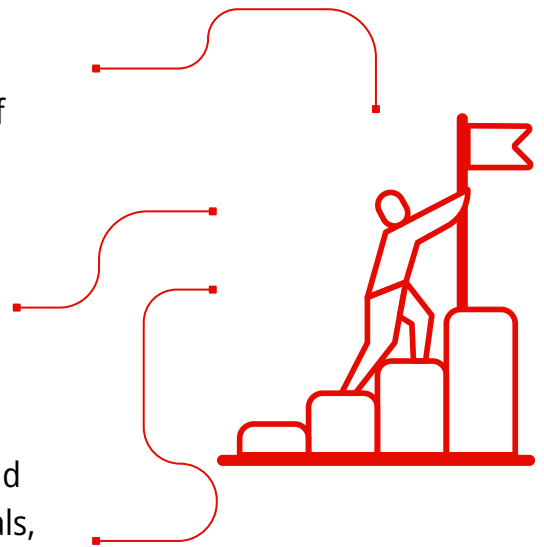
Accommodation and food service activities

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR SOCIETY?



We set the following goals to achieve this vision and their full completion will lead to the desired development of the country.

1. Strengthening competitiveness and development of the country through a functional and innovative ecosystem, improving the skills, knowledge, inclusion and resilience of citizens.
2. Governance models that are open, accountable, and robust, capable of preventing and appropriately responding, fostering prosperity for all groups in society
3. Social inclusion, which entails improved social, health, and educational systems aimed at providing benefits to individuals, businesses, and society as a whole.



During the consultations, with the help of the citizens, we identified **six thematic and strategic areas** that the National Development Strategy should focus on. These six areas are:

- ✓ **Sustainable, Innovative and Competitive Economy**
- ✓ **Sustainable Local and Regional Development that Ensures Cohesion**
- ✓ **Demographic Revitalization and Social and Cultural Development**
- ✓ **Rule of Law and Good Governance**
- ✓ **Secure, Safe and Resilient Society**
- ✓ **Green Transformation**

We have planned multiple objectives for each of these strategic areas, and each objective contains several priorities to focus on. Fulfilling all of these priorities will help us achieve all the objectives of the strategic areas, or in other words, realize our vision for the future.

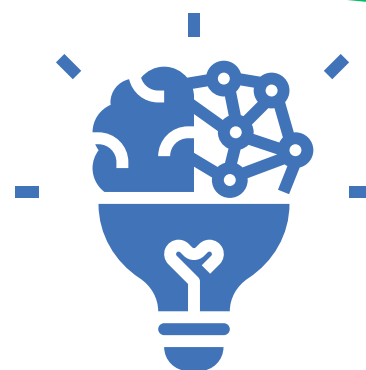
Let's dive deeper into each of the strategic areas:

STRATEGIC AREA: SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY



North Macedonia needs to **actively work** towards transitioning to a **sustainable economy based on knowledge, innovation and digitization**. This will enable us to have **growth based on smart specialization and green transformation, where science, research, innovation, and entrepreneurial initiatives are at the forefront**.

In such an economic reality, companies work on **developing innovations and technologies**, creating products and services that follow the latest technological advancements. Employees have **better-paying jobs**, access to continuous education and training, as well as high qualifications.



We will also witness a **green revolution**, where businesses in the country will have **minimal ecological footprint**, and institutions will support innovations and enterprises that introduce green solutions.

With all of this, **North Macedonia** should evolve into an **active promoter of innovation, sustainability, and social inclusion** at the international level.

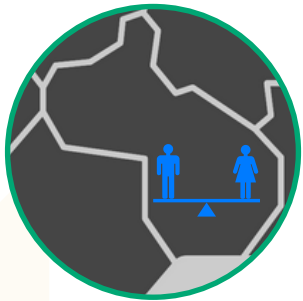
STRATEGIC AREA: SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THAT ENSURES COHESION



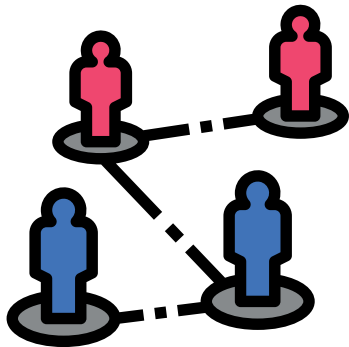
Every citizen, regardless of their place of residence, should have **equal access** to public services and opportunities for a better quality of life through **balanced regional development**.

For this to happen, **conditions need to be improved** both in urban and rural areas, **quality and inclusive public services** need to be provided, and an infrastructure that will enable an equally high quality of life for all citizens needs to be built. **It is of great importance** to build and maintain European infrastructure corridors with modern road and railway networks. **Digitized and functional** spatial and urban planning for sustainable communities should be established, as well as a sustainable system for long-term financing and construction of resilient capital infrastructure.

Municipalities need to be **functional and financially sustainable**. They should fulfill all their responsibilities, have strong own sources of income, and also receive money from the state budget based on their activities and the needs of local communities. It is also important to apply a **gender-responsive approach** in governance and budgeting in local self-governments.

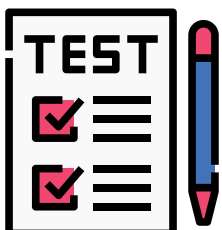


STRATEGIC AREA: DEMOGRAPHIC REVITALIZATION AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



In the plan for the future, the country will focus on improving the population **structure** and **social development** of North Macedonia. The goal is to create a **sustainable environment** in which all people and communities can thrive.

The main priorities include **balancing family and professional responsibilities, developing cooperation with the diaspora, and reintegrating returnees**. The aim is to ensure accessible and quality housing, manage internal and external flows, and achieve a **healthy and happy life**.



Initiatives such as **preventive healthcare, developed public social services**, and financially stable plans for **pension insurance**; as for the field of education, **compulsory preschool education**, improved learning outcomes in formal education, as well as developed **cultural and creative industries** are necessary.

We aim for a society based on **knowledge, critical thinking, and values** that will be recognized and sustained in the future.

STRATEGIC AREA: RULE OF LAW AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



North Macedonia is to be a country where **everyone will have equal opportunities** for progress and a quality life not only declaratively, **but substantially**. Through this strategy, the state will invest in good governance, protection of rights, and a developed legal system with a high level of trust.

The Republic of North Macedonia is to become part of the European Union with full **respect** for the fundamental freedoms and rights of its citizens. All our institutions - the Assembly, the executive branch, and the judiciary - should work according to **European standards** and be **efficient, transparent, and accountable**.



Differences will be respected, with all citizens enjoying adequate **protection of their rights**, and everyone will be able to participate in shaping the community with their ideas and participation. This can provide us with a **stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable society** where everyone can enjoy a **better quality of life** and social security.

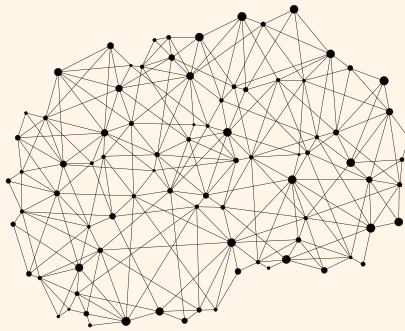
Democratic processes are to be strengthened, the participation of **citizens** in political decision-making, and **accountability of public services** enhanced. The state is to be **transparent** in governance and law enforcement. The goal is to **fight corruption**, have **independent courts**, and ensure the right of equality and justice for all citizens.



All these things will be achieved by maintaining **freedom of speech** and **freedom of the media**, as key factors in objectively, accurately, and timely informing citizens, as well as the **digitization process**, which will facilitate the accessibility of information and accountability of institutions.

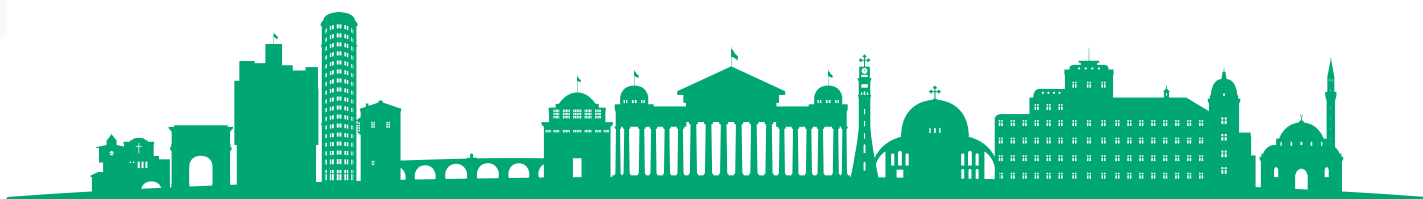
STRATEGIC AREA: SECURE, SAFE AND RESILIENT SOCIETY

- ✓ The state advocates for resilient institutions and cooperation in all important sectors for the security and development of the country. The aim is to cooperate and share information within the national security framework with key decision-makers.
- ✓ The aim is to create climate-resilient communities, with a focus on preventing disaster risks and developing a functional early warning system. We strive to build resilient infrastructure and services at the national and regional levels.
- ✓ The state will support the process of adaptation to climate change, ensure preparedness, climate risk response, and build resilient local and regional infrastructure.
- ✓ The National Development Strategy focuses on human security and improving the resilience of communities and settlements. To achieve these goals, an integrated state approach to effectively address risks and threats will be adopted.



The most important aspect of society is **resilience to crises and disasters**. Therefore, a **modern concept** for the creation of a security policy with a **control function** of the Assembly on the creation and implementation of security, defense, and foreign policy is reinforced. The General Staff of the Army, part of the Ministry of Defense, aims to be a **secure and equal ally of NATO**.

STRATEGIC AREA: GREEN TRANSFORMATION



North Macedonia has an important mission in this area - to become an example in nature and environmental protection.

One of the goals is to build a society that not only does not harm the environment but also preserves and enhances its richness. In the vision, the main focus is on raising awareness among people about the importance of **clean energy** and how it can **improve our lives**.

Protection of biodiversity is of paramount importance, and we commit to **protecting** nature and animal species. Sustainable agricultural practices and the use of ecological technologies are part of the strategy for **improving agriculture and protecting our resources**.



The green transformation also focuses on **renewing the waste management system**. By introducing standardized landfills and increasing recycling, we aim to **reduce the negative impact** of waste on our environment.

We will strive to reduce emissions of harmful gases, **improve air quality**, and set standards for a clean and healthy way of living. **Energy efficiency** is also of particular interest, where citizens and companies embrace energy choices to **improve society**.

With these efforts and the **active support of people**, North Macedonia will strive for a **balanced and responsible approach to the environment** for us to live in harmony with nature and reap the benefits of green development.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTORS, OUR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES THAT WE SHOULD NURTURE THAT WILL ENABLE LONG-TERM PROSPERITY OF OUR COUNTRY?



1. Maintaining macroeconomic stability



2. Strong institutions focused on the needs of citizens.



3. Territorial organization and functional decentralization



4. Inclusion and social cohesion



5. Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and successfully addressing environmental issues



6. Political consensus on key strategic development directions



7. Management and utilization of data, technology, and a high degree of digitization

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING OUR JOINT VISION?

You can also join, help, and contribute to achieving our joint vision for the next 20 years in our country. First and foremost, **always keep this vision in mind**. Whenever you make a significant decision, think carefully and consider whether that decision brings us closer to this vision. If everyone thinks like you and contributes their share, we will easily achieve this vision.

But we also have **additional tips** for you to help us achieve our joint vision:

- ✓ **Give your best** in the education process
- ✓ Learn **as many things as possible**
- ✓ Education is **the foundation for everything** you'll do in the future
- ✓ **Foster** a culture of continuous learning
- ✓ Stay **curious** and **open** to new ideas and perspectives
- ✓ Practice **sustainability in your everyday life**, recycle your waste, and reduce energy consumption
- ✓ Foster environmental awareness, **reduce the use of single-use plastics** and use eco-friendly products
- ✓ Learn to **manage your personal finances** properly and make informed decisions about your savings and investments
- ✓ **Buy locally**, support local businesses
- ✓ Cultivate your **entrepreneurial skills** and think about starting your **own** sustainable business
- ✓ Take care of your **mental and physical health**
- ✓ **Embrace diversity** and promote cultural understanding
- ✓ Use technology responsibly and **be aware** of its societal impact
- ✓ Stay **informed about social issues** and **engage** in conversations to raise awareness
- ✓ Get involved in **projects and initiatives within your local community**
- ✓ Stay well-informed about political issues and policies **that affect your community**
- ✓ **Advocate** for transparency, accountability, and good governance
- ✓ Join the platform, read the documents, and follow the development of the strategy.



CREATING FUTURE TOGETHER

NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

