



THE MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS (MATA)

hereby issues a

PROCLAMATION

in response to multiple recent statements by leading Bulgarian politicians, historians, and academics, which present the Macedonian language as a dialect of or a literary norm of the Bulgarian language

Regarding the denial of the Macedonian language as an independent language belonging to the South Slavic group of languages, the Macedonian Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATA) expresses its position on this issue, elaborated as follows:

MATA underscores that every language, including Macedonian, forms part of the cultural and national identity of a nation, which must not be encroached upon and must not be changed or adapted due to demands of individuals or groups attempting to gain political points or to demonstrate strength or power.

MATA points to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provides for the freedom of thought and expression of every person. The UN Resolution A / RES / 61/266 calls on all UN member states, including Bulgaria, to preserve and protect all the languages spoken by the peoples of the world.

Hence, MATA strongly opposes any denial of the Macedonian language by officials of the Republic of Bulgaria who have recently expressed views contrary to the international conventions and documents related to language protection.

In addition, MATA rejects all arbitrary, scientifically unsupported views, which have nothing in common with linguistics, Slavic studies or history. We ask the Bulgarian scientific community, led by Bulgarian translators and language professors, to comply with the objective scientific reality of the classification of the Slavic languages.

The Macedonian language has a long literary tradition that precedes the date of its standardization: starting with Pulevski's "Trilingual [Dictionary]" in the 19th century, the "Alphabet," published by Greek authorities in 1925, as well as Macedonian language

textbooks published in Bulgaria in the late 1940s, when education in Macedonian as a native language was established. According to the census, at that time, 63.7% of the population of Pirin Macedonia declared themselves to be Macedonian.

For us, translators and interpreters, the Macedonian language is not just a tool we work with, but a part of our being, our tradition, and our identity, deeply rooted in the works of Miladinovci, Iljoski, Racin, Andreevski, Janevski, Koneski; it is the language we speak, the language we use to communicate and create, the language we translate and interpret from and into, and the language in which we write and narrate.

The Macedonian language is a living language, the language used for teaching and communication at all levels of education, as well as in research and science, in our country and in all the countries where a Macedonian minority lives, as well as at numerous universities in the world where Macedonian studies are taught. Thousands of famous literary works and thousands of pages of poetry have been translated into the Macedonian language, and recently, the Macedonian language has become a separate, procedural language in many international institutions.

Therefore, MATA calls on state institutions, professional associations, all individuals and like-minded people, friends of our country and those who respect the Macedonian language, to speak out against these unprincipled pressures, contrary to the democratic principles of a 21st-century world, which needs a language of mutual respect instead of hate speech, blackmail, and denial.

Skopje, November 20, 2020