

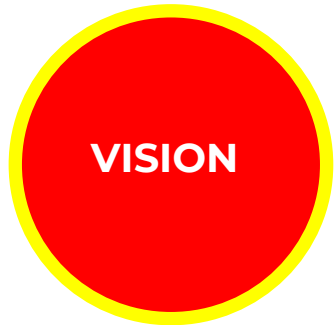
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# National Development Strategy 2024-2044



November 2023



People in North Macedonia **have a high quality of life**, achieving success in **an economy that is sustainable, competitive** and offers equal opportunities.

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

The communities in which we live are **safe, green, resilient** to modern challenges, infrastructurally connected and digitalized. These conditions contribute to creating a foundation for **prosperous youth, as well as people who are content, happy, healthy and age actively**.

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

Our country is an **active and distinguished member of international organisations and regional initiatives**, where it promotes values, norms and processes that should result in or are aimed at **improving the life of all people**.

**NATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**Increasing productivity through a functioning and innovative eco-system and continuous improvement of skills, knowledge, involvement and resilience of the citizens**

**Governance models are open, resilient and strong, able to prevent and adequately respond while being accountable at the same time and encouraging progress for all social groups.**

**Social inclusion and improved social, health care, and educational systems provide benefits for individuals, businesses and society as a whole.**



**SIX STRATEGIC  
AREAS**

**Sustainable, Innovative and  
Competitive Economy**

**Rule of Law and Good  
Governance**

**Sustainable Local and  
Regional Development  
that  
Ensures Cohesion**

**Secure, Safe and  
Resilient Society**

**Demographic Revitalization  
and Social and Cultural  
Development**

**Green Transformation**

## OBJECTIVES

**Economy based on Knowledge, Innovation and Rapid Digitalisation**

**Highly Integrated Economy in International Trade and Finance**

**Labor Force Meeting Current and Future Labor Market Needs**

## PRIORITIES

- **Model of economic growth based on smart specialisation and international ESG standards**
- **Research, development and innovation results as a basis for rapid and green economic growth**
- **Eco-system supporting entrepreneurship and start-ups**

- **Regulatory certainty that creates high competitive pressure in the domestic market:**
- **High inflow of FDI in line with smart specialization and green transformation**
- **Domestic companies involved in regional and global value chains**
- **Access to competitive and diversified financial services and internationally integrated capital market**
- **Export structure of the country with a representation of goods with a high degree of finalization and knowledge-intensive services**
- **High level of formalization of the economy**

- **Curricula that creates competencies and skills for innovation and entrepreneurship**
- **Mandatory internships in secondary and higher education**
- **Career development for pupils and students**
- **Formal and informal education in line with technological and market trends**
- **Established labor force mobility with a focus on “brain gain”**
- **Regulated legal immigration to address labor market shortages**
- **Increased participation of women and vulnerable groups in the country’s economic processes**
- **Investment in talented pupils and students**

**Sustainable, Innovative and Competitive Economy**

## OBJECTIVES

## PRIORITIES

**Sustainable Local and  
Regional Development  
that  
Ensures Cohesion**

### Reduced Disparities between Regions

- Polycentric spatial development and a high degree of internal and external and external territorial cohesion
- Places with developed infrastructure and dynamic socio-economic and cultural life
- Quality and inclusive public services

### Capital Infrastructure in Function of a Better Life /People Benefit from a Greener and More Resilient Capital Infrastructure

- Built and maintained European infrastructure corridors and modern road and rail network
- Digitized and functional spatial and urban planning
- Sustainable system of long-term financing and building a resilient capital infrastructure

### Functional and Fiscally Sustainable Municipalities

- Local self-government units effectively exercise their competencies
- Fiscally autonomous local self-government units with their own strong income sources
- Fiscal transfers based on the performance and needs of local self-governments
- Gender-responsive approach to management and budgeting in local self-governments

## OBJECTIVES

## PRIORITIES

# Demographic Revitalization and Social and Cultural Development

### Balanced and Sustainable Demographic Movements

- Balance between family and professional responsibilities
- Established institutional cooperation and coordination with the diaspora and promotion of returnee reintegration
- Demographically revitalized rural environments
- Accessible and quality housing
- Systemic management of internal and external migration flows

### Healthy and Happy People

- Citizens practicing a healthy lifestyle
- Citizens focused on preventive healthcare for all risk factors
- Citizens living with a mental well-being
- Public healthcare system that anticipates and addresses current and future health and financial challenges
- Public healthcare with advanced technologies and functioning information system

### Recognizable Cultural Identity and Values

- Active (dynamic) culture as part of European cultural values
- Well-developed cultural and creative industries
- Culture, multiculturalism, and cultural heritage in support of tourism
- Risk-resilient cultural heritage



## OBJECTIVES

**Inclusive and Efficient  
Social Protection and  
Social Security System**

**Society Based on  
Knowledge, Critical  
Thinking and Values**

## PRIORITIES

- Proactive prevention of social risks
  - Fair social protection system with appropriate targeting of vulnerable groups of citizens
  - Well-developed public social services equally accessible to all
  - Social transfers aligned with the standard of living
  - Integrated and activated vulnerable categories in society in accordance with individual abilities
  - Financially stable and sustainable pillars of pension insurance
  - Preservation of the purchasing power of pension income
  - Implemented active aging concept
  - Functional system of prevention and protection from violence against women and gender-based violence
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- Mandatory preschool education
  - Learning outcomes in formal education aligned with international standards
  - Internationally recognized and competitive higher education and scientific institutions
  - Recognition of “informal” education in the skills system
  - Educational system fostering and developing democratic values in society

**Demographic  
Revitalization and Social  
and Cultural  
Development**

## OBJECTIVES

**Rule of Law and Consistent Application of the Principle of Separation of Powers and Effective Parliamentary Oversight**

**Transparent, Accountable, and Efficient Public Sector**

## PRIORITIES

- **EU policies and standards are fully integrated into the system (North Macedonia is a member of the EU)**
- **Consistent application of the principle of the separation of powers and the establishment of efficient, non-partisan institutions**
- **Political parties as promoters of democratic processes and democratic dialogue and a broad political culture based on the premise of public interest**
- **Independent courts, autonomous and effective prosecution offices and other justice institutions**

- **Transparent, inclusive and anticipatory law and policy making process based on evidence**
- **Merit based selection of public officials and public servants**
- **Accountable and performance based public service**
- **Digitized, modern and efficient public services accessible to all**
- **Free access to information and effective civil oversight over public functions**
- **Enabling environment for media freedom and integrity**
- **Broad Based public sector modernisation and establishment of digital service delivery models and new competencies for future ready civil servants**

**Rule of Law and Good Governance**

## OBJECTIVES

**Zero Corruption, Legal Certainty, and Impartial Justice**

**Effective Protection of Fundamental Human Freedoms and Rights, and Protection of Communities**

## PRIORITIES

- **Universal good governance standards embedded in the governance system**
  - **Society that does not tolerate corruption, organised crime and abuses of power at all levels**
  - **Well-coordinated state institutions that carry out their functions consistently adhering to the principles of legality, transparency, professionalism, accountability and responsibility**
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- **Respect for the principles of equality, non-discrimination and justice**
  - **Multiculturalism, mutual respect for ethnic, religious and other communities and constitutional patriotism**
  - **Protection of minority communities, the impoverished, migrants and refugees**
  - **Resocialization and reintegration of ex-convicts**
  - **Efficient protection of the right to a healthy environment**
  - **Access to justice for everyone**

**Rule of Law and Good Governance**

## OBJECTIVES

**Society that is resistant to crises and disasters**

**Climate-resilient communities**

**Integral security is the key to security and foreign policy challenges**

## PRIORITIES

- **Transformed disaster risk management system with a focus on prevention**
- **Functioning multi-hazard early warning system**
- **Developed risk-informed planning development**
- **Integrated and adequate funding for resilience**
- **Scientific and technological innovation for disaster and climate resilience**
- **Resilient infrastructure and services – national and regional level**

- **Assessment, mapping and planning of climate change adaptation**
- **Preparedness and response to climate risks**
- **Climate-resilient local and regional infrastructure and services**

- **Modern concept for the creation of a security policy**
- **Joint intelligence and counterintelligence services**
- **General Staff of the Army, part of the Ministry of Defence**
- **NATO's reliable and equal ally**
- **Control function of the Assembly over the creation and implementation of the security, defence and foreign policy.**

**Secure, Safe and Resilient Society**

## OBJECTIVES

**Climate-neutral society with a low percentage of energy poverty**

**Clean and healthy environment**

## PRIORITIES

- **Energy efficiency is the first choice of citizens and companies**
  - **Electrified and digitalized railways and a high percentage of clean energy vehicles**
  - **Highly-developed clean technologies in industry**
  - **Just transition from power plants that use fossil fuels**
  - **Energy poverty reduced with targeted support**
  - **Investment in research and development for innovative clean technologies**
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- **Circular economy fully in place**
  - **Smart and sustainable settlements**
  - **Protected biodiversity and sustainably managed habitats**
  - **Agriculture with sustainable agricultural practices, efficient resource management and application of eco-friendly technologies**
  - **High environmental awareness for rational use of resources**
  - **Natural lake, river and forest systems without harmful anthropogenic influence**
  - **A functional system for monitoring and managing climate change and the environment**

## Green Transformation

# **POLICY RESPONSE – SYSTEMIC CHANGES**

- **17 essential systemic changes that need to be made in the following two decades in order to achieve the vision and set the key directions for long-term development of the country**

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- 1. Value is grounded in entrepreneurship and processes are led by innovations**
  - 2. Knowledge and development of skills are flexible and focused on needs**
  - 3. Achieving efficiency by applying new technologies and business models.**
  - 4. Cooperation between different stakeholders allows for better results.**
  - 5. Cross-sectoral cooperation that ensures involvement of all concerned parties.**
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**6. Public services are designed according to the needs of beneficiaries and effectiveness/efficiency in their provision.**

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**7. National support schemes are aimed at transforming the economy through the provision of unobstructed and fair transition.**

**8. The health system and activation of the population are based on promotion of a healthier way of life, risk-reduction and prevention in all age groups.**

**9. Sustainable food production systems are key for the quality of life and resilience of the country.**

**10. Social protection measures stimulate changes in the condition of the targeted social groups and support the growth of natality.**

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**11. Decision-making is data- and evidence-based.**

**12. Eliminating corruption, transparency and accountability are key for efficient administration.**

**13. All resilience systems are based on a transformative risk-management and proactive approach.**

**14. Digitalisation and interoperable services are key drivers.**

**15. North Macedonia is an internationally respected and integrated country**

**16. The accessibility and balance between the regions and local communities will be ensured through a functional access to services, knowledge and infrastructure**

**17. The sustainability of the environment and ecological well-being are a development priority**



# Key factors that enable prosperity of the country



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**Adjustment and successful tackling of ecological and climate changes**

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**Management and use of data and technologies**

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**Sustainable macroeconomic and financial stability**

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**Continued development of human capital in accordance with the demographic balance**

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**Strong institutions focused on the needs of citizens**

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**Territorial organisation and functioning decentralization**

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**Inclusion and social cohesion**

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**Political consensus for key strategic development directions**

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**Digitalization – key driver of national development**

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