



**GREEN  
PROGRAM  
OF DOM  
2016-2020**

*(amended in consultation with the citizens)*

**WE HAVE A RIGHT  
TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT!**



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# Respected fellow citizens,

We present to you DOM's Green manifesto for the 2016-2020 period as our offer for these Parliamentary elections. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT! Clean air and water, healthy food, green nature and humane living conditions are necessary for the survival of humans and nature. People are pillaging nature, production and consumption are tremendous, and planet Earth is responding with climate change and threats to human survival.

Global trends are recurring at home in Macedonia. Those with political power stand behind big business led by profit at the cost of health and the environment. DOM raised its voice for democratic changes, a lawful state and respect for human rights and freedoms. Because green politics are a concept of a democratic state with social justice and equal opportunities for all. Which means not discriminating against anyone on the basis of political, ethnic or religious identification or on the basis of beliefs, physical condition, sexual orientation or age. DOM believes that PEOPLE DO EXIST in Macedonia with the capacity, responsibility and honesty to improve the state of education, science, culture, healthcare, urbanism, sport...

DOM's green priorities are: the protection of the environment, sustainable urban development, green non-polluting economy with green jobs, renewable energy and energy efficiency, ecotourism, ecoagriculture and healthy food, waste and water management.

DOM continues to vigorously act even in these complex political occasions. Sometimes understood and widely supported for a certain good idea, sometimes not. It is not easy to be in the political centre, let alone a green one, under conditions of intense polarization. The black-and-white world will not give in, it has refused our proposal for a single electoral district and open lists with an equal distribution of men and women on them.

We are not giving up, we will continue with our peaceful but persistent action on our green manifesto themes, open to collaboration with every comrade. We are aware that we cannot close the distance

between two shores, but we can build a bridge of our ecological themes that connect us all as people who share the same environment. GREEN UNITES US.

These are hard times for Macedonia and its citizens. From without, unjustly blocked for two decades which has terribly frustrated us. From within, we are blocking ourselves, the citizens are divided and in all spheres we are met with Hobbes' "man is wolf to man". We are only a handful of people—relatives, neighbors, onetime friends. No battle won for government, power or riches is worth the loss of friendship, neighborly coffees together or the decent "good day" uttered as fellow citizens and passers-by on the same streets. There is no future for us without regaining normality, towards democratic dialog and tolerance for differences. We have to come back to ourselves and to that which is human in us.

TO REMAIN HUMAN is very important, so too is to stand by the principles in which you believe. No pressure can move us from the green ideology; it is now mature and more understandable. Parallel with the democratization processes in Macedonia and the creation of a functional democratic state there must also be conditions created for humane living in healthy environments.

Respected fellow citizens, DOM claims that WE HAVE A RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT and we have a duty to fight for it—all together.

With respect,

Liljana Popovska

**GREEN PROGRAM OF DOM  
2016-2020**





# 1. HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

## 1.1. CLIMATE CHANGE

### Current state

With the increase of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane etc.) in the atmosphere that is mostly due to the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) and unbridled deforestation, the human impact on climate change continually grows and the consequences could be fatal for humanity. Floods, droughts, rapid change of weather, strong winds, losing biodiversity, viruses and bacterial diseases, are just some of the consequences of climate change.

The whole world recognized the importance of climate change at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris where 195 countries adopted the first universal and law-binding agreement with which to limit the increase in global temperature under 2 degrees Celsius, that is to maintain it at 1.5 degrees Celsius. With this agreement, the countries marked the end of the fossil fuel era and the long-term drive towards sustainable development of low-carbon economy. Still, the stipulated so-called “intended nationally determined contributions” that represent goals for each country for decreasing greenhouse gases are not enough to achieve this goal. That is, even if the goals of the “intended nationally determined contributions” are met the planet Earth will heat up by 2.7 degrees Celsius and the consequences will be catastrophic. Because of this, the agreement provides for evaluations of “intended nationally determined contributions” every 5 years and calls for setting more ambitious goals by the states. The agreement also provides for a financing system and the mobilization of 100 billion dollars on behalf of developed countries by 2025 with which undeveloped and developing countries will be financed. All countries that direct their development toward low-carbon economy will have the opportunity to use finances from the “climate change fund”. The Republic of Macedonia through the European Union funds will have the opportunity to undertake projects and plan investments for achieving the goals from the document with “intended nationally determined contributions” concerning the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

## Priorities

DOM will be committed to aligning the goals for reducing greenhouse gasses with the European Union. Namely, in the document with “intended nationally determined contributions” the Republic of Macedonia strives to reduce greenhouse gasses by 30% by 2030, while the European Union aims to reduce them by 40% by 2030. DOM will actively participate in the evaluation process of the document with “intended nationally determined contributions” and will be committed to setting more ambitious goals that will be in alignment with the European Union’s developmental direction.

The realization of the goals of this document is predicated on financial resources. DOM will be committed to creating a Climate Change Fund which will be handled by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The fund will have a mechanism through which financial resources will be granted with the aim of investing in the development of low-carbon economy, that is, the development of renewable sources of energy and increased measures of energy efficiency.

The increase in technological and human capacity, education and knowledge are a precondition for using the climate change funds which the European Union and the United Nations have at their disposal. DOM will lobby the relevant institutions to invest in the development of educated cadre that will be able to create and realize projects directed at the development of low-carbon economy.

The prevention of natural disasters and the securing of ecological safety are priorities for DOM. As part of the European Green family, DOM will enable regional and international cooperation in the field of climate change. The consequences of climate change do not recognize political borders. Natural disasters such as floods or droughts impact all citizens of the affected countries. Establishing a system for the exchange of information and knowledge, experience and projects on an international level, the creation of common mechanisms for aiding in natural disasters, and the development of regional projects that will apply for international funding are part of the activities that DOM will undertake to manage climate change.

## 1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### Current State

We have a constitutional right to a healthy environment.

Do we in reality exercise it?

The environment has a high position in the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia as a foundational value of the legal order. The constitutional provisions clearly decree that **everyone has a right to a healthy environment and has a duty to advance and protect the environment.** The competent authorities are bound to secure conditions for exercising this right. **In reality, the environment is not a priority and the citizens are feeling the consequences!**

The Republic of Macedonia has adopted a range of strategies in the field of environmental protection but their implementation is a big challenge and is unfolding at a slow pace because of a lack of political will and human, technical and financial resources. The reports from the European Commission note quite a small improvement regarding the necessary strengthening of the administrative capacities.

The environment is consciously sacrificed at the expense of satisfying the appetites of short-sighted politicians and domestic and foreign companies and investors. There is a marked tendency to evade discussing environmental problems and to keep quiet about ecological catastrophes that happen every day and every place.

**DOM is working and will continue to work in the direction of changing how politicians and all concerned parties approach the environment so as to enable the citizens to exercise their guaranteed right to a healthy environment.**

**Therefore, DOM considers that more funds are needed to protect the environment.** A radical change is needed in political priorities regarding budget allocation and the transfer of funds to developmental activities and the solving of the most incendiary issues that threaten the citizens' right to a healthy life.

### What are the incendiary environmental issues?

The loss of natural resources, the degradation of the environment and climate change are challenges society is facing on a global scale. Though, in Macedonia these problems are even more pronounced as authorities act as if the natural resources and treasures will last forever.

The procedures for integrating the environmental issues in the rest of the sectors when drafting laws, strategies and investment projects have serious flaws.

According to the yearly environmental reports, Macedonia is not a green country. The development of the economy in Macedonia is unsustainable. The cities are suffocated because of intense and unplanned construction and the citizens live under conditions of polluted air, insufficient green spaces and ineffectively organized public transport.

Often when developing infrastructural projects water supply sources are jeopardized, zones for the protection of biodiversity are encroached on and large areas of forest are cut down. The inspection services are insufficient to stop or reduce environmental offences or serious ecological crimes. This is why further staffing of the State Environmental Inspectorate is needed.

## **Urban Development**

National and local authorities have brought about the complete destruction of the planning process for urban development with constant amendments to the laws that regulate spatial and urban planning. The urban planning hierarchy is disturbed; to incentivize investments in the public and especially in the private sectors it is made possible to complete projects according to the needs of the client while not taking into account societal needs, public interest or sustainable development. Especially that the investor can ask for changes to the primary location conditions granted: for example, for an object with a height of 10 meters he could get a permit from a three-member commission formed by the mayor of the municipality for the object to be with a height of 20 meters without the public being consulted.

If complaints are made about certain urban plans they can always be buffered by directing them to the Law and Rulebooks that are deliberately created to enable the realization of what is commissioned. Consequently, the existing legal framework that regulates urban planning and construction enable the investor's wishes for the greatest possible level and density of construction, that is, for the greatest profit, to be fulfilled; at the same time, there is great leeway to circumvent the urban planning principles for good practice.

The urban plans enable the construction of objects that with their placement and volume contribute to the decrease in sunlight and air circulation and to the disruption of the microclimate. The public greenery is mindlessly destroyed. DOM for 5 years now has fought for the adoption of the Urban Greenery Law that is prepared by the DOM

Environmental Commission together with experts from the institutions and civil society. But the DOM Member of Parliament Liljana Popovska's proposal, backed by other MPs, has been rejected 3 times by the ruling majority.

The existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to service the new constructions that are constantly rising. Water and sewage pipes are constantly bursting because of this. Vehicles are being parked on the streets because not enough parking spaces are created for the new buildings. This also prevents the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists who are threatened categories.

Public transportation is not an appropriate alternative to individual, except in Skopje where it is generally improved and more regular due to the purchase of new buses: In 1989, the Public Transportation Company in Skopje transported about 150 million passengers, while in 2009 it transported a total of 48.6 million passengers (300% reduction). In 2014, 15.7% fewer passengers were transported by public transportation than in 2013. From this it follows that private vehicles are the most popular and it is not uncommon for them to carry only one passenger. In this manner traffic density is increased, traffic jams are created, the safety of drivers and pedestrians is reduced, larger amounts of fuel are consumed and the air is being polluted.

No bike paths are planned when reconstructing and widening the streets. Cyclists regularly die due to the lack of bike paths.

**DOM is committed to adopting a package of laws and measures for quality of life regarding urbanism - in the first six months** - these are DOM's long-standing commitments that have not yet garnered political support:

- Adopting of a real **Urban Greenery Law**  
DOM, in collaboration with experts from the institutions, prepared the **Greenery Law**, following the example of the German and Austrian laws, with an obligation for strict protection of greenery, with norms for 25 square meters of greenery at the city level and 10-30% greenery at the level of construction plots. We proposed the law to the Assembly three times and was rejected. Recently, one so-called Greenery Law was passed without norms and without mechanisms to uphold it.
- Adopting a new **Spatial and Urban Planning Law**  
DOM knows that the numerous amendments to the existing laws have been made in favor of the investors and to the detriment of the citizens and their quality of life. Therefore, it is necessary to change the concept in urbanism and construction. The new legal

amendments will be in accordance with the Urban Greenery Law and at the same time will remove the problematic provisions in the existing law and will provide the citizens real insight into the adoption of future Detailed Urban Plans and City Urban Plans.

- Adopting a **City Architect Law**  
DOM prepared amendments to the Law for the City of Skopje and the Law for Local Self-Government in collaboration with the two associations of architects in order to restore the position of city architect with a Council of City Architects. This initiative was rejected without grounds three times in the Assembly. Legally, the architects will be nominated by the guild associations. The bodies of experts will be a dam against the surge of politicians' wishes and interests to sketch-in objects where they do not belong and where space and aesthetics do not allow it.
- Stop and audit the harmful Detailed Urban Plans and City Urban Plans  
**DOM deems that the chaos in urbanism is unacceptable**, not ecological and anti-democratic, driven exclusively by business interests. The increased pollution and deteriorated conditions of infrastructure have completely disrupted the environment. These activities should be in favor of the citizens, to meet the needs for humane, healthy and quality living.
- **Legal protection for GTC**, the City Shopping Center in Skopje, and other modernist constructions in the big cities.  
To **DOM**, **GTC is a functional modernist construction** and stands as a symbol of modern architectural trends in 20th century Macedonia. GTC and other modernist constructions deserve a dignified modernization, according to the author's principles and world trends for modern objects of this type.

*This package of laws is part of DOM's manifesto for the future government, within the first 100 days of its rule. With their urgent implementation, we will express the sincere will of the majority of citizens for democratic change in this sphere, crucial to the quality of life of all citizens in Macedonia.*

Besides adopting this package of urbanism laws, **DOM is also committed to:**

- change to the status of the Spatial and Urban Planning Agency from the implementer of government and municipal projects to the country's expert planning center;

- restructuring of the public utility companies;
- monitoring noise and placing protective sound barriers;
- Green transportation (public transportation, electric vehicles, bicycles):
  - introducing a “green” zone without vehicles in the city center;
  - banning heavy goods vehicles in the city - using roundabouts;
  - more buses in public transport in all cities where there is an opportunity;
  - introduction of car-pooling and car sharing – sharing a car so as to reduce costs that are divided among passengers, as well as reducing the number of vehicles on the road, with consequent reduction in pollution, consumption, accidents and parking problems;
  - construction of a network of bicycle paths in urban areas and on roads leading outside the city;
  - construction of a tram;
  - subsidies for the purchase of motor vehicles with high environmental standards.

## Industrial Pollution

Industrial polluters are slowly implementing the measures they have promised in accordance with integrated environmental permits for complying with operational plans, the protection of waters and air and safe waste management, in order to obtain work permits. The resources of the inspection bodies are insufficient; some of the inspectors are unqualified and some are under political pressure so that much of the disruption to the environment goes unsanctioned. DOM, together with the citizens, successfully fought against the big polluters, against restarting the Smelter in Veles, against the construction of Ironworks in Negotino in the middle of the vineyards and for starting to solve the old lindane pollution in OHIS.

The state has several times postponed the deadline for introducing environmental permits for companies. Finally, through the insistence and public campaign by DOM, together with NGOs and citizens, the large industrial polluters had to apply the measures set forth in the operational plans by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014. “Makstil” and “Jugohrom” did not fulfill their obligations because of which they were conditioned to reduce production in order to reduce emissions in the environment. DOM filed criminal charges against them that were rejected. But, under

public pressure, “Makstil” closed in the autumn of 2014 until it adjusted ecologically. Jugohrom remained, which is not currently functioning and has announced the installation of appropriate environmental equipment.

The deadline for the 2014 environmental adjustment did not apply to REK Bitola and REK Oslomej that as strategic energy facilities had 2017 set as a deadline by the European Energy Community. It is regrettable that the state hides behind so-called delayed deadlines given from elsewhere, not seeking a solution and not investing funds for saving the citizens from Bitola and Kichevo from the excessive air pollution.

In addition to the large polluters, there are thousands of medium and small polluters, whose operations should be controlled by local environmental inspectors. They are insufficient; they are unequipped and not coordinated with the State Environmental Inspectorate and with the relevant Ministry. Due to all this, the issuance of B integrated environmental permits to industrial polluters, the application of protective measures to reduce harmful emissions and the monitoring of the emissions themselves remain a major challenge.

**DOM is committed to:**

- Properly implementing the process of issuance of integrated environmental permits and permits for alignment with operational plans;
- round-the-clock monitoring of pollution through providing an adequate number of qualified and equipped environmental inspectors at national and local levels, as well as coordination with the State Environmental Inspectorate;
- installing and maintaining measuring stations for pollution in the air and water near all large polluters;
- initiating parliamentary discussions, submitting petitions to the judicial authorities, protests and campaigns, whenever industrial polluters, as well as the competent authorities, do not act in accordance with the legal requirements;
- restarting the Glass Factory in Skopje with a public-private partnership (cheaper glass packaging and possibility for its recycling).



## Energy and Climate

Macedonia depends on the import of more than 40% of the total electricity demand. There is no political will to find a sustainable solution to Macedonia's energy dependence as some structures profit from the import of electricity.

According to some estimates, 8,500-9,000 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted from the energy sector every year. 67% of these emissions are generated by REK Bitola and REK Oslomej, 13% come from transportation, 11% from the manufacturing industry and construction, 3% from the commercial, housing and residential subsectors, 2% from uncontrolled evaporation emissions and 4% from the rest of the subsectors.

The production of energy is carried out with extremely unclean technology that uses low calorific coal. Not one action plan sets out to reduce emissions from existing thermal power plants.

Instead, hydroelectric plants are planned in protected areas (Lukovo Pole and Boskov Most, numerous small hydropower plants), or endless procedures are implemented for the issuance of the construction and management of the plants Chebren and Galiste under concession, for which interested bidders no longer call. In the opinion of experts, one of the reasons why these concession projects fail is the outdated Water Management foundation, that is, the need to revise hydrological data on the basis of which the profitability of these projects is considered.

The quota of 10 megawatts for the production of electricity from solar energy through photovoltaic power plants at a favorable rate has been fulfilled. There are no other measures that would stimulate the production of **green energy** through the entry of new investors in the electricity business. There is no mood to increase the quota because of budget constraints; while investing in projects that are unproductive, unsustainable and generate only temporary employment in construction.

There is no organized approach to climate protection. The adoption of a **Law on Climate Action** is slow and there is still no accurate picture of which areas it will regulate. The National Plan for Climate Change Management is not being implemented. The solutions to the consequences of climate change like floods or droughts always involve huge budget expenditures for the compensation of affected citizens rather than working on prevention. DOM is of the opinion that the cooperation of the competent institutions in the area of climate protection, energy, forestry and agriculture is crucial to the preparation and implementation of a number of strategies.

**DOM is committed to:**

- Amendments to the Energy Strategy and its alignment with the national climate protection plan;
- intensively investing in renewable energy sources while reducing dependence on fossil fuels;
- legal regulation of production and distribution of energy from renewable sources in individual residential buildings;
- installing solar collectors for electricity or hot water in public buildings (kindergartens, schools, student housing, hospitals, sports halls);
- subsidizing households for renewable energy source installations (solar collectors, windmills, geothermal energy, biogas, biomass);
- renovating old public buildings (schools, ambulances, hospitals, kindergartens) and collective housing for increased energy efficiency and reducing electricity bills by 40%;
- subsidizing households to insulate homes for increased energy efficiency and reducing electricity bills by 40%;
- incentivizing businesses with clean technologies;
- Finding systemic solutions for climate protection and environmental safety and providing financial resources for dealing with natural disasters.

**Air**

In all major cities, the amount of suspended particles polluting the air is over the limit for most of the year; Skopje and Tetovo are among the most polluted cities in Europe. The causes for air pollution are traffic, industry, construction, landfills and fireplaces (in heating plants and households) during the winter period.

Air pollution directly affects the health of citizens and leads to the emergence of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Every year about 1000 people die prematurely in Macedonia. About 253 million euros are spent annually on treating people who have become ill due to air pollution and paying their sick leave. Therefore, air pollution problems should be addressed simultaneously at the national and local levels.

**DOM is committed to:**

- monitoring the industrial polluters;

- revising the Integrated Environmental Permits of the Cement Factory, FENI and others (that burn waste in production, directly endangering the health of citizens due to the emission of huge quantities of greenhouse gases);
- closing the old industrial hotspots (Ohis - lindan, etc.);
- reducing emissions from households through the preparation and implementation of a Strategy for the Introduction of Clean Fuels;
- subsidizing furnaces for complete combustion and eco-friendly fuels;
- incentivizing heat pumps in households;
- prohibiting the movement of vehicles that do not meet the EU4 standard;
- incentivizing the purchase of small and energy-efficient vehicles instead of used vehicles;
- protecting and increasing existing greenery;
- a sustainable level of construction operations with measures for protection from dust;
- gasification;
- clearing the waste from illegal landfills;
- energy efficiency and applying renewable energies;
- completely revitalizing and modernizing the railway transport in the country and through several major cities;
- preventing mining activities harmful to health and the environment, and providing miners and employees of the metallurgical industry the highest standards of protection and safety.

## **Water**

About 56,000 Macedonia inhabitants are supplied with drinking water from wells, village fountains and springs. In 39.7% of the 976 samples of drinking water taken in 2014, the water quality was unsound. About 500,000 inhabitants of rural settlements are supplied with water from local water supplies; in 2014, 26.96% of water quality samples from rural water supplies did not meet the physical and chemical parameters. The quality of drinking water has worsened even in some cities (Kumanovo, Sveti Nikole, Berovo, etc.). In Tetovo, despite the abundance of water, restrictions apply due to network losses and irrational use.

The water supply systems are in disrepair due to improper maintenance. This leads to losses of up to 50% that increase the cost of bringing water to the consumers. Also, despite the fact that the springs are sufficient to cover the needs, a lack of water emerges due to losses and irrational use of water, especially in denser city zones and during the summer period.

About 50% of the country's population is connected to a sewage network, while the remaining 50% emit mainly in porous septic tanks. 16% of wastewater running through the sewage systems is purified. Only one treatment plant (in Kumanovo) provides removal of nutrients (tertiary treatment), while primary or secondary treatment is performed in the others.

The existing wastewater treatment plants do not function at an appropriate level due to inadequate maintenance. The functioning of the most modern wastewater treatment plant in Kumanovo is jeopardized due to insufficient financing. After a pause of several years, plant construction continued in 2000 in Sveti Nikole and Makedonski Brod, then in 2005 plants were completed in Resen for the region of Jankovec, Carev Dvor and Ezerani, and they purify the water only mechanically and biologically. In 2007, purification stations were built in Kumanovo and Krivogastani, and in 2010 in Berovo.

These conditions lead to river pollution: the quality of surface waters does not correspond to the legally established norms, so the water is chemically and bacteriologically unsound and not suitable for bathing, not even for irrigation.

In addition to investing, another incendiary problem that DOM emphasizes is the poor maintenance of existing systems due to the lack of funds and the irresponsible work of public utility companies: DOM insists this problem be solved by local, in co-operation with national authorities, to prevent the premature deterioration of systems for whose installation taxpayers' money has been spent.

**DOM is committed to:**

- establishing a Water Agency;
- improving water supply, especially in rural areas;
- Improving wastewater treatment and constructing wastewater treatment plants in major cities;
- reducing water loss from the water supply network to 30%;
- enhanced monitoring of the safety of drinking water in urban and rural areas;
- regularly maintaining irrigation channels;

- abandoning the concept of commissioned cleaning of channels; this should be done by specialized water management institutions.

## Soil

Due to the lack of monitoring of soil quality, the concentration of pollutants in characteristic locations cannot be determined. During occasional measurements, the presence of heavy metals has been detected in areas near metal industries. Heavy metals in the soil are also found alongside busy roads.

Sixteen locations (mainly smelting and mining facilities) have been labeled as hotspots due to the presence and emission of chemical and organic pollutants in the soil, but also in the surface and underground waters. The most serious threats to the soil and waters are the lindane in Ohis, the chemical compounds and heavy metals in Probistip (Zletovo), Jugohrom (hexavalent chromium) and the Smelter in Veles. There is interest from the private sector in the waste that has been stored for decades on these landfills in order to exploit their valuable components. The state does almost nothing about this issue except for certain activities in Ohis and Jugohrom.

Some of the hotspots are partially rehabilitated, but pollution still exists and affects the safety of food produced in the proximity of these locations and the quality of drinking water from wells.

### **DOM is committed to:**

- adopting the Soil Quality Law with an obligation for regular monitoring and remediating the contaminated soil;
- providing financial resources for completely rehabilitating the historical pollution in industrial hotspots.

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## Waste

There is no single landfill in Macedonia built according to environmental standards, while all kinds of waste is dumped in illegal municipal landfills - the communal mixed with the medical, hazardous and special waste. There are 54 municipal landfills that, according to the Waste Management Law, should already have been rehabilitated. This is not possible in the absence of regional sanitary landfills (5-8 are needed nationally according to the National Plan for Waste Management). Only the Drisla landfill fulfills some of the necessary standards for safe disposal. Several

European projects are being implemented for preparing documentation for the construction of sanitary regional landfills, but the process is slow.

About 30% of the population does not receive organized waste collection services, because of which thousands of illegal landfills are created along the roads and in the riverbeds. In 2011, DOM, together with the “Ajde Makedonija” association, took the “Macedonia Without Waste” action, with government, municipal, NGO, and the citizens’ support, which for 5 years now has cleaned thousands of tons of waste from illegal landfills.

There is no hazardous waste management strategy, and 1.4 tons of hazardous waste is generated each year that is then stored within industries and institutions in barrels or other types of vessels. This is inadequate and can cause environmental damage, health problems at that particular location or beyond. Part of this waste is being exported for treatment in other countries, in case when the operator is acting in accordance with the integrated environmental permit. It is considered that it is enough to build a single landfill for hazardous waste for the whole country, but this should be confirmed by a more detailed research.

Electronic waste is a special problem for which handlers have been appointed, but the process has not taken off. For several years now, MODOM and DOM have been organizing e-waste collection actions in order to raise the awareness of the population and institutions.

**DOM is committed to:**

- adopting a Zero-Waste Strategy in Macedonia and support for opening reuse centers;
- raising the awareness of politicians and citizens about the importance of waste management as a commercial branch;
- constructing sanitary regional landfills;
- preparing a Study on Hazardous Waste Management;
- establishing a Central Organization for Hazardous Waste Management for different types of treatment, landfilling and burning of hazardous waste;
- the lawful treatment of e-waste;
- encouraging cooperation on waste management between the municipalities;
- establishing regional integrated waste management systems;
- introducing deposits when buying plastic bottles and the repurchase of glass bottles.

## **Biodiversity - Protected Areas**

According to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 25% of the territories of signatory countries should be protected by 2020. Currently, the network of protected areas includes 86 areas that cover an area of 226,809.54 ha or 8.82% of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. The highest percentage belongs to national parks and natural monuments.

In the National Emerald network of areas of special interest for preservation in Macedonia, 35 sites have been identified that occupy an area of 752,223 ha or 29% of the county's territory. Therefore, not all valuable areas are protected and there is no political will to increase the territory under protection.

A Draft Strategy for the Protection of Biological Diversity has been prepared, but has not been adopted so as not to hinder infrastructure projects in protected areas.

Protected areas, however, are not appropriately managed. Some have not yet been appointed a landowner, and the National Parks Management is not even granted the financial means for survival, forcing them to use the forests that they should be protecting.

The construction of the Boskov Most and Lukovo Pole dams will jeopardize the animals and plants in the Mavrovo NP. The current Committee of the Bern Convention vetoed any infrastructure operations in the Mavrovo NP.

On the Ohrid Lake shore in Ljubanista, tourism development zones for mass tourism are planned. Within this 'ambitious' project, the construction of accompanying infrastructure has been announced, such as the expressway Ohrid - Sv. Naum that would pass through the NP "Galichica". The construction of a ski center is also planned. A procedure for changing the scope of the National Park has begun for this purpose, and a study was made on the impact of the announced infrastructure operations on the natural environment abounding in endemic species of flora and fauna. A hard civil battle against the destruction of the protected area is ongoing.

The protection of biodiversity in Macedonia is not covered by by-laws, which preserves the legal gap regarding the realization of projects that adversely affect the protection of biological diversity.

### **DOM is committed to:**

- revalorizing the protected areas in Macedonia and proclaiming Shar Planina and Jablanica to be national parks.
- completing the relevant legal acts for protected areas;

- adopting the Strategy for Protection of Biological Diversity;
- providing a budget for the functioning of the national parks;
- designating management bodies for protected areas that are currently without a landowner;
- STOP the forest mafia and deforestation;
- restructuring the Macedonian forests in the direction of protection of the forest fund and biodiversity;
- preventing projects that damage biodiversity;
- raising citizens' awareness about protected areas as our treasures;
- consistent implementation of the Welfare of Animals Law;
- protecting the fish in rivers and lakes from water pollution, illegal sand separations and fish poachers.

### **What financial resources are needed to improve the situation?**

Two to four billion euros will be required in order to introduce all environmental standards, which looks like an impossible mission when the Ministry of Environment's 5 million euro annual budget is taken into account.

With that budget, the ministry is only able to pay its employees and utility costs, to pay for the electricity for the hydro system "Dojransko Ezero" amounting to 650,000 euros, to spend 60,000 euros for production of spatial plans, 100,000 euros for the purchase of chemicals and spare parts for air quality monitoring stations, 30,000 euros for child rehabilitation in Veles, Miladinovci, Oslomej Kavadarci and to realize smaller projects for 550,000 euros of collected fees.

About 3 million euros are planned for capital investments for wastewater treatment plants in Volkovo, Saraj, Gevgelija and Prilep, the sewage system in Sindelic, the filter station in Gostivar and for a drainage channel in Aracinovo. But even for such smaller projects the ministry is looking for co-financing.

Now we are aligned with the EU standards and laws and most issues have been resolved. But the laws have not been completely implemented.

So far, donors have provided funds for major infrastructure projects, while loans for capital environmental projects must be in line with the Public Debt Strategy. The problem is that many of our municipalities are not solvent, so the Ministry of Finance should plan funds in the central budget because money in hundreds of euros was to be taken from investors or EU funds.



Just the wastewater treatment plant in Skopje will require at least 100 million euros, the wastewater treatment plants for the larger urban centers will require 724 million euros, the sanitary regional landfills, purchase of collection, transshipment and waste treatment equipment, as well as a landfill for hazardous waste will require 360 million euros, for a total of 1 billion euros. Over 700 million euros were wasted for the Skopje 2014 project, and the budget for investments of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is barely 3 million euros! It is necessary to provide realistic means to build the necessary infrastructure.

**DOM is committed to:**

- increasing the Ministry of Environment's budget many times over;
- establishing an Environment and Energy Efficiency Fund;
- opening green loan lines for environmental projects.

### **1.3. GREEN BUILDINGS – SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Current State**

DOM recognizes environmental pressure and influences taking place in urban areas on the environmental and natural resources. The priorities of our manifesto to lower this pressure are based on creating **a concept for a Green City** as a compact system of live settlements that occupy little land, spend little energy, use local building materials for construction, are not subjected to frequent urbanization and demographic changes, while in an aesthetic sense they merge with the landscape and follow natural cycles.

A green city is an ecologically healthy city. With the emergence of modern technologies for utilizing different energies (sun, wind, water, biomass), recycling technologies, natural materials for green construction, the emergence of green businesses, possibilities for renewal of the urban environment, urban gardening, organic food production, various modes of transport that reduce the use of cars, create opportunities for a different concept for development of our cities, which will oppose the existing dysfunctional and problematic system.

Macedonia is a country where more than two-thirds (2/3) of the total population lives in cities. Hence, it is crucial that life in these environments be planned, managed and governed in accordance with the existing (mostly limited) resources. In the cities in the Republic of Macedonia we can feel free to note that not even initial steps have been taken to lay the foundations for creating “green cities”. The current state is even diametrically opposed. On the one hand Skopje and several cities in the northwestern part of the country (Tetovo, Gostivar and Kumanovo), as well as Ohrid, have been in the process of unplanned construction for many years, overpopulation, traffic congestion, energy instability, businesses that in the long run are unsustainable, problematic and unresolved handling of waste and inadequate management of water, water resources and wastewaters. On the other hand, the other cities in the Republic of Macedonia face a long process of eviction caused by neglecting the economic capacities, poor road connections and lack of economic investment for years.

This is why DOM says:

**STOP the urban mafia, START the Green Cities**

## **Priorities**

To overcome this situation, DOM is firmly committed to the PROCEDURE as the most democratic form and will strive to accomplish the following political goals:

- professionalization of spatial planning and urbanism;
- applying sustainable methods to urbanization, rather than ad-hoc solutions;
- reserving humane parameters for moderate construction and quality living;
- institutional protection of greenery through a series of new laws and amendments to the existing laws on spatial and urban planning and building;
- transparency in the preparation and adoption of urban plans, with the mandatory consent of residents.

The environment in cities is directly related to the process of urban planning, and this is related to the protection of the greenery. That is why DOM remains committed to the adoption of the **Urban Greenery**

**Law**, for which we have been fighting for 5 years. The draft law has been submitted by a member of parliament representing DOM and has been rejected by the ruling majority. The law has been prepared by DOM's Commission for Ecology and experts from the institutions and civil society (Chapter 1.2).

## Measures

### Urbanism fitting the needs of people and institutional protection of the greenery

- Adoption of a new **Urbanism and Spatial Planning Law** based on contemporary trends and aligned with European positive legal solutions to this subtle field of human life. That would be a qualitative step towards preservation of the spatial resources of the country, in the interests of individuals, and to the expense of the health and life quality of the citizens;
- **Legal regulation of the urban planning standards**, which are now to be found in the **Rule Book** and are at discretionary right of the Minister;
- Amendments to the **Construction Law** with a precise definition of the rights and the obligations of employers and employees, but also avoidance of the appearance of the so-called. "Person-firms" with no capacity to run serious projects;
- Adopting a City Architect Law who together with the Council of architects would depoliticize urbanism in the cities;
- Increasing the percentage of public space areas such as squares, parks, gathering points and walk-lanes;
- Creating policies to increase the greenery up to 25 m<sup>2</sup> per resident;
- Offering **real social housing** for the most vulnerable groups;
- Legal obligation to apply ecologically certified building materials;
- Legal obligation for investors in the construction of buildings in dense residential-business zones, to invest one third of the total investment to create new city greenery;
- Creating conditions and infrastructure for **green transport**, such as permanent and sustainable solution for quality living in urban area centers.

## Projects

- **Bicycle and pedestrian paths with photo-voltaic panels** with a kinetic energy system used to illuminate the path and to transfer to the power grid;
- **Bicycle and pedestrian paths with fluorescent lighting materials**;
- **Green roof gardens** of buildings in dense urban areas, with benefits for investors that will include them in project;
- **Urban city gardens** – citizens growing plants and vegetables, with subsidies from the municipality and the state;
- **Deserted spaces - new city cores** for conversion to skate, sports or art parks, or mini-farms for growing vegetables;
- **Guerrilla gardens** - mobile gardens in small mobile objects;
- **Apartment for 1 euro/m<sup>2</sup>** for people with unsettled housing issue.

## 1.4. SPORT AND RECREATION

### Current State

Sport has a significant and noble role in every society, contributing to a large extent to socialization and social cohesion, to overcome prejudice, to increase the positive impact on people and improve their health and their psycho-physical stability.

Modern sport represents an important segment of every civil society and its driving force. In the Republic of Macedonia sports are popular among young people, but there is always space for it to develop and advance, despite the ethnic, religious, sexual and other social groups. Sport connects individuals, families and communities in the Republic of Macedonia.

Our goal is to enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities in the Republic of Macedonia by motivating them to practice recreational activities and sports and giving support in the training of instructors and creation of new sports and recreational facilities. Our goal is also to establish and implement a sustainable sports system at all levels of the country, to attract more young people to take up sports and the elderly to take up recreational activities, which would simultaneously lead to creating professional athletes and improving the level

of development of any sport, which will mean affirmation of individuals, collectives and the state in general.

## **Priorities**

- develop and improve the capacities of all entities in sports and continuous work on the development of sport,
- renovation and construction of sport centers and sport infrastructure where it is missing,
- inclusion of more women in the system for managing sports organizations and associations,
- Supporting the vastness of sport and securing free access to sports and recreational contents,
- Greater participation of persons with disabilities and persons with special needs in top sports and in the system of recreational exercise,
- Increase in financial resources and provision of transparent financial support of sports centers and sports organizations,
- Directing more budget funds into sports, recreational organizations and associations, defining clear criteria and legal regulations for transparent financing of sports,
- Establishing a more efficient system of sustainability of sports organizations and associations through advancement and strengthening of the partnership between sports and the business sector,
- Attempts to reduce the negative phenomena in sports, its connection to tourism and the living environment as well the providing the interconnection of science and sports,
- Joint media engagement and campaigning to promote the real values of sport, bringing the significance and benefits from it to every citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.



## **2. GREEN ECONOMY AND GREEN JOBS**

### **ECONOMIC FUTURE IS GREEN!**

#### **Current State**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century marked the beginning of the green economy era. Its development is now being measured by the degree of use of renewable energy sources. When creating a product or a favor the main idea is the saving, or the little as possible use of energy and resources. The biggest challenge of economic policies in the world is the transition toward a sustainable, economically attainable economic systems that provide for economic equality.

Economy should aspire to equal quality of life, today, but also in the future. That is: economic (money and production) trends that start and finish with ecology as a leading parameter. This kind of economy uses resources and energy economically and efficiently striving for competitive and sustainable economy in the long run. One example of achieving this long-term goal is the replacement of a part, as large as possible, of the import of products with large transport costs with homemade locally produced goods.

The world is witnessing an efficiency revolution. By focusing on protection of resources and ecological efficiency we must head for what is most important for the ecological modernization: broad use of ecological standards on production and management as well as broad use of technologies compatible with the environment, which will decrease the need for energy, resources and space. Protecting the environment means using the least possible amount of energy and materials. The increased efficiency in the use of materials means lower costs and bigger economic advantage. The fewer resources put in use for the production of a product, the lower the cost.

The Republic of Macedonia committed to completing the obligations of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, which requires restructuring of the Macedonian economy, aiming for green economy which will mean abandoning fossil fuels and turning to renewable sources of energy and energetic efficiency.

Our economy must evolve to an ecological and social market economy. This is to be attained by creating balance between economic dynamics and protection of the environment along with social protection on the other side. An ecological and social market economy is oriented to society and stands as the opposite to the economy whose only goal is to maximize private profit.

Gross domestic product shouldn't be the only criteria for prosperity. Instead, natural resources put in use and economic effects, including ecological expenses must be evened up.

Green economy should take the initiative to mitigate the consequences caused on natural resources, in:

- energetics
- dealing with sewage
- biodiversity and use of soil as a resource
- handling chemical substances, poisonous materials and heavy metals
- air pollution
- waste management
- Lowering the impacts on the ozone layer

**Priorities that DOM is committed to:**

- Long-term strategy for sustainable production and creating customer habits free of emission of greenhouse gasses and other materials that could harm people's health and the environment,
- Mitigating the existing gap in relation to EU and developed countries in respect to the energetics and production of products and semi-products based on sustainable development,
- Increasing the capability of Macedonian small and middle-sized corporations on handling challenges and their increased competitiveness in relation to the countries in the region,
- Forming a special financial mechanism for the SMC (small and middle-sized corporations) with the purpose of transforming the existing way of economic functioning to coloring production and service green,
- Creating a National Strategy on coloring the economy green, based on the principles of sustainable development,
- Support policies and eco-innovative industry approach.



We at DOM are aware that the realization process will be long and painstaking. The process requires coordination between central and local authorities, the private and public sector, business and science, state and citizens, in order to realize the following goals.

- Sunny revolution – massive use of solar energy for every household, public or private object, with panels for hot water and photovoltaics for energy production.
- Maximal use of other renewable energy sources such as wind, geothermal energy and biomass;
- Massive isolation of old and new, private and public objects, for energy saving and lower electricity bills;
- Incentivizing the residential community to realize projects on energetic efficiency of buildings;
- Increasing sustainable transportation, including fast railway and buss transport and use of vehicles with low impact on the environment;
- Solar panels beside and on roads;
- Strengthening the national ecological infrastructure (drinking water, forests, soil, air, biodiversity);
- Supporting sustainable agriculture, especially organic production;
- Supporting sustainable tourism all over Macedonia;
- Managing waste with maximal use and recycling.

**This is why we suggest investments, measures and activities in:**

- Easy approach to finances of businesses that lower or minimize the hazardous influences on the environment (simpler procedures to gaining long-term loans with low interest, convenient grays period, simpler criteria for getting a loans, advantages for getting a job in the local area);
- Reduction of administrative barriers for corporations and greater promotion of eco-entrepreneurship, in particular in rural areas;
- Equal access and opportunities for domestic investors, in free economic zones.
- Investments in the green economy will be given advantage

- Increasing the number of public jobs, in order to restore the environmental and improve the infrastructure at the national and local level, with employment of a fixed and/or indefinite time, depending on the requirements of the public work;
- Creating an incentivizing framework for the development and strengthening of different forms of economic democracy - partnership, social entrepreneurship, labor shareholding;
- Increasing investments in energy security at the regional level and promotion of independent energy subjects;
- Increasing energy efficiency in construction by establishing criteria for construction, determining materials for construction, promotion of green construction, public buildings across the state (schools, kindergartens, universities, hospitals, administrative buildings), as well as in the construction of individual and collective residential buildings;
- Incentives for the development of green products and services for SMCs;
- Incentives for innovations in the use of clean technologies for SMCs
- Reducing tax obligations for SMCs with their own funds took the initiative and showed results in making green their economic activities;
- Investments in research and development activities, innovations, education;
- Establishing a fair working relationship and taking overguarantees from the state for unpaid labor;
- Focusing on sustainable green technologies;
- Initiatives to open up new green jobs that will include low-skilled workers, interns, marginalized groups, their training and reduction of their social dependence.

## **Green financial instruments**

### **PROGRESSIVE TAXATION**

DOM is committed to progressive taxation according to the income level structured in personal progressive taxation in three groups, according to the income. The lowered tax basis will guarantee a lowered tax bracket for families where the income is low. This measure

guarantees creating better conditions for social equality between the citizens.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL BUSINESSES**

Macedonian Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs, and especially project companies will be assisted in creating local green jobs and revitalizing local economies, which are the main driving force of the economy.

They will be given conditions and opportunities for using inter-gender funds for the development of green technologies and breakthrough in international markets.

Through the banks, the state will provide state guarantees in the amount of 50% for financing companies from an early stage. This way, through the banks, a critical analysis of the good projects will be enabled, but also, greater security for their funding, and therefore new innovative technologies, sustainable growth of the economy and creating new green jobs.

## **ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY**

DOM offers additional funding instruments for financing and remaking homes and industrial buildings and making them more efficient and affordable by installing high efficiency insulation, solar heating and electricity, efficient energy appliances and equipment, as well as accessibility upgrades. In addition to employment of a new army of carpenters, electricians and contractors working on old buildings - schools, universities and hospitals, this will also contribute to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions on a national level and the direct reduction of resources and costs. Finally, with the direct involvement of the government's resources in research supported by the latest trends in biotechnology and energetically intensive agriculture towards the creation of organic and sustainable food production, where the new, more efficient agricultural practices have proven to have a return on investment for a 5-year-period of time, while also having an additional positive effect on the environment.

## **SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSPARENCY OF COMPANIES**

Companies will have a public obligation to transparently disclose the data about their social responsibility, environmental impact and the conditions for workers.

# Introducing a progressive penal policy for business entities

## ETHICAL BANKING

DOM offers a financial instrument by which banks will be obliged to practice socially and environmentally responsible banking. The goal is to allocate 1-2% of the funds to sustain the development and the creation of sustainable growth, for the following:

- Financing investments for broader implementation of energy efficiency,
- Supporting the sustainable local agricultural production,
- Greater support for start-up companies working on innovation, technology development, information technology development, creative industries, energy and energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, protection and growth of the environment;
- Ensuring the financial inclusion of entities that have limited access to finance;
- Creating a platform through the private collaboration sector, public sector, non-governmental organizations, with the implementation of several public-private partnerships;
- Involvement in the fight against climate change.

### **Economic development will be enabled through three main factors:**

- Increase of the aggregate demand by increasing employment and continuous salary growth,
- Increasing aggregate supply (productivity) through investments in new technologies from domestic and foreign investments
- Reduced interest rates on loans through subventions from the State Fund intended for economic development that will contribute to more economical operation and larger investments in the domestic economy.

## Green jobs

Green jobs exist in activities such as manufacturing, construction, tourism, research and development, and administrative services that contribute to the preservation of improvement of the environmental

quality. Among other things, jobs that help protect ecosystems and biodiversity are included here, such as reduction of energy use and water consumption through highly efficient strategies, de-carbonization of the economy, and their minimization or avoiding all forms of waste and pollution.

In general, green jobs will be achieved in at least four ways with the transformation of the economy towards bigger sustainability:

- By creating new jobs in production processes that pollute the environment, such as addition and installation of equipment for reducing and/or stopping pollution;
- By replacing some jobs with others, for example, in the transfer from the use of fossil fuels to renewable fuels, from truck transport to rail, or by replacing landfilling and incineration with recycling;
- By qualifying certain workers for already existing jobs (plumbers, electricians, construction workers) through short training, working methods and profiling to carry out green tasks;
- By creating new work profiles and through the education system, trainings organized by employers, independent trainings and trainings for easier self-employment.

Green jobs involve a wide range of skills, educational background and professional profiles that are necessary for the development of the green economy. This is especially true for the so-called indirect jobs, especially in distribution industries. New industries, such as wind and solar energy, are the new potential, where supply chains mainly in the traditional industries have played a key role. For example, large amounts of steel are needed for the pillar and the wind turbine, or glass as a base for solar systems.

Technological and system capabilities offer varying degrees of environmental benefits and different categories of green employment.

The main goal is greater efficiency in the use of energy, water and materials. So is the use of the best available technology and best practices in the world for the inclusion of Macedonia in the technological progress. This in itself suggests that green jobs are a very dynamic concept.

**DOM proposes a strategy that takes into account that making the economy green includes in itself the environment costs**, the energy and material costs, the social needs of people and society, in order to abandon unsustainable habits of production and consumption. Basically it is diametrically opposed to the modern strategies of companies that are

competing for maximum material and energy exhaustion at the lowest possible cost, most often on the back of the most jeopardized areas from which the materials are drawn, and the most socially jeopardized people, offering the cheapest prices, forgetting about quality, and at the same time totally neglecting the labor invested by workers, offering them minimal wages. Therefore, the green economy should create an economy that will value nature and people.

## Policies for creating green jobs

For creating green jobs, DOM primarily is committed to policies that will help set up the infrastructure for the business sector and create opportunities for every corporation. The main policies include:

- **Meeting the obligations of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris** and restructuring the Macedonian economy into green economy by leaving fossil fuels and turning to renewable energies and energy efficiency;
- **Subventions.** Reduction or termination of giving subventions to industries that have harmful effects on the environment and diversion of resources to corporations who take actions to use renewable energy sources, efficient technologies, clean production methods and public transport.
- **Carbon market.** Macedonia's inclusion in the current carbon trading market and implementation of the mechanism for clean development, so that it can be a reliable and appropriate way of financing projects for making the economy green and creating green jobs.
- **Tax reforms.** Establishing a larger range and wider application of eco-taxes and their increase by the example of European countries. Eco-tax revenues can facilitate the tax burden on the labor of workers and at the same time discourage polluting economic activities while incentivizing the green economy.
- **Setting goals and regulations.** Establishing regulation tools that will be used to develop greener technologies, products and services, and therefore create green jobs. This includes policies for land use, energy efficiency standards (for electrical appliances, installments, vehicles, etc.), construction laws, and setting goals for the production of renewable energy.

- **Energy alternative.** Making laws to overcome barriers to the development and utilization of renewable energies and improve legal solutions for the provision of energy input into the power grid (by households and corporations) with guaranteed prices.
- **Product return.** Adoption of an “Extended Responsibility of the Producer” regulation, which will provide for producers to take their own products after their use (appliances, packaging, equipment), which will apply to all products regardless of domestic or foreign production. The benefit is twofold - waste reduction and getting raw materials that can be recycled and used again.
- **Eco labeling.** Introducing eco-labels for all consumer products to ensure the users’ right to access information and make a responsible decision on the use of a product subject to recycling. This would encourage manufacturers to produce and design more eco-friendly products for the market.
- **A budget for research and development activities.** Providing more financial support to scientific and technical activities that are intended for technological development and drive the modernization and the making green of the technological production processes, the efficiency of technologies, the use of innovative ways of getting and using energy and whose initiations are taken by the corporations themselves or in collaboration with scientific institutes, scientific development centers, laboratories.
- **International cooperation and breakthrough in international markets.** Strengthening and intensifying international cooperation of Macedonian corporations by creating prerequisites for the transfer of technology and government support for corporations with an emphasized green economic activity in terms of exports of production. Using international financial instruments for making the economy green.

## 2.1. ECO-TOURISM

### Current state

Tourism is one of the priorities of DOM since its foundation.

DOM as a green party advocates for upholding the standards for protection and preservation of the environment and considers that with the development of tourism the preservation of the natural, cultural and spiritual ambience should be provided, and not, as it happens in the mass tourism, those values to be disrupted because of profit. Therefore, we believe that the sustainable tourism is top priority in the development of tourism in the Republic of Macedonia, no matter which type of tourism is taken into consideration.

**Sustainable tourism** is every type of tourism that will not disrupt the environment, but it will advance it, it will protect and highlight the autochthonous values of every area in Macedonia: the architecture, the landscape, the music, the food, the crafts, the traditions, the dances..., everything that makes our tourist destinations different from all the others. The rural, cultural, health, spa, and the recreational tourism are the tourism branches for which Macedonia has huge potentials.

Republic of Macedonia has all the natural and cultural conditions for development of eco- tourism. Considering the size of the territory and the natural conditions (three large natural lakes, several artificial lakes, rivers, mountain peaks higher than 2000m, few ski centers, semi-deserted villages, archeological sites, as well as numerous churches and monasteries), the eco-tourism is the only appropriate type of tourism where DOM sees the future of this industry. It has high potential for securing green work places (self-employment and employment), for preserving and advancing the environment and the cultural heritage in the local communities, and thus bring them economic development.

In the past ten years, we intensively worked on realization of our commitments to tourism and the effects today are more than visible: the interest of the foreign tourists is significantly increased; the interest of the domestic and foreign tourism investors is as well increased; the touristic offer is expanding slowly, but steady, and the local governments in the currently neglected regions see the future in the development of tourism.



## Priorities

- **Expansion of the Ministry of Environment and Physical planning with a sub-sector for eco-tourism.**

At the initiative of DOM in 2008, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia established the Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism, but it proved to be insufficient for the essential impetus of its development. Therefore, we consider that tourism should be sub-department of the Ministry of environment and physical planning instead of being part of the Ministry of Economy.

This sub-department would propose measures for development of all types of sustainable tourism. Diversification of the tourist offer will reduce the difference between the more and less developed regions in the country. The sub-department would also propose legal changes and amendments, as well as adoption of new laws on tourism activity that would enable improvement of the quality of services, modernization of the tourist offer and more efficient functioning of the tourism entities. The sub-department should monitor and, if necessary, participate in the preparation of the development plans, programs and projects of the local and regional self-government. The sub-department for tourism would also propose amendments to the Law on Secondary and Higher Education in Tourism and Catering.

- **Favorable conditions for the development of eco-tourism**

Favorable conditions for foreign and domestic investments in the tourist business involve enabling more small businessmen to invest in tourism, especially in rural areas.

The benefits are:

- Favorable bank loans for start-up businesses in tourism with a greater grace period and lower interest rates,
- Specification and essential simplification of the procedures and the conditions for foreign and domestic investments,
- Strong support for accelerated development of sustainable tourism through a program for support and distribution of dedicated funds
- Using pre-accession funds from the EU, and other International foundations.

## **Determining the strategic priorities of the Macedonian tourism**

- Permanent protection and respect for high ecological standards, as well as long-term valorisation of the touristic potential,
- Implementation of the Law on Spatial Plan for development of the Macedonian tourism with the intention of preserving the attractive natural resources,
- Continuous activity at state level for clean Macedonia (soil, air, water, management of all types of waste),
- Regulating ownership relations and putting into operation the children's resorts and the mountain homes
- Construction of traffic infrastructure and optimal organization of traffic, as well as raising the quality of the accompanying facilities of the traffic routes and terminals,
- Development and modernization of the tourist product,
- Adopting a Law on Professional Guiding Services for mountains, caves and under water,
- Urgent adoption of a Law on Rescue Service that would function within the Ministry of Interior, its training and equipping with appropriate means,
- Developing the transit tourism and creating conditions for its maximum utilization,
- Policies for development of Agrotourism, which is small-scale tourism, but human-oriented. Agrotourism provides authentic activities within the agriculture, livestock, winery cellars, grape harvesting, etc., which is a hit in the world.
- Policies and legal frameworks for promotion and support in management and breeding of the wild animal world, without harmful environmental effects, Policies for expanding the opportunities for development of the mountain economies, including tourism, and in accordance with the programs for integrated mountain areas management.

- Promotion of activities that generate income from sustainable tourism: fishing, fruit and medical herbs harvesting, protection of the traditional gastronomic and cultural values, as well as improving the infrastructure and the access to social services,
- More intensive development of rural tourism,
- Balanced development of tourism on the whole territory of Macedonia by opening regional centers that will create Programs for the development of the forms of tourism that are characteristic for a given region,
- Opening regional training centers for training of the local population on how to create and offer attractive tourist product,
- Education at all levels in tourism, from management, through all tourism employees, to the locals who want to engage in the tourism industry,
- Raising the quality level of all accommodation capacities and their adaptation to the international quality standards
- Creation of programs for creating hotel and accommodation capacities that would become a brand in the eco-tourism,
- Development of e-marketing,
- Measures for promotional activities and ways to attract tourists,
- Intensifying the cooperation with the diaspora and attracting organized groups of tourists and diaspora investors.

## Measures for development of eco-tourism

- Maintaining the **cleanliness in the cities and the villages**, cleaning the illegal dumps and full functioning of the legal dumps,
- Maintaining existing **greenery** and forming new green spaces (afforestation, lawns, parks, tree rows),
- **Mapping objects** of interest for tourists,

- Determining the calendar of **cultural, entertainment, and sports events**,
- High level of event organization that would highlight our culture and tradition attractive for tourists from every aspect:
- **Traffic regulation** - placement of boards and clear signposts for the major tourist spots; public and taxi transport to the significant tourist attractions; Providing conditions for riding and renting bicycles in the cities, creating a network of bicycle and mountain trails, their mapping and creating an e-Guide for them,
- **Safety of tourists** - in cooperation with security and the social services to take measures that will ensure the safety of tourists at the highest level during their stay in our country.
- **Development of accommodation capacities** - investment in camp sites, motels, hotels, apartments and other types of accommodation facilities throughout the country where conditions exist; implementation of the regulations for the categorization of accommodation facilities; Stimulation of the catering facilities that offer traditional homemade food and beverages; Stimulation of the private initiative for production of traditional products and traditional crafts.
- **Local Strategy for development of eco-tourism** – determination of the tourist topics that have or may have competitive advantage, cooperation of the neighboring municipalities for the development of regional tourism products; Establishment of tourist information centers with trained staff who will really work; Attractive promotional materials for the tourist destinations on the selected tourist topics.
- **Education of the local population on eco-tourism**, the principles of eco-tourism and the benefits of its development; To preserve, nurture and promote the traditional values; expert assistance for preparation and realization of business plans.

## Projects

- Educational workshops on various topics for training of the locals
- Creation of tourist tours and programs for visits of local attractions

- Initiatives for building one eco-ethno village in each of the statistical regions of the Republic of Macedonia
- Development of the mountain trails network
- Old crafts for the new time.

## 2.2. ECO-AGRICULTURE AND HEALTHY FOOD

### Current state

In the agriculture, due to the growing need for food, intensive agricultural methods are used for the production of plant and animal crops. The modern industrial farming uses pesticides, fertilizers and hormones for animal growth that increase the yields, but on the other hand it raises questions about human and soil health.

DOM considers that current intensive agricultural practices should be replaced by greener agricultural methods. This means construction of sustainable agriculture and livestock production that will produce seasonal, healthy and local food. Through green agriculture, large number of quality green jobs will be ensured. The global food trade, using food safety policies, has caused massive closure of small local production facilities. We now have health-proper products of unknown origin, full of additives and emulsifiers, flavor enhancers, with an unlimited shelf life. And we claim that we care about consumers' health.

The subsidies are currently calculated per unit of area, regardless how much yield will be obtained, so we have farmers who only register and receive subsidies, and the yield per unit of area is decreasing. Subsidies should be linked to a minimum yield in the interest of all.

### Priorities

- Stronger support for rural development, eco-agriculture and healthy food;
- Agricultural and rural policy for food production that will contribute towards protecting the environment and create conditions for development of fair trade,
- Municipal medium-term plans for development of agricultural production in the direction of increasing the sustainable food production, new jobs and renewal of the villages,

- Initiatives to move from the intensely unsafe farming towards farming that is safe and organic with application of scientific methods,
- Using the agricultural biomass as renewable source of energy (straw, vineyards, waste from fruit trees, rice, manure for biogas, etc.).
- Direct connection of the producers with the consumers through setting up contractual production, especially for local organic products with confirmed values. The example of mandatory use of organic products and healthy food in the diet of the youngest population in the kindergartens, schools, dormitories and hospitals, in some European countries has confirmed the concerns for the health of the future generations,
- The level of subsidies to remain the same as before, but to be associated with a reference yield per unit area,
- Subsidies should be paid only to the registered farmers and to the legal entities to whom the agricultural production is the primary registered activity,
- Separation of the areas where certain crops and types are grown- subsidies to be paid for plants of olives and pomegranates in Berovo and Delcevo, where there are no climate conditions for production of olives, or separation of types, for example, subsidies will not be paid for planted cherries of the type “Burlatova early” in Ohrid which is harvested in May,
- To map which agricultural area will provide subsidies for which crop and type,
- Mandatory education for the bearers of the agricultural industry at least once a year (education for the branch they work in) to be a requirement for receiving subsidies
- The state agricultural land to be given under concession to the residents of the cadastre municipality in which the cadastre parcel is located (a measure to avoid giving the state land to suspicious companies, to reduce the emigration, and farmers will have the option to work and live in their municipality),
- Establishment of a National Laboratory for the determination of the quality of milk (milk subsidies not to be paid after delivered amount of milk, the quality of the milk to be a parameter for the payment of subsidies),

- To introduce teaching units for the promotion of organic farming in the curricula for primary and secondary education
- The organic products by definition to be included in the hospital, school, high school and in the kindergarten kitchens. To be mandatory for the tourist centers to have restaurants established for organic food.
- To adopt legislation for timely payment of the the purchased agricultural products by the buyers and the large retail chains
- (At present, the buy-out trade firms pay the purchased agricultural products with months' delay, and when they do not pay, there are long lawsuits. During that time, the farmers literally remain without bread, because the electricity, water, utilities and telephone bills must be paid each month. If nor, forced collection might enter into force.
- Amendments in the legal regulation for heritage of the agricultural land. Much of the agricultural land is not used because of unfinished hereditary proceedings that last for years and decades. Namely, heirs do not start proceedings for regulation of the inheritance - and in that case the state should be able to lease the land. The benefit will be double, more land that could be harvested will be gained, and on the other hand, the heirs will be motivated to complete the process of inheritance,
- Adoption of a Law on donation of surplus food.

## Projects

- Safe health for our children
- Green school incubators
- Greening the areas in the cities with flowers and trees produced by children
- Renewable energy sources for irrigation
- Civic eco-zones
- Cheap and fresh from your neighbor!
- Remediation (purification) of contaminated soil through agriculture

## **2.3. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

### **Current state**

The Macedonian energy capacity is mainly based on power generation from thermal power plants (over 80%), which use lignite as fuel and hydroelectric power plants (below 20%). For years, the process of gasification of the state has been present, but because of the geopolitical conditions, this process takes place with many difficulties and it is unlikely that in due time it will be implemented. At the same time, the energy sector is the biggest cause for air pollution in the country, with over 70% of greenhouse gases emissions.

Because of this, Macedonia is at a critical stage when transition and adjustment of the energy sector is necessary in the direction of an economically sustainable energy system that will provide energy for the needs of the population and the industry in the long-term. At the same time it is necessary to invest maximum effort and financial means to stop the pollution. According to the conducted analyzes, Macedonia will need about 1 billion euros for harmonization of the energy plants with the undertaken obligations according to European regulations (desulfurization, removal of the powder particles PM 10 and PM 2,5, etc.

### **Priorities**

DOM considers that the energy policy needs to be developed together with environmental protection. The objectives of this policy are development of energy independence, that is, its reducing and encouraging own energy capacities in ways that would reduce emissions of harmful substances into the environment, as well as developing energy partnerships.

The energy goals of DOM are in accordance with the international agreements and with the policies of the European Union, respecting the changes in the societal relations and the economic opportunities of Macedonia:

1. Determination for development of low carbon economy -green economy and society;
2. Democratization of the energy transition with active participation of the citizens through decentralized energy production;



3. Reach the EU targets for 20/20/20 and the Global Climate Agreement reached in Paris in 2015.

## Measures

The development of energetics will be based on:

1. Respecting the measures that will provide a healthy environment for all the citizens of Macedonia;
2. Energy independence through the use and optimization of the own energy potential;
3. Development of academic / educational institutions related to energetics;
4. Development of own human potential and creating high-qualified staff with that have the necessary skills acquired;
5. Encouraging investment and development in energy innovations, their application and possible export of technologies in the field of energy;
6. Development of energy efficiency. Energy efficiency first- treating EE as a separate source of energy;
7. Better regulatory policy in the energy sector in the Interest of the citizens.

### **The policies of DOM in the energy sector are directed towards:**

- Release from the energy imports (40% of the current needs of the country, that are now imported),
- Review of the national energy strategy,
- Review of the energy legislation and the legislation on climate change, through which Achieving a higher share of RES (renewable energy sources) and implementation of the best practices for a low-carbon economy based on minimum emissions of greenhouse gases, will be guaranteed
- Forming a Fund for Environment and Energy Efficiency managed on a professional basis,
- Emphasis on RES and energy efficiency in the households and the industry (especially small and medium sized enterprises)

- Decentralization of the electricity production capacities for, in order to better satisfy the country's energy needs are. The priority should be on family, cooperative and other installations, where the installation of the RES and the connection to the energy system should be absolute minimum,
- Introduction of incentives to utilize the organic waste for the production of biogas, biofuels as well
- Promotion of composting in order to utilize this neglected resource,
- Liberalization of the energy market,
- The right for citizens to choose a supplier of electricity to be guaranteed,
- Implementation of effective mechanisms to increase the energy efficiency in the industry, the commercial, residential and administrative buildings
- Immediate introduction of energy passport for all objects,
- Strengthening the capacities of the Energy Agency in order to implement policies in the field of RES and energy efficiency.

## **Projects**

- Ecological adjustment of the major pollutants, REK Bitola and REK Oslomej
- New hydropower plants
- Construction of a solar-thermal power plant
- Construction of wind parks
- Warm home - clean air - mass installation of solar collectors in the urban centers.

## 2.4. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Current state

In the Republic of Macedonia there is no single landfill built according to standards, and thousands of illegal landfills are being created. Additionally, 1.4 tons of hazardous waste stored in an inappropriate way is generated annually. No figures are known yet for electronic waste, whose organized collection is still at the beginning.

About 30,000 tons of packaging waste is currently collected in the country annually, which represents 35% of the quantity that would be collected in 2020. According to the existing legislation the Republic of Macedonia aims to recycle 60% of the packaging waste by 2020. The realization of these goals and the establishment of a recycling system will open new work places. Namely, the European Union is adopting the package for circular economy, which essentially means saving resources through recycling. The plan is to open over 580,000 new jobs, and by 2030, 70% of communal and 80% of the packaging waste should be recycled. This concept of zero waste solves this ecological problem and offers enormous opportunities for new green jobs. The companies will get a new alternative way to provide resources and energy at lower prices and thus increase their competitiveness, and at the same time the demand for expensive and limited resources will decrease.

#### **DOM advocates for:**

- Establishment of economic instruments to revive the circular economy as the latest concept of European Union;
- ZERO-waste for modern waste management, construction of regional landfills, selection, recycling and processing of the waste;
- Adopting a ZERO waste strategy for the waste in Macedonia and support for opening re-use centers;
- Forming a Recycling Fund in order to create functional system for selection, collection and recycling of communal waste (eg Croatia);
- Increased percentage of the recycling of waste that would increase the revenues from the sale of secondary raw materials;
- Adoption of a Law on donation of surplus food;
- Restructuring the Public Services Enterprises;
- Introducing a fee when buying plastic bottles and redemption when returning plastic and glass bottles

- Establishment of a Center for Hazardous Waste Management, for different types of treatment, landfilling and burning of hazardous waste;
- Composting bio-waste from farms, with the production of methane;
- Restarting the Glass Factory in Skopje with public-private partnership (cheaper glass packaging and possibility for its recycling).

## **E-waste management**

### **CURRENT STATE**

If it is not properly managed, the electronic and the electric waste can have harmful effects and affect our health and the environment. Due to the poor application of the adopted Law on management of electric and electronic equipment and waste of the electrical and electronic equipment in January 2012, the situation in Macedonia has not changed. DOM organizes actions for e-waste throughout Macedonia that has so far proved to be very useful, especially for the legal entities that without a long procedure can dispose the e-waste.

#### **DOM advocates for:**

- Advancing and improving the Law on management of electric and electronic equipment and waste of the electrical and electronic equipment, so it could have a greater impact on the citizens (legal entities and natural persons) in Macedonia;
- Every municipality in Macedonia should have visible locations for separate collection of waste equipment so the citizens can dispose it for free. In this manner no illegal landfills are going to be created;
- Greater control of the import of electronic and electrical equipment in Macedonia, in terms of content and dangerous substances, the possibility for recycling or re-using, for the purpose of safer use of equipment and protection of the environment.
- Providing an appropriate system for the young people as regular users of electronic equipment.

## 2.5. WATER MANAGEMENT

### Current state

Water is one of the most important resources for the country, but also a wide field for investments and creation of new jobs whose effect should be in direction of direct protection of the environment. However, the water management in our country is turbulent and uncoordinated, torn between several ministries, which creates opportunities for negligence and abuse.

This condition is present since the independence, when the system of Water Management of the Republic of Macedonia was neglected, and at one point it was legally abolished and “decentralized” in local water management communities, left to the management of ignorant persons. After several agonizing years and destroying much of the valuable documentation, in 2014 the central Water Management system was formally renewed, but it lacks organization, staff and resources for normal operation.

The Law on Waters regulates the fundamentals and the principles for the management of water resources, and on the proposal of DOM it was adopted in 2010. The original version, according to European standards, provided an integrated approach to water management from the beginning of the next year, with an emphasis on the environmental aspect, where the waters were placed under the authority of the Ministry of Environment. This meant that the priorities were: water protection, water supply, irrigation, and even then economic exploitation. But this revolutionary law was not implemented entirely, and after a while the Law was amended and the water management was once again divided between several institutions, where the economic aspect prevailed the environmental and threatened the ecological eco-systems.

In the past years, it was unsystematically invested in projects for drinking water, for cleaning the irrigation channels and for wastewater. The catastrophic flooding is the last warning for a serious approach to this serious issue. DOM in 2010 supported the civic Initiative of the NGO Eco-vision and the local communities of Gazi Baba, Ilinden and Petrovec, for solving the issue with the ground water. It launched a campaign, visited the mayors and lobbied for a solution. The outcome was several smaller actions, with no systematic approach. In 2014, DOM launched a campaign for environmental safety, as a quick and ready response to climate change. We united all eight Balkan green parties in coalition and organized Balkan Environmental Safety Conference, with support from the European green. We brought important conclusions that were taken and discussed much more seriously in the European Parliament,

rather than in the Macedonian. In doing so, DOM proposed an initiative for European Water Law.

**DOM insists on:**

- Adopting a new Law on Waters with focus on the environmental aspect;
- Adopting a new Water Management Strategy;
- Capital projects that include coverage of the entire territory of Macedonia with drinking water, irrigation and drainage channels, wastewater treatment, sustainable use of waters, and full protection of water quality and preserving water biodiversity;
- Abandoning the concept of commissioned cleaning of channels; this should be done by specialized water management institutions.
- Revision of the concession of lakes and regular water quality control, in order to protect the fish fund from water pollution, from illegal sand digging and poaching;
- Prevention from natural disasters and providing environmental safety;
- Investing in institutional strengthening, improvement of infrastructure, training of the population, but also the politicians for a ready response in case of disasters.

### **3. FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRATIC STATE**

#### **3.1. LEGAL STATE – GUARANTEE FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM**

Democracy fundamentally is a consistent respect and implementation of the laws and the legal norms and regulations, which provide basic directions for development of a civilized society. That system also consists of organizing and conducting fair and democratic elections through which the will of the citizens is expressed, clear division between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, with independent bodies and mechanisms for their control, independent media released from party constraints and pressures, freedom of movement, speech and stating views and fighting for them within the democratic procedures, as well as tolerance and respect for different opinions and worldviews. All these are elements that in the recent years were lacking and were suffocated in Macedonia, and are an important prerequisite for building a free civil society.

The Republic of Macedonia for a longer period has been facing numerous problems and disadvantages precisely in the functioning of the judiciary system. This is also pointed out in the international reports, including those of the European Union that are related to the situation on human rights and freedoms, underlining that our judiciary system is the main obstacle to the full realization of the principle of the Rule of Law.

The main problem, above all, is in the violation of the independence of the judicial system, more precisely its partisanship through the influence and the interference of the political parties and the executive power over the judicial institutions, that is, on personnel and judicial decisions. Such political pressure in the judiciary, the non-existence of effective legal protection, as well as the insufficient expertise and training of the representatives of the judicial authorities, create negative consequences for the citizens, for the development of democracy and for our Euro-Atlantic integration.

The situation in the judiciary leads towards a continuous violation of the rights and freedoms of the citizens and the principle of equality in

front of the law, complete distrust of the citizens in the judiciary, loss of legal certainty, disrespect of the public interest and regression of the democratization processes. With the creation of the Special Public Prosecution Office (SPPO), some trials are starting to receive real legal treatment and greater transparency, but this also requires creation of Special court department, that should consist of judges who would be devoted exclusively to the cases that are under the jurisdiction of SPPO

**DOM considers that a functional democratic state means: A legal state as a guarantee of democracy and freedom, independent and un-corrupt institutions as a service to the citizens, professional and expert administration, independent media and equal access to justice for all. The rule of law means the exercise of rights for all, regardless of their political, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual and other affiliation or belonging.**

In the judicial system of the Republic of Macedonia, besides the political pressure and influence, more problems and anomalies that corrupt the justice, make the access to it more difficult and create mistrust in the correctness and in the reliability of court decisions among the citizens have been detected.

The proceedings in the courts are often unjustifiably long, the principle of decision-making in reasonable time limit is not respected, the processes are multi-leveled and very complex, the procedural inconsistencies in the laws are often being misused, there are issues in the execution of sentences and many technical inefficiencies. In the Republic of Macedonia the courts are still overburdened with court cases, and the way judges are elected, which is usually done through the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, is becoming more and more complicated and controlled, and is becoming a real obstacle to the full independence of the judges from the political influences and pressures, and the elimination of corruption.

In order to ensure the smooth functioning of the independent Judiciary the reforms in the judicial system that refer precisely to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the increase of its efficiency, as well as quality selection in the election of judges, and their continuous training and professional development, and removal of the factors that influence the delay of the court proceedings and processes have to be completed.

**DOM considers that the further reforms in the judicial system should include:**



- Amendments to the material legislation for establishing a new legal framework according to the European and international standards of recognized and protected values, directed towards advancement, protection and respect of human rights and freedoms, as well as the other principles the democratic society and the legal state are based on.
- Continuing the procedural legislation that should provide faster access to justice through legal, impartial, fair and public trial within a reasonable time frame, more precisely effective realization of justice and the legally based interests of the citizens and the legal entities.
- Continuous improvement of the situation in our legal system and the rule of law, and the independent judiciary should be a priority in our legal state, as well as striving towards professional, non-partisan and responsible court administration, which all together represents significant basis for the development of democracy and the respect of the human rights and freedoms.

## Free democracy

In order to accomplish this key goal in practice we will completely implement the following general principles:

- Democratization of the country by changing the electoral model: Macedonia as one constituency, with open lists, with 50% of women and men on the lists; terminate the domination of the four political parties and the dependence of all other parties on forming coalitions with them, so that they can realize their own programs; each party to be able to act on its own, with its own program and candidates, and the citizens can choose according to the ideology and quality of the programs and the candidates; The open lists will democratize the parties and create MPs and advisers, elected directly by the citizens which will make them more independent, and not the slaves of the parties; This model is DOM's commitment since the 2010 Program. It was proposed several times in the Parliament and rejected;
- Creating laws in a transparent manner, with participation of all social democratic actors through public debates;
- Applying the adopted laws and fairly for all, **so that no one is above the law;**

- Uncompromising fight against corruption in all segments of society and freeing the institutions from the political pressure, and the private subjects from pressure and racketeering;
- Sanctioning any torture by the government against the citizens;
- Independent functioning of the legislative, executive and judicial power;
- Equal access to civil justice, because the judicial system should be acceptable and understandable to those who use it;
- Special protection of the right to ownership for every citizen;
- Freedom of expression without punishment;
- Permanent support of the civil society organizations from different areas, including those that provide services for the citizens, in order to achieve sustainability of the civil society and its impact on the democratic processes in the country.

## **Legal state - the guarantee of democracy and freedom**

As a guarantee of democracy and freedom, the state of law for the implementation of the abovementioned fundamental principles, will implement the following reforms:

- Reforms of the judicial system on two grounds:
  1. Specialization of the judges in a particular area, so that by separating the departments into civic courts the following will be formed:
    - Commercial-financial court, which will be competent only for the business-legal and the financial-legal disputes,
    - Ownership court, which will be competent only for property disputes.
  2. Specialization of the judges in a particular area in the criminal courts, in a way that separate departments for running special types of offenses will be formed. For example, a department of financial crime, violent delicts, property rights etc.
- Reforms in the way of election and appointment of judges and prosecutors, whereby the voting should be carried out in the parliament, with 2/3 votes;
- Equal right to apply to be elected for judge for everyone, in a way that everyone with 10 years of experience in law with passed bar examination should be able to apply to any call for

judges; reforming the role of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors so that this will be an institution where continuous annual training of judges will be carried out, regarding the application of the rules in a particular area, and it won't be a requirement for the election of judges;

- Strengthening the co-operation between the institutions responsible for law implementation and the supervisory function of the state;
- Respect for the unbiased manner of decision making in the judiciary because of protection of the rule of law;
- Increasing the responsibility and the sanctioning of the irresponsible people who violate the laws;
- Trial of the actual perpetrators, not a trial without evidence,
- **Review of court cases for which there are indications that are mounted politically or because of corruption reasons,**
- Revision of criminal legislation, by reducing the possibility of abuse in its application.

## 3.2. QUALITY EDUCATION

### Current state

In the recent years in the Republic of Macedonia, many “reform efforts” have been done in order to make the education modern and dynamic. But some measures were imposed without sufficient analysis and without consulting the teachers, professors, students and the pupils. This caused massive outbursts of dissatisfaction and revolt. There were particularly strong reactions to the new way of passing the final high school examination, the external assessment for the pupils and the students, as well as the new criteria for advancement in the professional and scientific titles for the teachers at all levels in the education system.

The situation in the higher education is particularly critical, where the negotiations between the students, professors and the Ministry for education and science for the new Law on Higher Education provided only a partial result. Namely, under the pressure of the public the unacceptable law was withdrawn, but a genuine approach to the demands of the students and professors lacked. In one word, the autonomy of

the University is violated, which is one of the key principles every democratic state.

DOM, through the Commission for Science and MODOM, even before the protests stood against the disputable law, demanding publicly on several occasions its withdrawal and conversation with the students and the professors. The MP Liljana Popovska submitted a number of amendments at the request of various faculty administrations, but none was accepted, after which she voted against the law.

### **Priorities**

- Improving the quality of education at all levels;
- Raising the educational level of the population;
- Education accessible to all;
- Education according to the needs of the labor market;
- Lifelong education;
- Linking the formal, non-formal and informal education;
- Providing autonomy to the University;
- Improving education through international cooperation;
- Transparent and inclusive education process of education reforms with all stakeholders;
- Evaluation of all textbooks in the primary, secondary and higher education, by creating an integrated education system by aligning all the curricula and programs.
- Changing the external assessment system at all levels, exclusively in the function of analysis and advancement of the educational process;
- Changes in the state high school final exam (matura) (sum of points from all subjects and the threshold of passing);
- Improving the conditions in the primary and secondary schools (one-shift);
- Clear criteria for advancement of teachers in the primary and the secondary education;
- Strengthening the capacity of the regional units of the MoES, especially with advisors for vocational education;
- Modification in the maximum number of pupils in a class: 24 pupils in a regular class, for vocational up to 15, and for deficient vocations up to 10;
- More optional subjects on the account of the mandatory;

- Greater participation of the economic sector in the creation of vocational education profiles;
- Lifelong learning and professional development of teachers;
- Autonomy and independence of the unions of the education workers;
- Autonomy and independence of students and the students' associations;
- Urgent reconstruction of existing pupils and students' dormitories;
- Increase the block subsidiaries for primary and secondary education and permanent solution to the problems with heating and transportation of students.

DOM stands for the following **measures in the individual segments and levels of the educational process**:

### **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

- Analysis of the situation with the methods of implementation of the programs and the way they are perceived among the students;
- Monitoring what is new and feedback from the practitioners.

### **EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

- Training of teaching staff and the professionals for working with students with mental disabilities;
- Access in the schools for the people with physical disabilities;
- Inclusion of the students with a low level of mental disability in regular schools, with the help from professionals;

### **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

#### **a) Gymnasium education**

Currently, the gymnasium education exists in three directions, each with two optional packages, which reduced the quality, and the number students varies from 10 to 40. The project activities that are provided to encourage creative thinking, critical reasoning and inventiveness, are mainly formal, and not essential. Therefore, **we suggest**:

- Three years mandatory education, and the fourth year to be optional, with minimum of 3.5 average from the previous three years and a choice of package subjects that are in function of taking the state final exam (matura);
- Merging in two directions: technical-natural and social-linguistic sciences;
- After a three-year gymnasium education additional qualification to follow in order to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills needed for the labor market.

### **b) Vocational education and training (VET)**

Vocational education and training strategy in the context of lifelong learning 2013-2020, with an action plan has been adopted in 2013. The basic platform of current vocational education and training is four-year and three-year technical vocational education, while VET with 2 years is in the stage of development. The post-secondary vocational education is included in the law, but in practice it has not been revived. Therefore, **we propose:**

- Mandatory professional orientation for each student after the completion of primary education;
- Revision of the number of classes from each educational profile with which the labor market is saturated;
- Revival of the two-year vocational education;
- Mandatory three-year education with the possibility to choose four elective subjects;
- The fourth year is NOT mandatory with a minimum of 3.0 average and a choice of package subjects that are in function of taking the state final exam (matura);
- Scholarships for vocations that are deficient in the labor market.

### **TEXT BOOKS**

The problems with the textbooks dates several decades back. The textbooks are often based on voluminous teaching programs with encyclopedic character, and without a didactic value. **We suggest:**

- preparation of textbooks by the teachers - practitioners;
- appropriate selection of reviewers;

## ASSESSMENT

The evaluation is permanent. In the past, this was done only by oral answers that according to world standards are considered to be subjective. Therefore, training courses were organized in order to apply objective knowledge tests based on difficulty. In practice, a small number of teachers apply them. An external assessment of the students' knowledge has started, but because of lack of dialogue this led to strikes by the teachers and students. **We suggest:**

- Introduction of the teaching discipline docimology, assessment of the quality education;
- The assessments from external testing to be incorporated in the overall grades from the teacher;
- Changes in the state final exam (a set of points from all passing threshold).

## MANAGEMENT

The school is managed by a director, and is directed by a school / management board consisted of teachers, tutors, professional associates, parents, representatives from the local community and a representative from the Ministry of Education and Science. **We propose:**

- legislation change in the way school directors are elected
- depoliticization of education;
- greater transparency of school / management boards;
- animation of the parents in the creation of school policies;
- decentralization and greater autonomy of the schools and the dormitories.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (PEDAGOGUES AND PSYCHOLOGISTS)

In most schools, the professional services are the least used for what their tasks should be and what they are educated for, and that is work with the students and the parents. Many schools do not have such services at all. Therefore, **we propose:**

- providing all schools with this service and employing a social worker and defectologist, and, if necessary, with medical personnel.
- revision of the programs of the professional and pedagogical service;

- permanent education of this service according to the contemporary trends;
- organizing joint workshops for students, parents and teachers;

## TEACHERS

The dignity of the educators in society is undervalued from many aspects: teachers' salaries are at the lowest level in comparison to the other state and local public institutions; Introducing the external assessment and the attempt through punishment and rewarding to encourage the teachers in their work is a wrong step, because the differences in the external testing scores have entered as a criterion for advancement (the complexity of the work is not valued, and those who teach 1 and 8 subjects are put at the same level). **We suggest:**

- raising teachers' salaries for a dignified life;
- a salary bonus or a reduction in number of hours they teach for the teachers that have over five programs;
- the teachers should be released from formal administrative obligations and they should dedicate to the processes of teaching and education;
- amendments to the Law on teachers by deleting the results from the external assessment as a criterion for promotion;
- change of the external assessment in function of analysis and advancement of the teaching process;
- recruitment and selection of teaching staff through unified application, valuation of the informal education and the volunteering in civic associations;
- calls for vacancies at the end of the school year, so that the election can be done on time;
- to introduce courses and programs at the technical faculties for training high school teachers according to the choice of the students;
- sustainable system for financing the teachers' training;
- the Ministry of Education and Science to strengthen the regional ministries;
- the Ministry of Education and Science to increase the local budgets on education



## STUDENTS

The conditions in which the students are being educated in many cases do not meet the standards and many facilities require a thorough reconstruction. Because of the number of students, they attend school in two shifts, which creates big problems for the learning process and the family life. **We suggest:**

- attending school in one shift in order to have better quality education;
- energy efficient schools;
- increasing the safety of students and promotion of policies for conflict resolution, tolerance and nonviolence;
- the gifted students to mentor the students that needs assistance, and provide certificates for them;
- free winter and summer schools for talented students in the field of natural sciences as an imperative for the technical and technological development;
- scholarships and programs for talented students to stay abroad;
- reconstruction and construction of school resorts.

### 3.3. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Current state

The Science and the technological development are moving the modern economies while ensuring social development of the country. Through constant advancement of the scientific and the technological achievements even countries with a small tradition managed to raise their economies to the highest level, and at some point, to become leaders in the scientific and technological development (Finland, Japan, Malaysia). Although the investments in science and technologies have triggered global climate change and environmental disruptions, they still, if used properly can alleviate and prevent the caused consequences. The scientific and the technological development have priority in the developed EU countries where they allocate over 2% of their GDP. In several EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Portugal) there are separate ministries of science and technology, while in Slovenia there is a separate ministry of science and

higher education. Contrary to all positive European examples of the development of science and technology, in the recent years the scientific and research activity in the Republic of Macedonia has not been on a satisfactory level. The same things also refer to the technological development that is not up to date and doesn't generate our economic development and the approximation to the European market, mainly due to lack of instruments for development policy and state institutions. Accordingly, the status and the treatment of science and research in our country, instead of a generator, are becoming a constrain for development due to the following conditions:

- The share of the budget dedicated to science stagnates for a longer time Period, and today it is about 0.2% of the GDP, which is almost ten times less than the developed countries, members of the EU,
- The data on the number of scientific and research staff, the number of financed and completed projects, indicate that the budget that is dedicated to the scientific activity is on an unsatisfactory level,
- In the science and the research institutions in general, as well as in the institutes for national themes there is a downward trend, that is also characteristic for the research activity of the state universities,
- Difficulties exist also in the field of scientific publishing, communication, dissemination of knowledge, effectuation of scientific knowledge in practice, business, national affirmation and identity.

All of this is also confirmed in the EU recommendations where RM is encouraged to start developing an integrated research policy, for which it is necessary to make significant changes in the state scientific institutions. The EU also makes serious remarks about the Insufficient investments of the Republic of Macedonia in science.

The state could appear in the role of a contracting authority for many researches in different areas that could be from state and national interest, for example: studying the environmental factors such as climate change, pollution, energy and biodiversity, which contributes to a better-quality life of citizens and protection of their health and safety. No less significant are the multidisciplinary scientific projects, from basic research to applied research in the area of medicine, food safety (GMO products, additives, etc.), health prevention, renewable energies, fuel saving, etc.

DOM considers that science requires more attention, as well as better coordination between the institutions that should support science in the Republic of Macedonia, giving greater publicity to scientific research, developing public-private partnerships, as well as strengthening the connection between the research and the industrial and business sectors.

## **Priorities**

**DOM as priorities in the program for science and technology development points out the following:**

- Preparation and adoption of National Program for science, research, technology and informatics. The strategic goals, the development priorities, the legal acts, the financial instruments and the implementation apparatus for the realization of the program should be clearly determined;
- Adoption of a new Law on Higher Education and returning the autonomy of the University;
- Establishing a Ministry of Science, which with revision of the legislation of the Government and the state administration needs to act on the preparation and realization of the National Program. The proposal to establish a separate ministry is significant, linked to our policy for integration in the EU and NATO, with the implementation of a series of policies in the field of socio-economic development, investments and taxes, informatization and technological development, as well as the status of scientific institutions, organization, advancement of the human resources and the human capital of Macedonia in general;
- The adoption of the proposal will not imply a burden on the budget or a burden with new administration because part of the existing Ministry of Education and Science will be
- reorganized into a new ministry, but with newly defined functions, retrained and more appropriately profiled staff, with a different approach to the development and progress of the country;
- Revision of the system for university accreditation and evaluation, according to European standards for quality assurance.

## **MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

DOM's commitment for a separate Ministry of Science and technological development starts with the premise that investing in science is an investment, and not an expense. For example, Sweden has the highest investments in science, about 4% of GDP. The EU offers many opportunities for assistance in the scientific research through the rich scientific-research programs such as FP7, COST, UNESCO, IAEA, etc. But despite the signed protocols for using these funds, there is no infrastructure and logistics for more appropriate use of these funds in the direction of improving the overall development of the country. The existing Ministry of Education and Science has begun significant reform processes in the primary and secondary education, but there is a lack of dedication to the higher education and science. A well-organized logistics would be from assistance to institutions that do scientific research, and such a logistics could only be provided by a new Ministry of Science and technology, which will put science in the focus on their interest, unlike the existing bulky Ministry of Education and Science.

### **DOM stands for:**

- Adopting a new strategy for scientific and technological development under the authority of the Ministry of Science,
- Increasing the budget for scientific and research activity and for participation in international conferences,
- Finding a more appropriate approach and partnership for scientific-applicable goals between the state and the private sector,
- Establishment of a national advisory body that will determine and give recommendations for the scientific and the technological needs of the Republic of Macedonia,
- Favorable green loans, tax and financial incentives, as well as motivation for enterprises that are dedicated for scientific research and implementation of new technologies in the long term,
- Support for the small and medium enterprises as well as for individual innovators that with their innovations increase the competitiveness of its products on the domestic and the international market,

- Creation of scientific-technological laboratories, supported by the central and the local government and the private sector, where the technological performance of
- the Macedonian economy could be improved,
- Adopting a long-term program for advancement of the scientific potential in the Republic of Macedonia through exchange of experiences, networking in scientific and technological associations and projects, study and work visits in the developed countries and transfer of knowledge and technologies in the Republic of Macedonia,
- Support of scientific research workers in publishing their research, their presentation and dissemination in society.

Emphasizing science and investing in it has a larger social dimension taking in consideration the knowledge that the human mind is the greatest productive force of society. At the same time, science and technology development take part in the strengthening of the equal opportunities, because science knows no bounds in terms of gender, religious affiliation or national and ethnic affiliation, because in the name of science, the scientists only speak facts and knowledge that should be the driving force in the of socio- Economic processes.

### **3.4. CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

#### **Current state**

The culture is the most remarkable and most powerful national mark that makes one country recognizable and affirmed in the world. The freedom of creation is the basic element for every culture in the civilized and democratic societies. One of the main priorities of DOM Is the acceptance and affirmation of the real values of the individual creativity, which will integrate us into the modern trends of the European and the world culture.

The Macedonian culture has its own traditions and customs that DOM is committed to preserve and promote not only at the local level, but also beyond the borders of the country. The richness of the Macedonian tradition is in the diversity of the authentic artistic expressions. We will strive for that authenticity to be protected from the influx of foreign influences that would destroy it. We also believe that

art and culture are not created only in the urban centers, but that the creative potential for creating lasting artistic values lies everywhere and that with its stimulation and creating appropriate conditions for creation, the art can and needs to be decentralized and spread out of Skopje as well.

## Priorities

DOM advocates for the **adoption of a cultural strategy** as well investment in the development of new and modern creations. DOM will strive for greater support of the independent cultural scene that consists of a number of independent artists and non-governmental organizations in the field of culture, design and the creative industries. They need greater support by local and national authorities in terms of funding their projects and activities, but also support by providing new independent spaces, in the form of ateliers, new and independent centers, creative clusters, hubs etc, where these artists and activists would work and create. One way to create these clusters and hubs is transformation of abandoned and ruined objects (industrial, military, business, local communities, etc.), whose revitalization would mean their transformation and transformation of the environment in an urban and ecologically tidy center.

### **DOM proposes the following measures:**

- Care for the protection of the Macedonian national and cultural identity, the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet,
- Strict application of the provisions of the Law on using and protection of the Macedonian language in everyday life,
- Constant fostering the cultural identity of all communities living in the Republic of Macedonia through learning and use of their mother tongue in the everyday life and in the creative work
- Enabling parts of the culture for self-financing and market activity,
- Animation, promotion and support of the creative Industries at all levels,
- Creating teams of professionals who will lead and organize the cultural institutions, will take care of providing alternative sources of funding and will promote the cultural products,
- Promoting projects in the field of eco-design as culture of living

- Support of fine arts through creation of artistic residence centers and organization of international art colonies throughout the year,
- Art workshops to revive the old, forgotten craftsmanship that would be transformed into a modern form and application, etc.,
- Greater support for the alternative scene from all the areas of culture,
- Encouraging the use of renewable resources of energy in facilities used in the field of culture (efficient facades and change of windows, gas heating, use of solar collectors, creating an ecological and art parks around this institutions)

### **3.5. EFFICIENT HEALTH SYSTEM**

#### **Current state**

DOM advocates for a healthcare system that will provide a quality health care for all citizens. For operation of such a system it is necessary to provide appropriate conditions to work and train the health professionals from the public and the private sector and to prevent the further outflow of highly qualified medical staff from the country. The trend of brain drain of young doctors and nurses is worrying. We consider that Macedonia is not so rich for to educate staff for the developed countries for free.

In the past years, several major investments have been made in the area of public health: equipment, renovation of buildings, integrated information health system. However, due to a decade lack of planning and investment in specializations and other trainings, there is a huge shortage of certain professions. Because of this, many expensive devices remain unused. The residents themselves are dissatisfied with the conditions and treatment that led to protests and modest positive changes. Throughout the entire period there is a lack of coordination and cooperation of the ministry with the healthcare providers- health-care workers.

Many reforms and projects are invasively implemented, and the remarks of the professional associations and the unions are not taken into account. At the same time, health workers are demonized and their dignity and their rights are not respected, which is a demotivating, and is one of the reasons for the mass moving of the health workers abroad.

The education of doctors and the other healthcare professionals and collaborators in Macedonia for decades has been realized at UKIM and the Bitola University. Three more schools have opened in the past years, medical faculties in Tetovo, Stip and Skopje. Such a policy, given the size of our country, is not rational and leads to dispersion of the material and the human resources, rather than towards quality education. For comparison, in the United Kingdom there are 32 medical schools of 63,183,000 inhabitants (one school of 2.000.000 inhabitants).

## **Priorities**

3. Investment in the infrastructure of the health system of all levels - primary, secondary and tertiary health protection.
4. Providing access to primary health care in every part of the country, including the rural areas and planned development of the network of secondary health care that will ensure equal dispersion of specialized clinics according to needs of the citizens, providing greater inclusion of the private specialists' ordinations.
5. Further development of the programs for preventive medicine and the programs for special groups of citizens.
6. Providing conditions for quality undergraduate, postgraduate and continuous education of physicians and health workers.
7. Implanting reforms and projects in the healthcare, in cooperation, and not with marginalization and confrontation of the professional associations and the trade unions.
8. Program and measures that will prevent further brain drain of doctors and health workers from the country.

### **DOM proposes:**

- Review of the Law on Narcotic Drugs Control and Psychotropic substances in the direction of decriminalization of the users and establishing regular programs for their treatment, socialization and rehabilitation,
- Make the cannabis for medical purposes more available and reduce the prices,
- Regular procurement of the new generation more effective medications for all patients, and especially for chronic patients, those with rare diseases and with HIV / Aids,



- Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement and adding other criteria, in addition to the low cost, such as the quality, the credibility of the companies and the environmental aspect,
- Based on evidence and methodically precise assessments and analyses to provide funding from the national budget, that will ensure the sustainability of the HIV prevention and support programs for the groups that are under a particular risk of HIV,
- Preparation and adoption of legal effective mechanisms that will provide long term and sustainable state funding of the HIV programs for the socially excluded citizens and the groups that are at particular risk of HIV,
- Equipping the healthcare facilities with equipment and staff in the whole country, especially in the rural areas,
- Timely announcement of state specializations and hiring the necessary staff. It is unacceptable to have shortage of doctors from certain specialties,
- Appropriate compensation for the private residents during their specialization,
- To terminate the “live transmission” from the taking of the Specialist exam. The specialist exam is not a “reality show “,
- Bring back the dignity of the healthcare professionals and stop the hunt against them,
- Improving the salaries of the health workers,
- Providing jobs in the health system for all students with an average grade over 8.5 within 6 months after taking the state exam,
- Assessment of the needs of the healthcare professionals in Macedonia and appropriate planning of the number of students. Review of the need of new medical faculties,
- Investment in the quality of teaching and investment in scientific projects in the existing medical schools,
- Support for further development of the integrated Information system that should enable better health care for every patient. Revision of the Integrated information system in the direction of reducing the administrative work of the doctors,
- Provide ease of use and modification of the public procurement system for the public health institutions in order to avoid shortages of medications due to lengthy administrative procedures,

- Further development of the programs and the projects in the preventive healthcare.
- Special programs for the vulnerable groups (children, pregnant, old, ill with chronic diseases, malignant diseases, psychological illnesses and addictions),
- Research and investments in the field of health ecology.

## **Projects**

- Prevent the brain drain of young doctors abroad
- Raising awareness of the outdoor air pollution and its effect on the health
- Raising awareness on the sources of air pollution inside the buildings and their effect on the health

Raising awareness of the role and the effect of the preservatives, the supplements in the cosmetics and in the chemicals in the household on the health.

## **4. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **4.1. MAN-TAILORED SOCIAL POLICY**

#### **Current state**

Macedonia is already in a difficult economic situation due to the long transition, which has a negative impact on the living standards of the citizens and the quality of their lives. The unemployment rate decreases, but is still very high - about 26%, average incomes are low, the poverty rate is 24%. Unemployment remains a major challenge, especially among young people, causing serious social consequences.

In the past years, we were constantly working on improvement of the legislation in the field of social protection, some projects were implemented in order to help families without income. But for most of them, the situation was deteriorating due to the inability to secure their own existence, the long procedure for receiving money from social protection (several months), and also because of the small amount of funds that do not meet the needs for food. This existential struggle results with continuous stress that negatively affects family members, interrupts relationships and communication, and conflicts are intensified. There is increased level in domestic violence, divorces, deviant behavior, alcohol and drug addiction. Particularly worrying is the constant increase of addicts, robberies, violence and murders, juvenile prostitution, beggars, victims of violence.

Despite the declarative efforts for family and children, the country does not allocate sufficient funds for their protection. There is a small number of professionals who are engaged to work with families at risk, which makes the fight against poverty, dealing with problems and inclusion in the labor market difficult for everyone.

In a particularly difficult situation are the representatives of the so-called vulnerable groups. This groups include addicts, people with disabilities, single parents, victims of domestic violence, homeless people, LGBT people, Roma people and other minority groups, which additionally carry the burden of social exclusion due to stereotypes and prejudice.

**In the social sphere, DOM's commitment is to create a modern integrated system of social protection, in which individuals and families can create their own labor, and they will also get help from the country, respecting the basic principles of social protection: pluralism, inclusion, democracy.**

For **building a society of social justice**, a social policy at national, regional and local level is required. **The social inclusion under equal conditions is an inalienable right of each member as a basic requirement for a participative, creative and balanced tribalism, free from any discrimination.** Each member has the right of education, employment, salary, health and social insurance, as well as accessibility to all products and services of general interest: education, culture, sport, etc.

**DOM's strategic policy is:**

- **Equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of sex, race, ethnic and social background, age, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, physical condition.** The goal is to overcome the current situation, despite the provisions of the Constitution and the Law on Equal Opportunities, but the realization of basic human rights is still at the level of declarative efforts;
- **Employment for all people under equal conditions**, in order to provide equal opportunities for everyone and to engage the people in the production and service process. At the same time, DOM stands for equal conditions for everyone in the educational process, in order to create high-quality professional staff;
- Commitment to create a system for protecting citizens from social risks and equal access to social and health services;
- Adjusting the working hours to the needs of the economic subjects and the citizens, so that the citizens can have enough time for their personal life, through culture, entertainment, recreation;
- Preserving and promoting family values and positive effects on the psychosocial development of each member;
- Decent living in the late thirties, equal opportunities for self-realization and at the end of the working life, creating their own life and participating in community activities with their experience and knowledge;
- Commitment for introducing standards for protection of all employees in order to prevent the occurrence of injury,

extension of the working life and use of the work potential and the experience of the employees;

- Conversion of the funds provided as social assistance, which are insufficient for the existential minimum of beneficiaries' life, in order to create an opportunity for employment and self-employment of the social beneficiaries;
- **Fight against domestic violence** in order to stop the intergenerational transmission, which is a prerequisite for raising healthy future generations, that will build healthy, non-violent relationships within the family, and therefore, in the wider community.

## Measures and activities

### DOM stands for:

- Ratifying and applying international legal regulations in order to regulate human rights issues, non-discrimination on any basis, labor relations and social protection;
- Implementation of the existing legislation in the area of protection of human rights, labor relations and social protection, raising initiatives for its amendment, especially primarily laws: labor, employment, social and pension insurance, equal opportunities, social protection, family, prevention and protection from domestic violence, children protection, etc.;
- Effective fight against mobbing and all kinds of harassment at work;
- Funds for modern social protection at national and local level;
- Systematic correlations of the country with the municipalities and civic associations through coordination bodies, planning and initiating local micro-projects for social services and infrastructure, in order to obtain modern social services;
- Improving the capacity of the social work services in order to create a professionally equipped, expert and mobile service for the citizens;
- Commitment for introducing standards and norms for entities involved in providing social services;
- Improving mutual relations between social exclusion and employment policies;

- Adequate income for a dignified life;
- Programs for employing social assistance beneficiaries through their re-qualification, additional qualification, opening mini-plants;
- Employment programs for the citizens, especially for marginalized groups: people with disabilities, single mothers, victims of domestic violence, homeless people, addicts, former convicts;
- Involvement of economic entities as socially responsible factors for improving the standard of marginalized groups of citizens (people with disabilities, elderly and frail people, pensioners, children on the street, single parents, victims of domestic violence, homeless people, etc.);
- Supporting trade union associations as forms of action by employees in order to ensure a higher standard of living;
- Active dealing with poverty by reducing the general rate and depth of poverty and equalizing regional differences with a particular emphasis on rural areas;
- Creating social maps of rural and urban municipalities;
- Creating database of civic associations at local level that provides social services to citizens;
- Opening information centers for social services for citizens on country and local level;
- Holding tribunes and workshops with citizens at local level in order to introduce the concept of “social justice, security, equal opportunities”;
- Opening family counseling centers at local level where experts will work with children, parents, elderly people, other members of the family;
- Opening social clubs on a local level in order to develop the social skills of the residents for recognizing and developing personal capacities as a prerequisite for improving the living standard;
- Opening regional centers for temporary care of victims of domestic violence;
- Programs for intergenerational solidarity through various activities;

- Programs for involving people in the late thirties in community-based activities;
- Quality educational system in schools for young people with disabilities, with trained teachers and specially designed educational materials;
- Integration of adults with disabilities into the community through appropriate activities;
- Accessibility to public infrastructure, public buildings, sanitary facilities, public space, public transport for people with disabilities;
- Opening youth creative centers at local level in order to encourage the creative potential of the young population (encouraging their critical thinking, creativity and intelligence);
- Introduction of tax deduction for companies as motivation for employing people from so-called marginalized groups;
- Holding debates with government institutions and business sector in order to find ways for employing people who belong to marginalized groups;
- Educational programs of the staff in kindergartens and schools for prevention and recognition of psychosocial problems in children and families;
- Programs for educational workshops for preschool children and school age, for prevention and recognition of harmful effects of alcohol, smoking, drugs, prostitution, domestic violence, trafficking of children;
- Programs for raising public awareness about the problems of social protection and promotion of the concept of quality living;
- Programs for breaking social prejudices, ignoring and discriminating.

## 4.2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood” (Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paris, 1948).

### Priorities

**DOM puts four principles on the pedestal: respect of human rights, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and tolerance of diversity. The observance of them makes us open-minded and free to take action.**

DOM stands firmly behind the principle of respecting human rights, because they belong to all human beings, regardless of nationality, place of residence, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, language or any other status. We all have the same right to our existence, opinion, action, without any discrimination.

DOM insists on the principle of equal opportunities for living and progress of all people. It starts from equality, which is the principle where all people are considered equal, equal in terms of their rights and obligations.

DOM represents the principle of non-discrimination of any person and uncompromisingly fights against any kind of discrimination. Discrimination represents any unjustified legal or physical, direct or indirect, unequal treatment, omission (exclusion, limitation or giving priority) regarding individuals or groups based on sex, race, color of the skin, gender, marginalized groups, ethnicity, language, citizenship, social origin, religion or religious belief, sexual orientation and gender identity, education, political affiliation, personal or social status, mental and physical disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health status or other elements.

DOM emphasizes the importance of tolerance to diversity, because it enables mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation. Different in many things, but still people.

#### **DOM stands for:**

- respect and consistent implementation of human rights in Macedonian institutions, domestic and international citizens, non-discrimination, equal opportunities and tolerance;



- effective and transparent work of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination;
- establishment of an independent expert committee for anti-discrimination;
- legal prohibition of hate speech, as a crime;
- fight against stereotypes and prejudices, as well as against hate speech;
- non-violence in the actions of individuals and institutions;
- public representation for protection against discrimination, social incorporation and social rights for all citizens, especially for marginalized groups, including minority communities, and especially Roma people:
  - In order to be no longer neglected and marginalized, and to express themselves professionally and live a dignified life, DOM proposes serious financial investments in order to improve the infrastructure and living conditions of Roma people, as well as providing strong institutional support for raising the quality of their lives in terms of health, education and social protection, culture and sport. These investments should remain until equalizing the quality of life and emancipation of Roma people with other communities.
  - In Shuto Orizari and other places where Roma people live, people must build social and health care institutions (kindergartens, social counseling centers, ambulances, gynecological offices, reproductive health centers, dentists and other specialties),
  - DOM submitted a Declaration on the Rights and Dignity of Roma people in 2010, adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Better mutual introduction of the citizens from different social groups and communities, in order to strengthen the social cohesion and building a fair, stable and prosperous multiethnic society.

## 4.3. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### Current state

The term “community” denotes a state in which we are strongly interconnected and related to each other. Therefore, the equality of all citizens in freedom and rights, regardless of sex, race, skin color, national and social origin, political and religious beliefs, property and social status, is a set of fundamental values, guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia.

As a political party of the green option, among the priorities of DOM are included: the social justice, equal opportunities for everyone and respect for diversity. Within these program priorities, immediately after the Constitutional Assembly of DOM in 2006, was established the Women's Forum of DOM. The forum is actively working on its structure and achievement of program goals of the party. It includes members of DOM and supporters.

In the past period, the Women's Forum of DOM actively supported the Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men at the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and accomplished a number of activities for realization of its program:

- A campaign where 50% of women will be on the electoral lists, which resulted in increased quotas with reference to the less represented sex from 33% to 40%, with the support of all members of the Macedonian Women's Lobby. This campaign was realized by DOM at the time of the local elections in 2013 with 50% female candidates for advisers on their electoral lists.
- Active participation in adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence, where several essential amendments were adopted by DOM.
- Active fight against the abortion ban, along with women from other parties and civil society organizations.
- Platforms in the area of economic empowerment of women, health care, problems of single parents, the problem of domestic violence, life with a handicapped person, campaign against GMOs and support for organic food production.
- An initiative was adopted by the Women's Forum of DOM in order to change the Law on Labor Relations and introduce a ban on psychological harassment at the workplace (mobbing).

## Priorities

### ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality means equal visibility of the participation of both sexes in all spheres of private and public life. The application of this principle results in providing a greater range of ideas and solutions in order to create a balanced, harmonious and prosperous society. In order to give the opportunity of practical functioning of the principle of gender equality, we need full implementation of women's rights as human rights and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. This is also one of the basic program choices of the Green option that DOM implements in its political program and activity.

### ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL LIFE

The equal participation of women in political life is a prerequisite for the development of a democratic and prosperous society. Accepting the UN platform "Planet 50/50 to 2030", the Women's Forum of DOM presents these measures:

- **Amendments to the Electoral Code with one constituency, open lists, 50% women in the electoral lists and mayoral quotas;**
- Education and encouragement of women to participate in politics;
- Promoting women's civil and political rights;
- Promoting achieved effects as a result of the activity of female politicians.

### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Economically emancipated and independent women are a prerequisite for the social affirmation of women. A female entrepreneur is increasingly becoming an essential element of the small business in the world, and it is therefore important to create an adequate policy to support female entrepreneurs. Over the past decades, several conferences have been organized internationally, for greater and equal participation of women in the economic and public life.

During the transition period, women in Macedonia were more affected by differences in education and qualifications, lowest-paying jobs and different forms of discrimination they were subjected to. This has led to lower material and social status of women, so they easily became victims of violence, trafficking and prostitution.

The problem in the development of female entrepreneurship is also related to the biological function of the woman and her relationship with the family, as well as the stereotypes and the emphasis on the traditional way of life. Fortunately, the issue of female entrepreneurship is getting more and more publicized and we work to create conditions for equal opportunities and working conditions for men and women.

In this respect, the Women's Forum of DOM promotes the following **measures**:

- Ensuring a balance of women's private and professional life by providing more options for flexible working hours, according to women's choice (part-time work, certain days of work), increased number of kindergartens, full-time work at kindergartens, increased number of children in kindergartens and other measures,
- Instigation for business success, business culture and business ethics of women,
- Developing measures for the active role of women in the labor market with a focus on "greening" the national economy and creating new "green" jobs,
- Supporting female entrepreneurship with serious budget funds,
- Supporting women from rural areas with serious budget funds,
- Greater representation of female managers and representatives in management and supervisory boards,
- Providing various forms of support for women while establishing private companies,
- Promotion of successful female entrepreneurs,
- Establishing a fund to support the informal business sector (traditional food, crafts, handicrafts),
- Available education in the business area, management and marketing,
- Preventing workplace mobbing,
- Removing various forms of discrimination while seeking a job opportunity.

## **SOCIAL CARE FOR WOMEN**

Social protection involves a system of economic, political, educational, legal and other measures and activities, aimed at preventing causes that lead to individual social cases, social problems and difficulties which

prevent the successful social functioning. Social protection involves an organized system of different types of state services and other factors of the social life for mutual support and assistance to different categories of citizens. DOM consistently and vigorously represents civic equality of every individual and social group.

In this context, the Women's Forum of DOM emphasizes the need for the following **measures**:

- Introduction of gender budgeting on a country level:
  - Providing more funds for: kindergartens with flexible working time and other social institutions for child and adult care, shelters for victims of domestic violence, screening programs for uterine and breast cancer, support for female entrepreneurship and rural women, and other measures for achieving gender equality;
  - Opening counseling centers for perpetrators of domestic violence, shelters for the victims, shelters for 10,000 inhabitants and professional trainings from institutions, as well as rape crisis centers for helping victims for every 200,000 inhabitants;
  - Ratification and consistent implementation of the recommendations of the Istanbul Conference and improvement of the existing legislation in this area.
  - Urgent reaction of the law authorities and access of victims to special protection measures during the investigation and court proceedings.
  - Promotion of the Law on Free Legal Aid.
  - Fight against domestic violence, with increased budget support for shelters and retraining programs and re-socialization of victims,
  - Fight against stereotypes and prejudices,
  - Care for vulnerable groups (elderly people, people with disabilities, orphans, single mothers), and introducing volunteer work in the form of a project activity in secondary schools, for visiting and assisting persons in need, re-socialization of vulnerable groups.

## HEALTH CARE OF WOMEN

The right to life is the basic human right guaranteed by the highest acts of the country. DOM stands for a health system that will be the basis

for quality health care for all citizens. The Women's Forum of DOM has particular significance to the following **measures**:

- Amendment on the Abortion Act with tendency of free decision by women without psychological pressures, limitations and unnecessary procedures.
- Health education for women, especially for diseases specific for them,
- Full women's coverage with primary gynecological health care and full women's coverage of screening programs for breast cancer.
- Providing compulsory primary health care in rural areas,
- Improving the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases,
- Introducing sex education in primary schools.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN**

In the Republic of Macedonia there is a positive trend for a larger number of women than men who enroll and complete higher education. However, a significant number of women is still present, especially from older generations, from rural areas and marginalized groups who have not completed formal education, which makes them uncompetitive in the labor market. Therefore the Women's Forum of DOM stands for:

- Providing non-formal education for people who did not complete compulsory education,
- Organizing courses, seminars and workshops for acquiring certain skills in order to facilitate the employment,
- An inclusive approach to formal education for people with disabilities.

Since the main determinants of the Women's forum of DOM correspond to the main priorities of the Green Program of DOM, the Women's Forum of DOM stands for full implementation of the Green Program of DOM in all spheres of the socio-political life in the Republic of Macedonia.

## 4.4. THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

### Principles and Measures of DOM for full inclusion of people with disabilities in the society

In Macedonia, the country itself provides social protection for the citizens, in accordance with the principle of social justice, guaranteed by the constitutional provisions (Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia). The system of social protection itself is a complete mechanism that should provide conditions and measures for including the vulnerable groups in the society.

One of the largest categories of vulnerable groups in the country, which are a priority in DOM's program, are the people with disabilities.

Successful action and effective implementation of DOM's program in the area of social policy requires adherence to determinants, that will guarantee full inclusion of the citizens with disabilities, observing the following principles:

- **Continuity** - ensuring continuity in the implementation of the ratified Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, as a ratified state policy;
- **Protection** - plan for measures and activities for overcoming and limiting the influence of factors that have a negative impact on the process of social protection and prevention;
- **Success** - synchronizing objectives, priorities, planned measures, specific programs and expected results with real social needs;
- **Consistency** - ensuring coordination, promotion and measures for building mutual commitment in the realization of goals;
- **Rationality** - achieving optimal results through expedient financing, accountability and revision of fiscal costs.

### Principles

DOM relies on the fact that through the successfully stated principles and their strict adherence for political decisions, in the social life, will be incorporated the following principles:

- **Justice** - DOM aims at creating a society in which the respect for human rights, dignity, freedom, equal access and non-discrimination will be our guides and unique verifiers;

- **Equality** – All groups will be equally involved. DOM sees the phenomenon of special needs as a key segment of human diversity and development. DOM follows the maximum of people with disabilities “Nothing for us - without us”. DOM has never acted, and never does anything without the active participation of people with disabilities, guided by the aforementioned principle of Justice;
- **Effectiveness** - Achievement of the set goals through successfully implemented strategies and action plans, which will enable continuity and longevity of the achieved results, and would not be a conflict with the previously stated maximum.

## Measures for promoting the rights of people with disabilities

- For the purpose of more efficient implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Republic of Macedonia must finally face the necessity of adopting a comprehensive Law on the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. After all, they required all this to be together with the first successful civic initiative and the collection of 18,976 signatures for adopting that law. DOM always supported this initiative!;
- DOM, since its establishment, reacted and insisted that the system of protective companies for people with disabilities is unfinished and is the subject of proven manipulations. Neither ten amendments to the law did not introduce system and order in this matter. Therefore, DOM stands for a completely new approach and adoption of a new law for employment of people with disabilities, with a quota system and “empty capital”, which will really ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the open labor market;
- Adopting a national policy for creating support services with the necessary regulatory mechanisms. DOM believes that this will ensure the introduction of standards for all services and service providers that are currently appearing with the so-called “Active measures”. DOM thinks that there is a lack of long-term effect, the cost of the services, as well as of more effective system for controlling and distributing financial resources from different services. In addition, we should not forget the respect for the



principle of equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in the creation and control of this mechanism;

- DOM notes the overlap of roles in institutions, whether in acceptance or refusal of jurisdiction. DOM stands for every institution (even house council and local community) within its domain, in order to accept the responsibilities for the citizens. DOM will insist on normative regulation, like people with disabilities would say “Even the minister without portfolio must have a portfolio - special needs”;
- Upgrading the administrative capacity of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, as well as other institutions at central and local level. DOM believes that by raising the capacities and skills of these people in the public administration, the understanding of the needs of the vulnerable groups will be ensured, especially the people with special needs, thus ensuring their active involvement in the social life;
- Implementation of the laws that regulate the obligation for accessibility of all facilities, from spatial and urban planning, through building, up to maintenance;
- Decentralization of the centers for social work in terms of financing and offering social protection. DOM insists on assessing local resources and needs, and the capacities of local governments. DOM insists that the employees in these centers should leave the office and monitor the needs of citizens, especially those with special needs, on a daily basis;
- DOM insists on adopting a policy and a local action plan (LAP) related to the issue of people with disabilities. DOM with its advisors will fight to overcome discrimination, segregation and economic inequality for the most vulnerable group of citizens – people with disabilities.
- DOM considers that without the mandatory and normatively regulated inclusion of people with disabilities, as representatives in the regulatory bodies, as well as in all segments of the government (executive, legislative and judicial), the principle “Nothing for us - without us” will never be consistently implemented.

Therefore, because of that and for thousands other problems that the citizens with special needs face on a daily basis, DOM is committed to

all policies and measures, in order to follow the principles that have only one purpose – full involvement of citizens with special needs. Because of that, people with special needs suggest, “Macedonia is too small to be able to give up the contribution of any citizen, whether he was a person with disabilities or not!”

## **4.5. RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE**

### **Current state**

LGBT people in the Republic of Macedonia suffer from discrimination, violence and homophobic media content, that through hate speech, encourage the rise of homophobia and violence against LGBT people in our country. This conclusion arises from the community itself, and also, from the non-governmental organizations that work on this issue, but this data are also contained in the Progress Report of Macedonia, from November 2015, by the European Commission.

One of the main priorities of DOM is social justice and equal opportunities for all. DOM is a party, that actively cooperates with non-governmental organizations, representing the rights of the LGBT community in the Republic of Macedonia. DOM, through its president and MP in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and former president of the Commission for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, gives unconditional support by representing the rights of the LGBT community and all other marginalized groups of citizens, in front of the public institutions and the media.

DOM suggested several amendments to the Law on Non-Discrimination by introducing the terms: sexual orientation and gender identity, and in the Parliament, our member of the Parliament was the first to set questions related to the attacks on LGBT people, addressed to the Minister of Interior and the Public Prosecutor. DOM, leading the Parliamentary Committee on Equality between men and women, also provided the first debate about treating LGBT people and other marginalized groups in public communication, where we adopted multiple conclusions about the Article 3 of the same Commission. The MP from DOM, as a decisive vote, prevented constitutional changes and was the first person who anticipated the prohibition of illegitimate union between same-sex couples. DOM continuously gives support for the rights of LGBT people, and is against hate speech and depreciation.

DOM responds to all homophobic statements and events, and also participates in public campaigns to support LGBT rights.

Some of the more important efforts of DOM, regarding the protection of the rights of LGBT people in Macedonia are:

- Submitted Amendment by MP Liljana Popovska, in order to delete the addendum to illegitimate union, from the draft amendment of the constitutional Article 40, according to which the marriage and the illegitimate union represents a partnership “exclusively between only one woman and only one man”, the illegitimate union disagrees with the fact that it could be a constitutional category, because in this way not only the LGBT community will be discriminated, but also other categories of citizens.
- Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination was submitted by MP Liljana Popovska, which broadened the discrimination grounds in Article 3, as it was stated - “sexual orientation and gender identity”. The law explicitly stipulates a prohibition of discrimination on this basis, which is an essential need for full protection against discrimination against LGBT people in the Republic of Macedonia.

## **Priorities**

In order to implement the rights and needs of the LGBT community, DOM emphasizes the following commitments:

- Raising awareness of respecting diversity in society and confronting intolerance towards LGBT people in the Republic of Macedonia.
- Increasing the visibility of the LGBT community through presence in the media and education,
- Amendments to the Law on Non-Discrimination by Adding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as a Basis for Non-Discrimination,
- Enabling equal access and non-discrimination in the employment of marginalized groups of citizens in the society, including the LGBT community in the Republic of Macedonia.

## 4.6. YOUTH POLICIES

### Priorities

#### GUARANTEED RIGHT FOR PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PROCESSES OF MAKING DECISIONS

The right of young people to participate in decision-making processes is guaranteed when they turn 18. DOM always recognizes the right of young people to express their opinion on relevant topics and values their opinion especially for policies that directly affect young people.

DOM stands for respecting the European Youth Information Charter adopted in Bratislava (Republic of Slovakia) in 2004 by the 15th General Assembly of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), covering all topics of interest of young people, including a wide range of activities: information, counseling, guidance, support, training, networking, and referrals to specialist services.

DOM supports youth activism and education programs, leads dialogue with young leaders and represents their direct lobbyist in policy-making processes at national level, and fights for their effective participation.

DOM builds a partnership with young people at national level, and develops programs where young people contribute and create their own society. DOM suggests development of formal and informal mechanisms to institutions, and also focuses on establishing working groups which will guarantee youth participation, by involving young people in decision-making processes and supporting youth-led projects.

For DOM, the participation of young people in decision-making processes means more democratic decision-making. But at the same time, DOM is ready to invest in young people, to provide a budget and to guarantee open and accessible institutions- services for young people.

DOM encourages the development of young people in active and conscious citizens, supports the balance of rights among young people and their obligations towards society, by contribution to the fight against stereotypes and barriers between adults and youth, institutions and youth activists.

DOM continues to develop a dialogue with youth workers and youth organizations and is committed for allocating budget funds for their strengthening, and also for their interests, along with program commitments.

Investing in young people means positive development of the country. Therefore DOM proposes the **following measures:**

- Implementation of the National Youth Strategy 2016-2025,
- Establishment of a National Coordinative Body for Youth with representatives of the institutions, parliamentarians and representatives of the non-governmental sector,
- Recognition of the National Youth Council of Macedonia as the only representative body of youth organizations at national level,
- Establishment of a mechanism for cooperation and coordination between the state institutions and the National Youth Council of Macedonia, as the largest representative body of the youth and youth organizations in the country, as well as formation of a youth lobby group in the Parliament,
- Guarantee of freedom for association of high school and university students and involving them in all processes of their interest,
- Improving the status of youth organizations through regular financial support,
- Establishing a system for youth information through the educational, cultural and entertainment institutions, youth clubs and advisory bodies,
- Providing youth space and debate on youth issues in the media,
- Promoting political participation of young people and promoting public policies for youth by adopting the Law on Youth,
- Developing opportunities for economic empowerment of youth and youth organizations.

## **YOUTH WITH REAL DEMOCRATIC VALUES**

The realization of democracy, in its basic meaning - the rule of the people - is one of the postulates upon which the political action of DOM is based. Participants in the democratic processes are and should be, all citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, including the young people. Democracy is not just the day of the elections, but also the participation of young people in decision-making processes of state and local interest, and transparent flow of information at all levels. The improvement of democracy, opens ways for better decisions about life through expression of our own opinions and attitudes. Therefore, we strive for our citizens, especially for young people to have the right to express their own opinion.

Young people should be given the freedom and opportunity to develop themselves as individuals, using their abilities and qualifications. A fair society requires free individuals who will participate in making decisions, especially young people, but also to use the right to decide on their future, and to have influence on their own decisions.

**The main principle is:**

- To pay particular attention on the political education of young people under the age of 18, without the right to vote, which would contribute to better thinking and decision-making processes, and also will be contribute for the development of socio-engaged and responsible young people, at the moment when they acquire that right.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTING TOLERANCE, COMMUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

We are facing with a wave of violence in various forms, that have negative implications on people, but also on the environment, culture, economy.

DOM aims at creating a culture of peace and mutual understanding that would be achieved through projects by promoting the values, attitudes and behavior, which are the basis of peaceful resolution of conflicts and their possible prevention.

Therefore, DOM motivates young people to take positive action in order to make our community safer and healthier through projects, against hate speech. DOM promotes policies for reconciliation, cooperation and bringing young people together, regardless of their ethnic, religious, party, social, sexual or any other determination.

## **EDUCATION, STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND STUDENT STANDARDS**

Over the past years, we were witnesses of constant dissatisfaction by the proposed legal solutions in all phases of education, especially the laws on secondary and higher education and the constant supervision and treatment of the professors. High school students, university students and their professors, expressed their dissatisfaction through experimental attempts for changes in the educational system, and the product was only serious decline in the quality of education, disruption of university autonomy and violation of students and students rights.

**DOM stands for:**

- Making full revision of the Laws on Primary, Secondary and Higher Education in consultation with all parties,
- Providing professional premises, resources and professional staff in all departments,
- Renovation and reorganization of boarding schools, providing human hygienic conditions and standardized student mess rooms,
- Reviewing the needs for opening new universities,
- Enabling combined studies, new programs and free choices of subjects,
- Encouraging and creating conditions for independent and strong students and high school organizations,
- Supporting a new model of university and high education, according to the wishes of the students,
- Returning the dignity and integrity of the professors,
- Providing conditions and means for the development of science,
- Abolishing external testing,
- Evaluating the current ECTS system, in order to indicate the shortages and inconsistencies, and revising the curriculum in accordance with the European system,
- Providing conditions for scientific research and funds for young researchers,
- Providing compulsory student and faculty exchanges for study programs,
- Renovation of libraries and enrichment library funds with literature in several world languages,
- Securing quarterly maps for all cultural and sporting events,
- Encouraging the organizations for university and high school events and parties, as well as issuing a modern university and high school newspaper,
- Introducing sex education for high school students,
- Providing information on civic associations in high schools and student libraries.

## **INTRODUCING ECOLOGY AS COMPULSORY SUBJECT AT SCHOOL**

As an organization, DOM with its green political platform, believes that young people need to acquire knowledge, skills and educational ideas for environmental protection. This means developing a sense and awareness of responsibility towards the nature and the environment. Past studies of ecology within other subjects, and studying ecology as a project activity, did not show the desired effect. Above all, the teaching staff needs training and competences in the field of ecology, but also, there is a problem with the educational material where the protection of the environment is not sufficiently represented.

To learn about entrepreneurship and business, and not to learn about ecology, represents an incomplete educational process for young people.

DOM proposes implementation of non-formal education for environmental protection through seminars, trainings, debates and announces a summer Academy with the main topic of ecology.

## **VOLUNTEERING, A STEP TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE**

DOM considers volunteering as an extremely recognized, valuable and mandatory recommendation for each employment. Therefore, volunteering encourages activism, which is the main motivator for the next society, that contributes in building networks and creates a sense of responsibility for solving community problems.

This helps young people and volunteers to develop and improve certain skills, gain self-confidence, develop communication and organizational skills, and often volunteering is an opportunity to get a paid job. Volunteering cannot be treated as a free labor force.

### **DOM stands for:**

- Establishing volunteer center as a key base for its own development,
- Promotion of volunteering at schools,
- Valuation of volunteering through employment,
- Conducting researches on the economic benefits of volunteering,
- Increasing the opportunities for volunteering in health, social, education, and local government sectors.



## **HOME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE EMPLOYED IN THEIR HOMELAND!**

The world remains to the youth! Young people should be employed in their homeland! According to the data from the World Bank, over 400,000 young people immigrated in the last 4-5 years from the Republic of Macedonia.

DOM represents the fact that young people should stay in their homeland, get quality education there, get jobs and be recognized as experts in their field, in order to build their career and help country's development.

People say that they just do not want to communicate with their children, grandchildren, and friends on Skype. That is why the Republic of Macedonia should be a HOUSE FOR ALL! HOME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

The future remains on the youth, the young people will be employed in their homeland!

#### **DOM stands for:**

- Fair approach for employing young people, according to their abilities and quality, regardless of political, ethnic or religious affiliation.
- Opening new workplaces within universities and faculties, which will enable students to earn and develop their skills (to perform researches for the needs of their teachers, to translate, organize their consultation terms, to collect materials for specific lectures, to contact colleagues from abroad, organize their trips, etc.),
- Opening youth counseling centers and free business consulting offices within the faculties,
- Guaranteed job positions for the best students of the generation in the appropriate area,
- Compulsory practice in each academic year and a ban for unpaid practice
- Developing part-time projects for student teams in collaboration with municipalities, that will provide social stimulation for the elderly through art and music, recreational programs for children at risk, babysitting, teaching, etc.,
- Annual program for employing children without parents and young people from socially disadvantaged families, as well as young people at risk,

- Affirmation and financial assistance for young people in agriculture
- Free consulting and financial assistance for acquiring all necessary skills for carpenters, plumbers, locksmiths, welders, etc.,
- Establishment of a business chamber of young economists that will protect the workers' rights of the young people up to 35 years old and will offer them opportunities for career, training and counseling,
- Opening new workplaces for students and masters in environmental protection for:
  - improving energy efficiency,
  - greenhouse gas emission limits,
  - reducing waste and pollution, protection and returning to normal ecosystems; and
  - adaptation and dealing with the consequences of climate changes.
- Transparent and public Employment Agency with accessible and accurate information on vacancies,
- Facilitating the payment of contributions and exemption from paying tax within 3 years, for opening new workplaces for young people up to 29 years old in the poorest cities in the Republic of Macedonia,
- Help and subventions for small and medium-sized businesses, operated by people up to 29 years old,
- Contracts and benefits for people up to 29 years old who will be engaged in agriculture and purchase of the necessary equipment (installments, discounts, low interest rates),
- Favorable loans for young people for restarting the extinguished companies in the municipalities of the Republic of Macedonia (deviation of land, premises and equipment),
- Loans for young people with lowest interest rates,
- Grants and subventions for young people for starting their own businesses, grants for new ideas and innovations for young people.

**Project: Be a craftsman** - Information and access to apprenticeship programs and directing young people to learn trades that are about to disappear

## 4.7. POLICIES OF THE THIRD AGE

### Current state

The trend of ageing among the population is unstoppable. Worldwide, the percentage of people older than 60 years in 2015 was 12.3%. Expectations, in conditions of reduced birth rate, by 2030 will be over 16%, and by 2050 will be up to 21%. This process is designed for all regions of the world. The situation in Macedonia is the same, where the participation of the adults (65+), according to the data of the SSO, is 12.5%.

Under these conditions, DOM stands for new legal instruments for solidarity, promotion and respect of the rights and dignity of people of the third age. The goal is to ensure the complete and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older women and men.

### Priorities and measures

**In this context, DOM proposes the following policies:**

- Prohibition of discrimination based on age, which includes prohibition of marginalization and violation of their rights.
- The right to life, or taking appropriate measures in order to ensure:
  - prevention of discriminatory refusal or rationalization of health and other services, support for everyday products (food and water);
  - regulation of monitoring and implementation of standards of support services for elderly people for long-term care.
- Right to health care, through implementation of health services in primary, secondary and tertiary health care, and formal and informal support services, including access to medicines and aids.
- The right to support of independent living and community involvement. These policies should strengthen and guarantee the rights of older people through support services:
  - support for independent living and complete involvement and participation in the community;
  - selection and access to different options that support their ability to live independently;

- support services adapted to personal requirements, related to cultural, religious, gender, linguistic and other issues;
- adopting laws and creating policies for protection of people of the third age from abuse and neglect.
- Prevention of violence and abuse of people of the third age, that guarantees the right of older people to be free from all forms of physical or mental violence, injuries or abuse, neglect, abandonment, harassment or exploitation, including financial exploitation, whether they are carried out by individuals or others. This will be provided through:
  - legal criminalization of all forms of abuse and exploitation of these people;
  - multi-sectoral policies for prevention of all forms of abuse;
  - training of service providers how to recognize and respond to abuse and exploitation of these people;
  - training of health professionals, social workers and other professionals on how to respond to abuse and exploitation of these persons;
  - victim support services;
  - regulatory framework for protection, support and security of services in order to prevent and respond to abuse or neglect of the elderly;
  - removing harmful traditions and practices which lead to violence and abuse.
- The right to work, in order to strengthen and guarantee the right of third age people, in order to be equal to others. This will be accomplished through:
  - Prohibition of age discrimination related to employment, including recruitment, extension of employment, career advancement, retirement policies, safe and healthy working conditions;
  - Equal opportunities and equal rewards;
  - Promotion of opportunities for elderly people for self-employment and entrepreneurship, including non-discrimination in the access of microfinance;
  - Appropriate and effective measures to protect the rights of older people who work in the informal sector;
  - Flexible retirement policies, new working arrangements, adaptive work and vocational training.

- Right to education which will strengthen and guarantee the right of people of the third age for education on an equal basis with others. This will provide:
  - Non-discriminatory access to higher education, vocational training and retraining, adult education, learning and skills acquisition throughout life;
  - recognition of the traditional and contemporary role of these people as a base of knowledge, skills and cultures;
  - intergenerational knowledge transfer.

## **Projects**

- Establishment of regional institutions for care of third age people and people with disabilities or people left without care, who do not have sufficient funds,
- Establishing a care service and basic life products for third age people,
- Establishment of a social service for the care of third age people,
- Formation of local clubs for association of seniors,
- Forming networks of seniors for quality social life.



## **5. OPEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE**

### **5.1. EXTERNAL POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

#### **Current state**

The foreign policy of the Republic of Macedonia has been put in the background for a long time and was completely marginalized, due to the blocking of the path of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In fact, most of the international activities are dealing with our internal policy and because of that, they are reduced for solving serious current domestic problems, and obviously, are not able to solve them on their own, and due to that, we seek assistance and mediation from boards in Brussels and Washington. This shows only that our institutions do not have sufficient capacity to cope with the political crisis and the problems that the Republic of Macedonia faces with, but it also represents a sign that foreign policy is mainly reduced to protocol activities that do not contribute to affirmation, credibility and progress of our country on an international plan.

#### **Priorities**

In such political and security circumstances, DOM stands for:

- Further development and deepening of the European and Euro-Atlantic orientation of the Republic of Macedonia;
- More active role in international organizations (United Nations, EU, NATO, Council of Europe, OSCE and other regional initiatives);
- Developing good relations with the neighbors, based on a common interest;
- Permanent contact and connection with the diaspora and young people who left their country in the last couple of years in order to work and study abroad ; and

- Developing parliamentary diplomacy and promotion of foreign policy with participation of citizens, the civil sector and the media, in order to create more powerful control systems on the definition and implementation of foreign policy.

## **EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION**

Since its establishment, DOM has a clear position regarding the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the European family, in order to meet the criteria for membership in the European Union, to respect European democratic values and to create a new sustainable system of relations that will contribute to a complete success and development of the country. We are aware that Macedonia does not have enough opportunities and resources, both natural and human, but still needs to use the existing ones and to make progress within the country, and then, within the European Union. The Euro-Atlantic orientation of the Republic of Macedonia remains a permanent determination and commitment of DOM, which implies active and productive cooperation in all spheres with the bodies of the EU and NATO, with emphasis on cooperation with the European Parliament, in particular, with the civil parties and the center parties, and with special emphasis on the cooperation with the members from the Green parties, especially after the official membership of DOM in the group of the Green Parties of Europe last year. It is necessary to act as a Green Party, in order to promote the implementation of the environmental principles and values of many international agreements which are also binding for the Republic of Macedonia.

## **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

The Republic of Macedonia has to be more actively engaged in the work of international organizations and institutions, starting with the United Nations, through the EU, NATO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, to most regional initiatives and agreements that promote the country's comprehensive relations with International entities. According to DOM, this implies constant presence in all international organizations, active monitoring of the international flows and giving appropriate initiatives in the international relations, giving a contribution and a mark, thus affirming the policy of the Republic of Macedonia, regarding the promotion of human rights, civil liberties, economic initiatives and attraction of foreign investments, development of ecological awareness, full protection of religious rights of citizens, etc.



DOM also emphasizes the serious problem in the personnel policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specifically on the issue of selection of professional staff in our Diplomatic and Consular Offices and in the Offices of Economic Promoters. Their successful performance will depend on the successful presentation of the country on an international plan, which is important for the affirmation of our overall sustainable development policy, good cooperation with our neighbors and solving problems through dialogue and diplomatic means.

DOM stands for targeted economic diplomacy, focusing our economic promoters on the realization of our interests in certain developed or accelerated development countries and regions, where economic promotion will give real results and contribute to our economic development. In this respect, DOM requires a change on the Law on Foreign Affairs, which was adopted in 2015 and practically violated the basic principles for normal and consistent functioning of a modern diplomacy. This Law completely violates the system of personnel policy and the manner of election and dismissal of diplomats, employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomats in our diplomatic and consular missions.

DOM stands for professionalism, expertise and responsibility, as well as respect for non-politicized public administration, especially in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the network of our diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

## **GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS**

Good relations with our neighbors, relations with countries in the Western Balkan region and in general with the countries in the region of Southeast Europe and their constant development and improvement, are a priority and a permanent goal and aspiration of the Republic of Macedonia. DOM considers this kind of relations as a good opportunity for harmonious and lasting regional development, economic and social prosperity and progress of all our neighbors and countries of the region in general. The cooperation in the political, security, economic and cultural sphere represents the interest of all countries, and DOM calls for greater coordination of the region with the European Union, in order to preserve peace, security and stability, and to encourage the development and progress of the countries in the region.

At the same time, DOM stands for more intensive and comprehensive cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries, and on the basis of the international principles and rules, it stands for stimulation of balanced economic development, exchange and trade, joint ventures and

joint economic projects, as well as collective contribution and reliance on the opportunities and potential for development of the entire region.

Regarding the global processes of immigration of the population from the countries affected by wars and underdeveloped countries, to more developed and safer countries, DOM also respects the rights of movement and work of immigrants and the international regulation of their rights.

Despite of creating good-neighborly relations and promoting our multicultural policy, DOM stands for getting out of the impasse that led us into negotiations with our southern neighbor, regarding the use of our constitutional name, as well as resolving open issues with our neighbors. In this respect, DOM offers an initiative for holding regular thematic forums, that would be held twice a year, in order to exchange information and experiences for strengthening regional cooperation in the political, security, economic, cultural and educational plan..

## **Diaspora relations**

By holding extraordinary parliamentary elections in 2011, the Diaspora gained the legal right to have representatives in the Parliament. Three diaspora members, coming from three districts, have become a bridge for cooperation and contacts with our immigrants in Europe, America and Australia, which was not efficient and far enough. DOM insists on substantial and more comprehensive connection with the diaspora, as obligation and care of the Republic of Macedonia for its citizens who live abroad, and also insists on essential emphasis on the economic, political, cultural and international dimensions of the relations with the diaspora. DOM believes that the technical way of voting and election of deputies from the diaspora should be re-examined, according to the high financial costs. We agree that the voting should be electronically, as suggested by the Diaspora. For better connections and contacts of the diaspora with the homeland, we are committed to strengthen the Migration Agency, which will further promote the policy of renewal and strengthening of the relations of the Republic of Macedonia with its immigrants, and for keeping more precise database. DOM also expresses great concern over the massive immigration of young professionals from the country in the last couple of years and insists on keeping records of where they leave, study and work, in order to be able to make good use of their potential in some way, to gain the cooperation with our companies or institutions and, if possible, to attract them to return in their homeland.

The Republic of Macedonia is a country with a long tradition of immigration. The immigrants from Macedonia were leaving the country in different periods of time for various reasons. Today, immigrants from the Republic of Macedonia and their descendants live in different continents. The trend of immigration continues till now, and requires a serious analysis and strategy from the country, regarding the phenomenon of immigration.

As a home country, the Republic of Macedonia is obliged to take care of the position and rights of the immigrants from Macedonia, which represents an investment in their potential, especially in the young generations born in the countries of Western Europe, America, Australia, etc. The Migration Agency is in charge of this area, but it is clear that it does not have sufficient material and human resources for that task.

Therefore, a long-term strategy for mutual cooperation and communication between the institutions, responsible for the immigrants from Macedonia and the representatives of the Macedonian immigrant organizations is necessary. The focus should be on the mutual cooperation, which means that that strategy should be within the dialogue and mutual understanding, and should not be imposed on one side only. In this context, the representatives of the Macedonian immigrant organizations should cooperate, and also the representatives of the Migration Agency, the Department for Immigration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the diaspora, ministries and NGOs, should be included.

DOM has always represented the voting from the diaspora, and that commitment, was completely fulfilled. But that does not mean access to all interested entities and equality of the elected Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, only a very small percentage of Macedonian citizens in the Diaspora participated in the last parliamentary elections, due to the fact that the voting was enabled only in the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Macedonia, with prior announcement. In order to achieve a greater participation in the elections of Macedonian citizens in the Diaspora and to ensure adequate representation of the interests of the Macedonian immigrants in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, but also for the purpose of strengthening our diaspora, which is of common interest, DOM proposes:

- Amendment to the Election Code by electronic voting of the diaspora for the next parliamentary elections in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Establishment of Migration Council within the Immigration Agency, by representatives of immigrant organizations from

all continents, paying attention to Macedonian immigrants (number, gender equality, ethnicity, etc.);

- The Migration Council should develop an annual program for cooperation and communication with all interested Macedonian immigrant organizations around the world, in coordination with the Director of the Migration Agency, within the annual budget, and the program should be adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.
- Opening a special financial fund managed by the Migration Council, intended exclusively for projects that will contribute for the status and rights of the immigrants from Macedonia; The fund should be supported by donations and sponsorships of companies from immigrants, companies from the Republic of Macedonia, etc.

## **Transparent foreign policy**

DOM stands for transparent management of the country's foreign policy and participation of several factors. Apart from the citizens and the civil sector, the media and the public, the parliamentary diplomacy should pay attention to the representatives, as a broad field of dialogue, but also as a kind of control over the implementation of the foreign policy goals. DOM considers that, there are difficulties in the coordination of professional and responsible leadership of the foreign and security policy of the Republic of Macedonia, and therefore within the activity of the Assembly.

In the international political communication and cooperation, more recently, the parliamentary diplomacy is becoming more important. It is already an indispensable part of the overall political and administrative machinery of each country, precisely in the implementation of the foreign policy. Parliamentary diplomacy is considerably more open, easier to accept and more flexible than the forms and mechanisms of executive government departments, dealing with foreign policy. The Assembly is a highly developed democratic form that allows the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia indirectly to contribute to this important sphere of political activity. The Assembly, however, reflects the will of the people and it should be respected even when dealing with the most important issues, related to national interests. DOM believes that this democratization of foreign policy could be a benefit and in the interest of the Republic of Macedonia.

## 5.2. DOM IN THE EUROPEAN GREEN FAMILY

In 2015, DOM encircled one of its most important political cycles. In the autumn consultation, held in Lyon, France, DOM officially became an integral part of the European Green Party, which fosters European values, democratic principles, progressive ideas and fights to protect the planet Earth from climate changes and human influence.

As a party, DOM is proud to be a member of the most progressive political family in Europe, a family in which everyone is respected and supported, a family in which Macedonia and its citizens have sincere friends, who give them support on the path to the membership in the European Union, who were also the voice of the citizens of Macedonia in front of the European institutions.

The influence of the European green party is noticeable in all areas of the social and political life in Europe. Their green policy helped Europe to begin and to walk successfully along the path of transformation, towards an advanced society in the modern world. Their experience and knowledge is valuable to us, in order to implement green policies in our country.

However, DOM is not only a participant, but an integral part of the European green family, significant green political factor in the Balkans and one of the leaders of the Balkan Green Movement, that constantly undertakes initiatives to improve the situation, especially in terms of ecology, because it connects all these areas. Among the Greens in the Balkans, there are no divisions; We know that only with open cooperation, dialogue and joint work, we can turn our countries and the Balkans into much more important place for living. A man-tailored created place!

