The Captured State: 
Political and Institutional Crisis in Macedonia

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Abstract
Early parliamentary elections were held in the Republic of Macedonia 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 in 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
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The internal and external causes of the crisis
Stuck on the European path
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From Pržino to the elections
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1 Republic of Macedonia or FYR Macedonia