

**2nd IOPS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PENSION SUPERVISION FOR CEE, CIS,
KAUKAS AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONS**

IOPS-IAIS PCG JOINT SEMINAR ON CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

10-11th May 2012

Skopje, the Republic of Macedonia



FACTS ON THE CONFERENCE

Organization: The IOPS Regional Workshop on Pension Supervision is being organized by the International Organization of Pension Supervisors (IOPS) and the Agency for Supervision of Fully Funded Pension Insurance (MAPAS) and will take place on 10-11th May 2012 in Skopje, the Republic of Macedonia.

Venue: The workshop will be held at the “Holiday-Inn” hotel. This hotel has excellent service and location in the heart of the historic city centre. For reservations please see the included form.

Address: Mosha Pijade 2, Skopje, R.Macedonia

Telephone: +389 2 3292 929

Fax: +389 2 3292 987

Web site: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/skopje/skmp/hoteldetail>



Working language: The conference will be held in English and Russian (simultaneous translation shall be provided).

Info on the host: the Agency for Supervision of Fully Funded Pension Insurance (MAPAS) was established in 2002, as a regulatory and supervisory body of the fully funded pension insurance in the Republic of Macedonia. Today, MAPAS supervises two Pension Companies and four Pension Funds (voluntary and mandatory).

For more information on MAPAS and the fully funded components of the Macedonian pension system go to: www.mapas.gov.mk

TRAVEL TIPS:

Travel documentation: A valid passport or some other identification documents recognized by international agreement will be required. EU/EEA citizens only need a passport to enter the Republic of Macedonia. All those who need visas to enter the Republic of Macedonia can get them at the Macedonian Embassy or Consulate in their country. For all information on visas, embassy and consulate contacts please visit : <http://www.mfa.gov.mk/?q=node/319&language=en-gb>

Airport and transportation: There are two international airports in the Republic of Macedonia – Skopje (Alexander the Great) International Airport and Ohrid –International airport (St. Paul the Apostle)

Skopje International Airport (Alexander the Great) is connected with several European destinations and it is the country's largest airport. It is located 25 km from the center of Skopje. For transportation from the airport to Skopje, you can use the bus, taxi or rent a car. For more information please visit: <http://skp.airports.com.mk/default.aspx?ItemID=383>

Also, if you are staying at the Holiday Inn you can request for Airport shuttle service in the Hotel Reservation form.

FACTS ABOUT MACEDONIA

The Republic of Macedonia is comfort zone that is now knocking on the doors of Europe and in the meantime is a safe, welcoming, amazing and still mystic place that waits to be explored and visited. Located in Southeastern Europe, in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula, the Republic of Macedonia shares its borders, culture and traditions with Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Kosovo.

Population: 2 066 718

Capital: Skopje

Government: Parliamentary democracy

Year of Independence: 8 September 1991 (referendum by registered voters endorsing independence from Yugoslavia).

Currency: Macedonian denar, code –MKD;

There are 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 Denar coins, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 Denar banknotes;

Exchange rate:

1 Eur = 61.5 Denar

1 \$ = 46.8 Denar

The exchange rate in exchange offices and banks is almost identical and there is no commission.

For more information on the exchange rate please visit the site:

<http://www.nbrm.mk/default-mk.asp?ItemID=41989BA5CE65DA48AC1B50206D0DE89D>

Credit cards: In the Republic of Macedonia, most of the establishments accept credit cards and the commonly used are: Visa, Master Card, Diners and American Express.

Foreign currencies can be exchanged in exchange offices, post offices, hotels; travelers' checks can be cashed in banks. There are numerous cash machines in all larger cities.

Internet country code: mk;

Time difference: GMT + 01:00 (Sarajevo, Skopje, Zagreb, Warsaw);

Power supply: 220 V, 50 Hz. Our UK guests should note that power outlets in the Republic of Macedonia are the Continental two-pin type and that a socket adapter is therefore required;

Water: Tap water is potable in all parts of the Republic of Macedonia;

Climate: the Republic of Macedonia has a transitional climate from Mediterranean to continental. The summers are hot and dry and the winters are moderately cold. In May, the temperature is around 20°C (68 F) with possibilities of rains.

For more information on the weather forecast in the Republic of Macedonia please visit: <http://www.meteo.gov.mk/>

Health services: There are hospitals and clinics located in all larger towns and cities, while smaller centers have dispensaries and chemist. Pharmacies in the Republic of Macedonia are well –supplied, and they are located on numerous locations especially in

larger cities. Before visiting the Republic of Macedonia, you do not need to get any particular vaccinations and medications for vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases;

Working hours: Most shops are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and until 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Many shops stay open until 10 p.m., even on Sundays, especially in the larger malls in the capital Skopje; you can visit the website of one of the most visited shopping centers in Skopje- *Ramstore mall*, <http://ramstore.com.mk/>

VAT: In the Republic of Macedonia, the VAT 18 %. The prices are always VAT included.

Mobile phone companies: There 3 (three) mobile phone operators in Republic of Macedonia: - T-Mobile, VIP and ONE;

Telephone code for the Republic of Macedonia is +389. Area code for Skopje (0)2.

Important telephone numbers:

- Police: 192
- Fire Department: 193
- Ambulance: 194
- Roadside vehicle assistance: 196
- Information local and intercity numbers: 188

If you want to learn more about the Republic of Macedonia, to read about the national history and the antique cultural treasures you can follow these links:

<http://www.exploringmacedonia.com/>

<http://www.investinmacedonia.com/>

Your stay: If you are staying at the Holiday Inn Skopje, you should know that it is in the center of the city centre you can see the bricked walls of the Skopje Calais Fortress from the upper floors of the hotel. Its central location means that you can walk to all major locations in the city. You'll find Skopje Old Town a few steps away, where the 15th-century old Stone Bridge crosses the River Vardar to the Ottoman-era Old Bazaar's mosques and covered market. At only 10 km away from the Center, you can ascend the grand Mount of Vodno and admire the 66-metre-high Millennium Cross. In the very center of Skopje you can also visit the memorial house of Mother Theresa one of the most popular tourist site. Skopje is a city rich in museums, churches, mosques, restaurants, bars etc. To learn more visit: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Skopje#b>

Should you wish to stay over the weekend in Macedonia, you can visit Ohrid, the most popular tourist destination in the Republic of Macedonia, 180km away from Skopje. Situated on one of the most ancient lakes in the world, Ohrid has an extensive history and heritage worth seeing where you can enjoy the natural beauty of this unique place. To learn more visit: <http://www.ohrid.com.mk/cityprofile/cityprofile.asp?ID=379>

COORDINATION IN SKOPJE

For any further information related to the organization of this event, you may contact:

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