



# MACEDONIAN

## DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



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## MDB

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## PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA GJORGE IVANOV PAYS WORKING VISIT TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

From 14 to 16 January, Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov paid a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt to attend the High-Level Meeting organized by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Nizami Ganjavi International Center in Cairo. The Meeting brought together distinguished social and political figures, former heads of state, prime ministers and ministers. The topics discussed at the Meeting included: "Terrorism and the Constitution – a Framework for Action", "Ongoing Perspectives: Dominantly Muslim Countries", "Ongoing Perspectives: Western Countries" and "Interfaith Dialogue – Case Egypt". President Ivanov addressed the Meeting's introductory session on "Democratic Security in a Time of Extremism and Violence".

During his working visit to Egypt, President Ivanov also had a meeting with the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, at which the two officials agreed that relations between the Republic



of Macedonia and the Arab Republic of Egypt developed in a spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and respect. Promoting the legal framework between the two countries, bilateral trade and cooperation in the fields of culture and tourism, as well as between the two countries' intelligence and security services was also tabled. The presidents agreed that cooperation should also be launched between the two countries' armies with the aim of sharing experience and knowhow concerning international peacekeeping missions, use of logistics and advanced technology training.



## PRESIDENT IVANOV HOSTS RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN STRUGA

On 27 January, in Struga, the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov, hosted the reception for the representatives of the diplomatic corps, military attachés, representatives of international organizations and honorary consuls in the Republic of Macedonia, traditionally held on the occasion of the New Year's and Christmas holidays. President Ivanov said in his address that in the post-election period he expected political parties to bear in mind the state interests of the Republic of Macedonia and the national interests of the Macedonian people. I won't remind you that the status quo in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration is part of the problem, not the solution, of the political crisis in the Republic of Macedonia, President Ivanov said and added that 2016 that we left behind was proclaimed annus horribilis, that is to say, a horrible year in which we felt most strongly the consequences of the use of double standards, the disrespect for international law and

the destruction of states and societies. We in the Balkans feel the absence of the European Union and NATO and that can threaten regional stability, said Ivanov and emphasized that internationalism was giving way to growing nationalism and that instead of deeper integration there was increasing regionalization.

Talking about good-neighborly relations, President Ivanov said they were not a one-way but a two-way street and added that although it wasn't worth commenting opening of old wounds and meddling in other countries' home affairs could threaten these relations. The doyen of the diplomatic corps, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Macedonia, Oleg Shcherbak, also addressed the reception. As part of the diplomatic reception, which always takes place outside of Macedonia's capital, Ivanov and the representatives of the diplomatic corps visited the Municipality of Vevčani and the Church of St. Nikola at the Springs of Vevčani.



## PRESIDENT IVANOV RECEIVES SERBIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SPEAKER ARSIĆ

On 21 January, on the occasion of the holiday of St. Sava, the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov, received Serbia's National Assembly Deputy Speaker Veroljub Arsić, the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Macedonia, Dušanka Divjak-Tomić, and members of the Serbian community in the Republic of Macedonia. President Ivanov said the Republic of Macedonia was an example in the region of how ethnic communities including the Serbian one were respected and accepted. He underlined that the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia had a long tradition of historical and cultural ties that couldn't be harmed by different opinions on certain issues and that differences in opinions had to be resolved through communication.





## COMMEMORATION HELD TO OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

On 26 January, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, a commemoration was held to mark 27 January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at which Nikola Poposki, Macedonia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a speech. The event was also addressed by Berta Romano-Nikolik, President of the Jewish Community of the Republic of Macedonia, Israeli Ambassador Dan Oryan, US Ambassador Jess Baily, Polish Ambassador Jacek Multanowski, and Sarale Gutman of Israel, the daughter of Gita Shami, the only Jew from Macedonia that survived the Holocaust.



## MFA REAFFIRMS INFO-CENTER 24/7 PROJECT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia is reaffirming the Info-Center 24/7 project, which aims to bring all the information on the work and services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs closer to the citizens by facilitating the access to information and services. This manner of work will lead to information and services reaching citizens faster

and better. The Info-Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the email address [Infocentar24/7@mfa.gov.mk](mailto:Infocentar24/7@mfa.gov.mk) for a wide range of information, from consular affairs to investment opportunities, to receiving assistance in a procedure of applying for Macedonian citizenship.

## DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ISAJLOVSKI MEETS HUNGARY'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURAL AND SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ÍJGYÁRTÓ

Ilija Isajlovski, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, met with István Íjgyártó, Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy at Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on 25 January. Among the issues discussed were bilateral relations, the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic of Macedonia, the refugee crisis, the political situation in Macedonia and other regional and international topics.

Isajlovski and Íjgyártó agreed that bilateral relations and cooperation were on a steady positive trend thanks to the

evident effort from both sides to promote them further. Intensifying political communication and promoting economic cooperation and trade remain to be priorities in the overall bilateral relations. Opinions were also shared on the cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education, home affairs and defense, as well as on the possibilities to expand this relationship further.

Deputy Minister Isajlovski thanked Minister of State Íjgyártó for Hungary's consistent support for the integration of the Republic of Macedonia into the EU and NATO.

## HUNGARY OPENS HONORARY CONSULATE IN OHRID

The ceremony of opening Hungary's Honorary Consulate in Ohrid was held on 24 January. Ilija Isajlovski, Macedonia's Deputy Foreign Minister, István Íjgyártó, the Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy at Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary's Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, László István Dux, and Ohrid Mayor Nikola Bakračovski delivered remarks at the ceremony. Deputy Foreign Minister Isajlovski emphasized in his address the two countries' concerted effort and commitment in building friendly relations and a very active and fruitful political dialogue through partnership established in a number of areas, including home affairs, science, education and culture.

Marjan Bojadžiev, Rector of the University American College Skopje, was named Hungary's Honorary Consul in Macedonia.



## STATE SECRETARY KUZMANOVSKA ATTENDS EEAS MEETING WITH WESTERN BALKAN POLITICAL DIRECTORS

Invited by the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Jean-Christophe Belliard, the State Secretary at Macedonia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Elena Kuzmanovska, attended the meeting of the EEAS with the political directors of the Western Balkan countries (deputy ministers/state secretaries from the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Kosovo, the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro) in Brussels on 26 January.

The issues tabled included the new EU Global Strategy, the Union's Eastern Partnership (Russia-Ukraine), the alignment

with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU, the fight against terrorism and radicalization, and the latest developments in Syria, the Persian Gulf countries and Turkey. Kuzmanovska hailed in her remarks the adoption of the EU Global Strategy and highlighted the significance of the Republic of Macedonia for the stability of the region. She said that as part of the global coalition fighting terrorism and by sharing of responsibilities with the NATO and EU member states, the country contributed to the fight against international terrorism as well as to global peace and stability.

## MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MACEDONIA AND HUNGARY HOLD POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSULTATIONS

In pursuing the policy of strengthened lobbying and making the Republic of Macedonia more visible in NATO, bilateral political and security consultations with Hungary at the level of directors at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs were held in Budapest on 17–19 January.

Hungary reiterated at the meetings its steadfast and strong support for the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in NATO and the EU. Specific bilateral cooperation projects between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs were agreed including coordination of activities related to the US-Adriatic Charter currently chaired by the Republic of Macedonia and the Visegrad Group. Among the issues discussed were also the strategic foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Macedonia, the commitments and activities with regard to

the country's NATO integration, the electoral process, issues regarding regional security, cooperation and contribution to peacekeeping operations and the joint effort to fight the new security challenges stemming from terrorism and illegal migration.

Raising concerns about the ongoing situation in the region as far as security goes, the two parties agreed this state of affairs confirmed once again that the Republic of Macedonia had to join NATO and the EU as soon as possible.

They also said they expected an emphasis to be put on the need for closer USA-NATO and USA-EU cooperation at the coming NATO summit in Brussels as that would have a positive effect on the policy of open doors and cooperation with the countries of the region.

## FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF MACEDONIA AND DENMARK HOLD POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS ON EU AND BILATERAL ISSUES

Political consultations on EU and bilateral affairs were held in Copenhagen on 18 January between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and the Kingdom of Denmark as part of their regular communication for the purpose of sharing views on the latest political developments

in the Republic of Macedonia. Talks focused on the recently held parliamentary elections, all the aspects of Macedonia's bid to join the EU and NATO, the migrant crisis, Brexit and the possibilities to advance bilateral relations further.

## INFORMAL MEETING OF EU DIRECTORS GENERAL HELD IN MALTA ON 17 JANUARY

On the occasion of Malta's taking of the Presidency of the European Union, an informal meeting was held in Sliema, Malta, on 17 January, of the directors general for EU affairs of the EU member and candidate member states. The meeting is held traditionally at the onset of every Presidency of the

Council of the EU. At the meeting, in which a delegation of Macedonia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also took part, opinions were shared on the Program of the Maltese Presidency (first half of 2017) and its main challenges in the months ahead.



## GSIRI HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

On 24 January, at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU), the first annual meeting was held of the think tank Global Strategic Issues Research Initiative (GSIRI) at which the think tank's annual program of activities and events was passed and the ongoing geopolitical developments in the country, the region and the world and their impact on the Republic of Macedonia were discussed.

This think tank was founded as a result of the established cooperation between the Institute for Geostrategic Research and Foreign Policy (IGRFP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MANU's Strategic Research Center, and the Memorandum of Cooperation these two institutions had signed.

The main objective of the GSIRI, as a network of high-ranking representatives and key stakeholders from several Macedonian government institutions, professors, scholars and experts, is to be a respectable, not-for-profit and independent half-academic research body in the form of a think tank that researches and keeps track of all the global issues and challenges from political, economic, security, cultural and scientific points of view with regard to the geopolitical and geostrategic positions of the Republic of Macedonia in relation to the Western Balkans, the European Union and beyond.

Ambassador Abdulkadar Memedi, the IGRFP's Director, is vice president of the GSIRI.



## AMBASSADOR SAŠO VELJANOVSKI DECORATED

Based on a decision by the President of the Republic of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia on 26 January, Sašo Veljanovski, Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the Republic of Estonia, was presented with the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana (First Class). The order is the highest Estonian decoration that can be bestowed upon foreign nationals. It is presented for achievements by individuals (or countries) that have contributed to the promotion of relations between the Republic of Estonia and the country of which the recipient is a national. On behalf of the Estonian president, the order was presented by the Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, Rainer Saks.



## ACTIVITIES OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ARBR ADEMI

On 25 January, in Montenegro's capital of Podgorica, the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Arbr Ademi, attended the second regional conference titled "EC Reports - Accession Reforms of Western Balkans", which was a follow-up to the initiative launched in Macedonia in 2015. The goal of the conference was sharing experience and proposals among representatives of the countries of the region and the European Commission on the key elements of the enlargement package. During his visit to Podgorica, Mr. Ademi held a number of meetings including with Montenegro's State Secretary for European Affairs, Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, at which the excellent relations between the two countries and the strong interest in continuing and deepening cooperation in the field of European integration were confirmed. The positive experience of maintaining cooperation within the joint Macedonia-Montenegro committee was also pointed out. Ademi also had a meeting with Ambassador Michele Giacomelli, Italy's special envoy for the Berlin Process, at which the coming preparations for the summit to be held in Italy were discussed and the importance of this process for advancing regional cooperation was stressed.

On 23 and 24 January, Deputy Prime Minister Ademi attended an informal meeting of the ministers and state secretaries for European affairs of the EU member states in Valletta, Malta. The ministers



for European affairs of all the EU candidate member states (the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Albania) were also invited to the event, over the course of which Deputy Prime Minister Ademi held separate bilateral meetings with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Davor Ivo Stier, and the Deputy Minister for EU Affairs at Estonia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Matti Maasikas.



### MDB WOULD LIKE TO THANK

*H.E. Mr. Yuriy Goncharuk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine*

*H.E. Mrs. Sabah Zita Okaikoi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana, resident in Prague*

**FOR THEIR COMPLETED MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.**



## NATO CHARITY BAZAAR

At the donor ceremony held in Brussels on 30 January, NATO Charity Bazaar 2016 donated 10,000 euros to Bitola's GAUSS Institute, a foundation for new technologies, innovation and transfer of know-how.

In the words of Igor Nedelkovski, PhD, President of the Board of GAUSS Institute, the money will be used to purchase IT equipment, including Macedonian-language software, specially designed for blind persons and persons with impaired vision from Bitola.

This is the second time that GAUSS Institute of Bitola received a donation from NATO Charity Bazaar. The donation of 10,000 euros they received in 2013 was used for purchasing sporting equipment for disabled people from Bitola, including a special target for practice for Olivera Nakovska-Bikova, the Macedonian Paralympian that won a gold medal in shooting at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London.

NATO Charity Bazaar is an event held since 2005, at which the Missions of NATO's member states and partners raise funds by selling and promoting national products. At NATO Charity Bazaar 2016, a record 213,880 euros were raised and donated to six Belgian and 20 international applicants. Associations and organizations that want



to apply for NATO Charity Bazaar 2017 funding can learn more about the criteria on the event's webpage [natocharitybazaar.org](http://natocharitybazaar.org).

## NINE YEARS OF HELICOPTER CRASH THAT KILLED 11 MACEDONIAN AIR FORCE MEMBERS COMMEMORATED IN SARAJEVO

On the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the helicopter crash that killed 11 members of the Aviation Brigade of the Macedonian Army, respects were paid to those who perished in the tragic event at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 12 January. An EUFOR honor guard paid tribute at the Macedonian soldiers' memorial. Eleven candles symbolizing the 11 lost lives were also lit. Aleksandar

Krstevski, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Chief of Staff of EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár, Macedonian Army Major Gjorgji Cikarski, the Commander of the NATO HQ in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brigadier General Giselle M. Wilz, and representatives of the Association of Macedonians in Sarajevo laid flower wreaths.



# ISRAEL V. MACEDONIA AND THE BALKANS

## UNTAPPED POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



*Partnerships between Israeli and Macedonian business entities are strongly encouraged, alongside every other beneficial business activity which may contribute to the growth of the overall economic exchange between the two countries*

In the year 1492, several months before Columbus set out on a historical journey, which opened new frontiers in human history, retrograde developments were unwinding in parallel on the Iberian Peninsula as the Holy Inquisition, endorsed by the Kingdom of Castile and Aragon, set out on a purge of the entire non-Christian population (of the resident Jews in particular) from its territory. Five centuries later, the descendants of the exiled Jewish communities, the group which found refuge and consequently settled in the lands bordering on the Eastern Mediterranean, were again subjected to another genocidal scheme – the Holocaust, which resulted in the annihilation of millions of Jews across the European Continent. However, the memory and the legacy of the Jewish communities in the Balkan region is persisting, with serious prospects of renewed Jewish presence in the region, now supported and promoted by their recreated motherland – the State of Israel.

As a friendly Israeli journalist and blogger points out in her recent article for the American Thinker, Israel has strong diplomatic and security cooperation with the Balkan states, sharing mutual threats and concerns arising from contemporary challenges in the wider

region. The article also suggests that “in the Balkans there is growing appreciation for Israel along with special understanding of Israel’s security interests”. In return, “Israel values countries that share its political concerns” and remains supportive of the Balkan states with pro-Western orientation.

Of the entire conglomerate of Balkan states and ethnicities, modern-day Macedonia in particular sees in Israel a (very) friendly state and supporter. This sentiment is rooted in a long history of respect and coexistence which was forged between the two communities over centuries of common struggle for perseverance under most adverse historical conditions. In vivid testimony of this feeling, Macedonia set a unique example in cherishing the memory of its fellow citizens of Jewish origin who perished in the concentration camps of Nazi-Germany during WWII by setting up the Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia in its capital city of Skopje.

Although diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the (independent) Republic of Macedonia were established only some 20 years ago, the sympathies of the Macedonian people for the Jewish



State and the Jewish people in general remain strong and high. Hence, bilateral relations between the two sovereign states have been constantly upgraded ever since. It is no secret that Israel recently entered into closer consultations with Macedonia and a growing partnership is under consideration. In addition to a thriving defense and security cooperation, the most promising areas of bilateral exchange include IT (outsourcing), technological advancement and transfer of know-how in food production, and improvements in water management capability, to mention but the most promising sectors of economic cooperation. Partnerships between Israeli and Macedonian business entities are strongly encouraged, alongside every other beneficial business activity which may contribute to the growth of the overall economic exchange between the two countries. The growing number of Israeli tourists over the summer period is yielding good results and serves as a strong argument for the establishment of direct flights between Tel Aviv and Skopje in the foreseeable future. Academic exchange and professional training in different areas of expertise are also on the rise with excellent prospects for further promotion. In addition, the accelerated dynamics of global change and in this context the rapid transformations and shifts of power in global geo-politics, will inevitably result in new challenges, including security threats, but it will also create new opportunities and open up new horizons. The political turmoil in the Middle East and parts of the African Continent triggered an unprecedented migration of millions of disenchanted people from regions affected by war, political instability, social injustice and economic collapse. This process is gaining momentum and it is only too obvious that it will have a serious and long-lasting impact on regional development, the consequences of which are yet to be measured.

A fast-changing and multipolar world is an undeniable reality. While the new US administration announces internal consolidation and reshuffling of its international priorities and the EU is preoccupied with its own challenges (hence, failing to embrace the European continent and even safeguard its attained achievements) which arise both from without (migration crisis) as well as from within (increasing disenchantment and dwindling trust in the policies currently implemented by Brussels), new political and economic contestants will aspire to fill in the vacuum.

Furthermore, the (Western) Balkan region, being kept undeservingly and for too long a period in a waiting chamber, is becoming increasingly and rightfully concerned with its perspective for further economic and political progress. Therefore, it should not be a surprise if the growing dissatisfaction and frustration of the wider population in this region exerts, in due course, additional pressure on the political elites (which still demonstrate a rather ambiguous attitude in terms of the often un-surmountable preconditions related to EU integration) for redefinition of the respective countries' national priorities. This is not just an assumption. Some impartial media sources in the West (such as Balkan Insight) openly warn that the Euro-Atlantic Project is ending in the Balkans.

Behind the scene though there is another process unwinding, in the Western Balkans in particular. Namely, reputable business persons from the region are starting to look for alternative trading options, viable economic partnership and not just for short-term gains. Stemming from long rooted ties as a result of centuries of historical, economic, cultural and religious connections with major

*The Israeli technological power-horse, spearheaded by its vibrant defense industry, IT, medical research and unmatched agribusiness and water management sectors constitute an attractive, unique and very competitive export potential*

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countries in the wider Mediterranean region (such as Turkey, but also Iran and even Egypt), the Western Balkans embarks on a quest for new partnerships as a logical consequence provoked by the failed expectations for Euro-Atlantic integration. In this context, the emerging regional powers will seize their chance whenever and wherever feasible. One of the potential contestants for regional leadership is by no means the State of Israel, which over the last two decades in particular, acquired the respectable position of a world leader in innovation and advanced technology development, despite the numerous and prevailing (regional) political constraints. This achievement only may not be a sufficient guarantee for the contemporary Jewish state to occupy a much desired and certainly deserved position of a regional power and mentor state. Yet, chances are high that it will achieve this objective in due course and not just on its own merits. The economic prerequisites for such a scenario are already in place. The Israeli technological power-horse, spearheaded by its vibrant defense industry, IT, medical research and unmatched agribusiness and water management sectors constitute an attractive, unique and very competitive export potential. On the other hand, the growing Israeli export capability calls for the opening of new (including virgin) markets. Should this supposition be translated into a comprehensive strategy, it will bring about long-term benefits to all parties involved. One single strong guarantee for a favorable outcome of such an approach is the fact that Israel is not setting any preconditions in the process of promotion and building of bilateral ties with the countries of the Western Balkan region.

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*Personal note by the author: This article expresses exclusively the personal views and attitudes of the author and does not represent or reflect, in any way, the official stance or policy of the State of Israel.*

## “AKVAMARIN” BY TANJA UROŠEVİK TRANSLATED INTO RUSSIAN

In early January, in the windows of Moscow’s book stores, there appeared Tanja Uroševik’s novel “Akvamarin” (Aquamarine) translated into Russian. The book was published by U Nikitskih vorot, which has so far released several books by Macedonian authors. The novel was translated by Olga Pankina, an acclaimed translator

and promoter of Macedonian literature in Russia, and Marija Proskurnina, a reputable Macedonian language and culture scholar. Tanja Uroševik has so far authored two novels, one collection of short stories, and numerous translations of classical and contemporary Russian literature.

## NEW SHORT STORY BY TOMISLAV OSMANLI PUBLISHED IN ITALIAN FOR FIRST TIME

Bombagiù, an Italian online journal, published a short story by Macedonian writer Tomislav Osmanli, “Piccolo Nemo nella divisa di Corto Maltese (L’Oceano delle immagini)” (Little Nemo in Corto

Maltese’s Uniform (The Ocean of Images)). It is a short story that has never been published before. At the initiative of Biljana Biljanovska, who translated it into Italian, it was published for the first time.

## POEMS BY MACEDONIAN POETESSES PUBLISHED IN THE ENCHANTING VERSES LITERARY REVIEW

In the latest issue of The Enchanting Verses Literary Review, an eminent and leading Indian online literary magazine featuring contemporary international poetry, a selection of poems by Macedonian poetesses Nikolina Andova-Šopova and Julijana Veličkovska was published. The Macedonian authors were given a

separate place alongside John Montague, one of the best-known Irish contemporary poets, and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, an Irish poetess, a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and an emeritus professor of the School of English.

## MACEDONIAN AUTHORS INCLUDED IN ANTHOLOGY OF EUROPEAN SHORT STORIES

“Daro vi evropske priče”, an anthology of European short stories, has recently been promoted in several Balkan cities. In the words of Zdravko Kecman, the anthology’s editor, the anthology is a portrayal of Europe as a separate cultural continent. It features

short stories by authors from several European countries including Macedonian authors Slavčo Koviloski, Ranko Mladenovski and Hristo Petreski. The anthology ends with bibliographic data about the featured authors.

## “MAKEDONIJA – ŽIVOT I PREDELI” BY GERMAN AUTHORS PUBLISHED

The publishing house Makedonika litera of Skopje published the book “Makedonija – život i predeli” (Macedonia – Life and Landscapes) by a group of German authors translated from German into Macedonian by Slobodanka Popovska. The foreword on the German study of the Macedonian language and culture before, during and after the First World War is penned by Prof. Dr. Wolf Oschlies. The book features articles on Macedonia by German authors who explored Macedonia during the First World War or wrote about the country later on various occasions. The works concern Macedonia’s population, customs, ethnography, land and history. “Ethnography of

Macedonia” (1924) by Gustav Weigand (1860-1930) is in part published in this collection and so are parts of the anthology “Mazedonien. Leben und Gestalt einer Landschaft” (Macedonia. Life and the Shape of the Landscape) selected by Herbert Oertel. From Oertel’s anthology, included in “Makedonija – život i predeli” are articles by Oertel himself, Gerhard Gesemann, Joseph Berge, Joseph März, Alois Schmaus and Hans Ehrke. 137 photographs of German soldiers or explorers recorded in Macedonia during the First World War and in the period between the two World Wars are also featured.



# VEVČANI CARNIVAL



The traditional Vasilica dances and the burning of the costumes marked the end of this year's Vevčani Carnival, which once again proved to be a mirror of everyday life situations. On 13 and 14 January, aside from the traditional groom, bride, devils and clown, the streets of Vevčani were also traversed by George Soros, the colorful revolutionaries and many other scary and funny costumes inspired by political figures and events. This carnival has made Macedonia's smallest municipality widely known. The traditional celebration of the Orthodox New Year in Vevčani culminated with the carnival

procession but before the procession took place, carnival participants visited every home in Vevčani and in the early morning hours of the following day, the locals went to the nearby springs to fill water needed for making kašanik, a traditional local specialty served with lukanici, home-made sausages, home-made beaten cheese and yoghurt. The carnival is turning Vevčani into an increasingly attractive travel destination. The most numerous this year were the guests from the neighboring countries, but the event was also a true discovery to a group of women from the tropical Indonesian island of Bali.





# A LOCAL LANDMARK – PRILEP'S CLOCK TOWER



The Clock Tower in Prilep is a monument of culture. Built in 1825 and 1826 by Said-Aga, the tower is about 40 meters high but together with the pillars and the cone at the top, its height reaches 50 meters. It was erected by Pero Lauc, a famous builder from Prilep. In 1836/1837 and 1896/1897 it was renovated and in the meantime, in 1858, a clock was mounted on it. On the opposite side of its entry is a small fountain. On the one side there is an inscription that says: "The ticking of the clock is not always indicating the passing of time. The clock laments the passing of life and time saying 'Alas!'" Depending on the material it was made of and its construction system, the Clock Tower is divided into two parts: a massive part made of stone and a skeletal part made of wood. Prilep's Clock Tower is one year older than London's renowned Big Ben. A curiosity about it is the fact that it has an inclination of 1.16 m and is therefore also referred to as the leaning tower of Prilep. In 2013, after a break of 30 years, it started working again, sounding the hours and telling all the bazaar's visitors the exact time. Another intervention has recently been made that while keeping



## *Prilep's Clock Tower is one year older than London's renowned Big Ben*

its authentic look stopped the tower from leaning further. The ground around the tower has also undergone modernization and embellishments. This monument and witness to the passing of time has lived through and testifies to all kinds of good and bad periods. The residents of Prilep are proud of it and tell every visitor about its history.



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## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER POPOSKI VISITS SNOWY MACEDONIA 2017 WINTER CAMP

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Snowy Macedonia 2017 Winter Camp in Kruševo from 3 to 8 January. Schoolchildren from the Macedonian communities in the neighboring counties took part in the camp, which is part of the broader government project "Far Yet Close" aiming to bring closer together all the people of Macedonian descent, the young in particular, to nurture the Macedonian identity and to help them create long-term relationship with the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonian culture. Nikola Poposki, Macedonia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the participants. He spoke in his address about the role and significance of the native language in preserving one's cultural identity. The participants in this year's camp were given certificates of appreciation, Macedonian-language books and New Year bags of snacks and candies.



## JIRÍ SVOBODA RECEIVES HUMANISM AWARD

On 18 January, at a ceremony at MANU's Uranija House in Ohrid, the World Prize for Humanism 2017 was presented to director and screenwriter Jiří Svoboda. The award is bestowed by the Ohrid Academy of Humanism whose international jury unanimously decided that this year's laureate should be Svoboda, one of the greats of Czech and world cinematography. His outstanding lifetime achievements reached their artistic pinnacle last year with the film dedicated to Jan Hus, a masterpiece that placed Svoboda among the great names of the world humanist thought that have enriched Ohrid's cultural memory over the years.



## T2 TRAINSPOTTING OPENS NEW BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

The British Council and the Youth Cultural Center will host PLayUK, the New British Film Festival, from 16 to 19 February. Ten film premieres by British authors who are getting a lot of attention at the world's most relevant film festivals will be shown. The festival will open with the screening of T2 Trainspotting.

