

THE LAW ON THE USE OF LANGUAGES

Article 1

(1) On the whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia and in its international relations, the official language is the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet.

(2) Another language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens (Albanian language) is also an official language and its alphabet, according to this law.

(3) In all state administration bodies in the Republic of Macedonia, central institutions, public enterprises, agencies, directorates, institutions and organizations, commissions, legal entities that perform public authorizations in accordance with law and other institutions, an official language in addition to the Macedonian language and its alphabet is also the language is spoken by 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its letter, in a manner defined by this law.

(4) In the units of local self-government, the language and alphabet used by at least 20% of the citizens is an official language, in addition to the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet. About the use of languages and alphabets spoken by less than 20% of the citizens in the units of local self-government, the bodies of the local self-government units decide.

Article 2

(1) Citizens have the right to use any of the official languages and their letters referred to in Article 1 paragraph 1 and 2 of this Law, and the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as other institutions, have the obligation to enable them the use and application of those official languages and their alphabets in any proceedings, as well as the implementation of those procedures in that official language and alphabet.

(2) In accordance with the right of citizens to use any of the official languages referred to in Article 1 paragraph 1 and 2 of this Law in judicial, administrative, enforcement proceedings, pre-trial and investigative procedures, criminal and misdemeanor procedures, litigation and non-contentious proceedings, procedure for execution of sanctions, as well as other procedures provided by other laws. Courts, public prosecution offices, as well as all other organ, bodies and other institutions are obliged to enable the use and application of any of the official languages referred to in Article 1 paragraph (1) and (2) and their alphabets in those and other procedures.

(3) In the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) of this Law, in addition to the Macedonian language and its alphabet, the official language in the Republic of Macedonia is also the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet in: communication, use and application in all actions of the citizens in front of all the bodies that make up the state power (Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, President of the Republic of Macedonia, Government of the Republic of Macedonia, judiciary, public

prosecution), Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia, Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia, in the election process, education, science, health, culture, in the application of police authorizations, in the broadcasting activity, the notary, the execution, the infrastructure objects, the records, the personal documents, finances, the economy, as well as in other areas.

Article 3

Elected or appointed officials of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as other institutions whose headquarters are in Skopje or municipalities in which at least 20% of the citizens speak a language other than the Macedonian language, in their official communication uses the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet, if at least one of the elected or appointed officials speaks an official language other than the Macedonian language.

Article 4

(1) In the work of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, the official language is Macedonian and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

(2) An MP, elected or appointed official who speaks a language different from the Macedonian language, spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, at a session of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and sessions of working bodies, also speaks in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

(3) A MP who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language, spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia when he / she chairs a session in the Parliament or sessions of working bodies, leads them in that language.

(4) A MP, an elected or appointed official who speaks a language other than Macedonian, spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, receives and delivers in time the materials in their language and alphabet in order to serve at a session of the Assembly or sessions of working bodies.

(5) The stenograms from the session of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and from the sessions of working bodies, as well as other materials and documents, are issued and kept in Macedonian language and its alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

(6) All laws and other acts adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall be published in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

Article 5

(1) In the work of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the official language is the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

(2) The sessions of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia are conducted in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet.

(3) When the sessions of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the commissions and the General Collegium of State Secretaries are chaired by an elected or appointed official who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language, and which language is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, they are held in that language and alphabet.

(4) An elected or appointed official who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language, and which language is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, speaks at a session of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, of the commissions and of the General Collegium of State Secretaries in that language.

(5) An elected or appointed official who speaks a language different from the Macedonian language, and which language is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, the materials are received or delivered in its language and alphabet in order to serve him at a session of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, a commission or a General Collegium of State Secretaries.

(6) The stenograms from the session of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, from the session of commissions and the General Collegium of State Secretaries, as well as other materials and documents are issued and stored in Macedonian language and its alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic Macedonia and its alphabet.

(7) All acts adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia are issued and published in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

Article 6

(1) The institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as all other institutions, are obliged ex officio to ensure that the use, communication and procedures are conducted in a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet if the person or participant speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia.

(2) All decisions and other acts, as well as the legitimacy arising from the competence of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as all other institutions are in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the

language that spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet if the person or participant speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia.

3) An elected or appointed person who speaks a language different from the Macedonian language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia, the personal name in the decisions and other acts within the competencies of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this law, like all other institutions, writes in its language and alphabet.

(4) The websites of the institutions referred to in Article 1 of this Law and the content of the web pages in addition to the Macedonian language and its alphabet shall also be published in a language different from the Macedonian language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

Article 7

(1) The names of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as all other institutions and their regional units in the units of local self-government in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language and in Skopje, they will be written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet as well as in English. The names will be of the same size and font, the name in Macedonian language and the alphabet will be written first.

(2) In the regional offices of the state administration bodies that cover at least one local self-government unit in which at least 20% of the citizens speak a language other than Macedonian, the names of the offices will be written in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20 % of citizens and his alphabet.

(3) The seals of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law and all other institutions with headquarters in Skopje or in the units of local self-government in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

(4) The institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall enable and contribute to the effective use, use and application of the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 8

(1) Banknotes and coins as well as postage stamps will contain symbols representing the cultural heritage of the citizens speaking the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

(2) The stamps, the payment forms, the fiscal reports issued by the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, the invoices of the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph 3 and Article 2 paragraph 3 of this Law, , they are written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

(3) The uniforms of police, the firefighting brigade; healthcare; in Skopje and in the municipalities in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language, are written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

Article 9

(1) In the judicial, administrative, executive proceedings, procedure for execution of sanctions, pre-trial and investigative procedures, criminal and misdemeanor procedures, litigation and non-contentious procedures, as well as other procedures before the courts, the public prosecutor's offices as well as all other organs, bodies and institutions the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

(2) All procedures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be conducted in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet if a judge, public prosecutor, party or other participant in the procedure is a person who speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia.

(3) All decisions and other acts arising from the procedures referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be adopted and issued in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet if a judge, a public prosecutor, a party or other participant in the procedure is a person who speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia.

(4) The institutions referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article are obliged to provide translation of all necessary documents and materials, as well as simultaneous translation of speeches, statements and hearings in the work or the proceedings being conducted.

(5) Failure to provide translation of all necessary documents and materials, i.e. failure to provide simultaneous translation throughout the course of the procedure, constitutes a material breach of the procedure.

(6) The names of the institutions referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article in Skopje and in the units of local self-government in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language are written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20 % of citizens and its alphabet.

(7) In the institutions referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article with headquarters in an area comprising several basic courts of which at least one of them is in a unit of local self-government in which an official language other than Macedonian is spoken and spoken by 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, the names will also be written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

(8) The costs incurred in the translation for the parties and the participants in the procedure as well as the costs for a court interpreter that arise with the application of the provisions of this Law shall be borne by the funds of the institutions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 10

(1) In procedures before a notary, notarial documents and certificates can be issued in Macedonian language and its alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

(2) In the procedures before the executioner, if a participant is a person who speaks the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, the orders, the conclusions, the minutes, the official notes and other acts of the executioners are issued in Macedonian language and its alphabet and in the language that at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet.

Article 11

(1) The institutions responsible for the management of the institutions for the execution of sanctions, as well as the institutions responsible for the execution of sanctions, are obliged to communicate in the communication and the procedures to use the Macedonian language and its alphabet, as well as the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet if the person in question speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia.

(2) The institutions responsible for the management of the institutions for the execution of sanctions as well as the institutions competent to execute sanctions are obliged to allow persons who are in these institutions to turn to the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 12

(1) The records in Skopje and the local self-government units in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than Macedonian are also in the official language spoken by the citizen.

(2) Decisions, certificates, and other acts are issued in the official language spoken by the citizen.

(3) Personal and travel documents of citizens who speak in a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet, ex officio, are issued in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 13

(1) Citizens who speak a language different from the Macedonian language spoken by less than 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, the form of the identity card is printed in the language and alphabet used by the citizen.

(2) Citizens who speak a language other than Macedonian spoken by less than 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia at their own request, the personal name data entered on the ID card shall be written in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and in the language and the letter used by the citizen.

Article 14

(1) Citizens who speak a language different from the Macedonian spoken by less than 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia at their request, the form of the travel document and the travel document are also printed in the language and alphabet used by the citizen.

(2) Citizens who speak a language different from the Macedonian spoken by less than 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia at their request, the form of the travel document and the travel document are also printed in the language and alphabet used by the citizen.

(3) Citizens who speak a language different from the Macedonian spoken by less than 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, at their own request, the data on the personal name entered in the travel document shall also be written in the language and alphabet used by the citizen.

Article 15

At the sessions of the State Election Commission and Municipal Election Commissions in Skopje and the units of local self-government in which at least 20% of the citizens speak an official language other than the Macedonian language, while conducting the elections in the work and procedures of all commissions, and other bodies and institutions equally use and apply the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet and the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 16

(1) Name on the street, square, bridge and other infrastructure facility in all units of the local self-government where at least 20% of the citizens speak a language other than Macedonian, as in Skopje, it is written in Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet, as well

as in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet, as well as in the languages accepted by the international community.

(2) At the border crossings of the Republic of Macedonia and the airports located in the areas where at least 20% of the citizens speak a language different from the Macedonian language, the names of the institutions, other articles and signatures shall be written in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet as well as in the language that they speak at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 17

All laws, by-laws, decisions and notices from the institutions referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law that are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia shall be published in the Macedonian language and its alphabet and in the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens and its alphabet.

Article 18

(1) For the purpose of achieving the goals of this law, the promotion, protection and uniform application of the official language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet is based on the Agency for the Use of the Language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia hereinafter referred to as “the Agency”) with the capacity of a legal entity responsible for standardizing and uniform use of the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet with supporting bodies for institution support referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3) and Article 2 paragraph (3) of this Law, as well as all other institutions.

(2) The Director of the Agency shall be elected by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia upon a previously announced public call with a term of 4 years with the right to re-election.

(3) In addition to certified court translators, the Agency employs linguists and graduated philologists of Albanian language as well as licensed proofreaders.

(4) The Director represents the Agency, manages its work, performs the duties determined by this Law and adopts an annual program of work for the Agency. The Director submits a report on the work of the Agency to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia at least annually until March 31 of the current year for the previous year.

(5) The funds for operation and functioning of the Agency are provided from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 19

The Agency is in charge of:

- support the institutions in fulfilling the obligations of this law, including translation and proofreading of documents;
- proofreading of all acts published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia;
- promotes and undertakes measures for promotion of the use of the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia;
- preparation of reports for informing the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the implementation of its competencies;
- for the needs of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to prepare expert-analytical materials within its competence;
- gives expert opinions on the materials that are in the function of implementing and promoting the use of the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia;
- other matters related to the implementation of the objectives ascribed in this Law.

Article 20

(1) For the supervision over full and consistent implementation of the provisions of this Law that refer to the use of languages, an Inspectorate for the use of languages is established (hereinafter: the Inspectorate), within the Ministry of Justice with legal personality.

(2) Principles, competence, organization of inspection and inspection procedures of the Inspectorate on the use of languages are regulated by a special law.

Article 21

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia and all institutions competent for the implementation of the provisions of this Law shall adopt measures to promote the application of all official languages as well as to guarantee the protection of the languages of other communities whose mother tongue is not an official language.

Article 22

(1) A fine in the amount of 4.000 to 5.000 Euros in Denar equivalent for misdemeanor shall be imposed on the authorities referred to in Article 1 paragraph (3), Article 2 (paragraph 3), as well as all other institutions for non-compliance with the provisions of this Law.

(2) A fine in the amount of 30% of the measured fine shall be imposed on the official person and the responsible person in the bodies referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 23

(1) Within a period of one year from the date of entry into force of this Law, all competent institutions are obliged to adopt the by-laws for the implementation of this Law.

(2) Within six months from the date of entry into force of this Law, the institutions are obliged to implement the obligations referred to in Article 7 of this Law.

(3) Immediately upon the entry into force of this Law, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia will develop a program for raising public awareness on the application of this Law.

(4) Within a year, the provisions of other laws shall comply with the provisions of this Law.

(5) In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of this Law with the language provisions of another law, the authorities shall be obliged to apply the provisions of this Law.

Article 24

With the adoption of this law, the Law on the Use of Languages spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and in the units of the local self-government ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 101/08 and 100/11).

Article 25

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