

NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

2025

Narrative Report Portfolio



**WITH A CIRCULAR ECONOMY TOWARDS A
CLEANER AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT**

WITH A CIRCULAR ECONOMY TOWARDS A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT



The European Movement's project "ECO-SCHOOL: Learning Circular Economy for a Cleaner and Healthier Environment," supported by Aerodrom Municipality and funded by the EU under the "Clean AirDrom – Zero Solid Waste" initiative, concluded with a final event emphasizing the role of circular economy in improving environmental quality and public health.

The project provided expert training in ecology for biology and civic education teachers, as well as eighth-grade students from four local schools: "Braka Miladinovci," "Dimitar Makedonski," "Goce Delchev," and "Luben Lape." Participants learned proper waste management, storage, and disposal methods, understanding how responsible practices benefit the environment. Each school developed a project promoting circular economy principles, with the most inventive project awarded to "Braka Miladinovci."

Acting Mayor Dejan Miteski praised all participants and reaffirmed municipal support for environmental awareness initiatives. Mileva Gjurovska, President of the European Movement, highlighted that circular economy represents not only recycling but a fundamental shift in thinking, inspiring sustainable habits and driving lasting ecological change.





EUROPE DAY

THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 9TH - EUROPE DAY



On 28 May 2025, Europe Day was marked in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies under the motto “25 Years of Support for the European Integration Process and Democratic Progress of North Macedonia.” The event opened with the national anthems of North Macedonia and the European Union, performed by the children’s choir “Piccolo.”

In her opening address, Prof. Dr. Mileva Gjurovska stressed the importance of the rule of law, noting that inconsistencies in accession criteria have weakened trust in the EU process. She highlighted the message of the European Movement, “Integration through Action,” and pointed to over 300 recommendations developed within the National Convention on the EU for Cluster 1 chapters.

Daniel Braun of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation reaffirmed long-standing support for North Macedonia’s EU path, while Katerina Jovanovska from the Wilfried Martens Centre emphasized the EU’s role as a cooperative peace project and the inclusion of the Western Balkans in Europe’s future.



Addresses by Parliament Speaker Afrim Gashi, Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, and former Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda underscored the strategic importance of EU enlargement, reform commitment, and lessons from successful transformations.

The event concluded with a high-level panel discussion involving ambassadors, MPs, and civil society representatives, focusing on EU integration as a key driver of reform, political stability, and inclusive progress in North Macedonia.

EUROPEAN PERSON OF THE YEAR 2024

RISIMA RISIMKIN

Risima Risimkin was awarded the title European Personality of the Year 2024 in recognition of her exceptional contribution to contemporary dance and the promotion of European cultural values in North Macedonia. A leading Macedonian choreographer and cultural pioneer, she has played a decisive role in establishing contemporary dance as an integral part of the national and international cultural scene.

As artistic director of Dance Fest Skopje and founder of the Skopje Dance Theatre, the country's first contemporary dance company, she has created lasting platforms for artistic excellence and young talent. Her visionary impact extends to academia through the establishment of the first university program in contemporary dance, where she serves as professor and dean. Through extensive European cooperation and cultural dialogue, her work embodies innovation, freedom of expression, and intercultural exchange.



THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 9TH - EUROPE DAY



As part of the Europe Day 2025 celebrations, the Youth Club titled “The Voice of Young People for Europe – Ideas for a Better Life and a Fairer Society” brought together over 50 young participants from across the Republic of North Macedonia. The program included a youth debate, a public speaking competition, and an EU knowledge quiz.

During the debate, MP Dragana Bojkovska and Filip Ivkovski, President of the National Youth Council, highlighted structural weaknesses in youth policies, including the lack of functional youth centers, limited resources, and unfulfilled commitments. Young participants called for genuine partnership and meaningful involvement in decision-making. The event emphasized that European integration also means embedding European values at home through active youth participation.

The day concluded with a student oratory contest involving participants from five universities and an EU quiz for high school students, reinforcing civic engagement, critical thinking, and knowledge of the European Union among young people.



THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 9TH - EUROPE DAY



On 10 May 2025, to mark the Day of European Flags, a hiking march to Mount Vodno was organized in a spirit of solidarity and European unity. Members of the European Movement were joined by the Slovenian Ambassador Gregor Presker and a delegation from the Ukrainian Embassy.

The march began in the early morning in front of the EU Delegation, with participants carrying European flags under clear skies and a positive atmosphere. The first group reached the summit of Vodno in a record 54 minutes, where a warm and festive ambiance awaited. The event continues to grow into a meaningful tradition that brings people together and promotes shared European values.





WORKING GROUPS

16TH SESSION OF WG-3, JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

PATHS TO INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, A KEY CHALLENGE IN RULE OF LAW REFORMS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



16TH SESSION OF WG-3, JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

PATHS TO INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, A KEY CHALLENGE IN RULE OF LAW REFORMS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

On 3 February 2025, the National Convention on the European Union organized the 16th session of Working Group 3 on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (Chapter 23), held as a French contribution to strengthening the rule of law in North Macedonia. The session focused on “Paths to Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary: A Key Challenge in Rule of Law Reforms and the Fight Against Corruption,” bringing together national and international experts, judicial representatives, academics, and civil society actors.

Helena Papa, a French expert from Expertise France, emphasized that an independent judiciary is a fundamental necessity for the protection of human rights and the delivery of fair justice. She underlined the importance of clear standards, practical implementation of reforms, and closing the gap between legislation and practice, referring in particular to GRECO recommendations on transparency, judicial self-governance, resources, ethics, and accountability.

Speakers from the Judicial Council, the judiciary, the legal profession, academia, and the prosecution highlighted persistent challenges, including political pressure, insufficient funding, slow evaluation and promotion procedures, and low conviction rates for corruption. Several participants stressed that integrity in the judiciary also depends on education, institutional trust, and integrity across the entire justice and security sector.

The session concluded with a call for sustained dialogue, inclusive reform processes, and continued international support as key preconditions for strengthening judicial independence, integrity, and public trust in the rule of law.

16TH SESSION OF WG-3, JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

PATHS TO INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, A KEY CHALLENGE IN RULE OF LAW REFORMS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



FIFTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 6 – ANTICORRUPTION: “FIGHTING CORRUPTION THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EUROPEAN PRACTICES”



FIFTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 6 – ANTICORRUPTION:

“FIGHTING CORRUPTION THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EUROPEAN PRACTICES”

The fifth session of Working Group 6 – Anti-Corruption of the National Convention on the EU in North Macedonia focused on “Fighting Corruption through Transparency and Accountability: Recommendations and Opportunities from the Perspective of European Practices.” The discussion emphasized that transparency is a fundamental precondition for an effective and sustainable fight against corruption and organized crime, which must be continuous rather than campaign-based.

Key recommendations included improving access to business registry data, integrating national systems into the European Business Registers Interconnection System, establishing a Research Data Centre within the State Statistical Office, and developing an integrated anti-corruption framework covering both the public and private sectors. Particular attention was given to public procurement as a high-risk area, where abuses most frequently occur during tendering and contract implementation.

Speakers from state institutions, academia, civil society, and the media highlighted systemic weaknesses such as selective enforcement, insufficient institutional accountability, limited digitalization, and gaps between legislation and practice. The importance of EU standards, the Rule of Law mechanism, and visible results in anti-corruption efforts was repeatedly stressed.

Participants also underscored the critical role of civil society and investigative journalism in exposing corruption, strengthening public oversight, and restoring trust in institutions. The session concluded that increased transparency, accountability, and institutional responsibility are essential to reducing corruption risks and advancing rule-of-law reforms in North Macedonia.

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MEETING OF ALL WORKING GROUPS NCEU-MK

On April 30, 2025, all working groups of the National Convention on the European Union in North Macedonia (NCEU-MK) held a joint meeting. The event provided an opportunity to review the country's EU integration process, analyze key contributions, and discuss future activities. Over 20 representatives participated, exchanging ideas and planning further cooperation and next steps for the process.



16TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES IN NATIONAL POLICIES ON DRUGS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES: HARMONIZING MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS.”



16TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES IN NATIONAL POLICIES ON DRUGS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES: HARMONIZING MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS.”

On June 11, 2025, the 16th session of Working Group 4 – Justice, Freedom, and Security (Chapter 24) focused on “Challenges and Perspectives in National Policies on Drugs and Psychoactive Substances: Harmonizing Macedonian Legislation with European Standards.” Supported by the EU Delegation and the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the session highlighted the importance of multisectoral cooperation and structured dialogue in addressing drug-related challenges.

Minister of Interior Panche Toskovski emphasized a balanced strategy targeting both supply and demand, prioritizing prevention, social support, and treatment over solely punitive measures. Professor Liljana Ignatova-Kiteva noted the rise of synthetic substances, inadequate prevention programs, and the need to reduce stigmatization of drug users. Slovak criminal law expert Marcela Titlova shared EU practices, emphasizing minimum standards for penalties and profit confiscation from drug crimes, while Professor Gjoshe Stefkov highlighted regulatory gaps and institutional weaknesses in legal cannabis production.

Blagorodna Koceva-Simjanov stressed insufficient funding for harm reduction and youth prevention, calling for national standards and inter-ministerial coordination. Judge Nenad Saveski and Public Prosecutor Lenche Ristoska highlighted the judiciary’s role in confiscation and resocialization programs and the importance of data-driven policies. Edward Anderson from OSCE emphasized evidence-based strategies and community engagement to address root causes.

The session concluded with a discussion on draft recommendations, including stronger international cooperation, enhanced prevention and treatment programs, and improved institutional coordination, emphasizing continuous monitoring and evaluation to respond to emerging drug-related challenges in North Macedonia.

16TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES IN NATIONAL POLICIES ON DRUGS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES: HARMONIZING MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS.”



17TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE EU RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONFISCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS ACQUIRED THROUGH CRIME”



17TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE EU RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONFISCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS ACQUIRED THROUGH CRIME”

On June 18, 2025, the National Convention on the European Union in North Macedonia organized the 17th session of Working Group 4 – Justice, Freedom, and Security (Chapter 24) on “Effectiveness of the institutional response to EU recommendations on the confiscation and management of assets acquired through crime.” The session focused on harmonizing Macedonian legislation with European standards, identifying legal gaps, systemic weaknesses, and challenges in inter-institutional and cross-border coordination for tracking and managing criminally acquired assets.

Slobodan Ivanovski, Director of the Financial Police, emphasized that digitalization, institutional networking, and timely access to asset data are crucial for effective confiscation, warning that delays and information leaks undermine justice. Irena Ilievska, Director of the Agency for Management of Confiscated Property, highlighted the importance of confiscation in restoring public trust and announced legal amendments improving asset management, including seized vehicles.

Experts, civil society representatives, and prosecutors underscored persistent issues such as inadequate staffing, low budgets, weak inter-institutional coordination, and ambiguous legal provisions. Speakers stressed that harmonized legislation alone is insufficient; effective implementation, human capacity, and protective mechanisms for officials applying confiscation measures are essential.

The discussion also addressed EU Directive 2024/1260, regular and non-conviction-based confiscation models, and the need for clear responsibilities among institutions. National Coordinator Mileva Gjurovska concluded that this dialogue contributes to transparency, accountability, and professionalism, reinforcing North Macedonia’s progress in the rule of law and anti-corruption efforts.

17TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 4 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

“THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE EU RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONFISCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS ACQUIRED THROUGH CRIME“



SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 6 – ANTICORRUPTION

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY IN PRACTICE: NORTH MACEDONIA IS NOWHERE NEAR WHAT IT ASPIRES OR NEEDS TO BE!



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On July 17, 2025, the 6th session of Working Group 6 – Anti-Corruption focused on administrative capacities to improve public spending in North Macedonia, emphasizing that the country is far from meeting its needs or EU standards. The session highlighted transparency, digitalization, AI tools, systematic asset tracking, institutional accountability, evidence-based policymaking, and human resource continuity as essential for reform and EU integration.

Minister Goran Minchev noted that depoliticizing and professionalizing public administration is crucial for restoring trust and delivering citizen-focused services. Comparative insights from EU member states, particularly Slovakia, underlined the need for cost-benefit analysis and “value for money” in public projects. Experts stressed that political, administrative, and financial capacities must be strengthened, with continuity of knowledge, trained staff, and well-prepared projects essential for accessing EU funds.

Panelists addressed structural challenges, including misallocation of resources, weak analytical capacity, overstaffing in some areas, and underutilization of expertise. Recommendations focused on institutionalizing value-for-money principles, staff training and networking, data-driven budgeting, independent evaluation of expenditures, and performance indicators in public institutions.

Mileva Gjurovska concluded that stakeholder dialogue will enhance transparency, accountability, and sustainable public spending, reducing corruption risks. The session reaffirmed that EU integration requires a systemic, long-term approach, learning from European practices to strengthen institutional capacities, oversight, and effectiveness in public administration.

SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 6 – ANTICORRUPTION

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY IN PRACTICE: NORTH MACEDONIA IS NOWHERE NEAR WHAT IT ASPIRES OR NEEDS TO BE!



- Highly rated for **reprioritizing** enhancing fiscal management
- More than just cuts: Helps a **strategic goals**.
- OECD recommendation: SR



17TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 3 – JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AT A CROSSROADS BETWEEN EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES



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THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AT A CROSSROADS BETWEEN EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES

On September 2, 2025, the 17th session of Working Group 3 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights focused on “European Standards for Constitutional Judiciary as a Challenge for the Constitutional Court of North Macedonia.” Organized under NCEU-MK with EU and SlovakAid support, the session examined the Constitutional Court’s role in ensuring judicial independence and alignment with European standards.

Mileva Gjurovska emphasized that constitutional courts must act as active guardians of the rule of law and avoid political instrumentalization. The ambassador Andrej Lepavcov highlighted the court’s transparency and independence as crucial for EU accession, particularly regarding sensitive legislation like the Law on the Use of Languages.

Judge Ana Pavlovska-Daneva noted legal gaps caused by institutions failing to implement court decisions, citing examples in the Electoral Code and Criminal Code, which risk creating legal vacuums. Maša Maročini-Zrinski shared Croatia’s experience, stressing proportionality, dialogue with parliament, and public engagement as key to effective constitutional rulings.

Judge Mirjana Lazarovska-Trajkovska warned that legislative delays and reintroducing similar provisions erode trust, proposing monitoring mechanisms and public reporting on delayed implementation. Denis Presova emphasized the Venice Commission’s “Rule of Law Checklist” to guide predictability and systematic integration of court decisions into legislation.

Participants concluded that North Macedonia’s constitutional judiciary must strengthen its role amid political pressures and institutional inertia. Recommendations included clear procedures for implementing decisions, transparency in appointments, preventive consultation during law drafting, and systematic education of decision-makers to reinforce the rule of law.

17TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 3 – JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AT A CROSSROADS BETWEEN EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES



13TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 1: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

„RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP”



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On September 25, 2025, the 13th session of Working Group 1 – Agriculture and Rural Development focused on “Rural Development and Opportunities for Youth in Entrepreneurship.” The event gathered Macedonian and Slovak experts, youth organizations, farmers, civil society, and international partners to discuss challenges and solutions for empowering rural youth.

Prof. Mileva Gjurovska opened the session, emphasizing NCEU-MK’s eight-year role in fostering inclusive dialogue and the importance of engaging youth as drivers of agricultural innovation and rural development. Slovak Ambassador Iveta Hricova highlighted Slovakia’s support in expertise and funding, stressing the youth’s potential in transforming rural areas.

Presentations revealed the pressing issues: demographic aging, high youth emigration, limited access to education and training, weak infrastructure, and high unemployment.

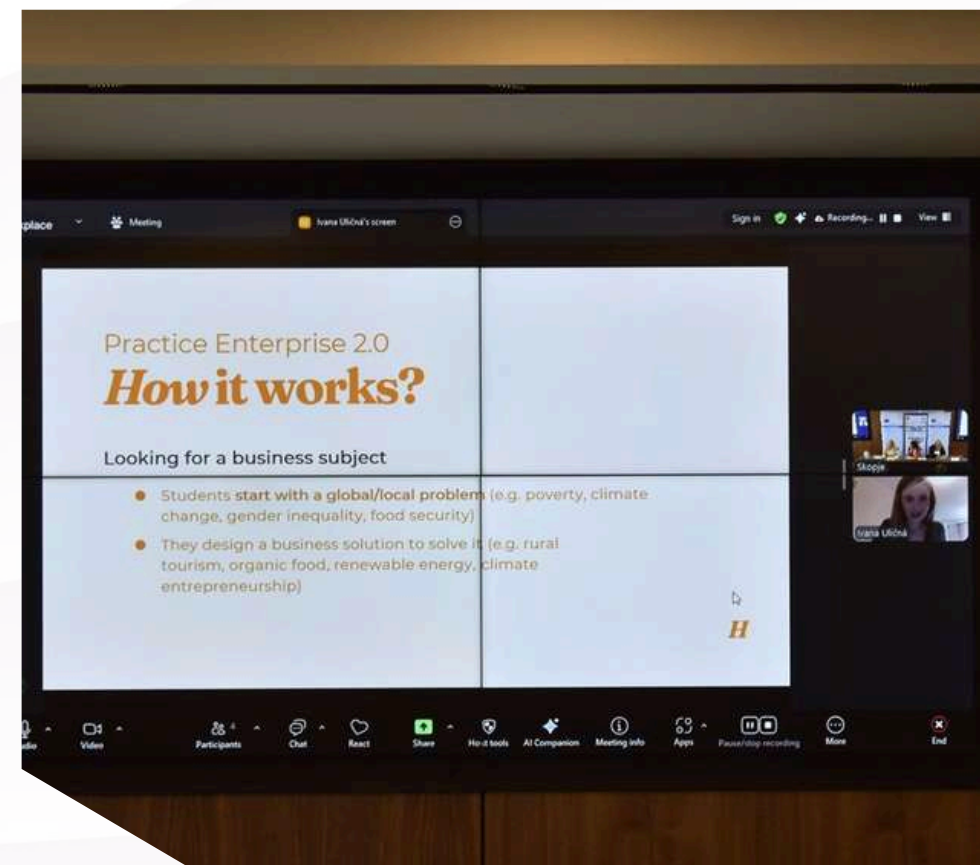
Ana Simonovska and Prof. Emelj Tuna shared research showing rural populations declining all across the Western Balkans, with youth increasingly leaving in search of better opportunities. They underscored the need for policies supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable agri-food systems.

European practices, including Slovakia’s Practice Enterprise 2.0 model, were highlighted as tools to train youth in business development, sustainable agriculture, and rural tourism, emphasizing women’s role in rural innovation.

Young entrepreneurs shared obstacles such as bureaucratic procedures, inadequate support, and limited infrastructure. Discussions with government representatives and civil society concluded with joint recommendations to strengthen youth entrepreneurship, enhance rural livelihoods, and position young people as leaders and innovators in their communities.

13TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP 1: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

„RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP”





THE EIGHTH PLENARY CONFERENCE

EIGHT PLENARY SESSION:

REFORMS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RHETORIC: REGIONAL CHALLENGES ON THE PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



EIGHT PLENARY SESSION: REFORMS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RHETORIC: REGIONAL CHALLENGES ON THE PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

On September 25, 2025, the Eighth Plenary Conference of the National Convention on the European Union in North Macedonia (NCEU-MK) transformed the “Kupola” hall into a European forum, sending a clear call for concrete reforms rather than rhetorical commitments. The conference, titled “Reforms Beyond Rhetoric: Regional Challenges on the Path to the European Union,” focused on the new EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, emphasizing both its economic benefits and obligations.

The event was opened by Speaker of the Parliament Afrim Gashi, President of the National Council for European Integration Venko Filipche, Deputy Chair of the European Affairs Committee Igor Zdravkovski, and the ambassadors of Slovakia, Iveta Hricova, and the Netherlands, Uzlem Janel. They highlighted the necessity of real, measurable reforms, institutional trust-building, and strengthened regional cooperation as preconditions for EU progress.

Speaker Gashi stressed that EU integration must be a national priority, independent of daily politics, and that civil society involvement is key. He emphasized that integration is not built in Brussels but domestically, through transparent and accountable decision-making. President Filipche warned that failure to accelerate reforms, particularly in the judiciary, risks leaving the region ahead while North Macedonia falls behind, urging a shift from declarations to tangible results that restore citizens’ trust. Deputy Chair Zdravkovski underscored NCEU-MK’s role in facilitating multi-level dialogue on substantive reforms stemming from the European agenda.

SIXTH PLENARY CONFERENCE: “NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN UNION IN NORTH MACEDONIA: ACHIEVING FUNDAMENTAL VALUES FOR EUROPEAN FUTURE”



EIGHT PLENARY SESSION:

REFORMS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RHETORIC: REGIONAL CHALLENGES ON THE PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Ambassador Hricova stressed that consistent political will is decisive for successful reforms, citing Central European examples, and pledged Slovakia's support for North Macedonia's EU path. Ambassador Janel echoed the importance of the rule of law, particularly judicial reform, and called for immediate action, highlighting the role of civil society and the EU Growth Plan in financially supporting these efforts.

The conference included parliamentarians, ambassadors, senior ministry officials, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, experts, civil society representatives, and members of NCEU-MK working groups from North Macedonia, Slovakia, Serbia, and Albania. It featured three panel discussions addressing trust and solidarity in European integration, depoliticized rule of law, and economic reforms with regional convergence. Moderated by national and regional experts, the panels explored comparative experiences, challenges, and recommendations, emphasizing stable institutions, transparency, and predictability as foundations for restoring public trust.

The event reaffirmed NCEU-MK's central role as a platform uniting institutions and experts to prepare North Macedonia for EU accession negotiations and to ensure that reforms are both practical and impactful.

EIGHT PLENARY SESSION: REFORMS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RHETORIC: REGIONAL CHALLENGES ON THE PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION





**REGIONAL PROJECT
LET JUSTICE RULE THE REGION**

LET JUSTICE RULE THE REGION FOURTH REGIONAL PLENARY CONFERENCE



LET JUSTICE RULE THE REGION

FOURTH REGIONAL PLENARY CONFERENCE

On September 25, 2025, the Fourth Regional Plenary Conference hosted by the National Convention on the European Union in North Macedonia brought together experts from Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania under the motto “Let Justice Prevail in the Region.” The conference focused on reform processes, European integration, and the importance of strengthened regional dialogue.

Pier Virgilio Dastoli, President of the European Movement in Italy, opened the event, emphasizing that rule of law must be respected by both candidate and member states. He stressed that EU accession should involve gradual integration based on tangible results, highlighting the need for revised enlargement rules to accelerate progress.

Kristina Koneska-Berovska, State Advisor at North Macedonia’s Ministry of European Affairs, noted the momentum generated by the new EU methodology, observing that Montenegro and Albania lead the process and that North Macedonia must accelerate reforms to join this group. Representatives from academia, institutions, and civil society discussed regional challenges in rule of law and the need for consistent reforms.

Bojana Selaković of NCEU-Serbia highlighted evolving dynamics in both the region and the EU. Albanian experts stressed regional cooperation and merit-based EU evaluation, while Montenegrin academics noted rapid progress in accession chapters.

Panelists agreed that judicial independence, institutional transparency, and depoliticized reforms are critical for sustainable integration. Stefan Golković emphasized that the rule of law begins in courts, not parliaments, while Ivana Petrovska noted reforms should respond to citizens’ needs, not political cycles. Aleksandra Deanoska - Trendafilova stressed accelerating legislative alignment with EU standards through targeted amendments rather than complete overhauls.

Key messages underscored that the rule of law remains the primary driver of EU integration, regional cooperation is essential, civil society plays a vital monitoring role, and judicial independence and institutional transparency must be strengthened.

LET JUSTICE RULE THE REGION FOURTH REGIONAL PLENARY CONFERENCE





Fourth book of recommendations

You can access the publication here:

<https://nkeu.mk/en/2023/05/15/second-book-of-recommendations/>

PUBLICATIONS



Policy paper for Cluster 1 Fundamentals: Justice and the Rule of Law in the Republic of North Macedonia through the lens of the European Standards and assessment mechanisms

You can access the publication here:

<https://nkeu.mk/en/2024/12/31/11590/>

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletters



You can access the newsletters here:

<https://nkeu.mk/en/2024/12/31/11590/>

PUBLICATIONS

Other activities:

