

COUNTRY REPORT

Social Sciences and Humanities in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

2011 Report

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- regularly updated country profiles of SSH systems in 42 countries;
- a news service;
- annual monitoring reports for all countries covered;
- synthesis reports bringing together key points;
- links to relevant reports and websites.

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1. Country Overview

1.1 Overview of SSH System

1.1.1 Brief Description of the structure of the SSH research system

The SSH developments in the Republic of Macedonia have been directly influenced by the dramatic changes in society and economy in the twentieth century. The Macedonian nationhood was ignored until the end of the Second World War, when a Macedonian republic was established within the Yugoslav federation and the Macedonian language received official recognition. However, there is documentation that the development of a national identity was indigenous in the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the primary source of identity was religion, but the focus shifted to language before the end of the century.

After its establishment, SSH developments in the Republic of Macedonia were influenced by Marxist ideology as in many socialist and communist European countries in that period. When Macedonia became an independent state in 1991, the Marxist ideology was abandoned, and the main focuses of SSH were transitioned towards a modern market economy and a multi-cultural society, languages, and historical and cultural inheritances. In this period the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts had a crucial role by focusing on the study of Macedonian history, culture, language, and natural heritage. Since December 2005, Macedonia has the status of a candidate country of the European Union (EU). However, the question of the name of the country is still problematic from neighbouring countries which implicitly contest the national identity.

The science, as well as SSH are centrally coordinated and financed by the Ministry of Education and Science. There are no priorities and concerted actions in selected disciplines, since all scientific disciplines are developed on the same footing. The only exceptions are the disciplines that preserve the Macedonian tradition, culture, identity and language, like linguistic and historical research.

The research sector in SSH consists of universities, public and private scientific institutes, private organisations and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The public sector in the Republic of Macedonia has the most significant role in both financing and performing SSH, comprising eight public scientific institutes (of 13), around 29 faculties (of about 57) from five public universities, and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The public sector employs over 90% of total SSH researchers, and provided 81.2% of all funds for SSH in 2008. In the same year the share of funds provided by the private sector in SSH amounted to 8.9%, while the resources from abroad were 9.8%. The reported percentage from the private non for profit (PNP) sector was 0.1%.

According to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSORM), in 2008 the HE sector comprised 63% of all researchers in SSH, while the government sector 37%. However, the government sector, according to the SSORM, performs 97.9% of the GERD for SSH, while the HE sector performs only 2.1%. The possible explanations of this paradox are: the orientation of HE units in SSH towards education, and the poor quality of statistical data provided by the HE units.

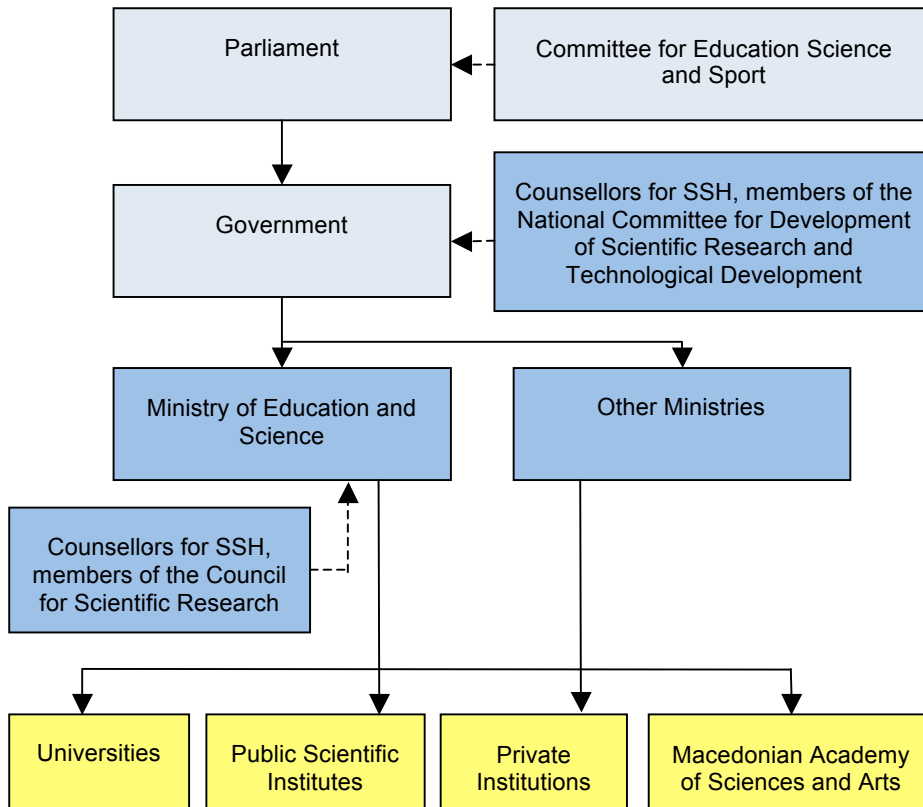
In the period between 2007 and 2010 the Macedonian organisations participated in FP7 with 271 eligible proposals where 27 proposals were in SSH (10%). Out of 47 proposals retained for funding only one project was in SSH (2.1%). Therefore, while the overall success rate in FP7 in all scientific fields for the country was 17%, the success rate for FP7 projects in SSH was only 4%. According to the assessment report of the research capacities in social sciences in Macedonia, in FP6 out of 45 projects from the country, only three have been from the area of social sciences (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 15).

Regarding its scientific production, Macedonia is placed rather low when compared to Eastern European countries in both humanities and social sciences as well as in all fields of science. In the field of humanities according to the H-index based on Scopus (1996-2009) Macedonia shares the last two position in Eastern Europe and in the field of social sciences the country is ranked 20th among 23 countries (http://www.scimagojr.com/countryrank.php?area=3200&category=0®ion=Eastern+Europe&year=all&order=h&min=0&min_type=it).

In 2008, from a total of 1431 publications in the country, 27.7% were in SSH (12.4% in social sciences and 15.3% in humanities). The contribution of the government sector was 89.1%, while the HE share was only 10.9%.

1.1.2 Overview of structure

Figure 1 Structure of the institutional framework for SSH in Macedonia



On the political and operational level there is no separate body responsible for SSH developments. The highest level of policy decisions on strategic development of science and financing in R&D are made by the Macedonian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, which regulate them through laws and legal enactments. The Government prepares and proposes programmes, laws and policies to the Parliament through its ministries or through inter-ministerial expert working groups. The Parliamentary Committee for Education, Sciences and Sports helps the preparation and adoption of the legislative acts. The main advisory and expert body of the government for R&D is the National Committee for Development of Scientific Research and Technological Development, which consist of representatives of all six scientific areas, including one representative for social sciences and one representative for humanities.

The development of the entire research and scientific system in the Republic of Macedonia including social sciences and humanities is coordinated and administered by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES). For SSH developments the Minister for Education and Science is advised by two counsellors, one for social sciences, and one for humanities. These counsellors are members of the Council for Scientific Research (CSR), and participate in preparation of programmes for scientific research, propose themes for domestic and international projects, carry out internal and external evaluation of scientific and research activities, etc.

The other ministries, like the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Culture, participate in the development of R&D policies with the focus on their specific responsibilities, in close cooperation with the appropriate performers.

The main research performers in SSH are the public scientific institutes, the SSH units of the state universities and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA). MASA is a public independent research institution having a distinguished role in SSH research. The private sector is a very small performer in SSH. There is only one private scientific institute in SSH, which is the most distinguished performer from the private sector. Private universities comprise mainly SSH units (85.6%), but they are oriented towards education, instead of research. A few private foundations, which are not registered as research organisations, are active in some SSH research, however their contribution is often missing in the official R&D statistics.

1.2 Policy challenges and developments

1.2.1 Main societal challenges translated into SSH research

The main policy challenges in SSH are inspired by the main features of the national economy and society. After the Declaration of Independence in 1991, Macedonia has experienced high unemployment rates, significant macroeconomic imbalances, high percentage of underground economy, discretionary applicability of rules and regulations, corruption and emigration of highly trained and educated people. On the other hand the Macedonian society has gone through radical changes in social, political and cultural life on its way toward EU integration and establishing a market economy and a parliamentary democracy. These characteristics are also highlighted in the EC report "EU research on Social Sciences and Humanities - Functional Borders and Sustainable Security: Integrating the Balkans in the European Union". Furthermore, regional co-operation across all sectors has continued to be approached with caution.

Some important aspects of these economical and societal challenges are the progress toward European integration, the increased competitiveness of the national economy, crime prevention, prevention of brain-drain and decrease of the unemployment rate.

The societal challenge for the country is also the research related with national culture, language, history, nature and state. Since the country hasn't managed to resolve the name dispute this implicitly causes problems related to the national identity and national language. However, a few societal challenges have not been properly confronted, such as problems initiated with privatisation, restructuring of the economy towards new technology-based sectors, etc.

Some of the societal challenges perceived in the Innovation union and in the other European policy documents are also taken into account in the national policy documents. In the Industrial policy for the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2020 medical equipment and services are recognised as main societal challenges. The industrial policy also envisions the encouragement of cross-border knowledge circulation with participation of the business sector. The opinion stated in the Innovation Union that its starting point is to create an excellent, modern education system, is also shared in the national policy documents. Reforms in the Macedonian higher education have top priority in the country, and according to the last changes in the Law on Higher Education there are new stronger criteria for the establishment of higher educational institution and new compelling criteria for the selection of professors.

1.2.2 New SSH policy developments

In June 2011 the Evaluation and Accreditation Board for Higher Education in the Republic of Macedonia was established, and professor Mihail Petkovski from the Faculty of Economics, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje was appointed as a president of the Board. The Board is a new body established with the changes in the Law for Higher education in 2011, and is a result of merging the previous two bodies, the Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation and the Board for Higher Educational Institutions.

2. Policy Setting System

2.1 Government policy making and coordination

2.1.1 Policy formulation and coordination

The main actor on the national level responsible for the science policies, including SSH policies, is the MES, through its Department of Science and Technological Development. The ministry finances and supports different types of projects proposed by either scientific organisations or the industry in cooperation with scientific organisations. They also provide scholarships for master and doctoral studies, funding for participation in international conferences and workshops, financial support for publishing scientific books and magazines, enable international cooperation in the scientific activities, provide scientific infrastructure, etc. These activities are in line with the laws and national policy documents related to research which are formulated and promulgated by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, through its Committee on Education, Science and Sport.

The CSR is formed by the Minister of Education and Science in order to serve as his consultancy body. It consists of six members, one from each scientific discipline, with a mandate of four years. Therefore, the social sciences and humanities are represented by separate counsellors. The Council makes decisions on the development of scientific and research activities, including the annual programs of the scientific institutions, the budget for research activities, the evaluation of research activities, the development and maintenance of research databases, international cooperation, etc.

SSH are represented in the National Committee for Development of Scientific Research and Technological Development (NCD) with separate members. NCD is a formal governmental body which consists of nine members: the Minister of Education and Science, the president of MASA, the president of the CSR and six members from different scientific disciplines, appointed by the Government on a four-year mandate. The NCD is involved in making decisions on the priority of research areas, the policies in the area of research, following the scientific development of the country, etc.

The work of the Universities is regulated by the Law on Higher Education. According to this Law, performing fundamental, developmental and applied research is defined as one of the main roles of the Universities. In accordance with the fundamental principle of autonomy of the higher educational institutions, the members of the academic community are guaranteed intellectual freedom during the research and educational processes. The autonomy also implies a freedom to establish funds and other organisations from the incomes, donations and other sources of finances for the purpose of conducting scientific, research and educational activities.

The bodies most involved in creating the scientific and research strategy of the University units are the Educational and Scientific Councils and the Evaluation and Accreditation Board for Higher Education. While the former carries a program for scientific and research activities, suggests measures to the Deanery and makes decisions on advancing the educational, scientific and applied work, the latter follows and assesses the quality of the activities and proposes the continuation or termination of the units' accreditation.

The scientific and research activities of public interest are supported by providing financial means as planned with the four-year National Programme for Scientific and Research Activities. According to the Law on Scientific and Research Activities the Programme is adopted by the Government on a proposal by the MES, after a prior consultation with the NCD, MASA and the Interuniversity Conference. The programme is realised through annual programmes, and defines the basic aims, content and range of tasks to be performed in the area of scientific activities; the methods for coordinating, monitoring and financing the activities; the relation to the economy and institutional network etc. The programmes for the period 2008-2011 don't give priority to SSH. However, among the SSH disciplines, the focus is on the international promotion of the country through topics such as: folklore, archaeology, history and language.

2.1.2 SSH policy Advice

No particular body exists with the explicit task to give SSH policy advice. Instead, there are representatives for SSH in the formal policy advisory bodies of the Government and the MES. The NCD is an advisory body of the Government for all research policy-related issues, and is chaired by the Minister of Education and Science. The rest of the committee members are the president of the MASA, the president of the Commission for Technological Development and one scientific research expert from each of the six scientific fields, including social sciences and humanities. The CSR is an advisory body of the MES, and consist of a president and six members representing six different scientific fields. Two of these fields are social sciences and humanities.

The representatives from universities, scientific institutes, MASA and individual experts in SSH fields from the country and from abroad are usually involved as consultants during the development of all important national strategies, evaluation of proposals, performance assessment of scientific institutes and preparations of research funding programmes.

In the organisational structure of the universities' SSH units and public scientific institutes there are Educational and Scientific Councils, which act as scientific advisors for all R&D activities performed within the units. The international R&D activities of the units need to be additionally approved by the Rector's Office.

2.1.3 Main implementing bodies

The main body that implements research programmes in SSH, as in other scientific fields in the country, is the MES. MES adopts measures and rules and according to the rules distributes funds for R&D activities, including SSH.

The evaluation of project proposals is coordinated by the CSR, which appoints the appropriate assessment groups and committees for social sciences and humanities in order to evaluate project proposals from the respective fields. Each SSH project is reviewed by two independent experts.

In the Republic of Macedonia there is a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) dealing with participation in the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The network of NCPs in the country provides guidance, practical information and assistance to the research community in Macedonia on all aspects of FP7 participation. There is a separate NSP for SSH.

MASA is a very significant implementing body for SSH in the country, especially in the fields of history, languages and economy. Many research projects of national interest in these fields are realised within MASA.

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) as non-research performers in the country are very active in some SSH topics.

2.2 Impacting factors

2.2.1 Policy fields influencing SSH policies

The MES is entirely responsible for the SSH policy. Only the MES has the public budget resources for carrying out research projects.

The role of the other ministries in terms of their involvement in policies for SSH research, is fairly small. The influence of the other ministries on SSH policy is mainly felt through their support of non-governmental and civil organisations which deal with socially sensitive public policies in the domain of social equality, cohesion, benefits and allowances for selected groups of the population.

Occasionally, the Macedonian government commissions research projects, which are of strategic interest for the country. Good examples are the projects on economic development, literature, archaeology and history of the country.

2.2.2 Influence of European and International Developments

The national SSH policy is mainly influenced by Macedonian initiative to become a member of the EU after achieving EU candidate status in 2005. Policy makers have recognised the importance of research for European integration and have approved many projects in the areas of economy, financial, business and social consequences of the possible integration into the EU. On the other hand, this has also initiated research in the domain of socio-cultural identity driven by the declaration of independence in 1991.

Additional regulations that influence the development of higher education institutions come from provisions of the Bologna Declaration that Macedonia signed in 2003. The aim is to harmonise the higher education sector in the country with European standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education and its recognition in a European context. The Bologna process comprises of a European Credit Transfer System, student mobility, research activities, Diploma Supplements, quality assurance and monitoring, which have changed the landscape of the higher education sector in Macedonia. The TEMPUS programme was especially important for higher education in the period 1996-2010, where 119 joint European projects and 44 structural and complementary measures were implemented. Tempus, which represents the largest input of education projects in the Republic of Macedonia, has contributed to the harmonisation of higher education in terms of unifying curricula, with 70% of higher education institutions stating that over half their curricula are in line with the Bologna criteria as a result of Tempus. (EACEA, Higher education in the Republic of Macedonia, 2010). More than a half of the all projects were related to SSH research.

Another possibility in the country for development and implementation of projects in SSH is the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme, for which the country has been eligible since 2007. Macedonia has signed the contract for the IPA Human Resource Development (HRD) component. The overall strategic objective of the IPA HRD component is to foster the development of human resources, in particular by improving the quantity and quality of human capital, leading to more and better jobs, higher growth and development and the increased national competitiveness at international level. The Operational Programme for the HRD component was established on the basis of the socio – economic analysis in the field of human resource development and includes a strategy for defining the priorities and objectives as well as a description of the priorities and measures. The priorities identified in this programme are: employment, education and training, social inclusion and technical assistance.

2.2.3 Relevance of European and International SSH research

Macedonia has been fully associated with the EC Framework Programme (FP) since January 2006. Before that, Macedonia participated in FP6 as a third country allowing eligible Macedonian partners to participate in projects. There were also some specific calls in the programme for International Cooperation (INCO), which explicitly encouraged the submission of projects from third countries

In the period between 2007 and 2010 Macedonian organisations have participated with 271 eligible proposals in FP7, out of which 27 were in SSH (10%). Out of 47 proposals retained for funding of €7.51m, only one project was in SSH (2.1%), and only for one of these project a Macedonian organisation was a coordinator. Therefore, while the overall success rate in FP7 in all scientific fields for the country was 17%, the success rate for FP7 projects in SSH was only 4%. Themes with success rates below the overall country's success of 17% are also those related to Science in Society (0%) and those related to the European Research Council (0%). In 2009 the Macedonian contribution to the FP7 program was €0.716m. Part of this contribution was covered by the IPA instrument (70%) and the remaining funds were covered by the state budget (30%).

The title of the only SSH project within FP7 is "Gender, migration and intercultural interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe: an interdisciplinary perspective", and the Macedonian partner is the "Euro-Balkan" Institute from Skopje.

Within FP6, Macedonia cooperated with 154 partners, signed 45 project contracts and obtained funds of €4.7 million. The Macedonian participation in all FP6 was 0.08%, or 63 participations in total. It should be noted that three participations were from social sciences (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 15), and the performance of Macedonia in FP6 was influenced by a few 'major' projects acquired under INCO in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) field just before the end of the programme.

The country participates in ERA NET initiatives through the projects WBC INCO NET and SEE ERA NET PLUS, which enhance the integration of the Western Balkan countries (WBC) in the European Research Area. These projects are not SSH specific, but they treat different SSH aspects by supporting the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology (S&T), identification of R&D potentials and priorities and analysing innovation needs and barriers. Additionally, the MES is the project partner in both projects, additionally strengthening the synergy effects of the projects.

The total duration of the WBC INCO NET project is six years, from 2008 until 2013, and is supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The project facilitates interaction between Western Balkan countries, EU Member States, states associated to the Framework Programmes for R&D and the European Commission through support of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries. One of the topics for 2011 is Social Innovation, and how SSH research can sustain Social Innovation.

The project SEE ERA NET PLUS is a four-year project that began in 2009 within the Ministry of Education and Science. The total budget for the project is €3.5m, with the ministry participating with €0.1m. Through the SEE ERA NET PLUS initiative ten projects with Macedonian organisations are selected for funding in the fields of Information Technologies, Agro food and Agriculture. No SSH field has been selected for funding.

The Republic of Macedonia has been a COST member since 2002 and started participating in five COST actions in 2003, which significantly increased to 50 Actions with 83 participants in 2010.

The Macedonian representative in the domain “Individuals, societies, cultures and health” comes from the MES. In this domain the country participates in 11 actions with 16 scientists:

In the period 1996-2010 the Macedonian higher education participated in the framework of the TEMPUS programme with 119 joint European projects and 44 structural and complementary measures. More than half of all the projects were related to SSH research. The TEMPUS programme had a significant impact on the harmonisation of higher education in the country with European standards and quality assurance system, as 70% of higher education institutions stated that over half their curricula are in line with the Bologna criteria as a result of TEMPUS. (EACEA, Higher education in the Republic of Macedonia, 2010).

Finally, the structural funds also play a role in shaping SSH projects such as Community assistance for reconstruction, development and stabilisation (CARDS) and IPA. Macedonia has been a beneficiary of the CARDS programme, and its replacement, IPA in 2007. IPA provides possibilities for financing different projects related to SSH through the Human Resource Development component. The priorities identified in this programme are the following:

- employment – attracting and retaining more people in employment;
- education and training – investing in human capital through better education and skills;
- social inclusion – promoting an inclusive labour market; and
- technical assistance.

2.2.4 Impact of evaluations

The mechanisms for national academic and research quality assurance are defined by the Law on Higher Education, the Law on Scientific and Research Activities and the Decree on Norms and Standards for Establishing Higher Education Institutions and Performing Higher Education Activities (DNSHE). The Law on Higher Education identifies the following mechanisms for quality assurance:

- external evaluation through the Evaluation and Accreditation Board for Higher Education in the Republic of Macedonia;
- internal (self) evaluation of the universities faculties and scientific institutes;
- quality evaluation system for academic staff; and
- bi-annual ranking of all universities and higher education institutions in the country through an open procedure for engagement of a consulting firm.

DNSHE, adopted in 2010, defines the criteria required for the accreditation of higher education institutions and the evaluation of their scientific research. The MES ensures that the criteria are fulfilled through the Evaluation and Accreditation Board for Higher Education in the Republic of Macedonia. The Board is a new body established with the changes in the Law for Higher education in 2011, and is a result of merging the previous two bodies, the Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation and the Board for Higher Educational Institutions. The new Board will have the power to approve the establishment of new faculties and universities, to evaluate their work and to withdraw their license for work if the quality standards are not fulfilled.

The results of the self-evaluations of SSH units have a very big impact on their missions and visions. The self-evaluation of each SSH unit is officially adopted in front of the Educational and Scientific Council of the unit.

The quality evaluation system for academic staff is a form of evaluation of the individual researchers and provides promotion of researchers and university professors into the higher scientific grade. The criteria are mainly based on bibliographic indicators – the number of scientific papers in the relevant, highly ranked international journals. The criteria for social sciences and humanities generally don't differ from criteria in natural and technical sciences. However, the Educational and Scientific Councils of SSH units and University senates recognise the particularities of SSH research and treat the SSH research specifics with additional rulebooks for promotion of researchers in some SSH disciplines.

According to the changes in the Law on Higher Education in 2010, a mandatory ranking of all universities and faculties from the country is planned every two years by a relevant selected legal entity with international experience. The results of the first ranking are expected in the second half of 2011.

Regarding the realisation of research activities performed in accordance with the Law on Scientific and Research Activities, the MES evaluates the realisation of the National Programme for Scientific and Research Activities and creates conditions for improving the quality of scientific research. The primary focus of this evaluation is the realisation of research projects financed through the MES. The MES publishes an annual report containing ex-post information and evaluation of R&D activities. A similar mechanism exists in the other ministries that perform research and innovation policy development.

Research institutes, universities, the MASA and individual national or international experts are consulted by the responsible ministries and public agencies for providing scientific and technical advice, mainly for evaluation of the proposals and the final project reports, assessment of the performance of research institutes and preparation of actions and research funding programmes.

The external opinion of the science and research policy of the country is done through the European Commission (EC) annual progress reports for the Republic of Macedonia. The assessment of the EC has a considerable impact on the national R&D policies and measures.

While the Law on Scientific and Research Activities promotes the issue of quality research, the concept of what constitutes 'quality research' has not been fully developed, especially when it comes to researchers from SSH fields. Since only a small number of papers are published in foreign international journals (5%), with a negligible percentage for journals with impact factor, the gradually raised quality standards would hopefully encourage researchers to intensify their efforts to publish in international journals, and hence raise the social science research at the level of natural science research in Macedonia.

Additionally, the national pledge for promoting high quality research has been demonstrated by establishing the so-called Centres of Excellence. These centres are selected on every four years on the basis of their scientific results and have influence on both domestic and international level. They are recognised not only in the country, but also internationally due to their publications, citations and international cooperation. According to the assessment report of research capacities in social sciences in Macedonia, there are five centres of excellence, all from the field of natural and technical sciences (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 29). None of the social science departments/institutes has attained the standards required to be accepted as a centre of excellence.

2.2.4.1 Project evaluation

Both domestic and international categories of public-funded research projects in SSH are mainly carried out through the Programme for Scientific and Research Activities (PSRA). The selection of the projects is fulfilled institutionally on the basis of a public competition. All projects are subject to an anonymous review, which could include internal and external evaluation conducted by the CSR. For each project two external experts from the field are nominated, and the evaluations are done in accordance with the rulebooks adopted by the MES on the proposal of the CSR. The rulebooks are not SSH specific, but on the proposal of the representatives in the CSR for SSH some specific evaluation and selection criteria for some SSH disciplines could be integrated.

The positively evaluated project activities and the fulfillment of the project objectives according to the project proposal are mandatory prerequisites for acceptance of the project expenses by the MES. After completion of the projects, their findings are presented to the concerned scientific public. The projects in SSH are presented in front of all the important SSH institutions in the country. This implies a certain level of peer review. The evaluation system is upgraded by the solutions laid down in the Law on Scientific and Research Activities, which are not SSH specific, but affect SSH scientific fields. For this purpose, the law foresees the establishment of a network of national coordinators for different domains and disciplines, including SSH, in order to achieve the objective evaluation procedures. Moreover, international expertise and the involvement of stakeholders, including the private sector, is foreseen when the projects have a broader public interest.

The annual report of the MES for the PSRA, which includes ex-post information for the realisation of the projects financed through the programme, could be regarded as a sort of project evaluation.

According to the evidence of the income from project-based R&D from the perspective of scientific fields, in 2008 from a total of €6m only €0.54m (9.07%) were spent on SSH. The share of the total project-based R&D income for SSH activities in 2009 had a slight increase of 11.2%. Dramatic low shares in the total project-based R&D incomes were recorded in social sciences in both 2008 and 2009, when they were 3.4% and 4.1% respectively.

The fact that the number of social science research projects on a national level is low is partially related to the following reasons: strong criteria for researchers in SSH according to which the MES selects the researchers to be awarded funding; and unfavourable role of SSH in the main R&D and innovation policies in the country.

2.2.4.2 Programme evaluation

The strategic framework for the development of research policy in the Republic of Macedonia is relatively new, and the timing itself has not allowed for any formal evaluation of its implementation so far. When it comes to SSH, due to the absence of specific SSH programmes on the state level, no results from the learning and evaluation processes have been published yet. The only published report concerning the evaluation and the impact of the evaluation of the R&D programmes is the general annual report of the MES for the PSRA, which financed main R&D activities in SSH on a competitive base. The process of programme evaluation is supervised by the CSR. In addition, the CSR advises the minister during the preparation of programmes for scientific research, proposes criteria for evaluation, analyses the assessments and proposes appropriate changes in the forthcoming programmes. The most competent actors for SSH are counsellors, members of the CSR, that represent these scientific fields.

However, the revision and evaluation process of the research programmes still needs to be developed and improved.

2.2.4.3 Institutional evaluation

Universities as main research performers make self-evaluation of their scientific and research work. This is in accordance with the Bologna process, aiming at high quality and EU standards. The process is monitored by the responsible Ministry of Education and Science. The universities that have an international orientation and a vision for participation in international associations, like the largest “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje, have external evaluators that adopt standardised tools.

According to the changes to the Law on Higher Education adopted by the MES in 2010, all universities and faculties in the country will be ranked every two years by a relevant ministry-selected legal entity. Since the leading SSH institutions in the country are the faculties and institutes, the ranking will include all relevant SSH institutions in the country. The results of the first ranking are expected in the second half of 2011.

The highest internal body within a university unit, faculty or institute, is the for Educational and Scientific Council. Simultaneously, this council serves as an advisor and evaluator of all R&D and innovation activities. Therefore, all R&D and innovation activities performed by a unit that perform SSH activities are discussed, adopted and evaluated after implementation by the council of the appropriate SSH unit.

An indirect criterion for the evaluation of HE institutions is the quality of the personnel employed at the faculties and institutes. The evaluation of individual researchers and professors is carried out for their promotion into a higher scientific grade. According to the new changes in the Law on Higher Education, the criteria regarding the promotion of professors for different positions requires the professors to have a number of published reviewed articles in international journals or in journals with an impact factor. Even stronger criteria are applied for researchers and university professors that have the intention of becoming a mentor within the new PhD programme, regulated by the Law on Higher Education from 2008.

The accreditation of higher education institutions and the external evaluation of their educational and scientific research can be considered as another form for evaluation of HE institutions. The criteria for accreditation are defined with DNSHE, and since 2011 these criteria are monitored by the Evaluation and Accreditation Board for Higher Education. This form of evaluation has a very big impact on the educational and scientific work of all HE units, including those from SSH. If the criteria are not fulfilled by a specific unit, that unit will not be granted a license to continue working as an HE institution.

Besides self evaluation, which is practiced in the larger state universities, and the final results of the external evaluation carried out by the Evaluation and Accreditation Board, there is still no evidence for the quality assurance of the remaining mechanisms.

2.2.5 Impact of other factors

Since its independence in 1991, the country has been confronted with several challenges that have influenced research policies and measures in SSH. One of the biggest challenges for the country is the brain drain. Since this problem is closely related with socio-economic changes in the country, it is treated in almost all R&D policies. The main reasons reported for the brain-drain in all surveys are: the very high unemployment rate, low salaries, dissatisfaction with employment and social values. The government tries to prevent brain drain and repatriate researchers that leave the country through general R&D policies, but specific measures are still missing. Therefore, since the main reasons for brain drain still exist, significant effects have yet to be registered.

Since the independence in 1991, the Republic of Macedonia has been faced with several problems that have implicitly contested national identity. The problems refer to the name of the country, historical and multi-cultural heritage and the national language. Since these areas are of profound importance for the country, they have a direct reflection on the selection of the national priorities in the SSH scientific fields and on the distribution of the R&D funds.

2.3 Important policy documents

The most important policies in the Republic of Macedonia are not SSH specific, but are related to all scientific fields. Furthermore, in all policy documents adopted after 2000 there is a strong emphasis on technical and technological scientific fields. SSH fields are only briefly mentioned, mainly focusing on areas contributing to the international promotion of the country, such as folklore, archaeology, history and language. Since the first national R&D strategy for the period 2011-2020 is in the process of adoption, the main policy documents in the country are the

- Programme of the Government 2008-2012 and the
- Strategy for the Development of the Education in the Republic of Macedonia 2005-2015.

The important policy that refers to the economics sub-field is the

- Strategy of the Ministry of Economy 2010-2012.

The SSH institutions, which are mainly university units and institutes, have their own specific strategies, visions and missions which are in line with their responsibilities and goals.

2.4 Thematic priorities at national level

The topics applied in SSH research are dependent on the field of expertise of the researchers and institutions, and are very much reliant on the topics assessed as priority issues by the Government and the international donors. The research projects funded by the MES, the donor organisations and the international research programmes differ in the issues promoted as important, as well as in their methodological approach. The main types of research funded by international donors are applicative in nature, and include issues related to NATO and EU integration; social protection and inclusion; assessment of public policies in the areas of: health, economy social policy and labour market; local socio-economic development of municipalities; development of certain industry sector; conflict prevention and management; gender issues, etc.

In contrast, the MES has the tendency to fund projects, which are considered to be of national interest. As currently the national interest has been placed on issues regarding the national identity, the topics supported by MES are primarily related to Macedonian history, language, archaeology and folklore and are inclined to have theoretical, rather than applicative value. Moreover, there appears to be a lack of sense on the side of state institutions for the need of SSH research (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 30). The national policies clearly indicate that the priorities are strongly placed on the sphere of natural, technical and technological sciences, which although a positive trend, cannot support the development of the country on its own.

Bearing in mind these two divergent priorities, there appears to be insufficient support of innovative and interdisciplinary social science research aimed at the theoretical development of certain scientific disciplines. Specifically, Macedonian researchers do not conduct a lot of relevant interdisciplinary research, which could be of interest to the wider scientific community. While these types of projects appear to be supported within the Framework Programme, not many research institutions from Macedonia have been involved (from the total of 47 projects retained for funding in FP7 for the period 2007-2010, only one project is from SSH). One of the reasons for this situation might be that the SSH are not priorities selected for the country within the research programmes.

METRIS

From the above it is evident that SSH thematic priorities for the country are the following:

	Priorities
	Behaviour, cognition
x	Competitiveness, Innovation
	Conflicts, peace, security and human rights within the EU and beyond
x	Crime and Crime prevention (including drugs, organised crime etc.)
x	Cultural heritage (including preservation and conservation)
	Democracy, governance, accountability and responsibility
	Demography (Ageing, Fertility)
x	Economy and finance
x	Education, skills, knowledge and life-long learning
x	Employment, Work, Working conditions
	Ethics
	Families, life-styles and well-being
	Gender, gender equality
	Globalisation
	Health and Health systems
x	Identity, religion, language, multiculturalism
	International relations
	Migration
	Social cohesion, exclusion, inequalities, poverty
	Sustainable development
	Urban and rural development
	Others

2.5 Important research programmes

Programme title	Regional Research Promotion Programme / Western Balkans (2008-2011) – RRPP
Start date	2008
Planned end date	2011
Planned total budget	€
Budget 2011/2012	€0.86m per year
Implementing organisation	University of Fribourg in Switzerland
Target group	Research institutions, individual researchers and policy makers in social sciences from WB countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia),
Key goals	Provision of research grants for projects that deal with issues related to the transition process in individual countries and in the region as a whole; Provision of methodological colloquia and thematic trainings; Enabling and strengthening regional interaction and cooperation.
Website	http://www.rpp-westernbalkans.net/home
Tags	

2.6 SSH research infrastructures

2.6.1 National infrastructures

The national infrastructure for R&D in SSH mainly comprises of eight public scientific institutes, 88 public and private faculties in SSH, MASA, one private institute in SSH, and several think-tanks. All organisations are described in section 4.

While the faculties in SSH are mainly oriented toward education, public scientific institutes are the main performers in SSH in the country.

2.6.2 International infrastructures

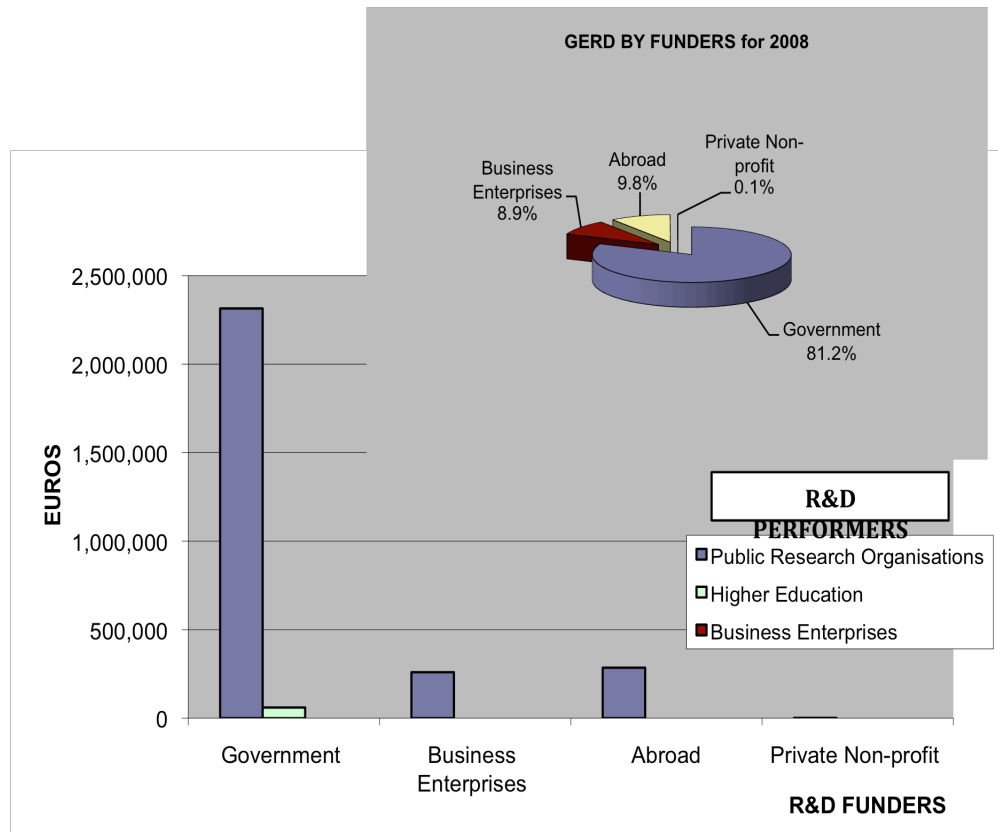
The Republic of Macedonia doesn't participate in any SSH related ESFRI initiatives.

The only participation in a FP7 project in SSH is by the "Euro-Balkan" Institute, with the project "Gender, migration and intercultural interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe: an interdisciplinary perspective". The total budget for the project is €1.02m.

3. Funding System

3.1 Overview of funding flows

Figure 2 Organogram on funding flow for 2008

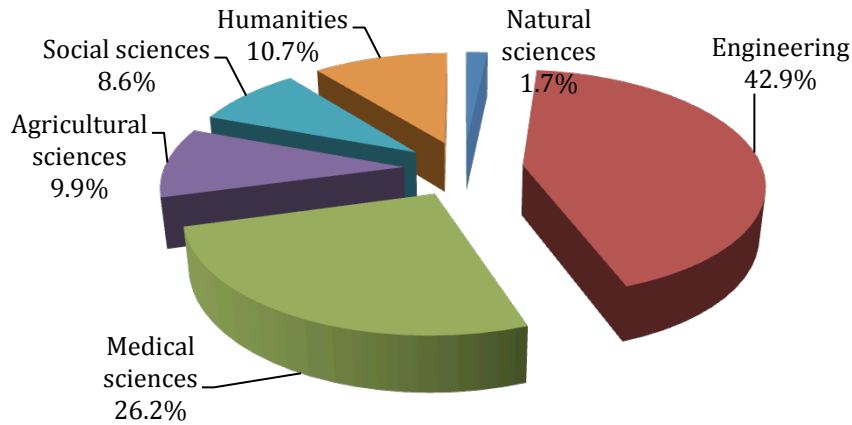


The SSORM is the main provider of R&D data. The definitions of the published data are harmonised with the international definitions and standards and are in accordance with the Frascati guidelines. However, as there is an issue regarding the reliability of the official data that show the flow of R&D funds from sources to performers, it was necessary to estimate some of the funding figures.

According to the latest available data from the SSORM, Macedonian GERD amounted to €13.27m in 2009, equivalent to 0.199% of its GDP, and €15.08m in 2008, which represented 0.225% of the GDP. It means that the country is still significantly lagging behind EU average expenditures on R&D. The share of SSH in total GERD was 19.3% in 2008. The remaining part of the total GERD was spent within other scientific fields, mainly in engineering (42.9%) (Figure 3).

The share of GERD for SSH that was spent by humanities was 10.7%, while the remaining part equal to 8.6% was spent by social sciences.

Figure 3 GERD by field of science for 2008



The research activities have the possibility of being funded by different sources. On a national level, the state budget predicts annual funds for research activities, which can be awarded to the private, mixed and public scientific institutions. Besides that, various donor organizations (international, bilateral, multilateral, domestic etc.) also regularly support applicative and developmental social science research projects.

The government sector plays the most significant role in both financing and performing SSH in the Republic of Macedonia. In 2008, the government resources made up 81.2% of all funds for SSH, while the private sector contributed with 8.9%. The share of resources from abroad amounted to 9.8% and the private non-for profit sector's contribution was insignificant with 0.1% of the total funds for SSH in 2008. The only significant change in the funding structure compared with 2006 and 2007 is in the private sector, since its participation as funding source was only 0.6% in 2006 and 5.3% in 2007. The distribution of funds from different sources between social sciences and humanities is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 GERD for SSH by scientific field and funding source, 2008 (in %)

	Government sector	Private sector	Abroad	Private Non-profit
Social sciences	65.7	15.8	18.4	0.1
Humanities	98.9	1.1	0	0
SSH	81.2	8.9	9.8	0.1

The participation of government sector in GERD for SSH by sector of performance for the year 2008 is 97.9% (GOVERD), while 2.1% of GERD for SSH is performed by the HE sector (HERD). The distribution of the expenditures by sector of performance between social sciences and humanities is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 GERD for SSH by scientific field and sector of performance, 2008 (in %)

	GOVERD	HERD	BERD
Social sciences	98.2	1.8	0
Humanities	97.6	2.4	0
SSH	97.9	2.1	0

The structure of government expenditures by funding source is 80.92% from government sources (intramural expenditures), 9.06% from the business sector, 0.06% from private non-profit sector and 9.96% from abroad. The total R&D funds spent in the higher education sector come from the government sector. The business sector did not report any intramural R&D expenditures in SSH in 2008.

3.2 National public SSH research funding

3.2.1 Overview of funding importance

From the total of €2.92m spent for R&D activities in SSH in 2008, the share of the government sector as funding source was amounted to 81.2%, pointing to the fact that a substantial part of funds for SSH in Macedonia was provided by the state budget and the local administration. The structure of it has not been changed since 2005. The contribution of the central government in the total government funding was 98.9%, while the share of the local government was only 1.1% in 2008. The distribution of the funds provided by the central government among the ministries and state agencies is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Distribution of the SSH R&D funds provided by the central government, 2007 (in %)

Ministry of Education and Science	Other Ministries	State Agencies	Total
84.0	5.9	10.1	100

The government financing of SSH is regulated by the Law on the State Budget, according to the goals and priorities determined within the national research programmes, as well as the programmes of public interest. The MES monitors the main budget lines, and approves for financing the annual programmes and projects of the scientific institutions, and the individual contract research through a public competition. The state budget as the main funding source for R&D in SSH includes the following main channels:

- direct institutional funding of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts;
- institutional funding through the Ministry of Education and Science, used for financing education and R&D activities at state universities and public scientific institutes that are under university umbrella;
- institutional funding through the Ministry of Education and Science, used for financing the salaries of the public scientific institutes;
- programme funding for both, organisations and individuals, and funding of individual researcher through the Ministry of Education and Science. This channel is used for realisation of the PSRA and for other support measures, such as procurement of equipment, mainly competition based; and
- budget lines to other ministries and government agencies with a SSH research performing responsibilities, perform internally (intramural R&D activities) or externally (extramural R&D activities) by contract research.

The distribution of the total R&D funding in SSH is 57.7% for gross salaries of the personnel employed in the institutions, 38.8% for current material expenses for R&D and only 3.5% for capital expenditures. Since the major part of this funding is public, similar distribution is applied for the public share of GERD for SSH.

The biggest share of the total public R&D SSH funds, around 65% of the total of €2.37m in 2008, is spent as a direct institutional support of the MASA and the public scientific institutes that perform SSH R&D activities and is monitored by MES. The rest of the 35% of the public funding, which is competitive based, consist of programme-based funds (around 11%), institutional contract based (around 11%) and individual contract based (around 13%).

The shares of intramural and extramural expenditures for R&D activities in SSH performed by other ministries are 91.5% and 8.5% respectively, from the total of €0.15m. The extramural research is mainly done through institutional contract research with HE sector.

Research activities in the domain of SSH in Macedonia are also mainly carried out by the public research sector, and up to 97.9% of the expenditures in R&D for SSH in 2008 were performed by the government sector, including the MASA. Only 2.1% of the total SSH activities are performed by the HE sector. The problem of insufficient state funds allocated to the public universities was already accentuated, especially in terms of low funding for research projects. In order to overcome these difficulties, many of the university units have established partnerships with state and other institutions in order to enable professional cooperation, as well as financial support.

3.2.2 Institutional funding

Institutional funding is provided only by the state budget and distributed by the MES. It is the most important source of research financing in the domain of SSH, representing 87.3% of the total public R&D funds in SSH, and consists of direct funding, programme based funding and contract based funding. For 2010, out of €2.07m institutional funding provided for R&D activities in SSH, around 75% were provided as direct institutional funding, 12.5% as institutional programme based funding and 12.5% as institutional contract based funding.

The direct institutional support comprises mainly gross salary expenditures for researchers (more than 90%), and current material expenses (less than 10%). The criteria for allocating direct institutional funding are rather formal and include the number of researchers classified by scientific grades.

The remaining revenues of research organisations are coming from project grants based on programme and contract research, and a small portion (no more than 5% of total public R&D funding in SSH) is coming from grants for organising scientific conferences, participations at international conferences, publishing research results, and mobility. The majority of programme and contract research funding is project based. The whole programme and contract funding is competitive based. In 2010, out of the total of 40 awarded projects, four were from the social sciences and three were from humanities.

3.2.3 Individual funding

The funding provided directly to individual researchers comprises scholarships for young researchers, publishing of the individual research results, individual participation in international conferences and mobility. There is no available data about the share of these funds granted for SSH. The total funds for these purposes were €0.45m for 2010, or 36.5% of the funds distributed through the PSRA.

On the competitive call for domestic scholarships in 2009, there were 606 candidates signed up, 134 were awarded, out of which 31, or 23% were from SSH. Regarding the international scholarships for 2010, 14 candidates were signed up, six were awarded, out of which three were from SSH.

3.2.4 Programme Funding

Programme funding contribution in the total public R&D funding in SSH is around 11%. The funds are distributed by MES, based on the annual programmes of the public scientific institutes, through competitive calls. The main criteria for financing the programmes are the following ones: the national interest, resolving societal challenges and international promotion and affirmation.

The financing of R&D through the public institutes' programmes is part of the PSRA.

The Ministry of Culture and other ministries could have own R&D budgets for financing specific programmes in SSH regarding culture, language, history heritage and national economy.

3.3 Private research funding

According to the data provided by the SSORM, the private sector in the Republic of Macedonia as a funder contributed with 8.9% of GERD for SSH, or €0.260m in 2008. The participation of the social sciences in the funding was 94.4%, while the humanities participated with only 5.6%. The whole amount was spent as extramural research funding by the government sector.

3.4 Foundations/ not-for-profit funding

The participation of charitable foundations and not-for profit organisations in the total reported funding of R&D in SSH is very low or in some periods non-existing. In 2008, charitable foundations and not-for-profit organisations provided only €1.500 or 0.06% of the total funding for R&D in SSH.

The SSORM did not record any not-for-profit organisation as a performer in SSH in 2008. There is a possibility that projects supported by foundations are carried out by institutions which cannot be officially classified as research institutions and are omitted from the official statistics but have a role in shaping thinking about social issues, research directions and the overall social and democratic climate.

3.5 European and international funding

According to the SSORM, the total R&D funds in SSH from abroad in 2008 amounted to €0.285m or 9.8% of GERD in SSH. The whole reported amount from abroad is in social sciences, and in the government sector. There is no reported income from abroad in humanities. Since the total R&D funds from abroad in the country are €2.42m in 2008, social sciences have very modest share in the total of only 11.8%.

The most active donor organisations working in Macedonia are World Bank, OSCE (The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), UN agencies (United Nations), European Commission, USAID (United States Agency for International Development), FOSIM (Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia), German based Fridrich Ebert (FES) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). These institutions support various research projects, such as promotion of good governance, EU policies and values, socio-political dialogue, market economy, social inclusion, decentralisation and human rights (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 25).

The Republic of Macedonia is very active in EU funded programmes FP, COST and TEMPUS. While some of these programmes offer possibilities for SSH researchers to apply with projects, the representation of the SSH disciplines has been rather low so far. The exception to this is TEMPUS programme, but the activities performed within TEMPUS projects are mainly oriented towards education, instead of research. Specifically, in the frames of the 6th Framework Programme, out of 45 projects from Macedonia, only 3 have been from the field of social sciences, while in the frame of 7th Framework Programme, out of 47 projects from the period 2007-2010, only one was from the field of social sciences. The title of the project is "Gender, migration and intercultural interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe: an interdisciplinary perspective". The total project budget is €1.02m, and the Macedonian partner is "Euro-Balkan" Institute from Skopje.

The MES has established bilateral and multilateral cooperation with various countries, but not many projects are with SSH topic. In addition, the COST programme is being realised through activities in almost all scientific fields, including SSH. The percentage of SSH researchers in total number of researchers is 20%.

The MES is also a member of the SEE ERA NET and WBC INCO NET. No direct funding of SSH activities are registered through these initiatives.

4. Performing System

4.1 Overview of the performers

The research performing institutions relevant for the SSH in the Republic of Macedonia are the public and private universities, public and private scientific institutes, MASA, think-tanks, NGOs and international organisations.

The HE sector in the country comprises five state and ten private universities with more than 120 faculties out of which 63 are faculties of social sciences, 25 of humanities and the rest of technical sciences. The majority of the faculties of social sciences and humanities are part of the private universities established after year 2000. Around 80% of the faculties of social sciences are in the area of business, law and political science. The majority of the newly established and accredited academic institutions are in their developmental phase, thus primarily concerned with the educational activities.

Out of the total of 13 Public Scientific Institutes in the country, eight are from SSH. Six public scientific institutes in SSH are part of the organisational structure of the biggest and the oldest state University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” from Skopje (UKIM), out of which two are regular units, and four are accompanying units. Therefore, the major SSH research activities take place within UKIM. However, SSORM regards the R&D research of the public scientific institutes as government performing activity.

The private research sector in SSH is not developed since there is only one private institute in SSH accredited by the MES, “Euro Balkan” Institute. However, there are non-government organisations and private firms in the area of business and management consultancy.

Apart from the abovementioned scientific institutions, part of the applicative SSH research is performed within the NGO sector (primarily by think-tank organizations) and international organisations.

Out of the total of 2211 employees in R&D organisations in 2008, 702, or 31.7% are in SSH (social sciences 8.4% and humanities 23.3%). HE sector employs 53.3%, and government sector 46.7%. Concerning the number of researchers in SSH in 2008, it was 521 out of the total of 1367, or 38.1% (social sciences 9.2% and humanities 28.9%). The distribution by sector of performance is 63% in HE sector and 37% in the government sector. Compared with the 2005 data, while the total number of employees and researchers in R&D organisations is decreased for 16.3% and 20.1% respectively, the number of employees and researchers in SSH is increased for 3.5% and 6.3% respectively. The increase was only in social science sector, for more than 25% for both categories of employees and researchers.

The total number of finished and unfinished projects in 2008 was 458, out of which 111 were in SSH. The government sector reported 105 projects, while HE sector only six. Concerning the income from the projects, out of the total of €6m, only €0.545m, or 9.07% were in SSH, mainly performed by the government sector (90%).

For the period 2005-2009, while the share of the SSH projects in the total number of the finished and unfinished projects was almost unchanged and was in a range of 24.2%-26.9%, the share of the income of the SSH projects in the total income from finished and unfinished projects was significantly decreased from 25.3% in 2005 to 9.07% in 2008 and 11.2% in 2009.

4.2 Higher Education Institutions

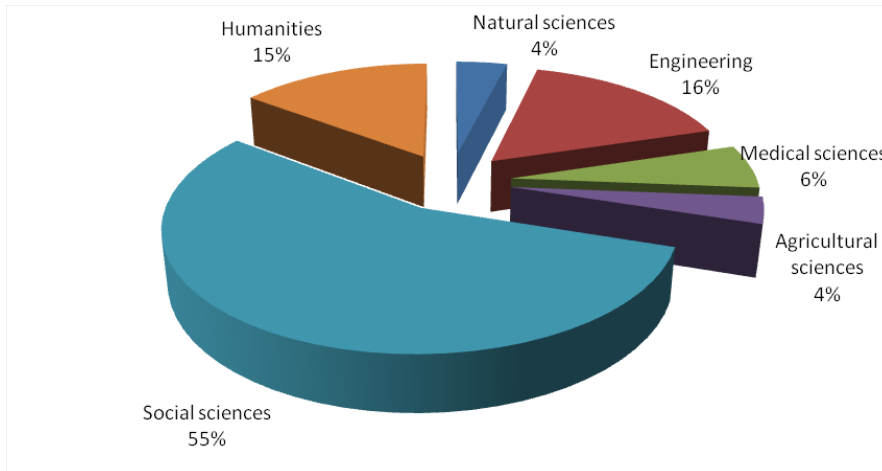
4.2.1 HEIs as education performers

The Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Macedonia consist of five state universities with 57 faculties, out of which 19 are faculties of social sciences and 10 are faculties of humanities, and 10 private universities with 69 faculties, out of which 44 are faculties of social sciences and 15 are faculties of humanities. Therefore, from a total of 88 faculties in SSH, 33% are within state universities, and the rest within private universities. On the other hand, the private faculties in SSH are mainly oriented towards education, and appear to be minor research performers.

The establishment and development of the HE institutions in the country is in accordance with the recommendations of the Bologna process, aiming at high quality and EU standards.

In the academic 2010/11 year the teaching staff in the higher education sector consisted of 3861 employees, with 2904 (75.2%) employed in the public higher education sector. The biggest state university, UKIM, employs 65.3% of the total teaching staff in the public higher education institutions. The share of the employees in SSH is 32% for the public HE sector, and 81% for the private HE sector. Compared with academic 2009/2010, the number of teaching staff is increased in both sectors, the public and the private sector, for 7% and 28.8%. The increase of the teaching staff in private HE sector is recorded mainly in SSH, which caused increase of the share of the employees in private SSH HE sector.

Figure 4 Distribution of tertiary education graduates by scientific field, 2010

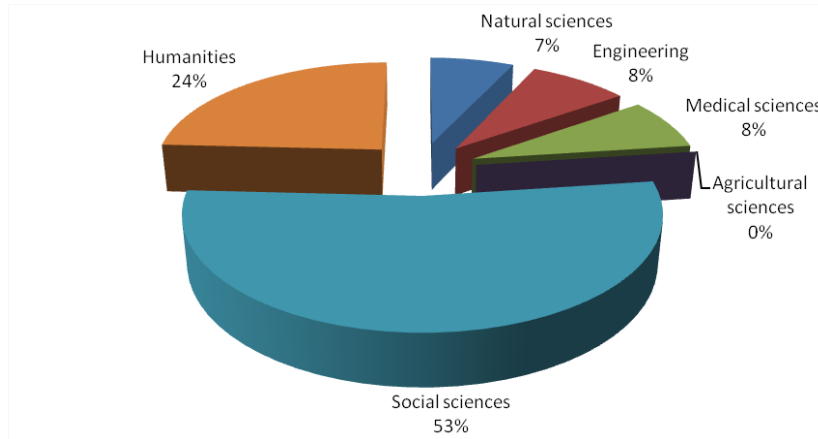


In the academic year 2009/2010, higher education institutions in the country had 61749 students, out of which 49413 students (80%) were enrolled in public higher education institutions. From the total number of students, 52.5% were females, and around 60% were in SSH. The biggest university UKIM had 28709 enrolled students, or 58% of the total students enrolled in the public HE institutions. The shares of students in SSH in the public and private HE institutions significantly differ, and are 56.5% and 85.6%. Compared to the academic 2008/2009 year, the total number of students decreased for 2.7%, mainly because of the decrease of the SSH students in the public HE sector. For the period 2006-2009, the total number of tertiary-level students versus the overall population in the country significantly increased from 2.4% to 3.1%.

The distribution of tertiary education graduates according to scientific field for 2010 is presented as a pie chart in the Figure 4. The share of graduates in SSH is 70%, increased when compared with the share for 2009 (65%).

In 2009, a total of 119 candidates received a PhD diploma (54% female, 46% male). Around 85% of the doctorate diplomas were awarded by the UKIM. The new doctorate graduates per 1000 population aged 25-34 in 2009 were 0.4, much below the EU 27 average of 1.5. The number of candidates who received a PhD diploma increased in 2010 to 157, due to the increase of the diplomas in SSH, from 58 up to the 121. Since the number of PhD diplomas in the other scientific fields decreased, the share of PhD diplomas in SSH in total number of diplomas increased from 48.7% in 2009 up to 77.1% in 2010. The share of Masters diplomas in SSH in total number of masters diplomas is also very high for both years, 2009 and 2010, when it was 68.4% and 69.15% respectively. Around half of the all PhD diplomas and all Masters diplomas in 2010 are acquired in social sciences (83 out of 157 for PhD and 265 out of 479 for masters). The distribution of the PhD diplomas according to scientific field is presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5 Distribution of new doctorate graduates by scientific field, 2010



An interesting trend can be noticed if we have in mind the number of potential social science researchers (i.e. persons with MAs and PhDs in SSH). While their number is on a constant rise and twice higher than the number of individuals with such degrees from the other scientific fields, the number of research projects conducted in the social science sector is among the lowest. At first glance, this appears as a paradox. However, increased number of people with PhD diploma in SSH could be explained with the demand from the private universities for professors, since the private universities comprise mainly SSH faculties.

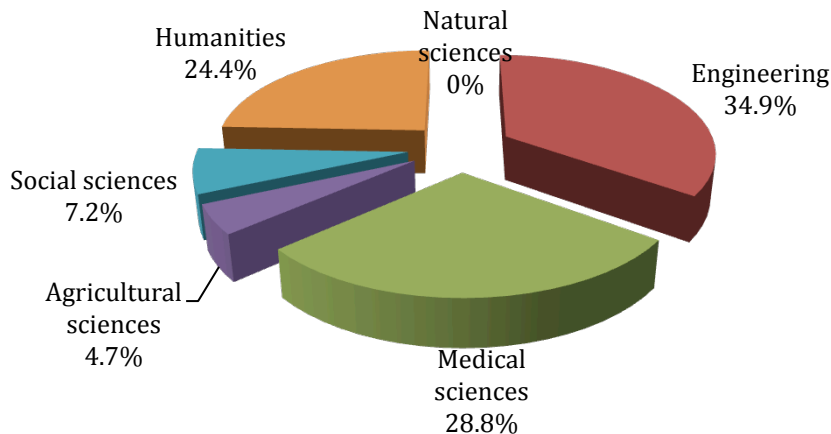
UKIM, which was founded in 1946 with the establishment of its first faculty, the Faculty of Philosophy, is the biggest and the most prestigious independent scientific and scholarly institutions in Macedonia. UKIM has 58% of the total number of SSH students in state universities and over 66% of the total number of employees in SSH in the state universities. Next biggest state university is the University “St. Kliment Ohridski” from Bitola (UKLO), with share of 20% of total SSH student in state universities. The biggest private university according to the number of students in SSH is South Eastern European University in Tetovo (SEEU), which comprises around 55% of the total number of SSH students in the private HE institutions.

4.2.2 HEIs as research performers

The HE sector in the Republic of Macedonia spent 31.4% of the total R&D expenditures (HERD) in 2008. The share of HE sector in 2009 was insignificantly increased up to the 32.5%, and became second largest performer after government sector with share of 46.4%. When it comes to the R&D expenditures in SSH, the majority of GERD for SSH is spent by the government sector, 97.9%, and only small part, 2.1% is spent by HE sector in 2008. The business sector and private non-for-profit organisations did not report any expenses for R&D activities in 2008.

The low share of HE sector in the GERD in SSH, can be partially explained by the following two facts. Namely, according to the calculations of the R&D statistics, the public scientific institutes, which are under university umbrella are considered as part of the government sector. Also, the R&D statistics shows that SSH faculties are mainly oriented towards education, instead of research.

Figure 6 Distribution of researchers in HE sector by scientific field, 2008



In 2008 HE sector comprises 1038 researchers, out of which 328, or 31.6% were in SSH. The share, compared with 2005 when it was around 20%, is significantly increased.

The main HE institution as a research performer is UKIM. Out of the social science faculties at UKIM, only the Faculty of Economics-Skopje has a Centre for Research, where the research and related activities are primarily organised. The Faculty of Economics-Skopje has the most productive international cooperation and typically relies on international funding for research projects.

The Faculty of Philosophy has also been trying to intensify the interdisciplinary research work of its institutes. The Institute for Social Work has proven to be the most active member of the Faculty of Philosophy when it comes to collaborating with the state institutions and international organisations, mainly focused on implementing applicative research.

The Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” also does not have a functional research centre, although the faculty staff participates in research projects, mainly as individual experts from a specific field. Hence, besides the data on international projects, with the faculty as a signatory, it is quite difficult to gain insight into the range and type of research work being performed.

Bearing in mind the above-stated, it can be concluded that the social science faculties at UKIM, although relatively well equipped in terms of human resources and free in terms of autonomy of scientific thought, are not sufficiently involved in research activities. The lack of funds is a major obstacle, but apparently the opportunities coming from the international cooperation are not sufficiently utilised on an institutional level as well (no income from abroad by SSH HE sector was reported in 2008).

4.3 Public Research Organisations

There are 13 public scientific institutes in the Republic of Macedonia, out of which two are institutes of social sciences and six are institutes of humanities. Six public scientific institutes (two of social sciences and four of humanities) are regular or accompanying units of the biggest university UKIM, while one institute in humanities is accompanying unit of the UKLO.

The Institutes' expertise is also used for organising post-graduate and PhD studies in specific fields, which enables educating young researchers. Since educational activities represent an additional source of income for the institutes, they are often prioritised against research activities, even though the latter being the institutes' main purpose.

The institutes in which activities are dominantly in the field of social sciences are Economic Institute and Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, both units of UKIM.

The Economic Institute was established in 1952, and is primarily involved in macroeconomic and microeconomic research, as well as assessment of public companies. The Economic Institute appears to be more successful in overcoming the financial burdens and transforming itself as one of the major consultancy institution for economic issues. In addition, the representatives of their experts at conferences and trainings as invited speakers, has been far greater compared to the rest of the national institutes. Specifically, out of 267 participations at conferences in the period 2002-2006 by the research institutes, 68% have been by Economic Institutes' members. In 2010 the Economic Institute provided nine candidates with PhD diplomas. The Institute employs 18 researchers, out of which 13 are with PhD title.

The Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research is established in 1965 as proficient institute in research on human resource development, ethnic relations, communications, criminology, refugees and forced migration, human rights and public policy. It employs around 20 researchers, and in 2010 awarded 15 candidates with PhD.

The following institutes belongs to humanities scientific field:

- Institute of Macedonian Literature;
- Institute of National History;
- Krste Misirkov Institute of Macedonian Language;
- Marko Cepenkov Institute of Folklore;
- Ancient Slav Culture Institute; and
- Institute for Spiritual and Cultural Inheritance of Albanians.

Institute of Macedonian Literature in Skopje is founded as a self-governing scientific institution in accordance with the decision by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia from January 1998. The autonomy is a result of the accomplishment of the Institute as an organisational unit of the Faculty of Philology "Blazhe Koneski" in Skopje and above all, thanks to the fulfilled criteria for growth of its staff structure. The public interest in the research activity of the Institute represents the research of historical and cultural identity of Macedonian nation and the representatives of the other communities that reside in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the Decision of the University Senate from 25th of February 1999, the Institute of Macedonian Literature became a member of UKIM. The vision of the Institute of Macedonian Literature is set to develop into highly respectable research institution that will participate in the European intellectual sphere and present the Macedonian literature with dignity. The institute has regular employment contracts with 20 researchers.

Institute of National History is public scientific institution that makes scientific research regarding the history of the Macedonian people and nationalities who live in the Republic of Macedonia. It was established in 1948, and since 1964 it has organised more than 60 conferences. Its activities are realised through scientific and research work, master and PhD studies. The scientific and research work is organised in seven departments. At the moment, the institute employs 36 researchers, and as the result of its scientific achievements, six institute's members are elected as regular members of MASA.

Krste Misirkov Institute for Macedonian Language is the regulatory body of the Macedonian language and is a part of UKIM. The institute was established in 1953 in order to standardise the Macedonian language and to organise creative potentials in the sphere of Macedonian studies. It is also used to ensure professional training and improvement towards those who are engaged in teaching the language. At first the Institute functioned as a component part of the Faculty of Philosophy, but soon it turned into a separate scholarly institution with independent financing. Today, the Institute consists of five scientific and scholarly departments, and the scientific and research activities of the Institute are carried out by 33 researchers.

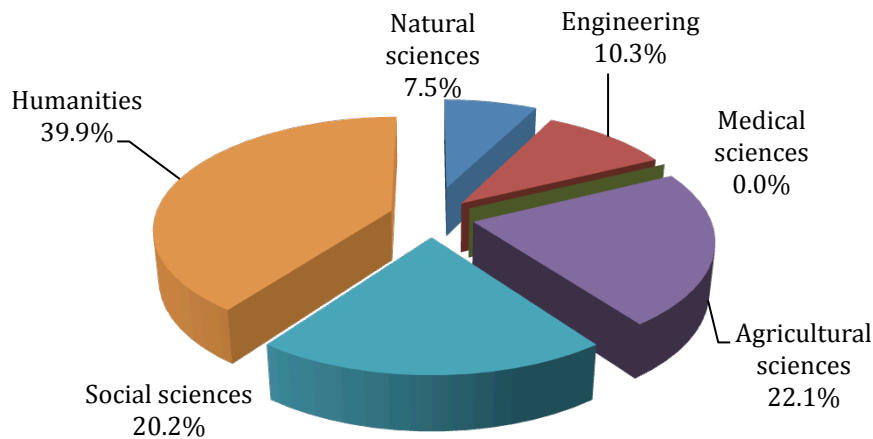
Marko Cepenkov Institute of Folklore employs 14 researchers. It was established in 1950 upon the proposal of the Ministry of Culture as an institution of national interest. The activities of the Institute are organised in six departments, and the main research concerns the spiritual and material culture of Macedonian people and the other nationalities from the country. More specifically, the institute researches traditional literature, ethnology, ethno-musicology, ethno-choreology, textile ornaments and traditional art crafts.

The Ancient Slav Culture Institute is located in Prilep, and is accompanying unit of UKLO. It employs seven researchers and the scientific research activities are organised in six departments. The institute deals with collecting, scientific elaboration, presentation and publication of the materials related with historical and cultural identity of the Macedonian people. More specifically, the institute researches ethno genesis of the Macedonian people, the national history and the phases of its cultural development, archaeology, history of arts, linguistic, ethnology and cultural and social anthropology. The institute was founded in 1979.

The Institute for Spiritual and Cultural Inheritance of Albanians is the newest Institute in the country, established in 2007.

Public scientific institutes employ 253 researchers, out of which 158 or 60.1% are in SSH (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Researchers in Public scientific institutes per scientific field, 2008



The MASA was established in 1967 as the highest scientific, scholarly and artistic institution in the country with the aim to monitor and stimulate sciences and arts. The establishment of the MASA was preceded by 150 years of development of linguistics, literature, historiography, ethnology and folklore studies. This was followed by progress in technology, the natural and social sciences and the arts, especially poetry, music, fresco-painting and architecture. The organisational structure of MASA includes five research centres and five departments.

The SSH research is organised within the two research centres (Centre for Strategic Research and Lexicographical Centre) and three departments (Department of Social Sciences, Department of Linguistic and Literary Sciences, and Department of Arts). Although MASA tries to maintain its balance between the research activities in all scientific disciplines, it is much more renowned for its achievements in the area of arts and humanities, then in the area of social sciences. The social science research projects are mainly theoretical by nature and focused on economic issues, as a result of the professional expertise of the academics. Out of the all, 42 members of MASA, 25 or 59.5% are from SSH. When it comes to the category foreign members of MASA, the share of SSH researchers is even higher, 65.1%.

4.4 Private research performers

The only private research institute in SSH in the Republic of Macedonia is the Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities “Euro-Balkan”, established in 1999. The Institute is an accredited self-standing higher education and scientific research institution certified by the MES and accredited from the Board for Accreditation of HE in the Republic of Macedonia. It is committed to fostering academic excellence in research and postgraduate education in the social sciences and humanities by promoting a rare integrated interdisciplinary approach to studying and researching the complex problems facing the country and region. The performed activities are divided generally in two main programs (School for Regional Studies and Division for Applied Policy Research), Ohrid Summer University and Library department and electronic news archive.

The School for Regional Studies comprises the Department for Gender Studies, Department for Post-Graduate Studies, Department for Contemporary Political Thought and Department for Visual and Cultural Research. The Division for Applied Policy Research is concerned with issues from the domain of social inclusion.

Think-tanks are a relatively new type of research organisations in Macedonia, representing a form of expression for young researchers in different SSH fields. Most of them have been established in the course of the 2000's as expert organisations in certain fields. The most active think-tanks organisations in the country are Economic Policy Research Institute, Centre for Economic Analysis, Centre for Research and Policy Making, FORUM – Centre for Strategic Research and Documentation, etc. This rising trend of establishing policy research organisations is very encouraging for the future development of the applicative and developmental social science research, as well as the prevention of the brain drain of social science researchers. In 2006, seven think-tanks have been organised in a think-tank network, which represents a forum for sharing experiences, cooperating on joint research projects and influencing national policies.

4.5 Research performance

4.5.1 Scientific publications

According the SSORM, out of the total of 1431 published papers in the Republic of Macedonia, R&D organisations in SSH in 2008 published 396 scientific papers, or 27.7% of the total. Organisations in humanities published 219 papers, or 55.3% from the total in SSH.

The distribution of the total number of papers in SSH according to the sector of performance is government sector 89.1% and HE sector 10.9%.

Only 20 papers in SSH (all in humanities) are published abroad, the rest are published within the country. Therefore, it is not surprising that in 2011 on a competitive call of the MES for finding papers in international journals, only 30 authors with 32 papers signed up, out of which only one from SSH (from social sciences). The intention of the MES was to finance 350 papers with €4.5m.

The faculties and institutes in SSH issue more than 13 publications, part of them in electronic form. Also the majority of SSH units publishes annual yearbooks.

Only a small number of faculties issue regular publications. The most proactive public faculty in issuing publications is the Faculty of Philosophy, with four publications. The public scientific institutes issue a total of six publications, out of which only one in social science.

The private faculties and institutes also have their own publications. For instance, the SEEU Research Office publishes the bi-annual scientific review titled 'SEEU Review', while Euro-Balkan Institute publishes the international journal for politics, gender and culture "IDENTITIES".

Only three Macedonian social science research publications can be downloaded from the CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library. In comparison with the neighbouring countries, this is an insignificant number considering the 12 social science journals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17 from Serbia and 13 from Bulgaria (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, "Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Macedonia", page 29).

4.5.2 International Cooperation

The international cooperation in R&D including SSH in the Republic of Macedonia is mainly carried out in the framework of the bilateral research agreements administered by the MES. The ministry has signed agreements with more than 20 countries, out of which nine are EU countries. However, just few of the selected projects are in SSH, since there is a tendency for favouritism of the technological projects.

The cooperation between Macedonia and the EU and non-EU countries in the domain of SSH are mainly related to the establishment of lecturer positions in 11 university centres with Macedonian lectorates, and additional 10 centres where Macedonian classes are taught.

4.5.3 Main prizes

The only scientific prize in the Republic of Macedonia is the prize Goce Delcev, which is legible for all scientific fields. For the period 1949-2011 there have been 82 winners of this prize, among them 59 (or 72%) from SSH.

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List of Abbreviations

BERD	Business Expenditures for Research and Development
CARDS	Community assistance for reconstruction, development and stabilisation
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
DNSHE	Decree on Norms and Standards for Establishing Higher Education Institutions and performing Higher Education Activities
EACEA	The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
ERA	European Research Area
ERA-NET	European Research Area Network
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
EU	European Union
EU-27	European Union including 27 Member States
FP	European Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development
FP7	7th Framework Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D
GOVERD	Government Intramural Expenditure on R&D
GUF	General University Funds
HERD	Higher Education Expenditure on R&D
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MASA	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
NCD	National Committee for Development of Scientific Research and Technological Development
PRO	Public Research Organisations
PSRA	Programme for the Scientific and Research Activities
R&D	Research and Development
SCI	Science Citation Index
SEEU	South Eastern European University in Tetovo
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
SSCI	Social Sciences Citation Index
SSORM	State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia
UKIM	Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje
UKLO	St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola
USAID	United States Agency for International Development