

The Captured State:
Political and Institutional Crisis in Macedonia

ANDRÁS BRAUN - FERENC NÉMETH *

Abstract

Early parliamentary elections were held in the Republic of Macedonia¹ on the 11th of December, 2016. The main purpose was to resolve the political crisis in the country started after the previous elections in 2014. Albeit the European Council granted the country candidate status in 2005, Macedonia was unable to start the accession negotiations to the European Union. In addition, Greece vetoed Macedonia's entrance into NATO because of the name dispute which is still an unresolved issue between the two countries.

Since its independence, Macedonia had to deal with several external and internal problems which resulted a very serious institutional crisis in the country. Despite all the efforts, the European Union was unable to solve those issues so far. The aim of our article was firstly to present the triggering causes of the institutional crisis mentioned and secondly to analyse the possible effects of the elections regarding the formation of the new government.

We strongly argue that the Macedonian state capture is an undesired consequence of the enduring political and institutional crisis.

Keywords: Macedonia, European Union, conflict management, elections, VMRO-DPMNE, Nikola Gruevski;

OUTLINE OF THE ARTICLE

The independent Macedonia and the questions of the Macedonian identity

The internal and external causes of the crisis

Stuck on the European path

From political confrontation to institutional crisis

Illiberal democracy?

From Pržino to the elections

After the elections: looking for coalition partner

Conclusion

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<http://www.southeast-europe.org>
Email: [dke\[at\]southeast-europe.org](mailto:dke[at]southeast-europe.org)

*Authors: *András Braun* (1990) PhD Student, Eotvos Lorand University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest. *Ferenc Németh* (1993) student, International Relations Master's Programme, Corvinus University of Budapest; member of the Advanced College for Security Policy.

¹ Republic of Macedonia or FYR Macedonia