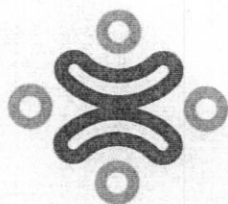


**III Međunarodna naučno-stručna  
konferencija**



**Regionalni razvoj i  
prekogranična saradnja**

**ZBORNİK RADOVA**

Pirot, decembar 2019.



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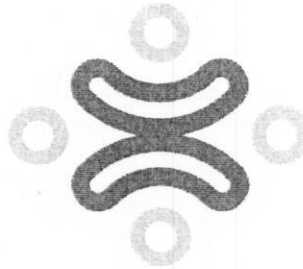
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# ZBORNIK RADOVA BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS



## REGIONALNI RAZVOJ I PREKOGRANIČNA SARADNJA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS- BORDER COOPERATION

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Dragan Kostic PhD

Prof.D.Sc. (Econ.) Statty Vasilev Stattev

**Pirot, decembar 2019.**

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/ BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE III INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-EXPERT  
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## PREDGOVOR

Zbornik pred Vama rezultat je Konferencije Regionalni razvoj i prekogranična saradnja: suprostavljenost i prožimanja koja je održana početkom decembra 2019. godine u organizaciji Srpske akademije nauke i umetnosti - Ogranka u Nišu, Grada Pirota, Privredne komore Pirot, Fakulteta za menadžment Zaječar, Univerziteta Metropolitan i Fakulteta za primenjenu ekologiju Futura Beograd. Naziv konferencije upućuje na aktuelnu i veoma važnu temu koja je u žiži interesovanja brojnih krugova kako u Srbiji, tako i u čitavom svetu. Ona, usled spleta različitih okolnosti, izaziva mnogo kontroverzi i dilema. Iz tog razloga potrudili smo se da među izlagačima na skupu imamo i predavače iz država u okruženju, da čujemo i publikujemo, njihove stavove i iskustva.

U ovom međunarodnom tematskom zborniku prikupljeni su naučni radovi 124 istraživača iz 11 država sa ciljem da se podstakne rasprava o jednoj izuzetno značajnoj teorijskoj i praktičnoj temi – odnosu procesa regionalnog razvoja i prekogranične saradnje. Teme koje se razmatraju pokrivaju čitav niz aspekata i dimenzija ova dva dejstvujuća procesa, naravno u kontekstu globalizacije. Rezultati istraživanja do kojih su različiti autori došli pokazuju da globalizacija koju su usmeravale snage globalizma vodi destrukciji obe vrste suvereniteta. S jedne strane, neoimperijalna ekspanzija megakapitala teži slamanju spoljnog suvereniteta država u cilju širenja prostora za ostvarivanje superprofita transnacionalnih kompanija i kontrolu prirodnih resursa (za koje se i vode agresivni ratovi u čitavoj prvoj deceniji ovog veka) i, s druge strane, napadnut je unutrašnji, narodni suverenitet destrukcijom institucija demokratije i prevratom društvenih klasa (od radnih ka vlasničkim grupama kompradorske i lumpen-buržoazije). Neoliberalna strategija razvoja i globalistički modeli organizacije društava, koji su kao obavezujući obrasci nametnuti svim zemljama u tranziciji pa i balkanskim državama stvorile su u ovim državama niz negativnih tendencija od: blokade demokratskih procesa, destrukciji socijalno-ekonomskih i kulturnih prava ljudi, stvaranju prekarizata kao novog društvenog sloja značajnog u globalnim razmerama, dovodeći neoburžoaziju na vlast i šireći prostor za nekontrolisanu eksploataciju u planetarnim razmerama i stvaranje centara otuđene političke moći. Međutim, posebno su dva procesa, sa kojima se države sa ovih procesa susreću, ključna sa dalekosežnim negativnim posledicama: velike regionalne razlike i depopulacija stanovništva.

Imajući u vidu tendenciju sukobljanja globalnog i lokalnog, Robertson je predložio uvođenje pojma glocalno, koji je označavao prilagođavanje privrednih i marketinških aktivnosti međunarodnih kompanija lokalnim tržištima. Danas je, međutim, toliko porastao uticaj globalnih zbivanja, da je o čisto lokalnim teško i govoriti Stoga bi bilo realnije pojam lokalnog, kao antipod, zameniti pojmom glocalnog, jeste i proces prekogranične saradnje u značenju povraćaja kontrole domaćih vladajućih klasa nad vođenjem ekonomske, socijalne i kulturne politike. Ako se moglo utvrditi da je jedna od karakteristika procesa globalizacije bila desuverenizacija država, pri čemu neki autori ukazuju s pravom da je zapravo reč o drugačije nazvanom „neokolonijalnom procesu“, sada se može konstatovati kako pred globalističkim izazovima države u prekograničnoj saradnji traže načina da obnavljaju svoj suverenitet, i koliko je to moguće uzimaju sudbinu u svojim rukama.

Kada govorimo o prekograničnoj saradnji u videokrugu vrednosti imamo na umu da ako se kraj XX veka može označiti kao period gušenja nacionalnih država, nacionalnih identiteta i nacionalnih vrednosti, pre svega, na poluperiferiji i periferiji svetskog kapitalističkog sistema, početak novog milenijima iznova budi svest podjarmljenih o potrebi otpora nacionalnom i socijalnom podjarmljivanju. A jedan od najboljih načina da se to ostvari jeste međusobno povezivanje i saradnja na principima međusobnog uvažavanja i poštovanja. Jer bez tih principa svaka saradnja je iluzorna.

U radovima se ne traga samo za uzrocima i posledicama ovakvog stanja u odnosima procesa globalizacije prekogranične saradnje i regionalnog razvoja, već pokušava da se ukaže i na potrebu istraživanja alternativnih strategija razvoja, puteva i metoda izlaska iz ovakvog, do sada uglavnom po posledicama negativnog trenda razvoja. U tom kontekstu se pledira i za izgradnju celovite alternativne strategije zasnovane na razumevanju da je prevladavanje negativnih tendencija moguće samo na humanističkim i internacionalnim osnovama, uz uvažavanje svih specifičnosti nacionalnih kultura i lokalnih identiteta. U tom smislu je neophodno nastaviti produbljenija naučna istraživanja. Ovaj zbornik, pored ostalog, ima i društveni smisao da podstakne ovakva istraživanja.

Iskreno verujemo da smo ovom konferencijom, koja polako sve više dobija na ugledu, doprineli, a da i ovim zbornikom dalje dorpinosimo, da diskusija o bitnim temama bude što kvalitetnija.

Priredivači i urednici izražavaju veliku zahvalnost svim autorima koji su priložili svoje radove.

U Pirotu,

Uređivački odbor

decembra 2019.

P. A. i D. K.

## FOREWORD

Proceedings before you are the result of the Conference Regional Development and Cross-border Cooperation: opposition and permeation, which was held in early December 2019, organized by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts Branch in Nis, City of Pirot, Chamber of Economy Pirot, Faculty of Management in Zajecar, Belgrade Metropolitan University and Faculty of Applied Ecology – “Futura” Belgrade. The name of the conference refers to a actual and very important topic that is in the focus of interest of many circles in Serbia as well as in the whole world. Due to a variety of circumstances, it raises many controversies and dilemmas. For this reason, we made every effort to have lecturers from the surrounding countries, to hear and publish, their views and experiences, among the exhibitors at the event.

In this international thematic collection, the scientific papers of 124 researchers from 11 countries have been collected in order to stimulate discussion on one extremely important theoretical and practical topic - the relationship between the process of regional development and cross-border cooperation. The topics which are being considered cover a whole range of aspects and dimensions of these two current processes, of course in the context of globalization. The findings of various authors have shown that globalization driven by the forces of globalism leads to the destruction of both types of sovereignty. On the one hand, the neo-imperial expansion of megacapital tends to break the external sovereignty of states in order to expand the space for trans-national companies super-profits and control of natural resources (for which aggressive wars have been waged throughout the first decade of this century) and, on the other, invaded the internal popular sovereignty through the destruction of the institutions of democracy and the upheaval of the social classes (from the working classes to the ownership groups of the comprador and lumpen-bourgeoisie). The neoliberal development strategy and globalist models of society organization, imposed as binding patterns on all countries in transition and the Balkan countries, have created in these countries a number of negative tendencies: blockade of democratic processes, destruction of socio-economic and cultural rights of the people, creation of precarias as new a social stratum significant on a global scale, bringing non-bourgeoisie to power and expanding space for uncontrolled exploitation on a planetary scale and the creation of centers of alienated political power. However, especially the two processes that these countries face are crucial with far-reaching negative consequences: large regional disparities and depopulation.

Given the tendency of clashing global and local, Robertson proposed the introduction of the term glocal, which meant adapting international companies' business and marketing activities to local markets. Today, however, the impact of global events has increased so much that it is difficult to talk about the purely local. Therefore, it would be more realistic to replace the notion of the local with the term glocal, which would clearly indicate an interaction. One of the cases of the revival and practical application of the Glocal is the process of cross-border cooperation in the sense of regaining control of the domestic ruling classes over the conduct of economic, social and cultural policies. If it could be established that one of the characteristics of the globalization process was the desuvernization of states, with some authors pointing to the fact that this was otherwise

called the "neo-colonial process", it can now be stated that in the face of globalist challenges, states in cross-border cooperation are looking for ways to renew their sovereignty, and as far as possible take fate in their own hands.

When we talk about cross-border cooperation in the video circle of values, we have in mind that if the end of the 20th century can be characterized as a period of choking of nation-states, national identities and national values, above all, at the hemisphere and periphery of the world capitalist system, the beginning of the new millennium will again awaken the consciousness of the subjugated the need to resist national and social subjugation. And one of the best ways to achieve this is through mutual connection and cooperation on the principles of mutual appreciation and respect. Because without these principles, any cooperation is illusory.

The paper not only looks for the causes and consequences of this situation in the relations of the process of globalization of cross-border cooperation and regional development, but also tries to point out the need to explore alternative development strategies, ways and methods of getting out of this, so far mainly due to the consequences of the negative development trend. In this context, it also advocates building a comprehensive alternative strategy based on the understanding that overcoming negative tendencies is possible only on a humanistic and international basis, while respecting all the specificities of national cultures and local identities. In this regard, it is necessary to continue deeper scientific research. This collection, among other things, has the social sense to encourage such research.

We sincerely believe that we have contributed to this conference, which is slowly gaining in popularity, and that we continue to contribute to this volume, so that the discussion on relevant topics is of the highest quality.

The editors and editors are grateful to all the authors who have submitted their papers.

Pirot,

Editorial Board

December 2019

P. A. & D. K.



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## 11. NEW CONCEPT FOR EQUAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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**Abstract:** *Key priorities and goals for social cohesion in the Republic of Macedonia is: promoting sustainable and inclusive socio-economic balanced regional development; creation or strengthening of existing institutional mechanisms for implementing balanced regional development policies; increased awareness among the public administration and the whole of society on the concept of one society and interculturalism and balanced regional development; strengthening the overall capacities and resources of the entities in order to provide a sustainable balanced regional development; harmonizing legal regulation in different institutions with policies for balanced regional development; promoting social cohesion and integration by ensuring gender equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities on the basis of all diversity.*

**Keywords:** *social cohesion; balanced regional development; interculturalism*

### Introduction

There is no universally accepted definition of social cohesion. For the purposes of this analysis, the most appropriate are the definitions that under social cohesion imply the ability of society to provide for the well-being of all its members, to minimize inequalities and to avoid divisions. Most definitions contain the following key aspects of social cohesion: a sense of belonging to the community; the perception that society is just; desire and willingness to participate in public and political life; a positive attitude towards marginalized groups and those groups that are not part of the dominant culture in society. The main aspects of social cohesion are: a sense of belonging that implies shared values, identification with the local community and trust in local government institutions; the sense of social justice and equality, which among other things involves the evaluation of public policies by citizens; feeling and desire for active participation in the public and political life of the state. The values are sense of satisfaction with the quality of life and a positive attitude towards the prospect of a better life. From the citizens' point of view, social cohesion means that all citizens regardless of their affiliation, personal characteristics and orientations have: equal access to the rights guaranteed by law; equal access to society's resources, such as the labor

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market, education, health, social protection, culture, etc.; can equally participate in decision-making, contribute to the development and well-being of society; can develop their potential and live in dignity. This situation analysis consists of two separate parts: an analysis of the situation in relation to balanced regional development and an analysis of the situation in terms of gender equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities on the basis of all differences (Ohrid Framework Agreement Article 4; Article 7; Article 48 of the Constitutional Amendments; Articles 5 and 6 of Annex F).

R. Macedonia is divided into 8 regions: Skopje region, East region, Southeast region, Northeast region, Pelagonija region, Vardar region, Southwest region and Polog region. The planning regions of the Republic of Macedonia were adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia on 29 September 2009. Officially, Macedonia is divided into 8 planning regions, which serve statistical, economic and administrative purposes. Apart from the regions, the first administrative division of the Republic of Macedonia is the municipality. The largest area is Pelagonia region, but has a low population density of 50 inhabitants per square kilometer, while the smallest region of Skopje region has a particularly dense population of 319 inhabitants per square kilometer and absorbs more from one quarter of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia. Rural municipalities are highly represented in almost all regions, but most of the population lives in larger urban centers, which indicates an uneven concentration of population within the regions. The Polog and Southwestern regions are distinguished by the high proportion of the population living in rural areas; while in other regions rural settlements are less populated (Bureau for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia).

The concept of equal opportunities for men and women is still an issue that burdens social relations in the Republic of Macedonia. This particularly refers to discrimination against women in the labor market, social protection and health care (Reactor, 2012). The inequality, that is, the unequal distribution of rights, resources and power between men and women, is evident from many statistics. Women in contemporary Macedonian society suffer from discrimination and violence and face unequal starting positions in terms of access to educational institutions, health organizations and human capital in labor. Their representation in the political and economic decision-making process is far from satisfactory. Women in R. Macedonia does not yet have an equal access to the exercise of their economic, political, cultural, reproductive and sexual rights. Gender equality is a fundamental value whose achievement has enormous socio-economic benefits. Empowering women leads to a prosperous economy, boosting productivity and economic growth. Nevertheless, gender inequalities remain deeply rooted in our society.

The principle of equality and non-discrimination is established in the highest legal act, the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, which in its Article 9 guarantees the rights and freedoms of citizens irrespective of gender, ethnicity and social status. The values enshrined in the Constitution are followed by a series of laws and acts based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Gender Equality Strategy 2013–2020 was adopted with the aim of promoting equal opportunities for women and men in overall social life in the country. The strategy is a document "which provides the framework for full equality of women and men as a cross-sectoral, horizontal and universal social and political priority" (Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Gender Equality Strategy 2013 – 2020). Also in the

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Republic Macedonia has a high level of discrimination against persons with disabilities; towards persons from marginalized ethnic groups; persons from marginalized religious groups; persons of different sexual orientation; persons engaged in professions that are not socially recognized, etc.

### **Situation analysis by key indicators**

R. Macedonia is still one of the most fiscally centralized states in Europe where most municipalities do not have sufficient financial resources to successfully execute legal responsibilities and provide quality services to citizens. In addition, R. Macedonia is an extremely unevenly developed country. There are huge differences in the level of development between the urban and rural municipalities, as well as between the City of Skopje and the rest of the Republic of Macedonia. Many municipalities cannot even cover current costs for student transportation and heating of school buildings. Life in villages and smaller municipalities is very difficult, and many people, especially young people, go to urban centers or abroad (Decision on defining the strategic priorities of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in 2019).

More than 50% of the demographic growth of the population in the Republic of Macedonia comes from the Skopje region. It has the highest birth rate in the Polog region with 90% of the national demographic population growth in the country. Other regions have modest population growth rates, while the Pelagonia and eastern regions are characterized by higher mortality rates than population births. In the last 5 years alone in the Skopje region there has been a population growth of around 30,000 new residents. Certainly this contributes to the constant migration of the population from the interior to the capital of the country, as well as migration abroad. In the Polog region there is an increase of about 10 000 inhabitants. This is due to the high birth rate, and constant migration from rural to urban areas in this region. The situation in the north-east and south-east region with a minimal population growth of 1,500 to 2,500 in the last five years is worrying (State Statistical Office, 2018).

The distribution of unemployment by region leads to the conclusion that the main differences remain and should serve as the basis for different measures and activities in different regions. In some regions, for example in the Southeast region, the unemployment rate is higher by almost 16%, and in the Southwest region it is higher by 7% than the national average for the last five years. The Skopje region, which is home to 1/3 of the country's population, generates 43% of GDP. Therefore, this region is dominant in terms of regional GDP per capita. It should be noted that this rate is two and a half times higher than GDP per capita in the Northeast, as the least developed region. According to the State Statistical Office, two more regions (Southeast region and Vardar region) have higher GDP per capita compared to the average rate in the Republic of Macedonia. This is a sufficient signal of the need for a comprehensive and detailed policy for balanced regional development that can deliver positive results in the short, medium and long term (Penev Slagan and Trenovski Borce, 2016.).

If we compare with other European countries we will see that in 2018 R. Macedonia is at a worrying 36th place with a GDP of \$ 15,661 per capita. Luxembourg tops the list with



110,870, followed by Ireland with 79,925 and Norway with 74,065 dollars per capita. Regarding the countries where the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia mostly migrate is as follows: Switzerland with 63,380; Germany with 52,801; Sweden with 53,077; Belgium with 49,705; Malta with 44,670 and Italy with 39,499 dollars per capita. In terms of the region ahead of us are: Slovenia with 36,566; Greece with 29,057; Croatia with 26,215; Bulgaria with 23,154; Montenegro with 16,681 and Serbia with \$ 15,941 per capita. Only Bosnia and Herzegovina with 13,442 and Albania with \$ 13,274 per capita are in worse shape than our country (International Monetary Fund Report for 2018). From these data it is clear where the root cause of the latest wave of eviction of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia lies.

The Skopje region accounts for about 40% of the total number of active business entities in the country. In terms of this indicator for regional development, the Polog region comes second, followed by the Southwest and Pelagonia regions. Other regions have an extremely low percentage of economic capacities, leading to a situation where their population is on the verge of poverty (State Statistical Office, 2018). The analysis of regional representations in total investment is a cause for concern, as more than half of the economic investments are made in the most developed region of Skopje, and almost no investments are made in the least developed Northeast region.

The Republic of Macedonia ratified the 1994 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol. In 2018, the state ratified the 2011 Istanbul Convention to which it was a signatory in 2011. In 2018, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy prepared and adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Action Plan for Implementation of the Convention for the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia 2018 – 2023). The Action Plan as its first objective envisages the harmonization of national laws with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. Therefore, a working group is formed to participate in the preparation of the Draft Law on Prevention and Protection against Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

The Republic of Macedonia has adopted several laws and mechanisms to promote gender equality. The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women obliges public institutions to provide equal rights and opportunities for women and men and to integrate gender into their policies, strategies and budgets through concrete measures to reduce gender inequality. Despite significant legislative changes, gender gaps and inequalities persist at all levels (Gender Equality Strategy 2013-2020). But if we want to do an analysis of the number of women and men employed in the municipal administration and the public enterprises in the municipality the absolute figure shows that the number of employed men is almost half higher. At the same time, the proportion of women and men in managerial positions in municipal administration and public enterprises in the municipality (heads of departments and sectors) can be concluded that the gap is further increasing. This shows that almost three times as many men are in leadership positions and where decisions are made. So, if in the municipal administration and public enterprises the employment of women is almost half lower than that of men, the difference is even greater when it comes to positioning

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managerial positions, i.e. the ability to decide. These data indicate the economic dependence of women and the existence of gender inequality (MLSP, Analysis on the Qualitative Participation of Women in Public and Political Life in Local Self-Government Units). Given the hiring process, discrimination against women can also be seen in the job advertisements themselves, where special requirements for unnecessary jobs such as photographing, marital status, sex, age, and the similar. The research report of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, prepared in 2013, notes that employment advertisements as a discriminatory basis are mostly dominated by 55%, followed by the 21% personal status, which includes family, marital status and pregnancy. The same report concludes that there is discrimination in the job vacancies. Most often combining gender with age and personal status (Commission for Protection against Discrimination, 2013: 60.).

The next stage in which discrimination against women is observed is in the selection process of candidates for a particular job, when interviewed they are asked certain questions related to personal life such as: "Are they married? Do they have children? And are they planning to have children in the next few years?" This is especially true of the private sector where there have been cases of job applicants signing a written statement that they will not give birth at a certain time (MLSP, Analysis of Women's Labor Market Participation). Persons with disabilities are still subjected to stereotypes and prejudices. Their denial of their abilities and their contribution to the development of modern Macedonian society despite the fact that the state has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In the past, LGBTI activists in the country have been working in an extremely hostile mood against them, as well as using homophobia for political ends. Since 2017, cooperation between the Government and CSOs working to promote human rights with a particular focus on LGBTI people and the community has been strengthened. For years, it has been calling for Macedonian anti-discrimination legislation to be brought into line with European Union law, launched by the new Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, and for political and social leaders to condemn homophobic and transphobic violence.

In the Republic of Macedonia there are ethnic communities vulnerable to racial discrimination, such as the Roma. This community still faces different challenges compared to all other ethnic groups in the country. In this case, there is also a racial component in their definition as a group. The way others perceive it leads to racial discrimination. Second, because of the history of discrimination of exclusion and marginalization, they face a certain set of socio-economic and political challenges. As a result of the implementation of numerous activities at national level as well as supported by numerous donors, significant progress has been made in terms of Roma inclusion in education, but numerous challenges remain regarding discrimination in basic services of social protection, housing, health, as well as multiple discrimination against Roma women (EC Report on the Republic of Macedonia for 2018). The vision for this area based on a clear assessment of what has been done so far and the priorities is expected to be provided by the new Roma Strategy, which is due to begin in 2020.

The Republic of Macedonia is faced with the problem of smallholder cultures (organic crops). At stake are cultures that continually clash and face misunderstandings, especially with the country's dominant culture. These conflicts are, in principle, resolved through the euphoria of closure, dividing the subjects into "ours" and "theirs", knowing in advance what they are. Because of all the above, there are ethno-religious groups in our country that are discriminated against and do not have equal opportunities. As a result, members of certain marginalized religious groups are almost socially excluded. All of the above can very easily lead to religious discrimination. However, longitudinal quantitative scientific research needs to be funded to obtain specific data based on absolute numbers and percentages to support these analyzes.

### Conclusion

It is obvious that Skopje region, as the largest urban area in the Republic of Macedonia is populated by the highest income citizens in the country. Citizens of this region have many business opportunities from other regions. The high concentration of the higher income population is a very favorable environment for the market for the leisure industry, which generates high rates of economic growth in the Skopje region. Therefore, in other regions the service sector is not able to generate sufficient growth in industrial capacity. The Skopje region also has the highest level of income and the lowest unemployment rate (Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019).

The region also has the lowest illiteracy rate, which results in the fact that most students and academics live in this region. These citizens have access to quality health services and numerous public cultural facilities. The rest of the regions are characterized by low educational level of the population, poor health services and lack of cultural manifestations. There is a clear division of regions and municipalities in the social index rankings depending on their urban or rural characteristics. The Polog and Northeast regions rank lowest in terms of social index, as these regions are dominated by rural municipalities. There is a satisfactory attendance of educational institutions, but cultural, health and sports facilities are concentrated in urban areas. Infrastructure is another area with a sharp division between the Skopje region and everyone else. The concentration of urban municipalities in the Skopje region is the main factor for this situation.

In general, the public infrastructure in the Republic of Macedonia is extremely poor in terms of two categories: economic infrastructure and social infrastructure. Economic infrastructure refers to facilities that directly affect the economic activities of a country, including: electricity supply, transport (national and local roads) and telecommunications. Social infrastructure includes facilities that mainly affect the standard of living of citizens including the quality offered at primary, secondary and higher education institutions; the quality of health services in primary and secondary health care; social protection and quality of local structure in urban and rural settlements in the Republic of Macedonia. When it comes to determining the economic growth of our country, the progress of public infrastructure by all indicators is one of the key indicators. A state with well-developed systems in transport, communication, energy, water, sanitation and public utilities create an environment that fosters investment in all spheres of industrial, economic and service capacities in the Republic of Macedonia. Creating employment and economic opportunities

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for all, especially youth, should be a necessary precondition for social and economic inclusion and integration of socially disadvantaged people.

Gender-based violence is recognized as one of the most pressing issues that need to be addressed if gender equality is to be achieved. Domestic violence, according to available reports and research, is the most common type of gender-based violence in the Republic of Macedonia. Northern Macedonia. Our country has ratified the CoE Convention on the Prevention and Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (known as the Istanbul Convention). However, relevant changes in the legislative and policy framework remain a challenge for the coming period. Gender stereotypes are one of the key factors for all other forms of discrimination against women in the Republic of Macedonia. Northern Macedonia. The current research points to the fact that conservative and patriarchal values are widespread in the Macedonian society. What is even more concerning is that these values are promoted through the media and educational institutions in the state?

In the Republic of Macedonia shows gender discrimination in the labor market, manifested either in low female labor market participation or in discrimination and mobbing in the workplace. The balance between the private and professional activities of women in Macedonian traditional environments contributes to the low level of female activity in the labor market, but also as an obstacle for women to rise above the scale of social mobility in Macedonian postmodern society. Women still face numerous obstacles to their active participation in the country's political life and decision-making. Gender mainstreaming is recognized as a priority and a necessary tool to improve gender equality in the country. But the practical implementation of these government policies still needs to be worked out. On the other hand, NGOs are an important driver for the development of gender policies that promote gender equality in the Republic of Macedonia. They do this through various activities and programs. However, NGOs through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms provided monitoring and reporting on specific indicators affecting gender discrimination in the country.

Equal opportunities for men and women in dignity and law means promoting the principle of equal participation of women and men in all areas of the public and private sectors, equal status and treatment in the exercise of all rights and in the development of their individual potentials, through which they contribute to social development, as well as the equal benefits of the results of that development. The basic measures for the realization of the principle of equal opportunities are normative measures in various areas that prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender and provide for an obligation for the entities established by this Law to care for and create conditions for ensuring equal treatment in the exercise and protection of their rights and freedoms and which provide for sanctions for failure to comply with requirements and violations of prohibitions.

Analysis of all types of representation in the economy, education, politics, public administration and mass media in the Republic of Macedonia offers arguments that prove that mistrust, imprisonment and isolation are not natural to today's modern Macedonian society, but are also completely elusive as existential categories. All of this can be treated in a wider context. In this sense, all dimensions of voluntary and equal social, cultural,

economic and political inclusion, integration, participation and cohesion in all spheres of public and private life should be addressed. In order to be effective within the Macedonian multicultural society, the citizens will be enabled through this strategy to be interested in other cultures and be sensitive enough to perceive cultural differences. By doing so, they will be prepared to modify their behavior to respect people of other cultures. It is the ability to think and act cross-culturally in appropriate ways.

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**NEW CONCEPT FOR EQUAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC  
OF MACEDONIA**

***Rezime:** Ključni prioriteti i ciljevi za socijalnu koheziju u Republici Makedoniji su: promocija održivog i uključivog socijalno-ekonomskog uravnoteženog regionalnog razvoja; stvaranje ili jačanje postojećih institucionalnih mehanizama za sprovođenje uravnoteženih politika regionalnog razvoja; povećana svest javne uprave i celog društva o konceptu jednog društva i interkulturalizmu i uravnoteženom regionalnom razvoju; jačanje ukupnih kapaciteta i resursa entiteta u cilju osiguranja održivog uravnoteženog regionalnog razvoja; usklađivanje zakonske regulative u različitim institucijama sa politikama za uravnoteženi regionalni razvoj; promovisanje socijalne kohezije i integracije obezbeđivanjem rodne ravnopravnosti, nediskriminacije i jednakih mogućnosti na osnovu sve raznolikosti.*

***Ključne reči:** socijalna kohezija; uravnotežen regionalni razvoj; interkulturalizam.*