

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 (grace period)
Actual results	<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> <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 received ODIHR's opinion on the 29-th of August 2025. (ANNEX 3)</p> <p>The opinion addresses serious remarks and recommendations which require in-depth revision of the entire Electoral Code. Although the Draft amendments address some previous ODIHR recommendations, numerous other recommendations related to the Electoral Code remain outstanding on a broad range of issues, many that pertain to key international standards and OSCE commitments.</p>

	<p>The remarks and recommendations stated in ODIHR’s legal opinion will be subject of further analysis and consideration in the process of preparation of the law.</p> <p>In this regard, within the process of revision particular focus will be given to ODIHR's recommendations and remarks addressed in previous years including remarks and recommendations from local elections in 2025 referring especially to provisions that regulate the financing of the election campaigns, voters list, gender quotas, provisions and requirements on campaign finance reports including mandatory elements and rules regarding their publication , as well as provisions on misuse of public resources in the campaigns including limiting public spending, establishing clear mechanisms for dividing paid campaign advertising etc.</p> <p>On 25 December 2025 the Ministry of Justice held working meeting with the President of the Assembly, and the Vice Presidents and coordinators of the parliamentary groups to discuss the need for a systematic regulation of the Electoral Code. In line with the conclusions of the meeting the Ministry of Justice will, by the second half of January, form a working group to begin preparing a new Electoral Code. The working group will include two representatives from each parliamentary party, as well as independent members of parliament.</p>
<p>Evidence provided</p>	<p>Annex 1 - Official letter of request to ODIHR. Annex 2 - Official response from ODIHR regarding the letter of request Annex 3 - <i>ODIHR Legal opinion from 29.08.2025</i></p>
<p>Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings</p>	<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. <i>Following the receipt of ODIHR’s legal opinion on 29 August 2025, the Ministry of Justice is currently preparing an analysis to guide the further alignment of the draft amendments to the Electoral Code with ODIHR’s recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>On 25 December 2025, the Ministry of Justice met with the Assembly leadership and parliamentary coordinators to discuss the systematic regulation of the Electoral Code. A working group, including two representatives from each parliamentary party and independent MPs, will be formed by mid-January to prepare a new Electoral Code.</i></p>
<p>Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle</p>	<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>

	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved