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**Aleksandra Nakjeva Ruzhin, Ambassador (f)**

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Ambassador Nakjeva Ruzhin has had over 25 years of distinguished career at executive positions in the corporate financial sector and the public service, as also in academia and working for international financial institutions.

She has been honored to serve as Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the Kingdom of Sweden, from 2014 to 2018.

From 2018 she has been engaged as a World Bank consultant in the digital education area, serving as National Coordinator for the National Platform for Digital Learning, Digital Learning Coordinator and Expert on Digitalization and Innovation in Education at the Ministry of Education and Science. She has also been engaged by the International Telecommunication Union as a local expert for assessing the Digital Skills and the Innovation Profile of North Macedonia. Since February of this year she serves as a Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance overseeing the tax and custom policy and public revenues system.

She is also a senior lecturer of Public Finance and Industrial Organization at the American Colleague - Skopje, and has been engaged as guest lecturer at the Faculty of Economics in Skopje, the Stockholm Business School and the University of Pittsburgh.

From 2003 - 2014, she has held a variety of senior management positions in the corporate financial sector, as an Advisor for Strategic Affairs, Director of Finance, Deputy General Manager responsible for the departments for managing liquidity and investments, IT and marketing, and latest as General Manager.

While working in the private sector, she served on the boards of several business associations - from 2005 to 2011 she was President of the Banking and Finance Commission and a member of the Management Board of the European Business Association, and from 2011 to 2014 she served on the Board as President of the Association; from 2010 to 2013 she was a member of the Management Board of the Macedonian Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Council for Foreign Investors and a member of the Presidency of the Permanent Court of Arbitration attached to the Economic Chamber of Macedonia; from 2006 to 2013, she was a member of the Management Board of the National Insurance Bureau, and served as President of the Board for the term 2009 / 2010.

Ambassador Nakjeva Ruzhin has also had an extensive career in the public service, both at national and local level.

From 2000 to 2003 she held a variety of senior positions at the Ministry of Finance - as Advisor to the Minister of Finance at the Financial Markets Department; Assistant to the Minister and Head of the Insurance Supervision, and latest as State Advisor responsible for

the for Budget Department, Internal Audit Department, Insurance Supervision and the Public Sector Reforms. In this capacity, she was also a Coordinator of the World Bank Project for Public Sector Reforms, a member of the Management Board of the Bank Deposits Insurance Fund, and was in charge of establishing the Insurance Supervision within the Ministry of Finance and obtaining its membership status within the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. From 2000-2001 she was appointed President of a First Instance Commission for Denationalization at the Ministry of Finance, and from 2001-2002 a member of the Second Instance Commission for Denationalization at the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

While serving at the Ministry of Finance, she was actively engaged in the work of various Steering Committees as well as of working committees for policy drafting within the banking, securities and insurance supervision sphere; was a member of the Ministry of Finance's negotiation teams with the IMF, World Bank and WTO; and a member of the Editorial Board of the Ministry of Finance Bulletin.

Ambassador Nakjeva Ruzhin has actively participated in the implementation of the decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia, as an author/co-author of several research papers on the topic of Fiscal Decentralization published in the country and abroad, and by serving as an external Advisor for budgetary and treasury issues to the Mayor of the City of Skopje at the initial period of decentralization in 2005/2006.

Prior to her service at the Ministry of Finance, she has been working for the World Bank, as a Coordinator of the Pension Reforms Project at the Ministry of Labor and Social policy. For the World Bank, she has also been engaged in 2006- 2007, as a Local Financial Expert on the Social Protection Reform Project at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

She is an author of numerous articles and publications, and has been participating as a speaker at several dozens of conferences in the country and abroad, organized by the European Commission, Regional Cooperation Council, World Bank, American College - Skopje, Macedonian Stock Exchange, European Business Association, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, "Macedonia 2025", Association of the Macedonian Women Entrepreneurs, National Insurance Bureau and other respectful associations and institutions. She has also been a motivational speaker at various conferences on the topics of gender equality and women's empowerment, as also on the topic of carrier advancement.

During her studies, she has been taking active role in the operations of the International Student Association AIESEC. She has served as President of AIESEC Skopje for the period of 1996/'97 and 1997/'98, has overseen the revitalization of AIESEC Ohrid, and has been a trainer in the Balkan Trainers Team and the National Trainers Team. In this capacity she has been in charge of organizing numerous seminars at national and at local level as a President of the Organizing Committees and as a trainer and facilitator. At the final years of her studies, she worked as an intern in Zagreb, Croatia, where she was conducting market researches for USAID (FSVC) in the area of investment funds, privatization investment

funds, insurance market and auditing and accounting, as also as an intern at the Zagreb Stock Exchange.

Ambassador Nakjeva Ruzhin received her Master degree in Public Policy and Management with highest honors (summa cum laude) from the University of Pittsburg, USA, and her PhD in Economics and B.A. in Business Economics from the Faculty of Economics, Ss. "Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje.

She has received various recognitions for her work at national and international level - she was awarded the prestigious "International Public Service Award" for 2016 from the University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA; Special Recognition for valuable contribution towards the educational programs awarded by "Macedonia 2025" (2018); Certificate of Appreciation by the Macedonian Diaspora in Malmo, Sweden (2016); Certificate of Appreciation, The Rotary Club of Stockholm International, Stockholm, Sweden (2015); Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding performance and lasting contribution to the students of UACS, University American College - Skopje, R. of Macedonia (2010), etc.

She is passionate about advancement of international relations, environmental protection and women and economic empowerment.