
CHALLENGES FOR THE MACEDONIAN SOCIETY ON THE PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: The main aim of the relatively young Macedonian independent state is to achieve membership status at the Euro-Atlantic integrations. The debate related to Euro-Atlantic integrations as a path to the future Macedonian democratic and European state is lasting nearly three decades, from the beginning of its independency. This political orientation is positively accepted by the Macedonian public and is clearly presented in the serious scientific researches. Even, the larger part of the Macedonian people it evaluates on the fateful level, in the Hamlet's manner „To be or not to be”.

However, the Macedonian society is not prepared for such responsible tasks. You can say, on the European path there are many challenges for the newly Macedonian and obligation they to be successfully answered. That is, the Macedonian collective social spirit is facing its historical examines to change its self and to become part of the high civilized world, i.e. European Union and the Atlantic integrations.

Keywords: integrations, challenges, society, system, human rights, social practice.

INTRODUCTION

The main aim of the relatively young Macedonian independent state is membership at the Euro-Atlantic integrations. According the statistics and scientific researches the EU is in the circle of the most successful societies in the modern world. Its ambition is to unify the continent of Europe, and to continue and obtain the civilization moving of the European countries. In that way, the European Union is the natural direction and environment for the becoming Macedonian progressive society. The relatively young Macedonian independent state is still fitting the challenges on the path to the modern democratic system. In its everyday life and political efforts there are still obvious remains of the previous social system (so called socialism) and the tracks of the unsuccessful transitional process started after the falling of the Berlin Wall (in the year 1989). So, from the one hand we have a social reality when the wishes of the public are oriented to the Euro-Atlantic integrations,¹⁹³ and, from the other hand, the problematic quality of the mechanisms and institution to achieve the predicted goals by the public in the social practice.

The transferring Macedonian society takes the measures and activities to change this inappropriate situation in itself and to clean the way to the successful social reforms and to proclaim its competence and willingness to enter the European Union and NATO. But, these activities and ambitions are not that ease to be done over the night. It needs an amount of social energy and knowledge of the Macedonian citizens, but do we have that and which are the priorities in the changing the social system? The answer follows below in the text.

ON THE ROAD TO THE PROSPECTIVE EUROPEAN SOCIETY

On the road to the prospective European society could be the title of the Macedonian EU project. Not easier stuff to imaging the developed society, but, it is difficult to find the adequate means and methods how to success the course.

On the path to the European Union the Macedonian society faces many challenges and efforts. To prevail the difficulties the society must undertake set of measures to corroborate the mission. First, the efforts to put the basement for constructing adequate democratic social system (political, economical, cultural, etc.); secondly, an attempt to implement the ideas of the validity and quality of the new system to change the social practice; thirdly to convince the people to accept and favor the human behavior which is adequate to the new social system. It means the human of the newly era must to internalize the idea that they will exist and labor through another new social system its institutions, values, habits different in comparing whit the previous one. Forth, in the new social

¹⁹³ According to a national survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research of the International Republican Institute (IRI) in August 2018, 83% of the citizens declared for membership of the Republic of North Macedonia in the EU and 77% for NATO membership (www.libertas.mk from 29.08.2018).

circumstances the social status, position and the career depends on the amount of the adopted knowledge, work experience, skills, and human relations with community.

The period of “pure, empty patriotism” (which characterizes biting on the chests) have to be replaced with the period of “creative contribution patriotism” (which characterizes personal and group success in the spheres of business, science, sport, culture, and the affirmation of the country in the world).¹⁹⁴

IMPERATIVE OF THE RADICAL REFORMS

The radical reforms are not quite the characteristic of the Macedonian social practice. All the time since independency there was evident resistance to this question. The resistance was carried on by the authorities, by some antireform social forces and by some reactionary ultra (right and left oriented) movements. Part of them had positions in the institutions of so called Frozen state (EU term to explain the state of the Macedonian state in the time of fascist autocracy led by the premier Nikola Gruevski)¹⁹⁵. Despite their official reform acceptance, in the practice it was not true, the institutions were their captive. Even in the period of the fascist autocracy there were big amounts of destructions of the political institutions and especially of the human rights. In such a circumstance the Macedonian citizens invent a parole that in the republic “the laws are marvelous but the practice is bad”.

Nowadays, Republic of Macedonia faces hard pressure by the name issue and by the process of the needed social reforms. The name issue is on the way to be overcome, the Macedonian parliament adopted the constitutional changes that open the doors to negotiations with EU and NATO the country to enter the Euro-Atlantic integrations. The membership of NATO is first step. It suggests capacious reforms in the field of the security system of the republic. This is obligatory for country. The entry in the EU suggests deep changes in the essence of the social system.¹⁹⁶ Republic of Macedonia has to fulfill suppositions of the membership in the EU. It takes long time and large scale of the reforms of hall social system of the country. The Macedonian public and officials it understands as a serious, obligatory and responsible task of the national/state interest which must be done right in time and with obvious positive results. There is no place for improvisation and “slow motion” activities. Historic chance must be taken. The Europeanization of the country is on range of “dreams come truth” for the Macedonian citizens. There is no more time to lose, the civilization goes on quickly.

THE MAIN CHALLENGES

It is multidimensional very complex and hard task to reform social system especially if it was devastated in a long period of time. The Macedonian society has inefficient and ineffective institutions. The political and general educational level and the role of the public opinion are still under the expected “highness of the tasks”. The lack of the democratic traditions and skills is very important obstacle in the reforms which have to come. The periods of transition and of fascist autocracy lasted so long and took away lot of time and chances of the development process. And lot of problems in the social living, of course. So Macedonian democratically no experienced society, whit its newly democratic state must search and find the issues and methods how to resolve the problems and to keep open window for the measures which help in the process of constructing and developing the modern democratic Europeanized social system and lifestyle.

The new democracies (including the Macedonian one) must revise, correct and improve many elements in the political and institutional operations to open the door for the European-Atlantic integrations. We consider the most actual in the first hand are the measures in improving follow moments:

- The rational political behavior of the citizens in accepting the real vision of democracy in its fullness and quality;
- The ruling activities in the state and its institutions, connected with the adequate human resources in the field;
- The decision-making process as a sort of engagement of the democrat, modern social spirit and expert knowledge for the social questions;

¹⁹⁴ Patriotism is distinguished by love for own people and own homeland and with tolerance and positive attitude towards other nations, towards their past, their present, their merits and values. It is a reflection of the solidarity between peoples and countries, a symbol of cooperation, friendship and mutual assistance, a symbol of freedom, independence and equality of peoples. (Vukasovic A. : Ethics, Morality, Personallity, School Book and The Institut of Philosophy and Theology, Zagreb, 1993, p. 181)

¹⁹⁵ From June 2006, to May 2017.

¹⁹⁶ The most important are the reforms in the public administration system, the judicial and public prosecutorial system.

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- The quality of the ruling class in the all spheres of the life and labor; with its well educated, socialized, cultural completed members;
 - The role of the public opinion not more as an eclectic, mechanical sum of minds, but as an organized, powerful social energy prepared and capable to canalize and to control the social topics in the progressive and democratic way;
 - The complex of the human rights is mark of the civilized modern societies; the organized people completed with the set of human rights are a ground of the human oriented communities. So, the human rights are not “the fashion trend”, but characteristic of the people*s inborn and contemporary personality. The human rights for the people are like wings for the birds. Without the human rights personality become empty box. In the Macedonian society we have bad, ugly experience with the broken system of the human rights in the time of the Gruevist dictatorship era. That was one of the reasons to be held large social movement against the fascist regime in 2015, knowing as a Colorful revolution. Macedonian society needs stable and strong social commitment and system of instruments which would secure the democratic social space where the functioning of the human rights is a normal part of our democratic Europeanized society.¹⁹⁷

All these elements include many dimensions which look forward the specific social engagements they to be full implemented in the Macedonian praxis. There is still much to do. The building of modern civilized society needs a hard work.

After the fall of the autocracy, Macedonian society made big step to the new democratic way. The better results are obvious. According the Index of democracy (The Economist, 10.01.2019) for 2018, the country has advanced ten places comparing with 2016, now it is 78th with 5.87 scores. So, Macedonian state is in the category “hybrid regimes” which scales from 5.98 to 4.06 scores. The main idea becomes the awareness that the Macedonian society cannot be successful society without the strong general social democratic assessment. The democracy is not only system of formal institutions, but also it is a lifestyle; it is a set of norms for thinking and behavior; it is internalized civilized system of values; it is a world view; simply it is a way which help us to overpass the alienation of the mankind.

The present phenomenon called political will in the decision-making social process creates many problems in the Macedonian society. The inner content of this phenomenon means the stare in which the realization of an official decisions made by the institutions depends on individual’s or collective’s will. Some officials of the political structure in the country have enormous power to allow or not even the implementation of the laws. This phenomenon becomes a big obstacle in the promoting the reforms and in the fasting the development of the country. The successfully democracy needs prolifically political system. It means system which contents a set of institutions and organizations capable and adapted to accept, articulate and set the human interests and to transfer them into the political decisions. In such an order the sentence “power to the people” becomes real. Unfortunately, the country has political system with many broken institutions.

The reforms of the society anticipate many changes. Strengthening the **NGO’s** sector; enhancement of the level of the political and law culture; quality of the value system; building of the human personality; education and socialization processes; rule of law and state of law; respecting the others and self-respect; are some of the topics (but not only) which ask higher attention of the social reformist forces in the Macedonian society.

Further, in the country we witness rise of the no legitimated law practice of **non punishment** the criminals especially those in the higher levels of the social strata. Such a practice has nothing at all with the democracy and humanity. In *ultima linea* it leads the society to the future mafia based social system.

The Macedonian society declares itself as a democratic oriented unit.¹⁹⁸ As a society based on the reason-scientific approach and development its principal effort is to establish such a quality of the social relations and circumstances which intend and secure opportunities to create, support and develop individual and collective **dignity** and **pride** in the society, as part of the main characteristics of the contemporary democracies.

¹⁹⁷ The basics freedoms and rights of the individual and citizen recognized in the international law and established by the Constitution are one of the fundamental values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Northern Macedonia. (See Article 8, paragraph 1, line 1 of the Constitution of the Republic).

¹⁹⁸ By the Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, the Republic of Northern Macedonia is defined as a sovereign, independent democratic and social state.

CONCLUSION

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- The role of the public opinion as an organized, powerful social energy prepared and capable to canalize and to control the social topics in the progressive and democratic way;
- The complex of the human rights as a system of instruments which would secure the democratic social space where the functioning of the human rights is a normal part of our democratic Europeanized society.

Macedonian society needs stable and strong social commitment. These elements include many dimensions which look forward the specific social engagements they to be fully implemented in the Macedonian praxis. The building of modern civilized society needs a hard work.

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