



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	FYR Macedonia
Title:	Election of Local Self-government 2017
Date:	23 January 2018
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Political representation of women
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Other; political representation
Applicable law:	Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002

Content

The local elections which took place on 15 October 2017 (first leg) and 29 October 2017 (second leg) were a grand victory for the Social Democrats (SDSM). Out of the 260 candidates for local mayors, 15 were female (5.7 % of the total applicants), of which 6 were elected as mayor (7.4 % of the 81 municipalities) .

The female representation in the lists of candidates for council persons showed different figures. Out of the 327 lists of candidates, 52 were headed by female candidates (15.9 %).

Noteworthy in this context, is the case of a rejected list submitted by the left political party "Levica" in a municipality (Gjorche Petrov). The list was rejected due to a lack of male candidates. "Levica" responded within the time-frame given by the State Electoral Commission (SEC) by substituting a female candidate with a male.

Since five of the newly elected mayors were members of the Parliament, and three of them were replaced by woman, the overall number of female MPs grew from 42 to 45 (this is a total increase of 2,5 %).

Key points of analysis: Comparing the number of female mayors in 2017 to 2013 (4.7 %) there is a rise of about 2.7 %. However, there was criticism raised by NGOs and the expert community during the campaigning period which led to a statement of the president of the SDSM (and Prime Minister) that there should be a gender quota system introduced for mayors.

An increase in the number of women heading the lists of candidates means that there will be more female presidents of the municipality councils.

A rather visible and hard to dispute discrepancy was created between those categories of (political) positions that are legally regulated (members of Parliament and councilpersons in the local self-government) and those categories that depend on the political actors' will

(mayors, political ministers, heads of different state bodies etc.). However, there are visible changes in the political wording and political direction towards building awareness regarding gender inequality. The best illustration of this is the presence of these issues in the program of the latest Governmental Cabinet, where gender equality is regarded an important topic.

Internet link source:

Final list of women in parliament; http://www.sobranie.mk/sostav-ns_article-lista-na-zeni-pratenici-2016-2020.nspix

Program of the Government; http://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/programa/2017-2020/ProgramaVlada2017-2020_08062017.pdf