

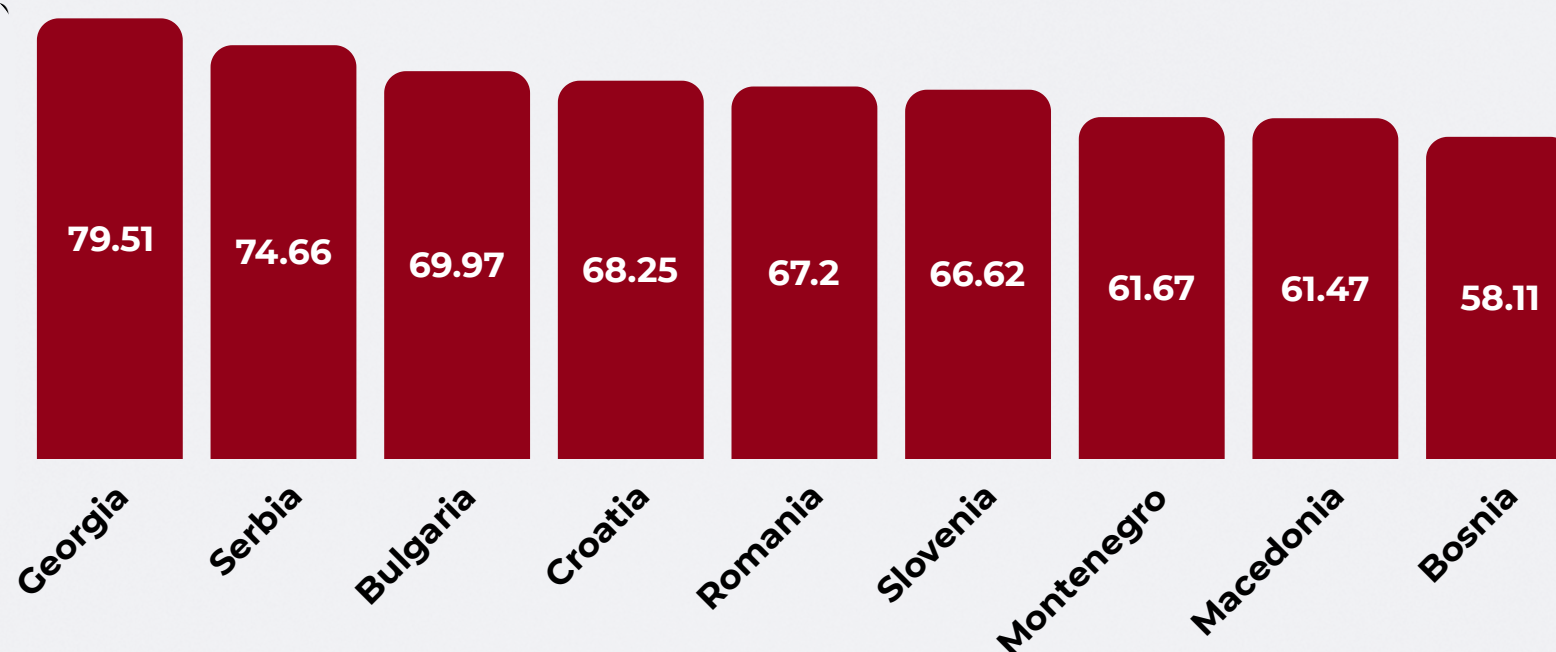
# BUSINESS LOCATION: FRAMEWORK, PERFORMANCE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Business Location** topic within the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) framework is a critical measure of how easily and securely firms can acquire the physical space necessary to operate. This report examines the coverage of this topic, the specific performance of **Macedonia**, and the primary areas identified for improvement.

## RANKING AND PERFORMANCE OF MACEDONIA

Macedonia has shown some **progress** in the Business Location topic between the 2024 and 2025 reports. The overall topic score improved to **61.47** in 2025, from **55.68** in the previous year. While this reflects a positive trend, the country remains categorized as a **peak workforce economy**, meaning it must continuously implement economic reforms and improve the business environment in order to maintain job creation and productivity gains. Regional comparison shows weak position for Macedonia (Chart1).

Chart 1: Business Location (2025 Scores)



Source: World Bank

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Based on the data, the most critical area for improvement in Macedonia is closing the **"public services gap"** which shows significant disparity between the country's relatively strong regulations and the actual digital infrastructure and institutional support provided to implement them.

Specific recommendations include:

- **Digitalization of Permits:** Macedonia should prioritize the development and reliability of online platforms for issuing building authorizations and property transfers. Enhancing digital identity verification and electronic filing systems can significantly reduce administrative burdens.
- **Interoperability:** Improving the exchange of information between the land registry, cadastral systems, and municipal planning offices is essential. Seamless data sharing reduces the time firms spend navigating multiple agencies for a single location.
- **Environmental Permitting Transparency:** While regulations for environmental permits may exist, the Public Services pillar scores indicate a need for greater transparency in how these permits are issued and tracked.
- **Gender-Disaggregated Data:** Consistent with global trends in the report, Macedonia could improve by collecting and publishing sex-disaggregated data on land ownership to help identify and close gender gaps in property rights.

**By addressing these deficiencies, Macedonia can reduce transaction costs for firms, making it a more attractive destination for investment and supporting more efficient job creation.**