



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

The FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA FACT SHEET

1. Basic info

Capital: Skopje

Population: 2,055,915 (July 2007 est.)

Area: total: 25,333 sq km (*land:* 24,856 sq km; *water:* 477 sq km)

Currency: Denar

Unemployment rate: 35% (2007 est.)

2. General conditions of entry and visa information

Although the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia currently experiences little immigration, political attention to the subject, due in part to the prospects for EU accession, inspired a new Law on Foreigners. The Law, which came into force in March 2007, is in line with EU requirements, such as they exist on immigration.

Entry requirements

A foreigner may enter in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, if s/he¹:

- possesses a valid and recognized travel document;
- possesses a valid visa, if required;
- possesses means for subsistence for the period of his/her stay, his/her return to the country from which s/he arrives or his/her journey to a third country in which his/her admission shall be assured or s/he is able to obtain such means in a legal way;
- presents, if necessary, documents justifying the purpose and circumstances of his/her intended stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as travel insurance documents;
- is not expelled from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and there is no entry ban in effect, and does not present a threat to the public order, national security, public health or international relations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

¹ Law on Foreigners Article 11

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees



GOVERNMENT
OF LIECHTENSTEIN

As an **exception**, an entry may be allowed to a foreigner who does not fulfil the entry conditions above - based on humanitarian grounds, national interests or international obligations accepted by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

A foreigner may enter the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia without possessing a valid visa, if s/he:

- is a citizen of a country with which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has concluded an agreement for visa abolishment, or is a citizen of a country for which visa requirement for entry and passage through the Macedonian territory has been abolished by a decision of the Macedonian Government; citizens of BiH, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro do not need a visa. Albanian citizens do need a visa to enter the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- possesses the citizenship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and is a holder of a foreign travel document, and
- stays legally in a country with which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has established a visa-free policy and is a pupil participating in a school excursion accompanied by a teacher who has a list of pupils prepared by the relevant school with particulars of each of them, as well as the details on the purpose and circumstances of the intended stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Visa shall be issued upon a foreigner's application submitted with a diplomatic or consular mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia abroad, if s/he²:

- has a valid and recognised foreign travel document to be valid for a period at least 3 (three) months longer than the visa validity;
- upon request of a competent authority, s/he submits documentation proving the purpose and circumstances of the intended visit in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including the documents for travel insurance;
- upon request of a competent authority, s/he submits documents proving his/her possession of sufficient subsistence means during his/her stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as return to the country from which s/he arrives or his/her journey to a third country or documentation proving that such means are ensured in any other legal way;
- does not present a threat to the public peace and order, national security, public health or the international relations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- there are no grounds for entry denial as under Article 23 of the Law on Foreigners: non-fulfilment of the conditions for entry into the Republic of Macedonia as provided by this law; there is a serious suspicion that his/her stay in the country is to be connected with terrorist or other violent activities, crimes; has an intention to pass through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, however, s/he does not meet the entry requirements of a third country; has not reimbursed the expenses arising from his/her prior temporary detention and deportation; there is a grounded suspicion that s/he is to be employed or work on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia contrary to employment and work regulations; there is a grounded suspicion that s/he is has no intention to stay in the Republic of Macedonia for the purpose indicated, or supplies incorrect data for him/herself or the purpose and circumstances of his/her travel or stay or uses false, another person's or invalid travel or other identification documents.

Type of visa:

² Law on Foreigners Article 38 - Visa requirements

Airport transit visa (visa A) - foreigners who do not leave the airport international transit area or are on board during their stay at an airport of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, shall not be subjected to visa requirements. In exceptional cases the Macedonian Government may decide on the necessity of meeting airport transit visa requirements for nationals of certain countries or travellers coming from certain travel routes, if national interests of defence, security or international relations require so. The airport transit visa entitles a foreigner to stay at the airport international transit area until s/he continues his/her onward journey by his/her first following international flight.

Transit visa (visa B) - Transit visa shall be issued to a foreigner for a single or double and, in exceptional cases, multiple transits through the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from a certain foreign country to a certain third country where s/he may stay for maximum 5 (five) days during each individual transit. The period of validity of transit visa may not be longer than one year.

Short-stay visa (visa C) - Short-stay visa shall be issued to a foreigner for a single or multiple entry into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where a single continuous stay, as well as the total duration of his/her subsequent stays in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may **not exceed a period of 3 (three) months in any half-year period** as from the date of first entry. A short-stay visa shall be issued for a period of validity of up to one year. The short stay visa shall be issued for tourist, business, personal and other purposes. The purpose of the visa shall be clearly indicated in the visa itself

Long-stay visa (visa D) - Long-stay visa may be issued to a foreigner who intends to stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia based on: employment, work or self-employment, attending school or studies, participation in international student/pupil exchange schemes, specialization, vocational education or practical training, scientific researches, medical treatment, family reunification, or humanitarian grounds. The visa shall be issued for a single entry into the country **entitling a stay of up to 30 (thirty) days and valid for a period of up to 6 (six) months³**. The visa shall be issued when the foreigner concerned submits a **decision on grant of temporary residence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with his/her visa application. A foreigner to whom a long-stay visa is issued is obliged to report him/herself to the Ministry of Internal Affairs within 5 (five) days as from the date of entry into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where the Ministry shall issue such a foreigner a temporary residence permit within 25 (twenty-five) days from the date of reporting.

Visa issued at border: Transit visa and short-stay visa entitling a stay of up to 15 (fifteen) days may be issued, as an exception, at a border crossing point, if it is relevant to the national interests of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or based on humanitarian grounds, or if it's provided by ratified international agreements. Upon prior consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the visa shall be issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Procedure

The visa shall be issued upon a foreigner's application submitted to the diplomatic or consular mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia abroad. The foreigner concerned must indicate the purpose of his/her visit to the country in the application, submit a valid and recognised travel document and, if required, other documentation (described under the general 'entry requirements' above). The visa application must include a photograph of the foreigner

³ When the foreigner is in the territory, he/she can reside under this D visa up to 30 days in which time limit he/she should regulate his/her residence i.e. get a temporary residence under one of the various grounds allowed: employment, work, self employment, studying, specialization, scientific research, medical treatment family reunification or humanitarian grounds.

concerned presenting his/her genuine appearance. The (unique) online visa application form is available at: <http://mfa.gov.mk/Upload/ContentManagement/Files/MNR-VisaForm.pdf>

The decisions on visa issuance are taken by the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If positive, the visa is then issued by the relevant diplomatic or consular mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia abroad. In cases where there is a suspicion that the foreigner concerned presents a threat to the public order and national security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is obliged to ensure a prior consent of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

For **more detailed info** please refer to the Law on Foreigners:
<http://www.mvr.gov.mk/EN/Uploads/The%20law%20on%20foreigners.doc>

3. Immigration for employment purposes

Conditions of entry and stay of foreign workers

A foreigner needs a **work permit** to be able to work in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Work permit is a document on which basis domestic or foreign employer in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall conclude employment or work contract with a foreigner.

Types of work permit

a) Personal work permit: the personal work permit is issued for self-employment purposes for a fixed-time period to 1 or to 3 years or for non-fixed time period.

b) Employment permit: is a form of work permit related to the need for permanent employment with employers on the basis of organization of job positions. A foreigner who has regulated residence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and possesses such permit may only be employed with an employer who has applied for work permit. The employment permit may be only issued on the basis of an official application and if the following conditions are met: the employer fulfils the legally prescribed conditions; the quota applied for this form of employment is not filled up; the foreigner's employment does not affect the labour market, in particular, the domestic unemployment situation, employment structure or regional requirements concerning creation of new job positions in industries. In cases related to athletes, workers in the field of culture, scientists, editors, staff in the diplomatic offices lacking privileged status, the employment of foreigners shall not be connected to the labour market

c) Work permit: is a type of work permit with a previously determined time limit, on which basis the foreigner may temporarily work in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only for one of the following specific purposes:

- Work performed by posted foreign workers;
- Training and advancement of foreigners;
- Seasonal work of foreigners;
- Work performed by foreign representatives;
- Individual services by foreigners.

A foreigner can be issued the work permit only on the basis of an official application submitted by him/herself or his/her the employer. Each purpose is subject to a particular pre-determined quota, which shall determine decisions on work permit issuance.

Procedure

- The request for issuance of personal work permit is submitted to the Macedonian Agency for Employment. Prior to the submission of the request for issuance of personal work permit, the foreigner may require information (from the Macedonian Agency for Employment) on the special limitations for self-employment of foreigners, quotas etc.
- The request for issuance of employment permit is submitted by the employer - resident of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or by the foreigner. The form contains the following data: name of the company, address; tax number; type of activity; personal data for the engaged foreigner, his/her address and the type of residence permit possessed by the foreigner. Prior to the submission of the request for issuance of employment permit, the employer may obtain labour market information from the Macedonian Agency for Employment i.e. the usage of quota and the special limitations for employment of foreigners as determined by the Government
- If applying from abroad (not from within the country), prior to entering the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the foreigner or her/his employer have to submit the application for Visa D (for the purposes of employment, work or self employment) in the Macedonian Consular Mission or Embassy in the foreigner's country (or the closest embassy to the foreigner's country). The application has to be accompanied with the working contract or a business plan for the employment activity that will be established (issued by the Macedonian employer or the organization established on the territory of RM). The entire application package is sent to the MFA (Visa information system), the MFA sends it to the MoI Section for foreigners and Readmission, and they send it to the Employment Agency who gives approval for the validity and justification of the employment activity of the foreigner who wants to enter the country for work purposes

Job search websites

- The biggest job market with job postings from all industries and regions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <http://najdirabota.com.mk/ENG/default.aspx>
- DEKRA selection and recruitment of employees - <http://www.dekra.com.mk/eng/index.jsp>
- Motiva – selection and recruitment of employees <http://www.motiva.com.mk/>
- Employment Agency of Macedonia <http://www.zvrm.gov.mk/>
- Agency for human resource and mediation in employment services <http://www.vrabotuvanje.com.mk/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=1>

4. Immigration for study purposes

Conditions of entry and stay for students

An application for a Temporary residence permit for purposes of attending school should be submitted by the foreigner to the diplomatic or consular mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia abroad prior to coming to the country.

He/she should submit the following together with the application⁴:

- a receipt certifying that s/he is a high school or regular university student at an educational institution of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

⁴ Law on Foreigners - article 59 - Conditions for issuance of permit

- a curriculum of the envisaged education in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia issued by the relevant educational institution in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stating the duration of school or studies, as well as the conditions for enrolment for each successive school or university year, and
- a proof of language skills or of enrolment in a course of the language used in the curriculum of the relevant educational institution in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Validity of the permit for study purposes⁵

Temporary permit for purposes of attending school or studies shall be issued for a period of up to **one year** and it may be extended if the foreigner submits an application for renewal within maximum 30 (thirty) days prior to expiry of his/her temporary residence permit. Moreover the student should fulfil the following conditions:

- has accommodation ensured or has means for accommodation,
- has a health insurance,
- posses a receipt of the relevant educational institution confirming that the student has achieved a significant progress in the educational process,
- possesses subsistence means or his/her subsistence is ensured in any other legal way
- there are no grounds for entry denial (according to the Law)

The temporary residence permit for purposes of attending school or studies may be extended for up to 1 (one) year upon expiry of the term prescribed for the educational process. Upon completion of school or studies based on which the temporary residence is granted, the foreigner concerned is obliged to leave the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Work performed by foreigners residing in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the purpose of studying

Foreigners residing in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the purpose of studying may perform short-term or ancilliary activities without a work permit, if the full period for the performance of those activities lasts up to 10 working hours within one week (the residence permit for study purposes shall not be extended if the foreigner concerned exceeds the number of working hours prescribed by the law). The organizer, clients or the employer in the place of the performance of the work shall be obliged to register the work in the Employment Agency. The employer shall be obliged to cover the expences for social security of the foreign students for the period of the performance of the short-term or ancilliary activities.

Graduate and post-graduate scholarships

- The Macedonian Ministry of Education: <http://www.mon.gov.mk/mk/poc>
- FON university - <http://fonuniversity.com/>
- The South Eastern European University:
<http://www.seeu.edu.mk/english/news/FinAidOffice.asp>
- European University:
http://www.eurm.edu.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=23

⁵ Law on Foreigners-article 60

List of main universities and colleges

- St. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje
<http://www.ukim.edu.mk/index.php?lan=en>
- St. Clement of Ohrid University of Bitola - <http://www.uklo.edu.mk/>
- Goce Delčev University of Štip - <http://www.ugd.edu.mk/>
- FON University - <http://www.fon.edu.mk/content.aspx?cid=1>
- European University of Macedonia - <http://www.eurm.edu.mk/>
- University American College Skopje - <http://www.uacs.edu.mk/>
- State University of Tetovo
<http://www.unite.edu.mk/Anglisht/INDEX%20ENG/index1.html>
- South East European University - <http://www.seeu.edu.mk/english/index.asp>

5. Residence

Stay of up to 3 (three) months

A stay of a foreigner who holds or does not hold a visa. A foreigner who is a citizen of a country with which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has established a visa free policy, may enter and stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for a period of up to 3 (three) months in any half-year period as from the date of first entry, provided that s/he meets the entry requirements as stipulated by this law.

Temporary Residence Permit (more than 3 months)

A foreigner must possess a temporary residence permit if s/he intends to stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for more than 3 (three) months, for the following purposes: employment, work or self-employment; attending school or studies; participation in international student/pupil exchange schemes; specialization, vocational education or practical training; scientific researches; medical treatment, family reunification, or humanitarian grounds. Temporary residence permit may also be issued to:

- a foreigner who is a close family member of a Macedonian citizen;
- a foreigner who is from the Macedonian origin, or
- a foreigner's child born in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The foreigner who is granted temporary residence for a specific purpose may stay in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only for the purpose for which his/her residence is granted.

Conditions for issuance of temporary residence permit

A foreigner may be issued temporary residence permit in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, if s/he: possesses subsistence means or his/her subsistence is ensured in any other legal way; has accommodation ensured or has means for accommodation; has a health insurance; fulfils the conditions provided for different types of temporary residence permit, and there are no grounds for entry denial.

Procedure of issuance of temporary residence permit

Temporary residence permit shall be issued upon an application of a foreigner who intends to stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The temporary residence application shall be submitted by the foreigner to the Macedonian diplomatic or consular mission abroad. (In exceptional cases, based on humanitarian grounds as well as in other cases as stipulated by this law, temporary residence application may also be submitted directly to the Ministry of

Internal Affairs). The Macedonian diplomatic or consular mission receiving a temporary residence application of a foreigner shall forward the application to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for final decision. The applicant is obliged to appear in person to an interview, if the competent authority requests so. A foreigner is obliged to submit a valid and recognised travel document or a certified copy of such a document to be valid for at least 3 (three) months more than the period of his/her stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia together with his/her temporary residence application, as well as evidence that the above described conditions for issuance of temporary residence permit are fulfilled.

Decision on grant of temporary residence and entitlements

The Ministry of Internal Affairs takes the decision on temporary residence applications. The decision shall be delivered to the foreigner concerned through the Macedonian diplomatic or consular mission abroad receiving the application. Against the decision, a foreigner has a right to lodge a complaint to the competent Commission of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia within 8 (eight) days as from the date of receipt of such a decision. The decision of the competent Commission of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia shall be taken within 30 (thirty) days from the date of lodging such a complaint. Against the decision of the competent Commission, an administrative dispute may be initiated in front of a competent court in accordance with the Law on Administrative Disputes.

A foreigner who is issued a decision on grant of temporary residence, shall be provided with a temporary residence permit by the Ministry of Internal Affairs upon his/her entry into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall issue the temporary residence permit to the foreigner concerned in person. Temporary residence permit entitles a foreigner to multiple entries into and exits from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia without a visa until his/her residence permit expires.

Extension of temporary residence permit

Temporary residence permit shall be issued for the period necessary to fulfil the purpose of the stay, up to a maximum of one year. Upon an application of a foreigner, which is to be submitted within maximum 30 (thirty) days prior to expiry of his/her temporary residence permit, it may be extended provided that the conditions are fulfilled. A foreigner, who submits an application for extension of temporary residence permit may stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia until the final decision on such application is reached. The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall issue such a person a special receipt entitling a stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a decision on the extension is taken. Temporary residence permit shall not be extended if it is established that the foreigner concerned has not stayed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for unjustified reasons for a period longer than one quarter of the period of the validity of his/her temporary residence permit.

Reasons for temporary residence

Temporary residence for employment, work and self-employment: Temporary residence permit for purposes of employment, work or self-employment may be issued if the foreigner concerned submits a work permit or other required permit together with his/her application for temporary residence, unless ratified international agreements provide otherwise. The permit shall be issued for a period corresponding to the period of validity of the work permit but maximum for one year with a possibility to be extended.

Temporary residence for purposes of medical treatment: Temporary residence permit for purposes of medical treatment may be issued if the foreigner concerned together with his/her temporary residence application also submits the following:

- A receipt issued by a Macedonian health institution which provides the medical treatment stating the period of such a treatment, as well as possible post-medical treatment,
- A receipt issued by the Macedonian health institution confirming that the reception of the foreigner concerned for medical treatment shall be of no harm to the patients who are Macedonian citizens, and
- an evidence proving that the funds for such a treatment are to be borne either by the foreigner him/herself or his/her country of origin.

Temporary residence permit for purposes of medical treatment shall be issued for a period of up to one year and it may be extended according to the above described conditions for extension of temporary residence permit. Upon completion of the medical as well as possible post-medical treatment, the foreigner is obliged to leave the Macedonian territory.

Temporary residence on humanitarian grounds: Temporary residence permit on humanitarian grounds may be issued as an exception, to a foreigner who does not fulfil the conditions for issuance of temporary residence permit as stipulated by the law in the following cases:

- if there are grounds for suspicion that s/he is a victim of the criminal act "trafficking in human beings" as laid down in the Criminal Code,
- if s/he is under 18 and is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian,
- if s/he is a stateless person, or
- other well-founded reasons of humanitarian nature.

The permit shall be issued for a period of up to one year and it may be extended provided that the humanitarian grounds still exist.

Temporary residence of victims of trafficking in human beings - a foreigner for whom there are grounds for suspicion to be a victim of the criminal act "trafficking in human beings" as stipulated in the Criminal Code, shall be enabled to make a decision within a period of 2 (two) months regarding providing him/her protection and assistance in the process of recovery as well as avoiding influence of the perpetrators of such a crime. Within this period, the victim is to decide on either to co-operate with the competent authorities in detection of crimes and perpetrators or to return to the country whose citizen or legal resident s/he is. As to the best interests of victims of trafficking in human beings who are minors under 18, the period of stay may be extended. The period of stay may be interrupted if:

- the foreigner voluntarily, actively or on his initiative renews his/her contacts with suspects involved in such a crime, or
- public order and national security of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia require so.

Temporary residence for study purposes (see section 4 above)

Permanent residence permit

Permanent residence permit shall be issued to a foreigner who, prior to his/her application for permanent residence, has stayed on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for an uninterrupted period of minimum 5 (five) years on the basis of a temporary residence permit. The condition of an uninterrupted five-year period of stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall be deemed as fulfilled if within the period of 5 (five) years prior to application for permanent residence the foreigner concerned did not stay out of the Macedonian territory for a period of subsequent 6 (six) months or for a total period not exceeding 10 (ten) months.

Conditions for issuance of permanent residence permit

The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall issue the permanent residence permit to the foreigner concerned in person.

Permanent residence permit shall be issued to a foreigner who:

- until the moment of application, stays legally in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for an uninterrupted period of 5 (five) years on the basis of the permit for temporary residence –see above.
- has stable and regular subsistence means,
- has accommodation or means for accommodation ensured,
- has a health insurance,
- during his/her stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia within the period of 5 (five) years prior to application for permanent residence s/he has not committed a crime which is punishable by minimum 1 (one) year of imprisonment, and
- does not present a threat to the public order, national security or international relations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Permanent residence permit for purposes of employment, work or self-employment may be issued to a foreigner who possesses high or deficit qualifications or education necessary for operation of the relevant institution in or authority of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Permanent residence permit based on family reunification may be issued only to close family members of a foreigner who has previously obtained a permanent residence permit provided that they live together in a real matrimony or family union. A foreigner whose residence is relevant to the interests of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may be issued a permanent residence permit prior to expiry of the time limit as laid.

Permanent residence permit shall not be issued to a foreigner who has stayed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia based on:

- temporary residence permit for purposes of attending school or studies,
- temporary residence permit for purposes of participation in international student/pupils exchange programme,
- temporary residence permit for purposes of specialization, vocational education or practical training,
- temporary residence permit for purposes of scientific research,
- temporary residence permit for purposes of medical treatment,
- residence permit on humanitarian grounds,
- temporary protection,
- as a recognised refugee or an asylum-applicant for whose application there is no final decision in a procedure as defined by law, and
- a legal status as regulated by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations or Vienna Convention on Representations of States in Their Relations with International Organisations of Universal Nature.

Procedure for issuance of permanent residence permit

The Permanent residence permit shall be issued upon an application of a foreigner. The foreigner concerned is also obliged to submit a valid and recognised travel document or its certified copy as well as evidence proving that the above conditions for issuance of the permit are fulfilled, together with the application. The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall bring a decision upon an application for permanent residence.

6. Asylum system

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia grants the right of asylum to the following categories of persons:

- **recognised refugee** (refugee according to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees)- Recognised refugee is a foreigner who owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or his political opinion, is outside the state of his nationality and is unable, or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that state; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the state in which he had a habitual place of residence, is unable, or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.
- **person under humanitarian protection** (in compliance with Article 3 of the 1950 Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Article 3 of the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)- A person under humanitarian protection is a foreigner to whom the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall grant the right of asylum on humanitarian grounds and give a permission to remain within its territory because he/she would be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in the state of his nationality, or in which, not having a nationality, he has a habitual place of residence.

Procedure

An asylum seeker, pursuant to Macedonian Law, is a foreigner who seeks protection from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from the day he/she has approached the Ministry of Interior until the day of issuance of a final decision in the procedure for recognition of the right of asylum. If positive, he/she would become a recognized refugee. An asylum seeker must apply for recognition of the right to asylum when entering the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The request shall be declared to the police at the border crossing point or to the nearest police station. The police station is obliged to provide escort for the asylum seeker to the Section for Asylum, where he/she shall submit an asylum application.

An asylum-seeker who has illegally entered or has been illegally staying in the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and is coming directly from a state where his life or freedom have been threatened shall not be punished, if he/she immediately applies for the recognition of the right to asylum at the Section for Asylum or reports himself/herself at the nearest police station, and gives explanations for his/her application for recognition of the right to asylum, as well as valid reasons for his illegal entry or stay.

The asylum application shall be submitted in writing or orally (noted in minutes) in Macedonian language, or if this is not possible, in the language of the country of origin or in some of the foreign languages in common use. While submitting an asylum application, the asylum seeker shall be photographed and fingerprinted. While submitting an asylum application, the Section for Asylum shall issue to the asylum seeker a sealed attestation, with the number and date of submission.

If the asylum-seeker is in possession of documents, these need to be attached to the application when they are necessary for the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum, and in particular:

- travel document;
- visas, residence permits, or other similar documents;
- identity card or other identification documents;
- a birth and marriage certificate (where possible);

- travel tickets and similar, as well as,
- other papers or documents that could be of significance in the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum.

The documents are kept at the Section for Asylum during the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum, and the asylum seeker will be provided with photocopies of the submitted documents and issued with an attestation that the originals are with the Section for Asylum.

Decision Taking and Types of Decisions

On the basis of the facts and evidence established during the procedure, the Section for Asylum shall take a decision to recognize the status of recognized refugee, a decision to recognize the status of a person under humanitarian protection, or a decision rejecting the application for recognition of the right to asylum. The decision by which the asylum application is rejected shall state the reasons, owing to which the application has not been accepted, the advice on legal remedy and the time frame within which the person is obliged to leave the territory of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which cannot be less than 15 days from the day on which the decision will become effective.

Rights of a asylum seekers

During the decision-making procedure for the recognition of the right to asylum, asylum seekers have the right to:

- residence;
- accommodation and care in a Reception Centre or other place of accommodation assigned by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- basic health services;
- work only within the Reception Centre or the other place of accommodation assigned by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; and,
- communication with the High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as with non-governmental humanitarian organizations for the purpose of providing legal assistance in the course of the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy takes care of the provision of means of subsistence and healthcare for the asylum seekers, while they find themselves in the Reception Centre or other place of accommodation assigned by this Ministry.

Rights of the recognized asylum seekers

- personal Status and the Right of Residence
- accommodation
- financial Assistance
- right to Healthcare
- right to work and Social Security Rights

A recognized refugee has basically the same rights as the Macedonian citizens except for the right to vote, founding and membership of political organizations; they cannot practice a profession, engage in wage-earning employment or found associations of citizens or political parties in cases when, as a condition, it is prescribed by law that the person is to be a national of the Republic of Macedonia.

7. Family reunification

Temporary residence for purposes of family reunification:

A foreigner, who is a holder of a permanent or one-year temporary residence permit for the purposes of employment, work or self-employment or a foreigner who is from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by origin, shall be granted the right of family reunification with the members of his/her close family who are foreigners, under the following conditions:

Close family member, shall mean a foreigner who is:

- A spouse of the foreigner concerned,
- Minor children of the foreigner or his/her spouse including his/her or his/her spouse's adopted children or minor children being under the custody of the foreigner or his/her spouse as decided by a verdict or decision by the country where adoption or custody was made as well as certified by a competent Macedonian authority. Minor children must be at the age of up to 18 and not married.

As an exception, close family members shall also be considered to be:

- first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line of the foreigner or his/her spouse in case of dependants not enjoying appropriate family support in the domicile country,
- the foreigner's or his/her spouse's children who are of legal age but who are not married and are unable to take care of their needs due to health reasons, and parents of a minor child if it is to the best interests of the child.

Rights of close family members

A close family member of a foreigner who is a holder of temporary residence permit in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall have a right to education, vocational education, employment and self-employment

Conditions for issuance and validity of permit

Temporary residence application for close family members may be submitted by the foreigner who is a holder of a Macedonian residence permit to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The foreigner is obliged to submit the following together with the application evidence:

- his/her legal stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- his/her family relationships,
- stable and regular subsistence means sufficient for him/herself as well as for his/her close family members who intend to stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- ensured accommodation for his/her close family members,
- personal health insurance as well as health insurance for his/her close family members, and
- certified copies of their travel documents.

In case of application for temporary residence for the foreigner's or his/her spouse's minor children and the parental right is shared, together with the application, the foreigner concerned must also submit the consent of the other parent certified by a competent authority in the country in which the other parent resides.

A close family member of a foreigner holding a Macedonian temporary residence permit shall be issued a temporary residence permit with validity of up to one year and it may be extended for the corresponding period of the permit of the foreigner.

A close family member of a foreigner holding a permanent residence permit shall be issued a temporary residence permit with validity of up to one year and it may, under the conditions stipulated by the law, be extended until the requirements for permanent residence are met.

The permit shall not be extended in case it is established that:

- the foreigner and his/her close family members do not cohabit in a real matrimony or family union, and
- there are grounds for suspicion that the marriage with the foreigner holding a residence permit in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or the adoption of or custody over minor children is contracted for convenience.

8. Health care system

The Macedonian health care system includes two types of health insurance: obligatory and voluntary health insurance. The obligatory health insurance is under the jurisdiction of the State Fund for Health Insurance. The voluntary health insurance is implemented by the insurance companies established according to the law on insurance.

For more info please refer to: <http://www.fzo.org.mk/index.htm> <http://www.rzzz.org.mk/>

9. Social insurance system

The Social system in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is under the jurisdiction of the Sector for Social Protection in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The Department for Social Protection is in charge with the system, organization, function and the development of the social protection, living standard of the population, relations between the parents and children, guardianship and adoption, protection of the civil invalids, protection of the refugees, displaced persons and the asylum seekers, juvenile delinquency and social conduct of children, protection of a special groups of persons who are socially excluded, control over the work of the state public and private institutions for social protection, cooperation with NGO's in providing social services to the people.

Department units within the Sector for social protection are:

- Department for social-family and legal protection of the children and family
- Department for protection of persons with physiological invalidity, protection of old people,
- Department for sheltering persons under the humanitarian protection – refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, migrants, persons returned under the readmission agreements,
- Department for insuring the realization of the rights of the social protection
- Department for public and private institutions for social protection
- Department for social protection and sheltering of the social excluded persons.

Contact of the personnel in charge of the Sector for Social Protection:

Director: Zihra Memeti

tel: 02/ 3 106 660

e-mail: zmemeti@mtso.gov.mk

Assistant director: Sofija Spasovska

tel: 02/ 3 106 660

e-mail: sspasovska@mtsp.gov.mk

10. Housing

Adriatik

Str. Naroden front 33

Phone: +389 2 112 776, +389 2 3216 994

<http://www.adriatik93.com.mk/>

Astorija

Phone: +389 2 3110 566, +389 2 3139 068, +389 2 3139 072, Fax: +389 2 3121 030

www.reatletste.com.mk

Bastion

Blvd. Kliment Ohridski 66/1/3

Phone: +389 2 3216 246, +389 2 3124 127

www.bastion.com.mk

Dom-Dizajn

Str. Nikola Trimpare 15, Phone: +389 2 3111 544, 3239 703

<http://www.dom-design.com.mk/>

NEW WAY Ltd.

Gradski zid block 9 shop 2a, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

phone: +389 2 3109 358; fax: +389 2 3128 668

e-mail: realestate@newway.com.mk

web site: www.newway.com.mk

Rebensans

Phone/Fax: +389 2 3134 504

www.rebensans.com.mk

11. Recognition of diplomas

The Law on Higher Education deals with the recognition of diplomas earned abroad. The Information Center for equalization and recognition of foreign high educational qualifications is a body within the Ministry of Education, which is to assist holders of foreign diplomas, obtain recognition of their qualifications in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This Center estimates the type and the degree of the foreign high educational qualifications and compares it with the high educational qualifications that can be obtained on the Macedonian High Educational Institutions. The equality is estimated in accordance with the three qualification cycles envisaged in the Bologna Process within the European high educational field.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also signed the European Convention on the Equivalence of Period of University Study¹⁶- brought in Paris 15.XII.1956.

Some of the main points made in the Convention from 1956 year are that the states that have ratified this convention would provide recognition of a period of study spent at a university of another member country of the Council of Europe *as equivalent* to a similar period spent at a home university (Article 2); than determination of the conditions under which an examination passed or a course taken by the student during a period of study at a university of another member country of the Council of Europe may be considered *as equivalent* to a similar examination passed or a course taken by a student at his home university (Article3). Yet the European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study applies to the field of modern languages.

12. Support services to migrants

- **International Organization for Migration Skopje** - IOM Mission in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia operates at different levels of the migration management, addressing diverse migration challenges and providing assistance - among others - to migrants and potential migrants, governmental institutions, civil society and vulnerable social groups. IOM Programme is designed to ensure humane and orderly migration, including but not limited to areas of capacity building in migration management, return and reintegration, counter-trafficking, border management, community stabilization and socio-economic development and health assistance. <http://www.iomskopje.org.mk/>
- **National Commission Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Irregular Migration** <http://www.nacionalnakomisija.gov.mk/>
- **Open Gate – La Strada** Macedonia is a non-government, non-profitable organization registered in September 2000, it works on the prevention and psychological and social support rendered to potential victims of trafficking in human beings. In the organization works 18 women from different professions, as social workers, psychologists, lawyers, journalists, economists, etc - <http://www.lastrada.org.mk/eng/info.htm>
- **For Happy childhood** is a non-governmental organization whose goal is to offer support to individuals (children, youth and women) and groups (families) under different risk, especially risk from violence (sex, trafficking), organizing training's for volunteers and professionals, that work with risk groups - http://www.happy-childhood.com.mk/happy_childhood.htm
- **Anti Trafficking NGO Sector Network** <http://www.antitrafficking-partners.org.mk/english/indexen.asp>
- **Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia** - [National Referral Mechanism for the victims of trafficking in human beings](#)
- **Macedonian language courses for foreigners** http://www.csglobal.com.mk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=71&Itemid=82
- **St George's School of English** is of the largest and the most successful English language schools in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. ST George's School also organizes courses for Macedonian language. <http://stgeorgemk.com.mk/courses.html>

13. Acquisition of citizenship/nationality

Law on Citizenship – Macedonia Article 1

"This Act shall govern the manner and conditions for acquisition and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Macedonia, establishment of citizenship, competent public authority for resolving such cases, certification of citizenship and keeping evidence of the nationals of the Republic of Macedonia."

Acquisition of a citizenship – Article 3

Citizenship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall be acquired by:

1. origin
2. birth within the territory of the Republic of Macedonia
3. naturalization, and
4. international treaties.

Full text of the Law on Citizenship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:
<http://www.legislationline.org/legislation.php?tid=11&lid=2197>

14. Other relevant contact information

- Government portal http://www.vlada.mk/english/index_en.htm
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mfa.gov.mk/default.aspx?ItemID=238>
- Diplomatic and consular representations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:
<http://www.mfa.gov.mk/default1.aspx?ItemID=315>
- Ministry of Education <http://www.mon.gov.mk/en/home>