

## Presentation of initial findings from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems in the Republic of North Macedonia

22 January 2025, Public Room, Skopje, 11.00 - 13.00

The parliamentary and presidential elections of 2024 marked a turning point in the political landscape of the Republic of North Macedonia. These elections brought significant shifts in the executive and legislative branches, introducing new officeholders and altering the balance of political power. Emerging political actors gained prominence, while one of the largest and most influential parties underwent a complete leadership overhaul. Notably, a long-standing ruling party transitioned to the opposition after years in power. Together, these developments signal the conclusion of yet another chapter in the story of Macedonian multi-party democracy, ushering in a new era filled with new actors, challenges, and opportunities that will undoubtedly shape the political agenda in the years to come.

What factors contributed to this outcome? Why did Macedonian voters opt for change? What drives citizens to support a specific party or candidate—or to refrain from voting altogether? When do voters solidify their decisions, and what influences their preferences for certain parties, candidates, or political ideologies dominating public discourse? How do citizens perceive the ideological positioning of political parties? Furthermore, how do voters evaluate the integrity of elections and the broader political system?

To gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics surrounding the 2024 elections, the Institute for Sociological, Political, and Juridical Research at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (ISPJR-UKIM), in collaboration with the Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” Skopje (IDSCS) and the Electoral Support Programme in North Macedonia,<sup>1</sup> successfully implemented the module of the international Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES, <https://cses.org/>) for the first time in the country. This first implementation of CSES in North Macedonia was also supported by the American National Science Foundation through the CSES Seed Grant Program.

The CSES is an international survey coordinated by the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan, USA, and GESIS - Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, Germany, that focuses on the electoral behavior of citizens. Since its inception in 1996, the survey has been implemented in 60 countries across five waves. The implementation of the sixth module of CSES (2021–2026) in North Macedonia will generate high-quality, internationally comparable data on citizens’ electoral behavior. This data will serve as a valuable resource for the scientific community, policymakers, civil society organizations involved in electoral policy, and media professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> The Electoral Support Programme is funded by the Government of Switzerland and implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

The initial results of the survey, conducted on a national sample of 1,056 randomly selected respondents, will be presented on January 22, 2025, at 11:00 AM, at Public Room in Skopje. We invite you to join us for a discussion fueled by novel survey data, exploring the electoral and political dynamics shaping the country!

The official language of the event is Macedonian, with simultaneous translation provided in Albanian and English.

## A G E N D A

**22 January 2025, 11.00 - 13.00**

**Public Room, 50<sup>th</sup> Division 22, Skopje, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SKUJXs8SBbJ5Rxv4A>**

- 10.30-11.00** **Arrival and registration of the participants**
- 11.00-11.15** **Opening of the event, welcome speeches by:**  
Prof. Dr. Bojana Naumovska, Director of the ISPJR-UKIM  
Marko Troshanovski, President of the IDSCS  
Ioana Kosma, Director of IFES for North Macedonia
- 11.15-12.00** **Initial findings from the CSES:**  
Prof. Dr. Aneta Cekikj, ISPJR-UKIM  
Ass. prof. Dr. Jovan Bliznakovski, ISPJR-UKIM
- in conversation with:  
Prof. Dr. Nenad Markovikj, moderator  
Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus", UKIM  
Associate researcher at IDSCS
- 12.00-12.30** **Open discussion**