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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(VENICE COMMISSION)

NORTH MACEDONIA

DRAFT LAW AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION AND EXPLANATORY REPORT

AND

LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION CURRENTLY IN FORCE

PROPONENT:
Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

REPRESENTATIVES:
Jeton Shasivari, Minister of Justice

Alen Dereban, Deputy Minister of Justice

COMMISSIONERS:

PROPOSAL OF A LAW AMENDING THE LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION

Skopje, September 2026

INTRODUCTION

I. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA TO BE REGULATED BY THE LAW AND THE REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE LAW

The Law on the Bar Examination (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No. 190/19) regulates the requirements and procedure for taking the bar examination, which is taken to assess the professional competence of law graduates to apply legislation independently in practice and perform legal work for which this requirement is prescribed by law.
The examination consists of a written and an oral part. The written part is taken in the subjects of Criminal Law and Civil Law, while the oral part is taken in seven fields of law laid down in the Law.

The existing Law contains no specific provisions expressly regulating the language in which the written and oral parts of the examination are taken, nor provisions for providing translations of the programme, legislation, legal literature and examination questions for candidates.

The need to amend the Law arises from the need to establish a clear and functional model for taking the examination which, on the one hand, will make the bar examination more accessible to candidates who completed their law studies in another language in the country and, on the other hand, will maintain the single professional standard necessary for performing legal work in practice within the judicial system.

The proposed solutions also clarify the provision on the composition of the examination commission by deleting the words “of law” in the part referring to professors at accredited faculties of law in the country.

II. OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND BASIC SOLUTIONS OF THE PROPOSAL OF A LAW

The Proposal of a Law is based on the same objectives and principles as the Law on the Bar Examination, with further clarification of the language arrangements for taking the examination and of the provision on the composition of the examination commission.

Under the proposed solution, the written part of the examination, as a practical assessment of the candidate’s ability to apply legislation independently, is taken in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script. At the same time, the candidate is allowed, at their own written request, to take the oral part of the examination also in another language in which they completed their law studies in the country, with interpretation provided by a qualified professional.

Translations of the programme, legislation, legal literature and examination questions are also provided for candidates. This establishes a single model for the bar examination that increases its accessibility, without creating parallel examination systems and while maintaining the single professional standard.

III. ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL OF A LAW FOR THE BUDGET AND OTHER PUBLIC FUNDS

The implementation of the proposed legislative solutions will have financial implications associated with providing translations of the programme, legislation, legal literature and examination questions, as well as with providing interpretation by a qualified professional

during the oral part of the examination. The exact amount of funds required will be determined in the fiscal assessment of the Proposal of a Law.

IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW AND THE MANNER OF SECURING THEM, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ENTAILS MATERIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES

Implementing the proposed Law requires funds for the translations and for engaging a qualified professional to provide interpretation. The amount of the funds and the manner in which they will be secured will be determined in the fiscal assessment of the Proposal of a Law. The proposed solutions do not in themselves impose any new separate material obligation on candidates.

PROPOSAL OF A LAW AMENDING THE LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION

Article 1

In the Law on the Bar Examination (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No. 190/19), in Article 5, after paragraph (6), a new paragraph (7) shall be added, and it shall read as follows:

“(7) Translations of the programme, legislation, legal literature and examination questions shall be provided for candidates.”

Article 2

In Article 6 paragraph (2), the words “of law” shall be deleted.

Article 3

In Article 12, after paragraph (5), a new paragraph (6) shall be added, and it shall read as follows:

“(6) The written part of the examination shall be taken in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script.”

Article 4

In Article 14, after paragraph (6), two new paragraphs (7) and (8) shall be added, and they shall read as follows:

“(7) The candidate may, at their own written request, also take the oral part of the examination in another language in which they completed their law studies in the country, for which interpretation by a qualified professional shall be provided.”

“(8) The candidate must attach to the written request referred to in paragraph (7) of this Article a notarised photocopy of the evidence of completion of law studies in that language in the country.”

Article 5

The translations referred to in Article 5 paragraph (7) of the Law on the Bar Examination shall be provided no later than six months from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 6

(1) Examinations which have begun by the date on which this Law becomes applicable shall be completed in accordance with the legislation in force up to the date on which this Law becomes applicable.

(2) Examinations for which applications have been submitted by the date on which this Law becomes applicable, but which have not yet begun, shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 7

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day following its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia and shall apply from 1 January 2027.

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE PROPOSAL OF A LAW:

I. EXPLANATION OF THE CONTENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL OF A LAW

The Proposal of a Law Amending the Law on the Bar Examination contains seven articles.
Article 1 supplements Article 5 of the Law and provides for translations of the programme, legislation, legal literature and examination questions for candidates.

Article 2 deletes the words “of law” in Article 6 paragraph (2) of the Law, in the provision determining the persons from among whom the Minister of Justice appoints the Chair, members of the Commission and their deputies.

Article 3 supplements Article 12 of the Law and stipulates that the written part of the examination is taken in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script.

Article 4 supplements Article 14 of the Law and provides for the possibility for the candidate, at their own written request, to take the oral part of the examination in another language in which they completed their law studies in the country, with interpretation provided by a qualified professional, and requires the candidate to attach to the written request referred to in paragraph (7) of this Article a notarised photocopy of the evidence of completion of law studies in that language in the country.

Article 5 sets the time limit within which the translations provided for in Article 5 paragraph (7) of the Law on the Bar Examination must be provided.

Article 6 regulates the manner of completing examinations which began before the date on which this Law becomes applicable, as well as the arrangements for examinations for which applications have been submitted by that date but which have not yet begun.
Article 7 determines the entry into force and the date on which the Law becomes applicable.

II. INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOLUTIONS SET OUT IN THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS

The solutions set out in the proposed provisions are interrelated and form a coherent legal whole. The possibility of taking the oral part in another language is functionally linked to the provision of translations of the examination materials and interpretation by a qualified professional, while the requirement to take the written part in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script ensures the single practical professional standard of the examination.

III. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED LAW

The proposed amendments will establish clear rules on the language arrangements for taking the bar examination, increase the accessibility of the oral part of the examination for candidates who completed their law studies in another language in the country, and maintain the single practical assessment of professional competence in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script. At the same time, the provision on the composition of the examination commission is clarified. This creates a clearer and more sustainable model for conducting the examination, strengthens legal certainty and the functionality of the judicial system, and improves the quality of judicial personnel. The proposed amendments do not create parallel systems, but establish a single and functional model: access to the examination is inclusive, while the professional standard remains uniform.

IV. TEXT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW BEING AMENDED

Article 5

(1) The examination shall consist of a written and an oral part.
(2) The written part shall be taken in the subjects of Criminal Law and Civil Law.
(3) The oral part shall be taken in the following subjects:
- Criminal Law (substantive and procedural criminal law),
- Civil Law (substantive and procedural civil law),
- Commercial Law,
- Labour Law,
- Constitutional Order of the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- organisation of the judicial system and administrative law, and
- conflict of laws and international legal assistance.

(4) The examination programme shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia.
(5) The programme referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article shall contain the legislation, legal literature and examination questions.
(6) The programme referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article shall be prepared by a commission established by the Minister of Justice.

Article 6

(1) The examination shall be taken before an examination commission (hereinafter referred to as: the Commission), consisting of a Chair and six members and their deputies.
(2) The Chair, members of the Commission and their deputies shall be appointed by the Minister of Justice from among professors of law at accredited faculties of law in the country, judges, public prosecutors and lawyers, by a decision specifying the subjects in which they shall examine candidates.
(3) The term of office of the Chair and members of the Commission shall be two years, with the right to one further appointment after at least five years have elapsed since their previous term of office.
(4) The term of office of the Deputy Chair and deputies of the members of the Commission shall be two years, with the right to one further appointment.

Article 12

(1) If a subject consists of a written and an oral part, the candidate must first pass the written part in order to proceed to the oral part.

(2) In the written part of the examination, the candidate shall solve a given case from practice (an archived court case) by applying legislation in the relevant field.

(3) The time allowed for solving the case from practice, separately for each subject, shall be four uninterrupted hours.

(4) The member of the Commission or the member's deputy who examines candidates in the particular subject, and the Secretary of the Commission, must be present during the written part of the examination.

(5) The results of the written part shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Justice no later than five days from the date on which the examination was taken.

Article 14

(1) The oral part of the examination shall be conducted no later than 14 days from the date of completion of the last written examination.

(2) The oral part of the examination shall be public and shall be conducted before at least three members of the Commission, one of whom shall be the examiner for the particular subject.

(3) In the oral examination for each subject, the candidate shall draw and answer three of the questions prepared in advance. Each slip shall contain only one question. The examiner and the members of the Commission present may ask the candidate additional questions to assess the candidate's overall knowledge of a particular field.

(4) At the end of the examination day, the members of the Commission who conducted the examination shall decide whether the candidate has passed or failed the subject by a majority vote.

(5) If a subject consists of a written and an oral part, it shall be deemed to have been passed if both parts of the subject have been passed.

(6) The manner of taking the examination shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice.

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Pursuant to Article 75 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, the President of the Republic of North Macedonia and the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia issue this

DECREE FOR PROMULGATION OF THE LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION

The Law on the Bar Examination,
adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, on its session held on 11 September 2019, is hereby promulgated.

No. 08-4954/1 President of the Republic
11 September 2019 of North Macedonia,
Skopje **Stevo Pendarovski**, handwritten signature

President
of the Assembly of the Republic
of North Macedonia,
T**alat Xhaferi**, handwritten signature

LAW ON THE BAR EXAMINATION (CURRENTLY IN FORCE)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law shall regulate the requirements and procedure for taking the bar examination (hereinafter referred to as: the examination).

Article 2

The examination shall be taken to assess the professional competence of persons who have completed four-year higher education in law at level VII/1, as well as persons who have studied law in accordance with the Bologna Declaration and have 300 credits under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) (hereinafter referred to as: law graduates), to apply legislation independently in practice and perform legal work for which this requirement is prescribed by law.

Article 3

Courts, public prosecutor's offices, lawyers, notaries, enforcement agents, the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia may admit law graduates for practical training if such training is necessary for their professional development and to fulfil the requirements for taking the examination.

II. REQUIREMENTS AND MANNER OF CONDUCTING THE EXAMINATION

Article 4

(1) The examination may be taken by law graduates who have performed legal work for at least one year in a court, a public prosecutor's office, the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, with the Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, a lawyer, a notary or an enforcement agent.

(2) The examination may also be taken by law graduates who have performed legal work for at least two years in other state authorities, bodies of local self-government units, companies and other legal entities.

(3) Time spent in practical training for professional development in a court, a public prosecutor's office, the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, with the Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, a lawyer, a notary or an enforcement agent, in accordance with law, shall be deemed time spent working in those bodies.

(4) Candidates shall fulfil the requirements referred to in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this Article no later than the fifth day of the month in which the session is held.

(5) Taking the examination early is prohibited.

Article 5

(1) The examination shall consist of a written and an oral part.

(2) The written part shall be taken in the subjects of Criminal Law and Civil Law.

(3) The oral part shall be taken in the following subjects:

- Criminal Law (substantive and procedural criminal law),
- Civil Law (substantive and procedural civil law),
- Commercial Law,
- Labour Law,

- Constitutional Order of the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- organisation of the judicial system and administrative law, and
- conflict of laws and international legal assistance.

(4) The examination programme shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia.

(5) The programme referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article shall contain the legislation, legal literature and examination questions.

(6) The programme referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article shall be prepared by a commission established by the Minister of Justice.

Article 6

(1) The examination shall be taken before an examination commission (hereinafter referred to as: the Commission), consisting of a Chair and six members and their deputies.

(2) The Chair, members of the Commission and their deputies shall be appointed by the Minister of Justice from among professors of law at accredited faculties of law in the country, judges, public prosecutors and lawyers, by a decision specifying the subjects in which they shall examine candidates.

(3) The term of office of the Chair and members of the Commission shall be two years, with the right to one further appointment after at least five years have elapsed since their previous term of office.

(4) The term of office of the Deputy Chair and deputies of the members of the Commission shall be two years, with the right to one further appointment.

Article 7

(1) Professional and administrative tasks for the conduct of the examination shall be performed by the Ministry of Justice, for which purpose the Minister of Justice shall designate a responsible person as Secretary of the Commission.

(2) The Minister of Justice shall establish a Commission for Verifying Fulfilment of the Requirements for Taking the Examination, consisting of three employees of the Ministry of Justice, which shall determine whether the candidate fulfils the requirements for taking the examination.

(3) The Chair of the Commission for Verifying Fulfilment of the Requirements for Taking the Examination shall be the Secretary of the Commission referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

Article 8

The examination shall be taken in the February, April, June, October and December examination sessions.

Article 9

(1) The candidate shall submit the application to take the examination to the Ministry of Justice.

(2) Together with the application to take the examination, the candidate shall submit evidence of fulfilment of the requirements for taking the examination laid down in this Law.

Article 10

(1) The candidate shall register for an examination session between the 1st and the 15th day of the month preceding the month in which the examination session is held (January, March, May, September and November).

(2) The candidate must be allowed to begin taking the examination in the first session following the date of approval of the application to take the examination.

(3) Candidates shall be informed of the date, time and place of the examination at least ten days before the examination through the website of the Ministry of Justice.

Article 11

(1) Within five days of the closing date for registration, the Commission for Verifying Fulfilment of the Requirements for Taking the Examination shall draw up a record containing a list of persons who fulfil and persons who do not fulfil the requirements for taking the examination.

(2) If the candidate does not fulfil the requirements for taking the examination, the Secretary of the Commission referred to in Article 7 paragraph (1) of this Law shall, on the basis of a record drawn up by the Commission for Verifying Fulfilment of the Requirements for Taking the Examination, issue a decision rejecting the application to take the examination within 15 days of the date of submission of the application.

(3) An administrative dispute may be initiated before a competent court against the decision rejecting the application to take the examination referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, within 30 days of the date of receipt of the decision.

Article 12

(1) If a subject consists of a written and an oral part, the candidate must first pass the written part in order to proceed to the oral part.

(2) In the written part of the examination, the candidate shall solve a given case from practice (an archived court case) by applying legislation in the relevant field.

(3) The time allowed for solving the case from practice, separately for each subject, shall be four uninterrupted hours.

(4) The member of the Commission or the member’s deputy who examines candidates in the particular subject, and the Secretary of the Commission, must be present during the written part of the examination.

(5) The results of the written part shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Justice no later than five days from the date on which the examination was taken.

Article 13

(1) Before the examination begins, the Secretary of the Commission shall establish the candidate’s identity by inspecting a personal identification document.

(2) When taking the written part of the examination, the candidate may use only laws and other regulations which do not contain explanations, comments or the like, and mobile phones, portable computers and other technical and information technology equipment may not be used.

(3) The candidate shall not be permitted to communicate with other candidates during the examination.

(4) If the candidate acts contrary to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article during the examination, the candidate shall not be permitted to continue taking the examination in that examination session and shall be prohibited from taking the examination for a period of one year, for which the Minister of Justice shall issue a decision.

(5) An administrative dispute may be initiated before a competent court against the decision referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article within 30 days of the date of receipt of the decision.

(6) In the cases referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the candidate shall be deemed to have failed the examination, and this shall be noted in the examination record.

(7) In the cases referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the prohibition shall be entered in the candidate's personal file and the records of the Ministry of Justice.

Article 14

(1) The oral part of the examination shall be conducted no later than 14 days from the date of completion of the last written examination.

(2) The oral part of the examination shall be public and shall be conducted before at least three members of the Commission, one of whom shall be the examiner for the particular subject.

(3) In the oral examination for each subject, the candidate shall draw and answer three of the questions prepared in advance. Each slip shall contain only one question. The examiner and the members of the Commission present may ask the candidate additional questions to assess the candidate's overall knowledge of a particular field.

(4) At the end of the examination day, the members of the Commission who conducted the examination shall decide whether the candidate has passed or failed the subject by a majority vote.

(5) If a subject consists of a written and an oral part, it shall be deemed to have been passed if both parts of the subject have been passed.

(6) The manner of taking the examination shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice.

Article 15

(1) On the basis of a record signed by all members of the Commission who conducted the examination, the Chair of the Commission shall, no later than five days from the date of completion of the examination in all subjects, publicly announce whether the candidate has passed or failed the examination, on the basis of the overall results for each individual subject.

(2) The Ministry of Justice shall issue a certificate of passing the bar examination to a candidate who has passed the examination within 30 days of the date of publication of the results referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

(3) The form and content of the certificate referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice.

Article 16

(1) The candidate shall register to take all subjects or a number of subjects of the candidate's choice in one examination session.

(2) The examination shall be deemed to have been passed if the candidate passes all examinations within one year starting from the first examination session.

(3) A candidate who fails a particular subject may take a resit examination in a subsequent session within the time limit referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.

(4) If the candidate has failed an examination consisting of a written and an oral part, the resit examination in that subject shall be taken both in writing and orally.

(5) If the candidate does not pass all subjects within the time limit referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, they shall be deemed to have failed the examination and may retake the entire examination.

Article 17

(1) A candidate who does not come on the designated day of the examination or declares that they are withdrawing before the examination begins shall be deemed not to have taken the examination.

(2) If the candidate has begun taking the examination, has been assigned a case from practice or has drawn the questions, and withdraws from the examination without justified reasons (illness, an accident, a death in the family or the like), they shall be deemed to have failed the subject.

Article 18

(1) If justified reasons (illness, an accident, a death in the family or the like) arise during the examination which prevent the candidate from continuing to take it, the examination shall be interrupted for a specified period, which may not exceed six months.

(2) The period during which the examination is interrupted shall not count towards the time limit referred to in Article 16 paragraph (2) of this Law.

(3) The Commission shall decide on the interruption of the examination and whether the reasons for interrupting the examination referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article are justified by a majority vote of all its members, on the basis of a written request by the candidate.

(4) The candidate may, by submitting a request to the Commission within eight days of the date on which the reasons for postponing the examination cease to be valid, but in any event within six months, request the resumption of the examination, on which the Commission shall decide.

(5) If the candidate does not submit a request for resumption of the examination within the time limit referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the candidate shall be deemed to have failed the examination.

(6) The candidate shall have the right to lodge an objection with the Minister of Justice against the decision of the Commission referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article within eight days of the date of receipt of the decision.

(7) On resuming the examination, the candidate shall not take the part of the examination taken before the postponement.

Article 19

(1) The Secretary of the Commission shall keep a record of the conduct of the examination in each subject for each candidate, which must contain the following information: the candidate’s name and surname, unique citizen identification number, composition of the Commission, members of the Commission present during the examination in the subject, date, time and place of the examination in the subject, examination questions drawn by the candidate, additional questions that the candidate was asked and the member of the Commission who asked them, the Commission’s decision as to whether the candidate has passed or failed the examination, and other significant observations on the conduct of the examination.

(2) The Ministry of Justice shall keep records of the taking of the examination, which shall be retained permanently.

(3) The form, content and manner of keeping the records of the taking of the examination shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice.

III. COSTS OF TAKING THE EXAMINATION, RIGHT TO REMUNERATION AND SUPERVISION

Article 20

(1) The Ministry of Justice shall determine the costs of taking the examination, which shall cover the actual costs of conducting the examination (hiring an examination room, preparing examination materials, remuneration of the members of the Commission, printing and issuing certificates and the like).

(2) The costs of taking the examination and the resit examination shall be borne by the candidate unless paid by the institution employing the candidate.

(3) The Chair, members and Secretary of the Commission and the members of the Commission for Verifying Fulfilment of the Requirements for Taking the Examination shall be entitled to remuneration for their work, the amount of which shall be determined by the Minister of Justice as a percentage of the actual costs incurred for taking the examination.

(4) The deputy of a member who participates in conducting the examination in place of that member shall also be entitled to remuneration for work on the Commission.

(5) The costs of taking the examination shall be paid into the own-revenue account of the Ministry of Justice.

(6) If the costs have not been paid into the appropriate account of the Ministry of Justice no later than 15 days before the date designated for the start of the examination session, the candidate shall not be permitted to take the examination.

(7) If the candidate does not take the examination within one year of the date of payment of the funds, the funds paid shall be refunded in accordance with law.

(8) The monetary remuneration referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Article shall be paid from the own-revenue account of the Ministry of Justice, from the funds paid by candidates taking the examination.

Article 21

For the work performed, the members of the commission referred to in Article 5 paragraph (6) of this Law shall be entitled to a one-off remuneration equal to one average monthly net salary paid in the Republic over the preceding three months.

Article 22

The Ministry of Justice shall supervise the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Article 23

(1) A fine of 100 to 200 euros in denar equivalent shall be imposed on a candidate who acts contrary to Article 13 paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Law.

(2) For the misdemeanours laid down in this Law, misdemeanour proceedings shall be conducted and a misdemeanour sanction shall be imposed by a competent court.

IV. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

A bar examination passed under the legislation in force up to the date of entry into force of this Law shall be equivalent to the examination within the meaning of this Law.

Article 25

The by-laws laid down within this Law shall be adopted within two months from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 26

(1) As of 1 January 2020, the Law on the Bar Examination (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia Nos. 137/13 and 153/15) shall cease to be valid.

(2) Examinations which have begun by the date on which this Law becomes applicable shall be completed in accordance with the Law on the Bar Examination (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia Nos. 137/13 and 153/15).

(3) Examinations for which applications have been submitted by the date on which this Law becomes applicable, but which have not yet begun, shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 27

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day following its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia and shall apply from 1 January 2020.