

## **Macedonia**

### **Rice**

Macedonia was the only country to secede from Yugoslavia upon the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 without ethnic or armed conflict (United States Department of State 2010). The new Macedonian democratic constitution went into effect on November 20, 1991, and created a parliamentary democracy, with both a President and a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister serves as the head of government.

The first elected government was led by Branko Crvenkovski, a member of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM). He ruled in a coalition with the Albanian Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP), the Liberal Party of Macedonia, and the Socialist Party of Macedonia (SPM). In 1996, the coalition changed to no longer include the LP. This is a minor SOLS change. Crvenkovski was in office until 1998, when the SDSM lost its majority after legislative elections. A new coalition was formed under Ljubco Georgievski, a member of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE). The entry of Georgievski government in coalition with the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA) and Democratic Alternative (DA) (International Parliamentary Union 2010) is coded as a SOLS change. In December 2000, Democratic Alternative leaves the coalition, after which The Liberal Party (LP) joined the coalition. We consequently code a minor SOLS change on December 2, 2000 ("Former Opposition" 2000).

Ethnic tensions between Albanians and Macedonians escalated into violence in 2001. A cease-fire was negotiated and the government coalition was expanded to include the major opposition parties—forming a "grand coalition" which would help to end the fighting permanently. The coalition consisted of the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA), the Liberal Party (LDP), the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP), the VMRO, and Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM). This was coded as a minor SOLS change dated May 13 (Wood and Steele 2001). In November the coalition disbanded again and "a coalition, including DPA, the PDP and several smaller parties, completed its parliamentary term. (Wood and Steele 2001). Georgievski remained Prime Minister throughout this period, and continued in office until the end of his term in September 2002. In those elections, a coalition of the SDSM, the Albanian Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) and the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) won the majority and Crvenkovski became Prime Minister once again (SOLS change). This coalition was known collectively as Together for Macedonia (ZMZ).

In 2004, President Trajkovski died in a plane crash and Crvenkovski decided to run in the elections for a new President. When he won the elections, he stepped down from office and was temporarily replaced by his Deputy, Radmila Sekerinska. Sekerinska served in office from May 12 until June 2, 2004, until Parliament confirmed the former Interior Minister, Hari Kostov, as Prime Minister. This is not a SOLS change. Kostov resigned from office in November, and was again replaced by Sekerinska (who was his Deputy as well) between November 18 and December 17. Parliament then confirmed the former Defense Minister, Vlado Buckovski as the new Prime Minister. All of these individuals were members of SDSM, and ruled over the same coalition that Crvenkovski was elected with. Therefore, there were no SOLS changes during this period.

Elections were held in 2006, and a coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE. The coalition included the DPA and the New Social Democratic Party (NSDP), along with some smaller parties. This government remains in power in the present day.

## References

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