

## THE SECURITY SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA IN THE FUNCTION OF PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PANDEMIC CONDITIONS

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**Abstract:** As a national interest of every country in the world, is to build an effective security system that will appropriately and timely respond to any security challenge. Experiences show that the security system is designed and built strategically and in long term, but modern risks and threats impose completely different dynamics where the security of the critical infrastructure and the vital national capacities are put in question.

Modern global trends impose modern security challenges, due to which national structures must upgrade the security system in a daily basis for early detection and elimination of the new risks and threats. One of those global challenges is the current pandemic caused by COVID 19 that was initially detected as a health issue but for a short period of time made a real confusion in the security systems on a global level.

Republic of North Macedonia did not remain immune to the stated security challenge. The functioning of the critical infrastructure takes place in conditions of a pandemic and the negative reflection from the consequences that the appearance of the virus left, is felt in the economic, security, political, sociological and cultural, and many other social segments. The state authorities in accordance to the World Health Organization are taking appropriate measures and activities to ensure the necessary level of protection of citizens and state capacities, but the determination whether that is enough will be made through the research that follows.

**Keywords:** security, security system, risks and threats, pandemic, critical infrastructure

### 1. Conception of security sector

The organizations within the state whose scope of competence is achievement of the security and defense of the country or achievement of the required level of security and social interests, are an integral part of every security sector.

The organization of the security sector includes a network of institutions and organizations that carry out in the most efficient way, the defense, protection and security activity at all the established levels and for all security needs. The organization and the management of all security institutions comes from their particularity in a certain situation

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that arises from the specificity and the nature of their activity and the specificity of their work. Thereunder, the organization and management with the safety is understood as a symbiosis of activities that are oriented towards achievement if the security activity, but also towards those that ensure freely implementation, until the assurance of the specific goals and results of the process itself. Basically, the theory of organization of the security sector is aimed at studying the processes and perceiving the perspectives that should contribute to an effective security system, by operationalizing new solutions in the organizational-structural model of work, more efficient management of security processes, etc. (Bakreski, 2010).

The security sector includes all the institutions and structures of the security sector whose duty is to protect the society from crime, disorder and violence. This include: the armed forces and their civilian personnel, law enforcement agencies (community police, investigations, border management services, penitentiaries) and intelligence services, as well as their civilian personnel, educational and training institutions and relevant logistics services. The goal is for the security sector to respond to the public needs and to ensure security as a public good. It can also be stated that the security sector includes regulate private entities with highly specified and limited roles related to the property protection related to property protection and theft prevention (<https://securitysectorintegrity.com/institutions-and-organisations/securitysector/>, 30/08/2021).

The role of the security sector is to provide the required level of security as a public good. Therefore, the security sector is subject to the same laws, rules and regulations as any other public institution. Through transparent and reporting policies and practices, the goal of every security provider is to provide effective services in an efficient format. The key resources for society and stakeholders to ensure that the goal is achieved is through contribution in democratic institutions, independent supervision agencies, government and the security sector itself, in the democratic management of the security sector. The management with democratic security sector, is controlled by the democratic civilian control; with the aim to protect the human rights, to respect the rule of law and be accountable for its actions and actions (<https://securitysectorintegrity.com/institutions-and-organisations/securitysector/>, 30/08/2021).

## 2. Critical infrastructure

The term "critical infrastructure" is relatively new and theorists find its roots in the mid-1990s and is closely related to energy security, telecommunications, energy systems, gas and oil pipelines, the economy, transport, water supply etc. (DCSINT 2006: 1: Mitrevska, Mileski, Mikac, 2019).

In terminological tenor, the critical infrastructure in Canada refers to processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets and services essential to the health, safety, security or economic well – being of citizens and the effective functioning of the government. The critical infrastructure can be independent or interrelated and interdependent between and across provinces, territories and national borders. Disruption of the critical infrastructure can result in catastrophic loss of life, adverse economic effects and significant damage to the public confidence. (<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrct/crtcl-nfrstrctr/ci-iec-en.aspx>, 30/08/2021).

In the United States, critical infrastructure refers to facilities and cyber systems that are vital to the United States and disabling or destroying them would impair physical or economic security, public health, or national security. The nation's critical infrastructure provides the basic services that support American society (<https://www.dhs.gov/topic/critical-infrastructure-security>, 30/08/2021).

The European Union defines critical infrastructure as means or systems essential for the maintenance of vital social functions, health, safety, security and the economic or social well-being of people. European critical infrastructure is a critical infrastructure in the countries of the European Union whose disruption or destruction would have a significant impact on at least 2 countries of the European Union. (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:jl0013&from=EN>, 30/08/2021).

Critical infrastructure is of fundamental importance for the functioning, stability and security of a country or region. It incorporates important resources and participation in key sectors such as energy, telecommunications, transport, water supply, health and finance. Attacks or failures on critical infrastructure can have wide-ranging and serious consequences, including disruption of services, economic losses and potentially endangering the safety and lives of people.

The abovementioned shows that states recognize the importance of protecting critical infrastructure and apply measures to prevent and respond to possible threats or attacks. These measures include setting safety standards, surveillance and monitoring of infrastructure, training of personnel, development of plans in cases of crisis, and information sharing and cooperation with relevant actors, including the private sector.

The goal is to reduce the risk of incidents, to enable quick response and return to normal functioning in case of unforeseen events, and to protect public safety and the safety of citizens. Critical infrastructure is considered strategically important and its protection and security are the focus of the interest and efforts of the state and competent institutions.

The Republic of North Macedonia does not yet have a legal definition of the term critical infrastructure and the terminology of facilities of special importance for security and defense is most often used.

In conditions of COVID 19 pandemic, the health facilities and the health workers who take care of the patients with COVID 19 are especially affected. In that direction, the police and the army in the Republic of North Macedonia are involved in the protection of this type of critical infrastructure as support and protection.

### **3. Consequences of endangering critical infrastructure**

The threats or attacks on critical infrastructure can have serious consequences affecting different aspects of a country or region. All of these can cause:

1. Disruption of services: Attacks on critical infrastructure can cause disruption of services provided through it. For example, hacking attacks on power grids can lead to power outages, affecting the functioning of homes, businesses, and other institutions.
2. Economic losses: Disruption of critical infrastructure can cause significant economic losses. Businesses may be forced to cease operations, resulting in large financial losses. It also affects the global economy, especially in cases where the world's important critical infrastructures are threatened.

3. Threat to security: Attacks on critical infrastructure can create a threat to the security of citizens. For example, the disruption of communication networks can limit communication possibilities in emergency or crisis situations, which can increase risk and delay rescue interventions.
4. Loss of trust: When critical infrastructure is compromised and not successfully protected, it can cause a loss of trust in the system and government. Citizens may feel resentment and distrust towards government institutions and their ability to protect their interests and security.
5. National Inefficiency: If critical infrastructure is threatened or destroyed, the state may find itself in a state of ineffectiveness to respond and rebuild. This can reduce the state's capacity to respond to other natural or man-made disasters, further increasing risk and consequences.

These consequences only confirm the importance of effective protection and security of critical infrastructure for the stability and security of a country or region. Regular monitoring, protection and countermeasure planning are critical to minimizing the risk and consequences of critical infrastructure attacks.

#### **4. The role of the crisis management center in protecting critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

The Crisis Management Center was established to propose decisions and provide ongoing consultations, coordination, timely response, efficiency and proper use of resources available in case of crisis, as well as timely ensuring of quality and realistic assessment of security threats of the Republic of North Macedonia from risks and dangers (<https://www.cuk.gov.mk,30/08/2021>).

The Crisis Management Center, as an independent body of the state administration with the position and function of a directorate and in the capacity of a legal entity, is provided to perform the following activities:: (<https://www.cuk.gov.mk, 30/08/2021>).

- Ensures continuity in inter-ministerial and international cooperation, consultations and coordination in crisis management;
- Preparation and updating of a single assessment of the risks and dangers for resolving the crisis situation;
- Proposes measures and activities for resolving the crisis situation and performs other activities determined by law.

In conditions of COVID 19 pandemic and declared crisis situation of this type of danger, the Center for Crisis Management undertakes the following measures and activities: (Vejseli. Tarcugovski. Risteski et al., 2016).

- Activation of the assessment and plans for response to crisis in its scope, acceptance and introduction in a situation of persons referred by the entities in the crisis management system;
- Coordination of overall activities between all participants that are take part in the crisis management;
- Information processing of the obtained data necessary for conducting operations;
- Making the work map (NICS tool, GIS program mapping and manually on the map);

- Making an assessment of the needs for dealing with the crisis situation;
- Coordinating and control of implementation of the conclusions, decisions, recommendations and measures adopted by the General Staff for Crisis Management, the Assessment Group and the Management Committee;
- For the needs of the AGMC, the Assessment Group and the Management Committee prepare reports, analyzes, information, reports and other acts based on the obtained coordinated data;
- Organizes international cooperation and coordinates international assistance;
- Organizes and activates a system for public alarm of the population, Transmission of data and information (open and classified) through the means of communication available to the Crisis Management Center and other entities;
- Issuing of a special permit - a pass for movement and work in the areas affected by the crisis;
- Coordination of information to the population through the media.

## **5. The role of the ministry of internal affairs in protection of critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

The Law on internal affairs in Article 2 stipulates that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for: (Official Gazette of RM no. 42/14).

- realization of the system of public and state security;
- prevention of violent destruction of the democratic institutions established by the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia;
- protection of the life, personal security and property of the citizens;
- preventing the incitement of national, racial or religious hate and intolerance;
- prevention of committing criminal acts and violation, detection and apprehension of their perpetrators and taking other measures determined by law to prosecute the perpetrators of those acts;
- civil affairs and - other matters determined by this and special law.

The Ministry, within its competence, provides professional assistance to citizens, legal entities and state bodies in exercising the prescribed rights and obligations, protection of life and personal safety of citizens and property.

The security function is generally exercised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs through its operational segment, the Public Security Bureau, i.e. the Police.

The police in declared crisis caused by the outbreak of SARS CoV2 virus, besides the regular police work, has to perform wide range of responsibilities such as support of the health professional workers, security of the health facilities, implementation of the measures and responsibilities of the Government of RSM related to prevention and spreading of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Army of the Republic of North Macedonia is involved in supporting the Police in conditions of a declared crisis situation with part of its capacities and on the basis of previously built laws and bylaws.

## **6. The role of the army in protection of critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

The role of the Army in the protection of critical infrastructure is closely related to the National Defense Policy and Doctrine, which are based on the basic objectives of the security policy of the Republic of North Macedonia (<http://www.arm.mil.mk>, 30/08/2021):

- To protect the life and personal safety of citizens;
- To guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of the state, political freedoms, civil and human rights, including the rights of religious, ethnic and other minorities;
- To guarantee the material well-being and prosperity of the citizens.

In that way, the Army in conditions of crisis caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, actively involves in the protection of critical infrastructure through the support it provides to the police, i.e. with part of its material, technical and health facilities that they possess within its own formations.

The tactical operational action of the Army in such circumstances is realized through:

- Putting into operation the operational plans and internal procedures for work in conditions of crisis;
- Putting in function of material-technical and human resources as support of the competent subjects in the system;
- Logistical support of the engaged material-technical and human resources.

## **7. The role of the ministry of health in the protection of critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

The health system takes a series of measures to reduce the spread and number of patients, but also measures to reduce the stroke of a large number of patients over a long period of time in order for the health system to absorb all patients and respond appropriately to their clinical picture. Therefore, the health system responded with mobilization at all levels of health care (primary, secondary and tertiary health care), with the involvement of the scientific research health sector, with emergency organization and schedule of work and working hours, change of jobs, improvement of working conditions in health care institutions and their employees, but also inclusion of the private health sector which is part of the network of public health care institutions (<https://www.kas.de/documents/281657/281706/Belegexemplar+2020+Publ+Security+and+COVID19+MKD.pdf/4ce60c858b4cc61176eb4951e8cc9c2?version=1.0&t=1607077457698>, 30/08/2021.)

As the main organ of the measures and activities for dealing with the consequences caused by the SARS CoV virus, the Ministry of Health has the following tasks (Vejseli. Tarcugovski. Risteski et al., 2016):

- Activation of operational plans and internal procedures for work in crisis;
- Organizing the health care of the population in case of crisis;
- Organizing first aid and care for the injured in the areas affected by the crisis;
- Monitoring of air, water, land and animal products pollution;
- Monitoring the health status of the population;
- Protection of the population from infectious diseases, from the harmful effects of gases, air, water and land pollution;
- Control of food products and items for general use;

- Monitoring the hygienic-epidemiological situation;
- Suppressing and delaying the spread of possible epidemics;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the used interventions;
- Provision of medicines, medical aids, medical devices, medical equipment, sanitary devices and materials.

## **8. The role of the protection and rescue directorate in the protection of critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

Protection and rescue in the Republic of North Macedonia is organized as a unique system for detecting and preventing the occurrence and removing the consequences of natural disasters and other accidents and providing assistance in peace, emergency and war. Protection and rescue is a connected process for planning, programming, organizing, directing, commanding, coordinating, implementing, financing and supervising for timely and effective prevention as well as preparing, acting and removing the causes and consequences of natural disasters and other accidents. Protection and rescue in the Republic of North Macedonia is organized and carried out by the state authorities, the authorities of the state administration, the authorities of the local self-government units, public enterprises, public institutions and services, commercial companies, associations of citizens, citizens and the forces for protection and rescue, of a way regulated by law, as well as by norms, standards and rules of technical practice. Subjects for protection and rescue are obliged to organize protection and rescue of their employees and people found in the facilities at the time of occurrence of the natural disaster or other accident. (Law on Protection and Rescue, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 36/04) The protection and rescue system in the Republic of North Macedonia, in accordance with existing law, is implemented through: (Protection and Rescue Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 36/04)

- taking preventive measures to mitigate and prevent the occurrence of possible dangers;
- reporting and warning about possible dangers and giving instructions for protection, rescue and assistance through the single reporting system;
- training, training and training exercises for protection, rescue and assistance;
- organizing the forces for protection and rescue and establishing and maintaining other forms of preparedness for protection, rescue and assistance;
- self-protection, self-help and mutual aid;
- mobilization and activation of forces and means for protection and rescue;
- determination and implementation of protective measures;
- rescue and assistance;
- removal of the consequences of natural disasters and other accidents, up to the provision of basic living conditions;
- supervision of the implementation of protection and rescue;
- providing aid to areas that have suffered large-scale damage from natural disasters and other accidents;
- providing assistance to other countries that have suffered large-scale damages from natural disasters and other accidents, and that have expressed a need for it;
- receiving aid from other countries;

- identification and assessment of hazards;
- maintaining a database of all sources of risks and dangers from natural disasters and other accidents and
- preparation of risk assessment from natural disasters and other accidents and plans for protection and rescue and updating them.

As an independent body of the state administration with the capacity of a legal entity and the competence to carry out operational activities for protection and rescue is the Directorate for Protection and Rescue, which performs the following tasks: (Law on Protection and Rescue, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 36 /04)

- develops the Plan for protection and rescue from natural disasters and other accidents;
- makes the Risk Assessment from natural disasters and other accidents in accordance with the supervision in cooperation with the competent authorities of the state administration;
- organizes and prepares the protection and rescue system;
- proposes measures for equipping and developing the protection and rescue system in the State;
- ensures the functioning of the system for the prevention and detection of the occurrence and removal of the consequences of natural disasters and other accidents;
- ensures the timely engagement and efficient use of the Republic's protection and rescue forces and rapid response teams;
- takes care of the full implementation of protection and rescue measures;
- ensures the realization of the strategic and mid-term goals for protection and rescue;
- participates in the filling and implementation of the mobilization of the republican forces for protection and rescue;
- perceives the needs for development and equips the republican forces for protection and rescue;
- takes care of securing the material reserves for the needs of protection and rescue;
- performs control and assessment of the readiness of the forces for protection and rescue;
- organizes and implements training, training and exercises for the needs of protection and rescue;
- develops curricula and training programs for protection and rescue;
- plans and implements international cooperation in the field of protection and rescue;
- plans, organizes and ensures training activities and participation in collective protection and rescue systems outside the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia;
- develops professional guidelines in the field of protection and rescue;
- performs other tasks established by law.

Taking into account the legal definitions of this state body, there is no need to comment too much about its role in the protection and rescue system, as well as in the prevention and protection of critical infrastructure. In the context of a pandemic, the competences of the directorate move in the direction of supporting the competent institutions that are responsible for the activities to deal with the consequences of the pandemic, as well



as the engagement of operational teams for protection and rescue in the field with the necessary protective equipment and appropriate material and technical resources.

### **9. The role of the ministry of justice in protecting critical infrastructure during pandemic**

The Ministry of Justice has a wide range of competences, which are based on Article 17 of the Law on the Organization and Work of State Administration Bodies, and they refer to: (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 58/00)

- The judiciary, the public prosecutor's office, the public attorney's office;
- Criminal liability and liability for misdemeanors;
- Notarial work, advocacy and other types of legal assistance;
- Inheritance, ownership, real rights and obligation relations;
- International legal assistance;
- The enforcement of sanctions for crimes and misdemeanors;
- The organization and management of penitentiary and correctional institutions;
- Amnesty and abolition;
- Forensic expertise, expertise and super-expertise;
- The electoral system;
- Criminal, misdemeanor, litigation, non-trial, executive procedure;
- The performance of works that do not fall under the competence of another body of the state administration
- Performs other tasks established by law.

In the direction of the above, it can be concluded that the Ministry of Justice has a range of competences that relate to the maintenance of the legal order of the state, and precisely that aspect in the conditions of the COVID pandemic proved to be quite vulnerable and sensitive. Namely, the introduction of certain restrictions on the freedoms and rights of the citizens in order to protect the health and life of the citizens proved to be a real challenge for the Republic of North Macedonia. In the first half of 2020, the Republic of North Macedonia declared a state of emergency for the first time in the history of its existence, a state that is a Constitutional category and has no corresponding law and by-laws. The Ministry of Justice participated in the drafting of decisions with legal force, which amended and supplemented certain legal regulations in the direction of enabling the necessary level of legality of the national system for dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. From the perspective of critical infrastructure, the Ministry of Justice is part of the working group and participates in the drafting of the Law on Critical Infrastructure in the Republic of North Macedonia, which is in the final phase of its implementation, as well as other laws and by-laws that refer to critical infrastructure.

### **10. The role of the ministry of finance in protecting critical infrastructure in pandemic conditions**

The mission of the Ministry of Finance is through successful management of public finances to achieve higher economic growth and improvement of the quality of life of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, while the vision of the Ministry of Finance

is the realization of progressive ideas from its domain to contribute to the strengthening of the functional market economy that is based on knowledge, innovation and sustainable development. (<https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%bc%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%b8-%d0%b2%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>, посетено на 25/05/2023)

Taking into account the role of financial resources for the functioning of the state in conditions of a pandemic, we will emphasize that this authority is the key to providing the necessary financial resources of the state in order to effectively respond to any threat in conditions of a pandemic.

### 10.1. Customs administration

The Customs Administration is a body of the Ministry of Finance that carries out its competences on the entire territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, and performs the tasks of its domain through the Central Administration and five customs offices. The central administration, whose seat is in Skopje, coordinates and manages the customs authorities in the entire territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the customs offices coordinate and manage the corresponding region. The Customs Administration and its employees, when performing their duties, act in accordance with the Law on the Customs Administration, the Customs Law, the Law on the Customs Tariff, the Law on Excise Taxes, the Law on Customs Measures for the Implementation of Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, the Law on Performing Representation Works in customs procedures and other laws in which the competences for the actions of the Customs Administration are prescribed. ( <https://www.customs.gov.mk/mk-MK//nasata-uloga.nspix> , accessed 25/05/2023)

Basic competences of the Customs Administration are: (<https://www.customs.gov.mk/mk-MK//nasata-uloga.nspix>, accessed 25/05/2023)

1. Implementation of customs supervision, customs clearance of goods, customs control, implementation of excise supervision on the entire territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, investigative and intelligence measures in order to prevent, detect and investigate customs violations and crimes;
2. Protection of safety and security of people, animals and plants, protection of objects of historical, artistic and archaeological value, copyright and other rights, as well as other measures of trade policy prescribed by law;
3. Implementation of customs controls after customs clearance;
4. Implementation of internal controls and audits in all spheres of customs operations and the overall functioning of the Customs Administration, in order to detect cases of non-compliance with laws and internal acts and abuses in the performance of official duties by employees;
5. Conduct of misdemeanor proceedings, imposition of misdemeanor sanctions for committed customs, excise and foreign exchange offences, as well as initiation of proceedings for criminal offenses established by law.
6. The Customs Administration and its employees, when performing their duties, act uncompromisingly in accordance with the Constitution, laws, ratified international agreements and other regulations adopted on the basis of the law and ensure their equal, impartial, objective application and are guided by the following principles and values: professionalism, fairness, simplicity, efficiency, transparency, fight

against corruption, leadership, social responsibility, care for human capacities and management according to international quality standards.

7. The Customs Administration is the only competent authority for the administration of excise duties on the entire territory of the country. The customs administration is also responsible for carrying out controls on holders of excise permits and excise approvals, as well as participants in trade operations that include sales of excise goods - mineral oils, alcohol and alcoholic beverages, tobacco goods and passenger cars.

The Covid pandemic was characterized by certain specifics that made it really complex and complex for its neutralization by the competent entities, both at the global and national level. Taking into account the biological characteristic of the virus, this body, in charge of controlling and supervising the transportation of goods and persons at the borders of the state, had a key task in ensuring the safety of citizens and preventing the spread of the virus after the following:

- The Customs Administration took over and controlled the transportation of medical equipment, medicines, protective equipment and other resources needed to fight against Covid-19. With strict controls and the application of hygiene and safety protocols and measures, customs officers ensured that goods and materials were properly processed and delivered to their destinations.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the customs administration has strengthened its cooperation with health and other competent institutions. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other relevant stakeholders, the customs administration enabled the rapid flow of medical equipment and materials, which was critical for health facilities and health personnel, but also controlled compliance with the measures and prohibitions enacted by the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia.
- The customs administration also took measures to control passengers entering and leaving the country. Health checks, application of isolation and quarantine measures were carried out for passengers showing symptoms or at risk of Covid-19. This helped prevent the spread of the virus and protect public health.
- The customs administration actively participated in the exchange of information and good practice with other customs services and international organizations. This enabled the rapid adoption of the latest protocols and recommendations for the processing and control of goods and persons, as well as for harmonizing measures with international standards..

According to the results and the recognition of their role, the customs administration of the Republic of North Macedonia showed the ability to adapt and efficiency in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Their efforts and cooperation with the relevant institutions had a significant contribution in protecting the safety and health of citizens and in minimizing the negative consequences of the pandemic. According to the results and the recognition of their role, the customs administration of the Republic of North Macedonia showed the ability to adapt and efficiency in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Their efforts and cooperation with the relevant institutions had a significant contribution in protecting the safety and health of citizens and in minimizing the negative consequences of the pandemic.

**Conclusions:**

The Security Sector for protection of the critical infrastructure in the Republic of North Macedonia, in addition to the mentioned Ministries, also incorporates: the Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and other competent institutions.

The coordination between the institutions in conditions of COVID 19 pandemic is actualized within the General Staff of the Crisis Management Center and the General Coordination Crisis Staff established in the Government of North Macedonia.

The security sector in the Republic of North Macedonia is effectively dealing with security challenges that threaten critical infrastructure. There is a need for a legal solution to the critical infrastructure and determination of the competencies of each institution in order to protect the critical infrastructure.

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