

<b>The step under review</b>	Adopt legislation to allow for archiving of electronic documents
<b>Baseline</b>	<i>2024 is 0</i>
<b>Deadline of the step</b>	<i>June 2025</i>
<b>Actual results</b>	<p>In accordance with the Reform Instrument, the new Law on Archival Material and Archival Activity establishes a legal basis for a National DMS and Archival work in compliance with the EU standards for electronic documents.</p> <p>The law also stipulates usage of a unified document management system at the central level, aiming to implement it across all central-level institutions. The foreseen system according to the law should include modules for data storage and an electronic platform for record-keeping and archival activities in the public sector. Practically, this system (DMS) will be connected to the State archive system, enabling full electronic life cycle of a document that also incorporates passive storage of the document.</p> <p>With support from GIZ, an expert analysis of the current situation, EU standards and the possibilities for establishing the data storage infrastructure and e-platform has been conducted (please see Annex 4). Complementary to that, the expert proposed one-pager which proposes unified equipment for all document reception offices in the state administrative bodies (Annex 5).</p> <p>The systems will be regulated in more detail by bylaws specifying the standards to be applied for the security of electronic storage, aligned with the new law, facilitating digital operations and the storage of archival data. The Ministry of Digital Transformation has implemented a document management system in 22 institutions. This system will enable active storage of data till the operational archival system is put in place. This legal framework and complete implementation of the aforementioned systems will enable the institutions to electronically exchange and store documents (for long-term purposes), deliver electronic services without any need to print the documents, as it is the case now.</p>
<b>Evidence provided</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex 1: Government decision</li> <li>• Annex 2: Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia no. 135/2025 as of 04.07.2025. The Law enters into force on the eighth day following its publication in the Official Gazette and will apply as of 1 June 2026.</li> <li>• Annex 3: Regulatory Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Annex 3a: Table of comments</li> <li>• Annex 4: Analytical report on the needed capacities and current situation</li> <li>• Annex 5: Proposal for equipment for universal document reception office</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex 6: Public hearing invitation</li> <li>• Annex 7: Enquiries to the Croatian authorities</li> <li>• Annex 8 Decision for Establishing the working group</li> </ul> <p>Since there is no acquis that is relevant for this step, no Table of concordance is prepared. The law, similar to other public administration reform initiatives, will be reviewed by SIGMA.</p> <p>Considering the analysis of good practices of an EU country, the Ministry of digital transformation applied for a study visit to Croatia in October 2024 through ResPA, but unfortunately despite being approved by ReSPA and relevant EC authorities, Croatian authorities have not responded to this request (Annex 7).</p>
<p><b>Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings</b></p>	<p>The verification process included a review of the adopted legal framework and its alignment with the Western Balkans Growth Plan description. Expert analyses were examined to assess the status and feasibility of the data storage infrastructure and e-platform implementation. Technical checks confirmed that the unified document management system with data storage and electronic record-keeping modules is partially operational in several institutions. Compliance with security standards outlined in the secondary legislation is being ensured through ongoing development and alignment of bylaws, for which the law stipulates a clear deadline.</p> <p>The law was prepared through a highly inclusive process involving all relevant authorities. In line with the Rules of Procedure of the Government, it was published on the ENER platform<sup>1</sup> for public consultations on 10.03.2025, during which 60 comments were received. The attach to the accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment (please see Annex 3a) clearly outlines which comments were accepted and provides justified explanations for those that were not, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the legislative process. The Parliament held a public debate on 19 June, during which all four laws that are part of the reform agenda were reviewed in the appropriate order. The laws were adopted by the Parliament on 27 June.</p> <p>The law provides a clear legal basis for institutions that are technically ready to transition away from paper-based processes, enabling full-cycle electronic document management. This is fully consistent with SIGMA’s principles of good public administration, supporting modern, transparent, and efficient service delivery, but it will also have much wider impact, especially with regard to preserving the historical and cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Compliance with general principles</b></p>	<p>The implementation of the reforms, namely the new Law on Archival Material and Archival Activity, fully complies with the general principles outlined in Article 4</p>

<sup>1</sup> [https://ener.gov.mk/Default.aspx?item=pub\\_regulation&subitem=view\\_reg\\_detail&itemid=101845](https://ener.gov.mk/Default.aspx?item=pub_regulation&subitem=view_reg_detail&itemid=101845)

<p><b>and DNSH principle</b></p>	<p>of the Regulation, particularly in terms of needs-based cooperation, ownership, transparency, complementarity, and accountability. The reform is an integral part of North Macedonia’s broader digital transformation agenda, as defined in the Economic Reform Programme and aligned with the priorities of the Western Balkans Growth Plan. It establishes a clear legal and institutional framework for the digital management and long-term preservation of public sector documents through a unified document management system connected to the State Archives. The reform process was guided by inclusive and evidence-based policymaking, including public consultations via the ENER platform, a detailed regulatory impact assessment, and parliamentary debate. Furthermore, the reform respects the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle by promoting a paperless administration model, thus reducing environmental impact through decreased physical storage needs and fostering sustainable digital public service delivery.</p>
<p><b>Double funding</b></p>	<p>Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.</p>
<p><b>Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step</b></p>	<p>Fully achieved</p>