

Political Situation and State of Civil Society in Republic of Macedonia

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Some basic facts

- Area: 25.713 km²
- Population: 2.049.613 (estimation 2008)
 - Ethnic Communities (last census in 2002):
 - Macedonians 64.2%
 - Albanians 25.2 %
 - Turks 3.9 %
 - Roma 2.6 %
 - Serbs 1.8 %
 - Bosniaks 1.8 %
 - Vlah 0.5 %
- Capital: Skopje
- Official language: Macedonian

Some basic economic facts

- Currency: Macedonian Denar
- GDP: 5047 million \$ / per capita 2.646 (in 2007)
- Labour force:
 - Agriculture 19,6%
 - Industry 30,4%
 - Services 50 %
- Unemployment rate: 33,5% (last quarter of 2008)
- Average nett salary: 300 Euros
- Poverty: 29,4 % (in 2007)

Some basic political facts

- 8 September 1991: Independence from Federal Yugoslavia
- 1993: Member of the UN (under the reference Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – precedent case)
- 2005: Received Candidate Status for EU Membership

Political System

- Parliamentary Democracy
- Decentralized Unitary State (84 municipalities + Skopje)
- Division of powers:
 - Legislative (Assembly)
 - Executive (Government)
 - Judicial (Basic, Appellate and Supreme Court)
 - Constitutional Court

Constitutional Changes

- The Constitution from 1991 defined Republic of Macedonia as “civic and democratic state”
- Amendments in 2001 – Ohrid Framework Agreement
- Amendments in 2005 – related to judiciary reform

Ohrid Framework Agreement – Key Points

- Change of **Preamble**:
- In 1991: “Taking as the points of departure **the historical, cultural, spiritual and statehood heritage of the Macedonian people** and their struggle over centuries for national and social freedom as well as the creation of their own state, and particularly the traditions of statehood and legality of the Krushevo Republic and the historic decisions of the Anti-Fascist Assembly of the People's Liberation of Macedonia, together with the constitutional and legal continuity of the Macedonian state as a sovereign republic within Federal Yugoslavia and freely manifested will of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia in the referendum of September 8th, 1991, as well as the historical fact that **Macedonia is established as a national state of the Macedonian people, in which full equality as citizens and permanent co-existence with the Macedonian people is provided for Albanians, Turks, Vlachs, Romanics and other nationalities living in the Republic of Macedonia...**

Ohrid Framework Agreement – Key Points

- **Preamble 2001**: “The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, the Macedonian people, as well as citizens living within its borders who are part of the Albanian people, the Turkish people, the Vlach people, the Serbian people, the Romany people, the Bosniak people and others taking responsibility for the present and future of their fatherland, aware of and grateful to their predecessors for their sacrifice and dedication in their endeavours and struggle to create an independent and sovereign state of Macedonia, and responsible to future generations to preserve and develop everything that is valuable from the rich cultural inheritance and coexistence within Macedonia, equal in rights and obligations towards the common good - the Republic of Macedonia - in accordance with the tradition of the Krushevo Republic and the decisions of the Antifascist People’s Liberation Assembly of Macedonia, and the Referendum of September 8, 1991, have decided to establish the Republic of Macedonia ...”

Ohrid Framework Agreement – Key Points

- **Amendment V**: The Macedonian language, written using its Cyrillic alphabet, is the official language throughout the Republic of Macedonia and in the international relations. *Any other language spoken by at least 20 percent of the population is also an official language, written using its alphabet, as specified below.*
 - Any person **living in a unit of local self-government in which at least 20 percent of the population speaks an official language other than Macedonian** may use that official language to communicate with the regional office of the central government with responsibility for that municipality; such an office shall reply in that language in addition to Macedonian. Any person may use any official language to communicate with a main office of the central government, which shall reply in that language in addition to Macedonian.

Ohrid Framework Agreement – Key Points

- **Amendment V** (continued):
 - In the organs of the Republic of Macedonia, any official language other than Macedonian may be used in accordance with the law
 - In the units of local self-government where at least 20 percent of the population speaks a particular language, that language and its alphabet shall be used as an official language in addition to the Macedonian language and the Cyrillic alphabet. With respect to languages spoken by less than 20 percent of the population of a unit of local self-government, the local authorities shall decide on their use in public bodies.

Ohrid Framework Agreement – Key Points

- **Amendment VI (fundamental values):** **Equitable representation of persons belonging to all communities** in public bodies at all levels and in other areas of public life;
- **Amendment VIII(economic, social and cultural rights):** **Members of communities** have a right freely to express, foster and develop their identity and community attributes, and to use their community symbols. The Republic guarantees the protection of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all communities. Members of communities have the right to establish institutions for culture, art, science and education, as well as scholarly and other associations for the expression, fostering and development of their identity. Members of communities have the right to instruction in their language in primary and secondary education, as determined by law. In schools where education is carried out in another language, the Macedonian language is also studied.

Badinter Principle

- Within the majority necessary for taking a certain decision **there must be a majority of the votes of the Representatives attending who belong to communities not in the majority in the population of Macedonia.**
- Applied for:
 - Laws that directly affect culture, use of language, education, personal documentation, and use of symbols;
 - Laws on local self-government, laws on local finances, local elections, boundaries of municipalities, and the city of Skopje;
 - The election of the Public Attorney, the Security Council, 3 Judges of the Constitutional court (out of 9), 3 members of the Judicial Council (out of 15).

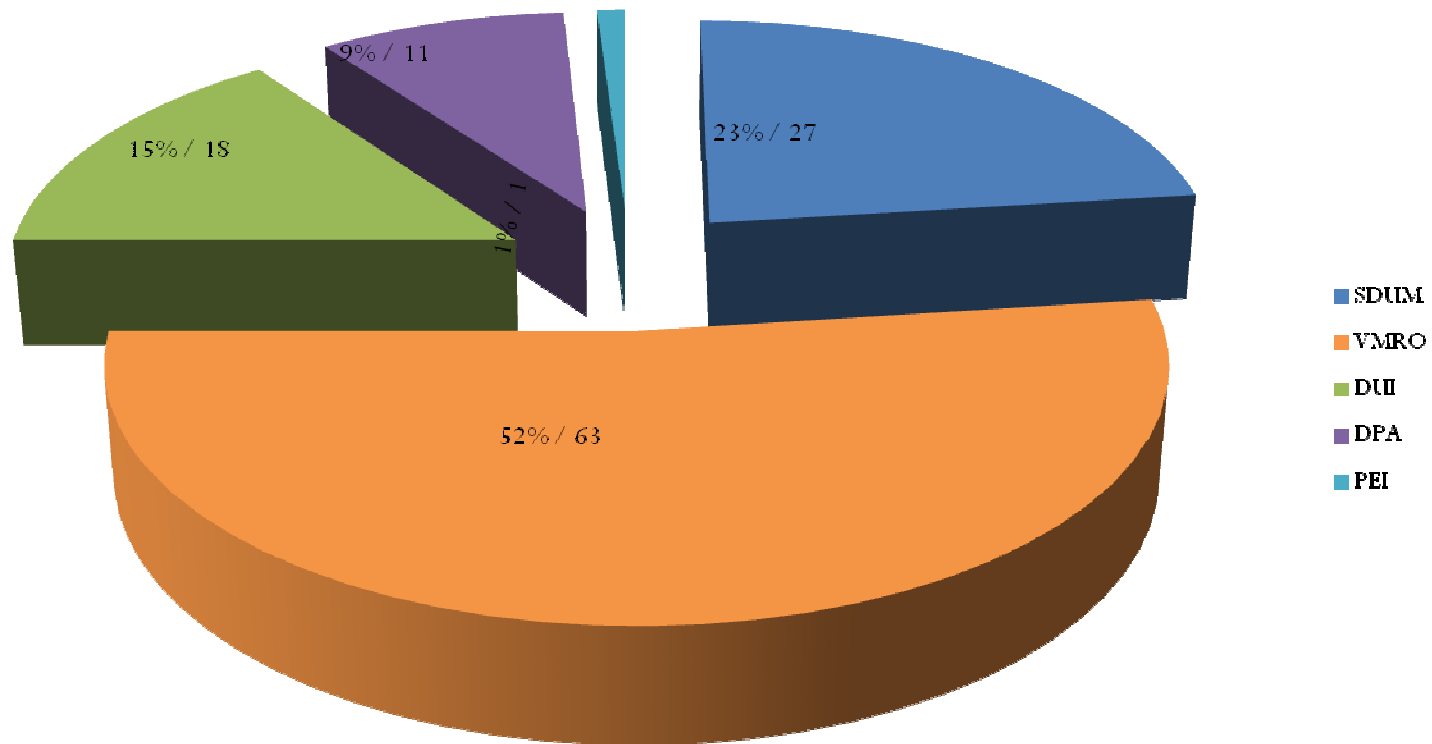
Committee for Inter-Community Relations

- 19 members of whom 7 members each are from the ranks of the Macedonians and Albanians within the Assembly, and a member each from among the Turks, Vlachs, Romas, Serbs and Bosniaks;
- In the event of a dispute among members of the Assembly regarding the application of the voting procedure specified in Article 69(2) – *the Badinter principle*, the Committee shall decide by a majority vote whether the procedure applies.

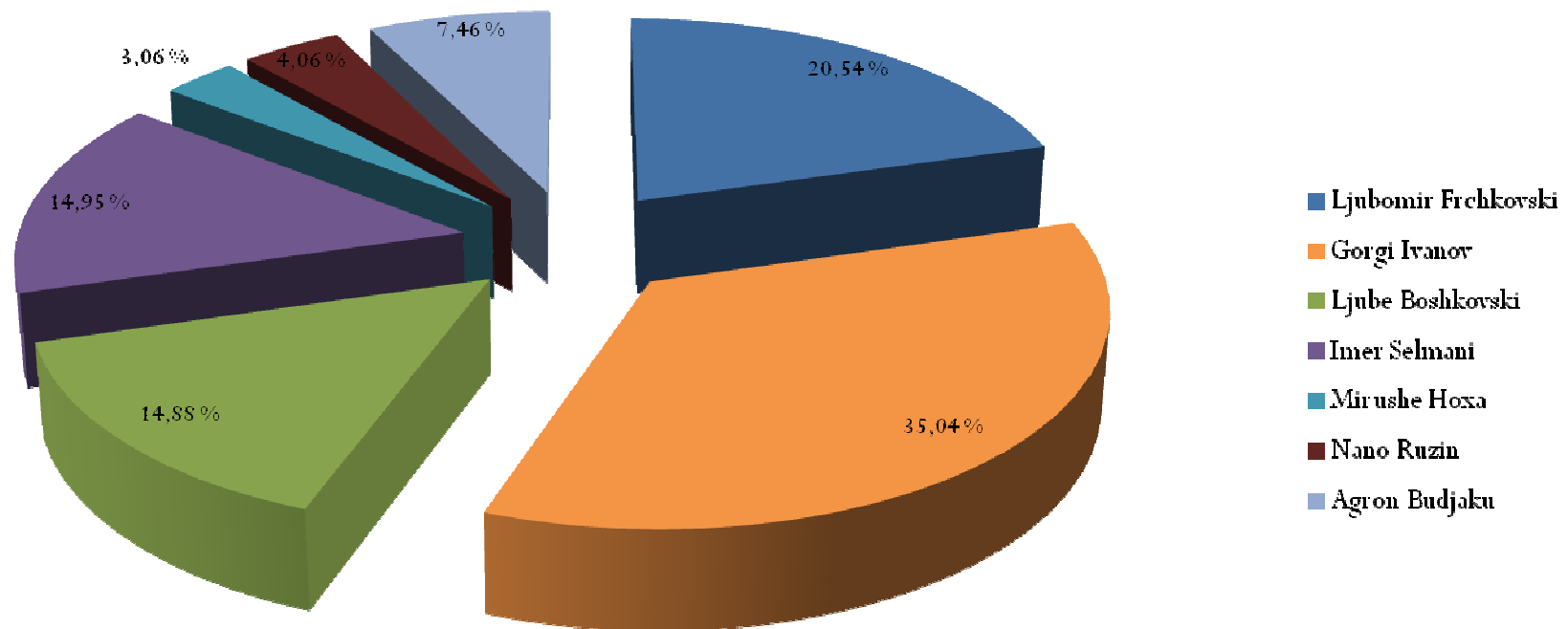
Main Political Actors

- VMRO-DPMNE – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity
- SDUM – Social-democratic Union of Macedonia
- NSDP – New Social-democratic Party
- LDP – Liberal Democratic Party
- DUI – Democratic Union for Integration
- DPA – Democratic Party of the Albanians
- ND – New Democracy

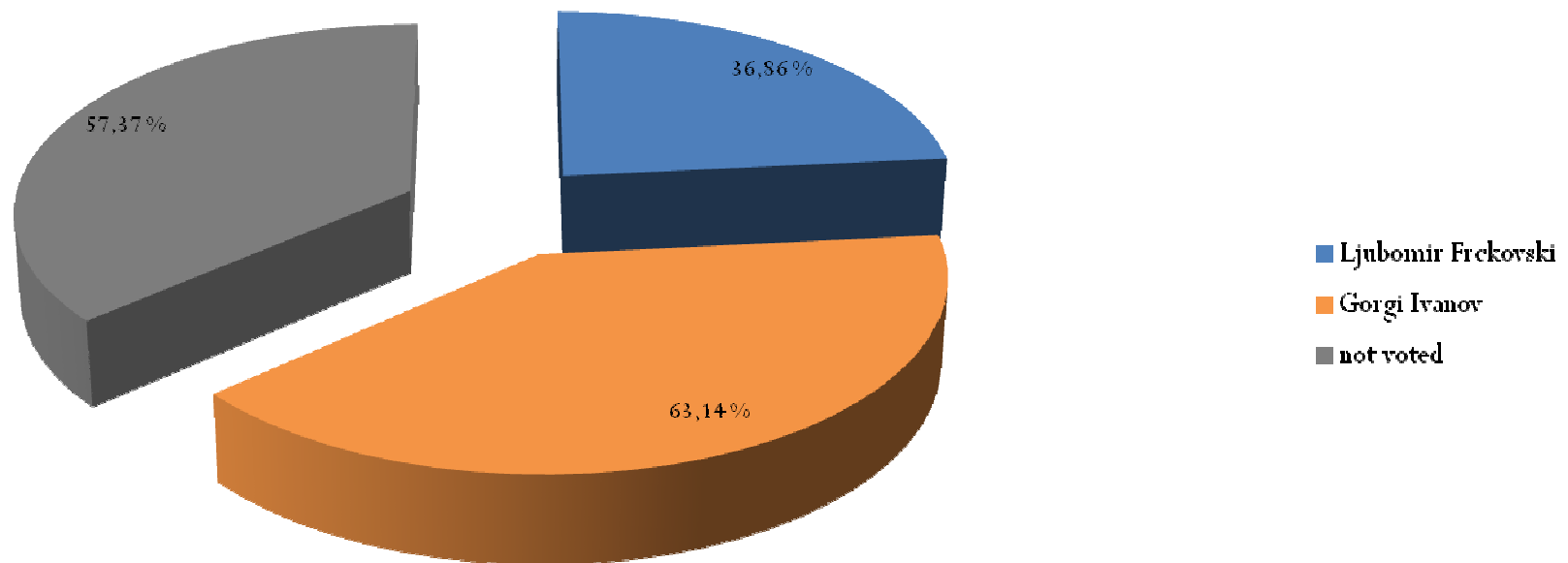
Parliamentary Election Results (1 June 2008)



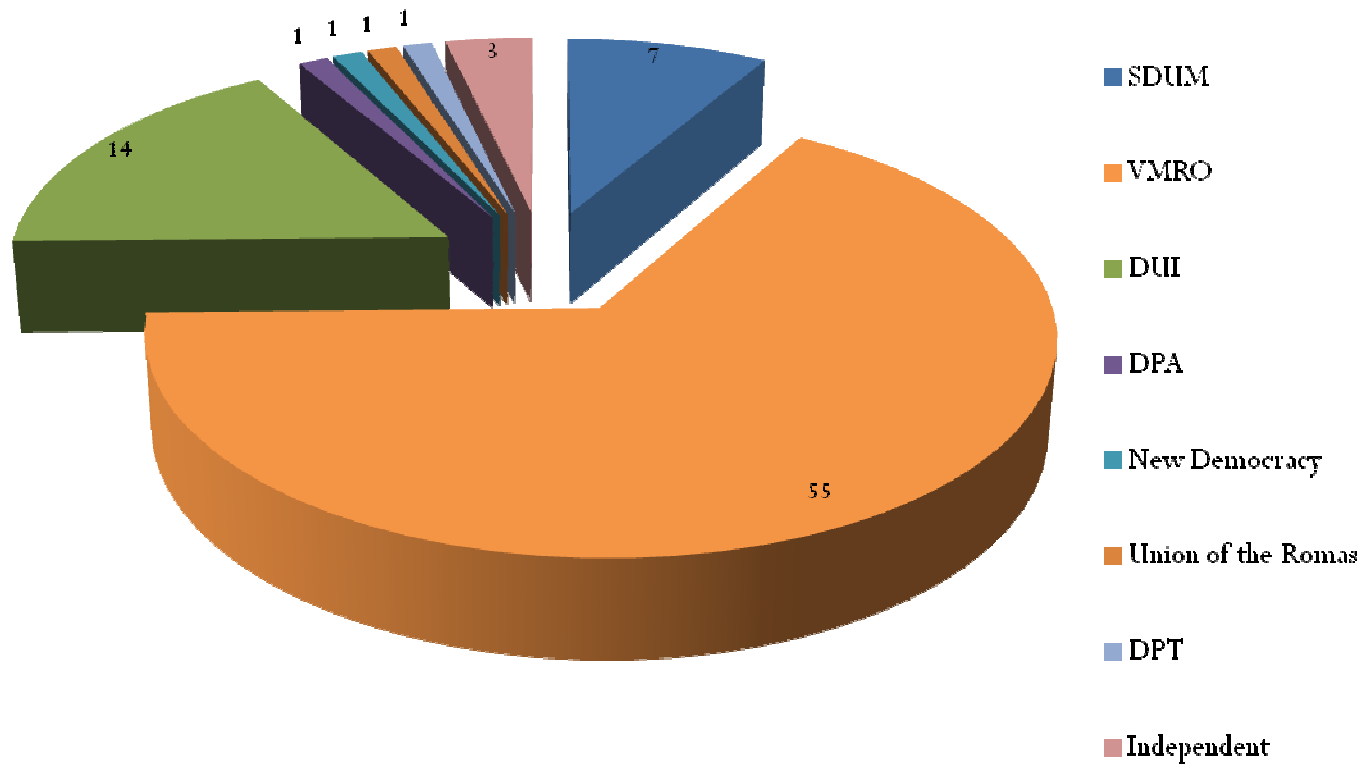
Presidential Elections Results (First Round 22 March 2009)



Presidential Elections Results (Second Round 5 April 2009)



Local Elections Results 2009



Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and the Civil Society

- **Goals:**

- Up-grading the legal framework for development of the civil sector;
- Participation of the civil sector in decision-making process;
- Maintaining cross-institutional cooperation;
- Maintaining inter-sector cooperation;
- Involvement of the civil sector in the EU integration process;
- Provision of conditions for sustainability of the civil sector;
- Continuous development of the civil sector.