

# CSR Risk Check



## NORTH MACEDONIA

### 10 country risk(s) have been identified

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- **LABOUR RIGHTS (5)**

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#### **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (2 RISKS)**

Macedonia scores a 3 on the ITUC Global Rights Index (scale 1-5) for freedom of association and workers' rights, which stands for regular violations of rights. Governments and/or companies are regularly interfering in collective labour rights or are failing to fully guarantee important aspects of these rights. There are deficiencies in laws and/or certain practices which make frequent violations possible.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

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**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

#### **DISCRIMINATION & GENDER (2 RISKS)**

Discrimination in job recruitment in Macedonia can occur based on gender, disability, or ethnicity. Women's pay lags behind men's, and few women occupy management positions. Persons with disabilities face discrimination in hiring and in access to the workplace. People from the Roma community also have difficulties in finding a job in the formal economy.

**Sources:** [US Department of State, Macedonia 2016 human rights report, 2016](#)

There are strong indications that Roma continue to face discrimination in Macedonia. Additionally, there have been cases known in which citizens belonging to Roma and Albanian communities have been prevented from leaving the country on the ground that they would apply for asylum in European Union countries, and have had their travel documents confiscated.

**Sources:** [OHCHR, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 87th session, 2015](#)

## **FORCED LABOUR & HUMAN TRAFFICKING (1 RISK)**

Macedonian women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour within the country in restaurants, bars, and nightclubs.

**Sources:** [US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2019](#)

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## **• FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES (2)**

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### **CORRUPTION (2 RISKS)**

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index, the corruption score of Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.) is 37, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This means that the risk of corruption in Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.) is high.

**Sources:** [Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2019, 2020](#)

Corruption and inefficient bureaucracy are among the challenges companies may face when doing business in Macedonia. Private businesses frequently complain about burdensome administrative processes which create operational delays and opportunities for corruption. Public procurement, the customs administration and the building and construction sector are areas where corruption and bribery are most prevalent.

**Sources:** [Business Anti-Corruption Portal, 2019](#)

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## **• ENVIRONMENT (2)**

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### **SOIL & (GROUND)WATER CONTAMINATION (1 RISK)**

The quality of sanitation in Macedonia is a problem. Most major cities do not have a purification installation. Water is often dumped directly into rivers or lakes. The sewers are often old and so water leaks into the ground. There is also no separate sewage systems for rainwater and wastewater. The most serious water pollution concerns the disposal of untreated wastewater from mining and industry, but also the waste water from urban centers and livestock farming.

**Sources:** [The World Bank Group, FYR Macedonia green growth country assessment, 2014](#), [UN Water & World Health Organization, Macedonia, FYR, 2015](#), [Naturvernforbundet, Environmental issues in Macedonia, 2017](#)

### **ENVIRONMENT & WASTE (GENERAL) (1 RISK)**

There is no efficient waste management in Macedonia. Hazardous waste is not collected and dumped separately but is processed at regular landfills. In general, landfills do not meet the environmental requirements that apply. Municipalities manage a number of small landfills close to each other where equipment is often insufficient. This leads to more emissions of harmful substances. The uncontrolled burning of landfills produces harmful emissions of particulate matter, dioxins, etc. In addition, degradation of biodegradable waste leads to the emission of greenhouse gas. The waste poses a danger to public health, biodiversity and water quality.

**Sources:** [The World Bank Group, FYR Macedonia green growth country assessment, 2014](#)

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- **HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS (1)**  
**GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE (1 RISK)**

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Macedonia is considered to be "partly free" according to the Freedom House Country List. This means that there is an oppressive regime, with regard to civil liberties.

**Sources:** [Freedom House, Freedom in the World, 2020](#)

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