

# ■ NATIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY POLICY



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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## VISION AND MISSION

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**Vision:** Progress of the Republic of Macedonia towards a knowledge-based economy through sustainable development of the Information Society.

**Mission:** Creating supportive environment for the Information Society.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The Information Society is a product of the changes in utilization of the new information and communication technologies. The global communications, the e-commerce and the Internet are advantages of the developed world, ensuring more wellbeing, development and democracy. The world in the new millennia is characterized by the process of globalization which is a result of the technology development and the liberalization policy. In that world, the information is the crucial resource, and the knowledge and the ability to learn and improve is a key to competitive advantages.

The Republic of Macedonia, through the **National Information Society Policy (NISP)** is involved in the global development processes.

The process of development of the NISP is based on the reality and the needs of the local environment, on the realistic assessments of the capabilities, resources and the potentials of all entities in the building of the Information Society.

NISP is a document which should be integrated with the other development strategies in the state, supported by all political entities by a consensus, in order to provide for the implementation of all designed programmes, projects and initiatives to move towards the Information



Society. At the same time, this document will contribute towards linking the activities in the area of the information and communication technologies (ICT) in Macedonia with the programmes, projects and the structural funds of the EU.

This document provides for efficient implementation and usage of the ICT in all entities in the Republic of Macedonia, which will provide an incentive for the competitiveness of the Macedonian economy, transparency and efficiency in the operation of the Government and the participation of the citizens in the building of the Society.

Building and development of the Information Society is defined and emphasised in several documents accepted by the Republic of Macedonia: the Action Plan of the European Commission eEurope 2005, the Final Declaration of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) Geneva 2003, the Action Plan of the IT Committee 2003-2007, the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Microsoft and the Government and the adopted Declaration of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia "e-Declaration 2002, Recommendations for Accelerated Development of the Information Society and the digital economy in the Republic of Macedonia as a national priority", as well as other agreements and conventions ratified by the Republic of Macedonia.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

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To fulfil the Vision and the Mission, the fulfilment of the following objectives is planned until 2007:

- fully liberalized market of the electronic communication services (2005);
- significantly increased number of Internet users;
- established electronic public services;
- implemented priorities for sustainability of the strategy and the action plans related to the Information Society.

## 3. BASIC GUIDELINES

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### 3.1 INFRASTRUCTURE

Provided state-of-the-art, easily accessible and affordable ICT infrastructure, available under equal and non-discriminatory conditions, through:

- Affordable prices for Internet access and other electronic communications services;
- Continuous and sustainable support for the ICT infrastructure;
- Introduced protocol for electronic communications between the business entities, citizens, the public administration and the non-governmental sector.

### 3.2 E-BUSINESS

The introduction of e-business should facilitate the economic development by providing better economic efficiency, competitiveness and profitability through:

- Significantly re-organised and upgraded business processes, with adequate models for implementation of e-business in the companies, and
- Electronic networking between the business entities, citizens, the public administration and the non-governmental sector.



### 3.3 E-GOVERNMENT

Efficient and transparent operation of the Government open for citizen's participation, which will provide for better electronic services for the citizens and the business community, through:

- enabling citizens to participate in the Information Society;
- ensured level of on-line transactions in the provision of electronic services offered by the Government;
- political, institutional and regulatory framework.
- continuous development of a national ICT network of state institution aiming towards efficient and safe exchange of official information and data;
- ensuring new, better and lower-cost services which stimulate economic and social prosperity.

### 3.4 E-EDUCATION

Development of modern and flexible education and research system and support for the ICT orientation in the education, science and culture:

- significantly increased level of ICT literacy of the citizens;
- introduction and harmonising of the e-Education standards;
- structural and content development and increased presence of the ICT education on all levels;
- promotion of modern and flexible forms of education assisted by the ICT; life-long learning, distance learning, vocational training etc.
- continuous development of the national academic research network as a pillar of the modern and efficient action of the education entities on the national and the global level.



### 3.5 E-HEALTH

Establishment and improvement of the links between the stakeholders in the health sector and creating a more flexible environment for permanent upgrade of services, through the establishment of:

- unique encoding system and electronic identification;
- harmonised technology platforms and data exchange based on defined protocols;
- electronic services for the citizens and creating prerequisites for telemedicine.

### 3.6 E-CITIZENS

For the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia to be stakeholders of the Information Society, it is necessary:

- to build coherent policies for all sectors to offer e-services which will be unified, standardized, user-friendly, independent of the software platform, available to all citizens regardless of their location and the social status, taking into consideration the needs of the citizens;
- continuous creation of enabling environment and good governance practice, so that the citizens can use the ICT tools to participate in the overall social processes, as well is the process of decision-making on the local and the national levels.



### 3.7 LEGISLATION

Adoption of legislation which will be in conformity with the international conventions and agreements to which the Republic of Macedonia has acceded or has ratified, and legislation which will be fully harmonized with the EU directives on Information Society and Knowledge-Based Economy.

The legislation will especially provide:

- De-monopolisation of the electronic communication services market and prevention of the restriction of competition;
- Protection of the intellectual property rights, databases, security of the information and privacy of data;
- Protection from cybercrime;
- Electronic business.

## 4. SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

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### 4.1 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The self-sustainable development requires a framework, composed of two parts - legal and institutional. For this, two basic components are necessary:

- Legislation on the Information Society in the Republic of Macedonia - as an incentive for the self-sustainable development process of the Information Society;
- Establishment of an ICT development institution, in order to monitor the development and the implementation of the ICT and the NISP.



## **4.2 AWARENESS BUILDING CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

This component indicates implementation of broadly-targeted campaign in order to inform the public about the benefits of the Information Society in the Republic of Macedonia as a whole.

## **4.3 SUSTAINABLE AND ADEQUATE BUDGETING AND FINANCING**

The budgeting and financing should be provided through reliable and permanent sources of financing. These funds should be secured in various ways, from the Government, the private sector and the international donor institutions.

## **4.4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Development of a process of permanent monitoring and evaluation of the achieved results in the development of the Information society, with an emphasis of mandatory usage of the feedback (indicators) to create the future policies, strategies and plans in the Republic of Macedonia.





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