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| The step under review | Electoral code amended in line with ODIHR observations of elections 2024 |
| Baseline | Baseline (2024) is 0. |
| Deadline of the step | June, 2025 |
| Actual results | <p>The most recent amendments to the Electoral Code were adopted in March 2024 (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No.58/24).</p> <p>Recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission highlight the need for review of the Electoral Code to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections. Additionally, the findings underlined the key challenges that needed to be addressed to strengthen democracy in the country.</p> <p>In this context, it is important to note that the recent amendments to the Electoral Code, adopted by the Parliament and submitted by a group of members of Parliament, did not fully address the ODIHR’s recommendations. This has highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of the electoral legislation to address existing inconsistencies, thereby eliminating ambiguities and creating a more equitable electoral environment.</p> <p>Incorporating ODIHR’s recommendations into future amendments to the Electoral Code will contribute to fulfilling the obligations undertaken to implement efficient and continuous reforms based on European standards.</p> <p>In the period April-May 2025 the relevant departments within the Ministry of Justice worked on drafting amendments to the Electoral Code. The draft law is based on the working texts that the Ministry has been preparing in the period 2018-2023 (with the involvement and participation of representatives of political parties, state bodies and institutions that are involved in the election processes, civil society, media, international organizations and with the monitoring and observers from the Embassies of the country’s strategic partners).</p> <p>This draft law aims to implement ODIHR’s recommendations from 2024 regarding the election processes conducted that year in the country, as well as to meet the obligations to conduct efficient and continuous reforms based on the European standards.</p> <p>These efforts collectively represent a dedicated commitment to fulfilling the obligation set forth in the Reform Agenda to timely adopt amendments to the Electoral Code by June 2025.</p> <p>The draft amendments to the Electoral Code were finalized at the end of May 2025. After the finalization of the text of the draft law, the Ministry of Justice submitted an official letter of request to ODIHR (ANNEX 1) on June 3, 2025, requesting legal expertise in reviewing the Electoral Code. The request was accompanied by a table that incorporates the recommendations which served as the basis for the draft, indicating which of the recommendations have been incorporated in the draft law.</p> |

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| | <p>On the June 6, 2025, the Ministry of Justice received an official response from ODIHR regarding the letter of request (ANNEX 2), confirming their readiness to assess both the existing Electoral Code, and the recently prepared draft amendments prepared developed by the relevant departments within the Ministry of Justice. The letter states that the review will be conducted in accordance with ODIHR's established procedures and timelines, ensuring a thorough and careful analysis.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice after receiving the legal opinion by ODIHR, will incorporate the findings and revise the draft law to reflect the comments received through ODIHR's legal review.</p> <p>After the harmonization of the text of the Draft law, it will be shared with political parties for consultation, to be followed by submission into the governmental procedure.</p> |
| Evidence provided | <p>Annex 1 - Official letter of request to ODIHR.</p> <p>Annex 2 - Official response from ODIHR regarding the letter of request</p> |
| Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings | <p>The relevant departments in the Ministry of Justice conducted a thorough analysis of ODIHR's recommendations concerning the 2024 elections., This analysis was carried out in conjunction with a review of the working texts prepared by the Ministry between 2018 and 2023, including the Law on amendments to the Electoral Code adopted in 2024 (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No.58/24), submitted by a group of members of Parliament. Based on this comprehensive review, the Ministry incorporated ODIHR's recommendations into the draft amendments to the Electoral Code. Following finalization, the draft was submitted to ODIHR for legal opinion. Along with the official request for legal opinion the relevant departments in the Ministry of Justice prepared and sent to ODIHR a table with ODIHR's recommendations that indicates which of the recommendations are incorporated in the text of the draft law.</p> |
| Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle | <p>The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement.</p> <p>The implementation of the steps does not contravene the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle (DNSH).</p> |
| Double funding | <p>Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.</p> |
| Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step | <p>Partially achieved</p> |
