



MS in North Macedonia

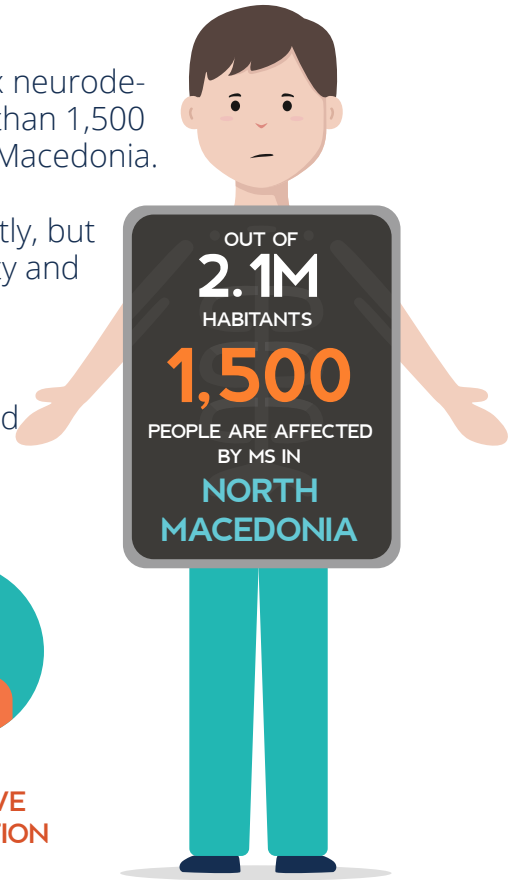


WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting more than 1,500 of the 2.1 million people¹ in North Macedonia.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms often include pain, fatigue, reduced mobility and cognitive dysfunction.

There is currently no cure for MS; however, optimal treatment and support have a significant effect on disease progression and quality of life for people with MS.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED MOBILITY



COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

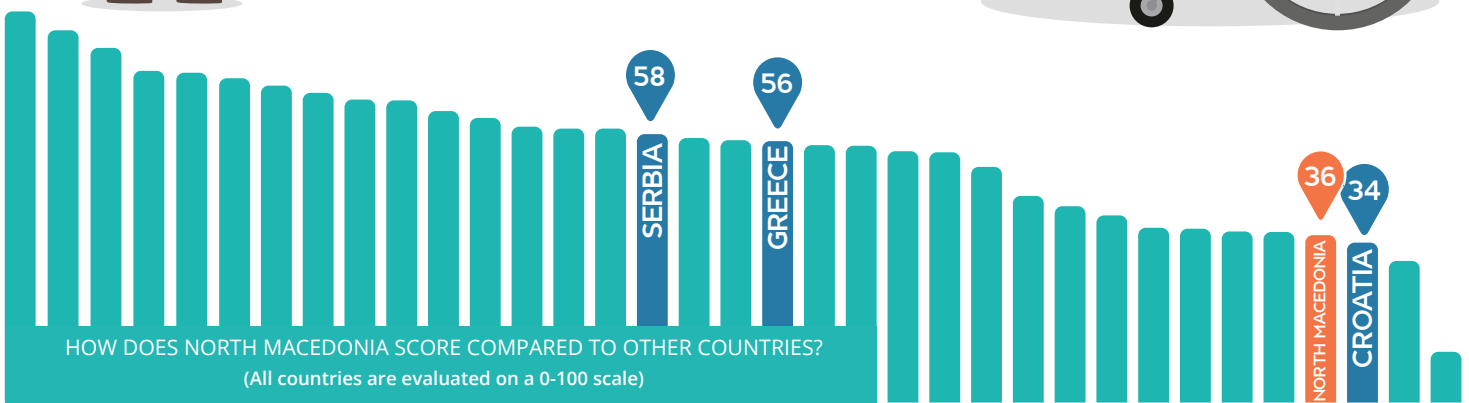
COUNTRY CONTEXT

The North Macedonian social insurance system provides citizens with a broad package of benefits, covering most treatments and rehabilitation services.²

However, the public hospitals often lack adequate funding, leading to substantial co-payments, direct payments and inefficient service provision.

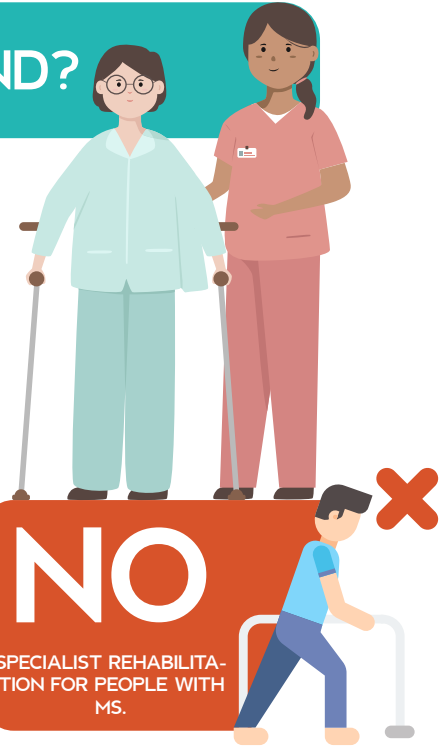


COUNTRY RANKING






WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



North Macedonia has made recent progress in access to and use of disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) and the establishment of a national MS patient registry. Collaboration with healthcare authorities and the Ministry of Health has been an important facilitator to these improvements. However, deficits persist:

20%
OF PEOPLE WITH MS ARE ON A WAITING LIST FOR DMDs



Up to 20% of people with MS are on a waiting list to start or switch their DMDs.

NO
REIMBURSEMENT FOR MOST SYMPTOMATIC THERAPIES



There is no reimbursement for most symptomatic therapies.

NO
SPECIALIST REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MS.



There is no specialist rehabilitation available to people with MS.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase funding for DMDs and symptomatic therapies through the National Health Insurance Fund's dedicated fund for MS treatment.



Expand rehabilitation services for people with MS to include cognitive, psychological and occupational support.

Mandate inclusion of all people with MS in the MS patient registry.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact [mismakedonija@gmail.com](mailto:msmakedonija@gmail.com)

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