

# NEWSLETTER

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## Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The sixth issue of Newsletter of the European Integration Office will present the most important events and activities under the process of accession to the EU during the fourth quarter of 2018.

Good results in negotiations with the EU are reflected in 32 opened and three provisionally closed negotiating chapters, as well as in reforms that already gave visible results in many areas.

The European Integration Office has been committed to coordination of work of the negotiating structure and intensification of activities with a view to achieving tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other authorities, as well as strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and its members so that Montenegro could take equal place among European partners.

The previous three months were also characterised by continuation of dynamic activities in terms of coordination of the negotiating process, IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, as well as organisation of numerous conferences, regional and international meetings.

We are convinced that this newsletter also contributes to citizens' understanding and knowledge of the accession process and future EU membership of Montenegro.




*European Integration Office*

Sector for informing the public about the EU and the EU accession process -  
General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro





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3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services	17. Economic and monetary policy	33. Financial and budgetary provisions
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-  Provisionally closed chapter
-  Opened chapter
-  Drafting of the Negotiating Position



## EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD



10. XII 2018.

### CHAPTER 27 OPENED IN BRUSSELS: GREAT SUCCESS FOR MONTENEGRO

Montenegro opened Chapter 27 - Environment and Climate Change at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels. It was jointly concluded that the opening of this chapter represented another Montenegro's success and recognition for the Montenegrin institutions for their intensive work on alignment of national legislation with the EU regulations and building of necessary administrative capacities. In his address to the representatives of the Member States and the European Commission, the Head of the Montenegrin delegation, Minister of Foreign Affairs Srđan Darmanović, pointed out that Montenegro had opened 32 chapters, of which three had been provisionally closed due to intensive work. "This is a proof of our continued and strong commitment to the European integration process. I believe that the opening of the last negotiating chapter in the months ahead will be another confirmation of the leading position of Montenegro. Furthermore, this will also give a new impetus to the integration process, not only when it comes to our country, but also when it comes the countries of the region, and will also confirm the credibility of the European perspective of the Western Balkans", Darmanović said. Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulović said that the decision to open Chapter 27 could be considered almost historical. He recalled that Montenegro had fulfilled the opening benchmark in this field in July 2016 by adopting the National Strategy for Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement of the EU acquis in the field of Environment and Climate Change, along with the accompanying Action Plan for the period 2016-2020. European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said that the opening of negotiations on Chapter 27 was another significant step forward on Montenegro's European path.

18. XII 2018.

### PERCENTAGE OF CITIZENS SUPPORTING MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EU INCREASES

According to a survey conducted by the Defacto agency for the needs of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, the percentage of citizens supporting Montenegro's accession to the European Union has increased in comparison to last year (62%) and now it stands at 65.9%, while 23.5% is the percentage of those who do not support integration. The largest support was recorded in the northern region of Montenegro – no less than 74.9% of inhabitants of this region support accession. Similar percentages were recorded when the citizens were asked about their opinion on the European Union: 67.4% of them have a positive, while 23.6% have a negative attitude towards the European Union. Among young people under 35, this figure is even higher, so almost three quarters (74.5%) have a positive attitude towards the EU. The survey showed that 77.3% of citizens would turn out in a referendum on accession. If we take into consideration only those citizens who would turn out in such a referendum and who have already made up their minds, 86% would vote for Montenegro to become a member of the EU, while 14% would oppose it. More than half of citizens (50.2%) perceive the EU as the largest donor in Montenegro, indicating an increase of 3.5 % when compared to a year earlier. Furthermore, almost half of the respondents believe the European Union is the one that Montenegro should have the strongest connections with in the future. The largest number of citizens (34.3%) believe that Montenegro is moving as fast as the circumstances allow on the path to the EU membership. More than a third of respondents (34.6%) believe that Montenegro will join the European Union by 2025. The vast majority of citizens (82.4%) say that they are, to a greater or lesser extent, informed about the EU integration process. When it comes to information about the European Union, 37.8% of respondents claim that they are interested in hearing or reading them, but only those that concern them personally, and this percentage has significantly increased over the last two years.



### EU ACESION NEGOTIATIONS

24. XII 2018.

### NEGOTIATIONS COLLEGIUM: NO RELAXATION ON THE PATH TO THE EU

The results achieved by Montenegro in terms of European integration are encouraging, but also obligatory, and in the time to come, activities to achieve results in all areas need to be intensified in order to attain a key state objective –to join the EU. This was concluded at the meeting of the Negotiations Collegium, which was chaired by Prime Minister Duško Mar-



ković. “Good results on the European path should not be an excuse for relaxation. On the contrary, in the coming months, we must intensify work on the creation of even more tangible results in the field of the fight against corruption and organised crime and meet the criteria that lead to the fulfilment of obligations in order to close several chapters. I expect the entire negotiating structure to be commitment and responsible to the maximum possible extent when it comes to fulfilment of obligations assumed and meeting of set deadlines”, Prime Minister said. Considering the state of play in the field of the rule of law, members of the Collegium underscored the positive results in this field and especially highlighted the success in combating organised crime and the fight against trafficking in human beings. Inter-institutional cooperation was commended at the meeting, as well as positive impulse given in this respect by the new director of the Police Administration. Furthermore, the results of this authority and the Special State Prosecutor’s Office were also presented at the meeting.



13. XI 2018.

### PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE NON-PAPER ON THE STATE OF PLAY REGARDING CHAPTERS 23 AND 24 FOR MONTENEGRO

The European Integration Office, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organised a press conference with a view to presenting the EC Non-Paper on the state of play regarding Chapters 23 and 24 for Montenegro. Key findings from the Non-Paper were presented by the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, while, on behalf of the Montenegrin institutions, the document was commented by the negotiator for Chapters 23 and 24 and Director-General at the Ministry of Justice Marijana Laković, Special State Prosecutor Lidija Vukčević, High State Prosecutor Jelena Lučić and Assistant Director of the Police Administration Enis Baković. The press conference was also attended by representatives of the judiciary, Anti-Corruption Agency and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. The press conference is part of a project organised by the European Integration Office and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, with a view to getting the public informed about the process of Montenegro’s accession to the EU in a better and more comprehensive manner.



29. X 2018.

### MONTENEGRO MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In its opening address at the meeting of the expert mission for Chapter 7 - Intellectual Property Law, Deputy Chief Negotiator Marko Mrdak said that Montenegro, with the support of the European Commission, had significantly improved the state of play in the area of intellectual property rights, both in terms of compliance with the EU acquis and establishment of an appropriate system for its implementation. “Following the opening of Chapter 7, in March 2014, our work has been focused on the fulfilment of four closing benchmarks. We have adopted and amended all necessary laws with the consent of the European Commission and established coordinating bodies to ensure effective cooperation between institutions dealing with intellectual property law. I am convinced that the results achieved in this field will be acknowledged in the expert mission report, and that we will soon be able to provisionally close this chapter”, Mrdak said.



24. X 2018.

### DRLJEVIĆ IN BRUSSELS: EU MEMBER STATES WELCOME MONTENEGRO’S PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF THE RULE OF LAW

A meeting of the EU Council’s Working Party on Enlargement (COELA) on the progress made by Montenegro in Chapter 23 - Justice and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security was held in Brussels. According to Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, the best way for the EU to confirm that the European perspective of the Western Balkans still exists is to continue providing clear and unambiguous political, financial and technical support to the countries of the region. In this regard, he added that it was important, for the European future and stability of Montenegro, to speed up the accession process and to continue valuating individual achievements. Representatives of the EU Member States commended the results achieved and expressed their support for further progress towards full-fledged membership of the EU. It was pointed out that Montenegro had implemented significant reforms and made good progress, which the Member States should acknowledge and, accordingly, speed up the accession process.





## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

18. XII 2018.

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONTINUES MONITORING COUNTRY'S PROGRESS IN KEY AREAS

Montenegro is committed to meeting all the preconditions so as to be given closing benchmarks for Chapters 23 and 24 and the European Commission will continue monitoring the country's progress in key areas. This was stated at the meeting of the EU-Montenegro Joint Consultative Committee meeting. Recalling that 32 out of 33 negotiating chapters have been opened, the Head of Montenegrin Mission to EU Bojan Šarkić said that the remaining Chapter 8 - Competition was expected to be opened during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Deputy Head of Unit for Montenegro at DG NEAR Barbara Jesus-Gimeno recalled that clear European perspective for all the countries of the region was confirmed in the Strategy for the Western Balkans and the Sofia Declaration, adding that further progress would be evaluated solely on the basis of results achieved by each individual country. She welcomed the opening of Chapter 27 and stressed that the European Commission would continue monitoring the country's progress in key areas, such as the fight against organised crime, corruption, money laundering, media freedom, as well as further consolidation of public finances.



12. XII 2018.

### DRLJEVIĆ AT THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE: EU BELIEVES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The European Union has shown that enlargement was one of its most valuable policies and it will continue supporting Montenegro and the countries of the region on their path to membership. This was stated at the eighth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Committee. It was concluded that engagement of all social actors was needed for achieving progress. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević recalled that since the last meeting of the Committee Montenegro had opened negotiations on another four negotiating chapters, including Chapter 27, which is one of the most challenging chapters, both in terms of the scope of the acquis and financial challenges in implementing European environmental standards. He emphasized that the rule of law was an essential area in terms of priorities, adding that the progress made in this area was confirmed in the recently published EC Non-Paper on the state of play regarding

Chapters 23 and 24. Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for the Western Balkans at the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, recalled important events for the integration process of Montenegro and the region, including the Strategy for the Western Balkans, as well as the Sofia Summit and the Sofia Declaration. "These are strong signals of support that the European Union is providing to Montenegro and the region, and a clear message that we must keep the momentum of reforms. In this context, I would particularly point out the importance of the rule of law and fundamental rights, which are crucial for the negotiation process", Calavera said.



22. XI 2018.

### FURTHER REFORMS FOR MAINTAINING THE STABILITY OF PUBLIC FINANCES

Reform efforts of the Government of Montenegro in maintaining the stability of public finances and implementation of the measures foreseen by the fiscal strategy show measurable results. This was noted at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Economic, Financial Issues and Statistics in Brussels. Representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented to the European Commission the progress of Montenegro in the following areas: macroeconomic stability, public finances, financial sector, strengthening of competitiveness of the economy, statistics, internal financial controls and external audits. It was pointed out that Montenegro was making efforts to create a better and stimulating business environment, and that new activities, oriented towards further development of coordination of regulatory activities and responsibilities of regulators, especially at the local level, had been launched. Representatives of the European Commission stressed the necessity of continuing activities aimed at implementing fiscal consolidation, particularly when it comes to implementation of the Fiscal Strategy, as well as at increasing the rate of economic growth and budget revenues.





14. XI 2018.

### **DRLJEVIĆ AT SAPC MEETING: MONTENEGRO SHARES THE SYSTEM OF EUROPEAN VALUES AND PRESERVES ITS CITIZENS' WELL-BEING**

“Montenegro will continue transforming the society in line with the system of European values grounded on the rule of law, and preserving the well-being of its citizens, convinced that the European Union will acknowledge the results achieved by countries individually”, Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević stated at the meeting of the European Union - Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). At the 16th SAPC meeting held in Strasbourg, the SAPC members discussed the state of play when it comes to negotiations, paying special attention to the progress made in areas of the rule of law and economy. Montenegrin and European MPs also discussed activities of the Montenegrin Parliament aimed at improving the election process, as well as the progress made in the area of sustainable development and environmental protection. and Montenegro`s contribution to the stability in the Western Balkans.



23. X 2018.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, CUSTOMS, TAXATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER CANDIDATE COUNTRIES: WORK ON CLOSING CHAPTERS TO BE CONTINUED**

Montenegro`s progress in the areas of trade, industry, customs and taxation will contribute to the increase in the number of opened and closed chapters in the upcoming period. This was concluded at the meeting of Sub-Committee on Trade, Industry, Customs, Taxation and Cooperation with other Candidate Countries. At the 11th meeting of the Sub-Committee, representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented the progress made in the following negotiating chapters: Chapter 1 - Free Movement of Goods, Chapter 16 - Taxation, Chapter 20 - Enterprise and Industrial Policy, Chapter 29 - Customs Union and Chapter 30 - External Relations. Deputy Chief Negotiator for the EU Acquis Chapters Marko Mrdak reiterated Montenegro`s decisive commitment to the EU membership, while Deputy Head of Unit for Montenegro at DG NEAR Barbara Jesus-Gimeno said that both Montenegro and the Eu-

ropean Commission had done a lot of work towards a common goal – Montenegro`s EU membership.



18. X 2018.

### **NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EU: UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MONTENEGRIN MUNICIPALITIES**

“The negotiation process is a unique opportunity for development of local self-governments and strengthening of their capacities, which will ensure the Montenegrin municipalities to be positioned as strong partners to the Government and the European Union”, Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said. He gave a speech in Nikšić at the opening of the 11th meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee between Montenegro and the Committee of the Regions, pointing out that the meeting was an excellent opportunity for discussing issues of importance for local self-governments and for discussing how they could contribute to a more quality Montenegro`s path to the EU. Drljević stressed that reform in all the areas being negotiated is of great importance for the development of local self-governments since they represent the first service when it comes to provision of services to citizens.





## CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

12. XI 2018.

### BERLIN CONGRESS: MILESTONE IN MONTENEGRO'S HISTORY

Today, 140 years after the Berlin Congress and a turning point in its history, Montenegro is on a safe path to becoming the next full-fledged member of the EU and taking its place among the developed countries. This was underlined at the ceremony marking the 140th anniversary of the Berlin Congress. The ceremony - 140th anniversary of the recognition of Montenegro's independence at the Berlin Congress was organised by the European Integration Office and the Rectorate of the University of Montenegro. Together with representatives of embassies in Montenegro, representatives of the University and the European Integration Office planted first seedlings out of 140 foreseen to be planted in several Montenegrin cities. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević recalled the most important attainment of the Berlin Congress - international recognition of the statehood of Montenegro, gained after a long-standing struggle in this region, pointing out that this event represented a new page of Montenegro's history, which laid the foundations for the creation of a modern European state.



## IPA

19. XII 2018.

### IPA PROJECTS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE BORDER AREA

The Info Day was held in Nikšić on the occasion of announcement of the Second Call for Proposals under the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro. Representatives of institutions from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina reminded that the amount allocated for the Second Call for Proposals was almost EUR 4,4 million, and that the Call would be opened until 25 January 2019. The priority specific objectives to be funded are: Management and energy efficiency of local water supply systems, wastewater and solid waste systems and environmental protection, improved through cross-border coordination and joint activities; Improved quality and diversification of tourism offer building on natural and cultural heritage. It was stated that the

cross-border cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro had started in 2008, and that the implementation of a total of 38 projects worth EUR 9.3 million had improved the quality of life in the border area.



14. XII 2018.

### MONTENEGRO SUCCESSFUL IN IMPLEMENTING EU PROJECTS



Structures in charge of managing EU Pre-Accession Assistance in Montenegro have successfully prepared and implemented EU-funded projects during the previous year, participants stated during the meeting of the IPA Monitoring Committee (IPA), which was held in Podgorica. Following another year of implementation of IPA programmes and projects, it was noted that Montenegro has successfully been using available EU funds. After successful completion of projects within the financial period 2007-2013, more than EUR 176 million of EU assistance has already been planned for the period of 2014-2020 and at supporting the implementation of Montenegro's reforms within the negotiation process and further infrastructure building. It was concluded that all the parties involved will continue their intensive activities in the forthcoming period in order to improve the living standard and prepare Montenegrin institutions to meet the obligations arising from EU membership through successful implementation of EU-funded projects.



**7. XII 2018.**

**MONTENEGRO RECEIVES ADDITIONAL EUR 68.6 MILLION FROM EU FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**



Montenegro received the additional amount of non-refundable support of EUR 68.6 million from European Union and bilateral donors of the Western Balkan Investment Framework for the implementation of four investment projects in the field of transport and environment, as well as for preparation of project documentation for the two new projects. Additional funds were approved at the Western Balkan Investment Framework Steering Committee meeting, via fourth call for investment projects and 20 call for project preparation, in the context of the financial support provided by the EU and bilateral donors within the Berlin Process.

**6. XII 2018.**

**RULES PRESENTED FOR THE THIRD CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER THE DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME**



Representatives of the European Integration Office organized info days, during which they announced publication of the Third call for submission of project proposals under the Danube Transnational Programme. The amount of the budget planned for this call will be EUR 60 million, of which EUR 3.3 million will be allocated for partners from the IPA beneficiary countries. The mentioned call will be opened for the fields of sustainable use of national and cultural heritage, the renewal and maintenance of environmental corridors, risk management and institutional capacity building, while the possibility of submitting project proposals within other specific objectives will be limited. The goal of the Danube Transnational Programme is to contribute to addressing common challenges and needs in specific fields, as well as promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion

on the territory of the Danube region. Ten projects approved under the First and Second call of this programme are currently implemented in Montenegro, under which EUR 893 thousand is available to Montenegrin partners.

**19. XI 2018.**

**SIX PROJECTS CONTRACTED UNDER THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO - KOSOVO 2014-2020**

Beginning of the implementation of the six projects selected under the First call for IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020 was officially marked at the ceremony in Priština. Out of EUR 8.4 million available to countries for the period 2014-2020, EUR 2.04 million was allocated for this call. Project activities will contribute to reinforcement of the programming area in terms of employment encouraging, improving the access to and quality of health services, establishing technical pre-conditions for integrated solid waste management and valorisation of common tourism potentials based on common natural and cultural heritage.



**14. XI 2018.**

**THIRD MED CALL PRESENTED: EUR 32 MILLION FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTNERS FROM BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES**



Possible beneficiaries of the Mediterranean Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (MED) will have at their disposal EUR 32 million under the Third call, of which around EUR 2 million have been allocated for IPA beneficiary countries. Presentation of opportunities of the Third call for the Mediterranean Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (MED) was organized by European Integration Office at the EU Info Centre. The results achieved so far under the MED programme have been evaluated as successful, since the



Montenegrin institutions participated in 11 projects in the period 2007-2013, with a total value of EUR 952,000. When it comes to the First and Second call under the MED 2014-2020 programme, Montenegrin institutions participated in 10 projects supported with about EUR million.

**10. XI 2018.**

## EU CONTINUES PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS

The main message from the coordination meeting of IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme in Brussels is that the European Union is committed and ready to continue with financial support to countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the field of leading regional initiatives in line with the EU Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans. The mentioned meeting was attended by representatives of countries of the Western Balkans, Turkey and European Commission. They discussed actions proposed for funding under the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme for 2019, for which the EU allocated EUR 578 million and which refer to leading EU initiatives in the field of rule of law, security and migration, socio-economic development, connectivity empowering, digital agenda and good neighbourly relations. Participants of the meeting concluded that the use of additional EU funds at the regional level would result in a greater volume of investment in infrastructure, improved security and responses to organized crime and corruption, as well as improving the situation in the field of youth education, employment, statistics, cyber security, cultural cooperation and private sector development. After conducting additional consultations, the European Commission will formally adopt the proposed programme in mid-2019.



**9. XI 2018.**

## EUR 5.6 MILLION FROM IPA FUNDS FOR BETTER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Participants of the meeting between the director of the Regional Water Supply Company Goran Jevrić and the Deputy Chief Negotiator-National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović stated that water supply on the Montenegrin coast would be significantly improved through implementation of project under the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020, with a total value of EUR 5.6 million, of which around EUR 1 million is allocated for the Montenegrin partner, Regional Water Supply Company. Representatives of the European Integration Office informed representatives of the Regional Water Supply Company for the coastal area about the possibilities for their participation in nine cross-border and transnational co-

operation programmes, part of which is Montenegro. They were also informed on public calls for submission of on-going project proposals, as well planned proposals in the upcoming period, in which the company could participate.



**23. X 2018.**

## EUR 40 MILLION FOR EIGHT PROJECTS OF TRILATERAL CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROJECTS

Today in Tirana, the joint committee for monitoring trilateral cross-border cooperation programme for Italy, Albania and Montenegro has approved proposals for eight thematic projects with value exceeding EUR 40 million, which will be implemented in these three countries, starting from the next year. These projects will address the existing economic and social needs, while reconstruction of the old prison in Kotor and its adaptation to the centre for development of cultural and creative industries, construction of Virpazar Harbour, procurement of emergency response equipment and disaster prevention, as well as the introduction of new technologies for oyster cultivation and distribution will be of particular importance for Montenegro. Thematic projects will deal with improvement of tourism offer through the introduction of new digital technologies, networking and strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises, improvement of telemedicine services in the field of cardiology and improvement of Montenegrin water supply system.



**19. X 2018.**

## PROPOSAL FOR THE IPA 2018 PROGRAMME PRESENTED TO NGOS

The following has been planned under the IPA 2018 programme in Montenegro, in the field of rule of law and health care: reconstruction and adaptation of courts in four municipalities, construction of the Special Health Institution



within the Institute for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions, construction of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Clinic for Dermatovenerology, as well as improvement of equipment in microbiological laboratories. The European Integration Office organized a presentation to NGOs on the IPA 2018 programme proposal, with total budget in the amount of EUR 44,2 million and the aim to support the following fields: rule of law and fundamental rights; agriculture and rural development; health and social protection; European integration; EU programmes; IPARD II - Instrument of Pre-Accession of Rural Development (IPARD II) and civil society.



18. X 2018.

### PRESENTED OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME SERBIA-MONTENEGRO AND MEDITERRANEAN TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME



Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020 represents continuation of successful cooperation that was established by Operational Structures of these two countries in the previous perspective (2007-2013), when 34 projects worth EUR 6,2 million were implemented, stated attendees at the info days on IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia - Montenegro 2014-2020 and Interreg Mediterranean Transnational Programme 2014-2020. Info sessions were organized by the European Integration Office in all Montenegrin municipalities during the period 1-12 October 2018. The goal of these events is to inform the possible users and interested public on the opportunities for financing through these cooperation programmes, as well as to announce the forthcoming calls for submission of project proposals.

3. X 2018.

### EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY CELEBRATED AT CHILDREN'S HOME IN BIJELA: EU RECOGNIZES SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL COOPERATION



European Union has recognized the recent successful cooperation between Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and provided the framework for new projects within the European Territorial Cooperation Policy through the programme worth EUR 67.2 million, stated participants of the celebration of the European Cooperation Day in Bijela. The European Cooperation Day was celebrated this year as a part of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia-Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 and it was dedicated to children and youth, their contribution to EU and cooperation between the three countries. Children from Children's Home "Mladost" in Bijela, together with children from homes from Dubrovnik and Mostar, marked the differences between the three countries in a funny and educational way. In line with the motto of this year's celebration of European Cooperation Day – Painting our future together, they jointly painted the forthcoming cooperation between the countries of the region.

### COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

9. X 2018.

### TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF NGOS ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE JCC

Based on a public call for nominating two NGO candidates for membership in the Joint Consultative Committee between Montenegro and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the European Integration Office, following the relevant procedure, decided to elect Radoš Mušović (NGO Centre for Development of NGOs) and Ana Nenezić, (NGO Centre for Civic Education) for members of this Committee. Radoš Mušović was nominated by 27 NGOs, while Ana Nenezić was nominated by 26 NGOs, all of which submitted complete documentation. The public call was open from 11 to 21 September 2018 and 64 non-governmental organizations submitted 3 proposals for the appointment of NGO representatives to the Joint Consultative Committee between Montenegro and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



4. X 2018.

## WORKING AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING THE STRATEGY FOR INFORMING

The Government of Montenegro passed the Decision establishing the Working authority for drafting the Strategy for Informing the Public on Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2019-2022. Besides representatives of the Government and the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration, the Working authority also includes representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro and representatives of three NGOs (Centre for Civic Education, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights and Juventas)..

## COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

28. XI 2018.

## DRLJEVIĆ IN BAR: INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS IMPORTANT FOR ADVANCEMENT TOWARDS THE EU



By implementing several EU-funded projects, the Municipality of Bar has shown that it has capacities to cope with complex procedures and enable its citizens to feel benefits of the EU accession process at this stage, it was stated during the visit of the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević to Bar. During his visit to Bar, Drljević met with the Mayor of the Municipality, Dušan Raičević and attended a public debate "The role of local self-governments in the EU accession process". He also spoke to pupils of the Elementary School "Jugoslavija" about the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU and visited trilateral project Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro implemented by the Hospital "Blažo Orlandić". During the meeting, participants pointed out that the Government of Montenegro was conducting the accession negotiations, but, the country's progress towards the EU is not happening only at the national level, it requires synergy of the entire society with important place for local self-governments. Raičević pointed out that good cooperation between the Government and municipalities was crucial for the negotiating process. He thanked the European Integration Office for supporting the Municipality of Bar in recent and further improvement of knowledge and skills needed for membership in the EU. The Mayor

also noted that the Municipality of Bar was implementing a cross-border project in the field of olive growing, adding that in 2018 they applied for eight projects and that they were still preparing another seven.

## OTHER

27. XII 2018.

## GOVERNMENT PASSES THE STRATEGY FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC ON MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EU 2019-2022

At the session held on 27 December, the Government of Montenegro passed the Strategy for Informing the Public on Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2019-2022. This document establishes the framework and defines the guidelines for communicating the EU accession process in the period 2019-2022. The new Strategy for Informing is in line with current situation in the accession process and modern communication channels, and it will contribute to better informing of citizens on Montenegro's European integration. The strategy is transparent, based on measurable empirical data and also sets measurable indicators of success, while its drafting was preceded by a detailed communication analysis. The strategy is focused on communication with domestic and foreign public and it defines strategic and operational goals, performance indicators, as well as key communication messages, communication channels, methods and techniques. The Strategy was adopted along with the 2019 Action Plan, which contains 185 activities of all the line ministries, Parliamentary Committee for European Integration, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro and partners from NGOs. Activities are grouped in line with strategic and operational goals.



19. XII 2018.

## WINNERS OF THE QUIZ "HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EU?" AWARDED

Winners of the quiz "How much do you know about the EU?", Blagota Marković, Andrija Mujović and Petar Prelević, were awarded. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav gave them, along with three bikes, diplomas for the first three places won. Drljević emphasised that, in this way, the pupils showed that they want to learn about the European Union and the current path of Montenegro, as well as to use their knowledge



in order to improve their future position in the community of democratic states. Orav reminded about the high percentage of young people in Montenegro who have a positive attitude about the EU, among them are those who know a lot about the EU - winners of awards. Eighty-two pupils of 8 and 9 elementary school grades participated in the quiz. The quiz was a part of the EU4ME project, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP



5. XII 2018.

## EU SUPPORTS VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

European Union promotes volunteering as a positive social value and financially supports youth activism in countries that want to join EU, thus developing solidarity among the citizens of Europe, and democratic values in countries, stated participants of the interactive forum “Be socially active. Make a contribution.” The mentioned forum was organized at the High School “Slobodan Škerović”, as a part of the EU4ME project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević and the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, spoke to pupils about the importance of social activism among young people and empathy development. After the Forum, along with pupils, Drljević and Orav have shown their activism by planting fifteen seedlings of several species of trees in the courtyard of the school. Chief Negotiator indicated that volunteering had an impact on common European values, such as solidarity, democracy, equal opportunities, self-respect and respect for other cultures, adding that, on these foundations, we build a common life and future within the EU.



3. XII 2018.

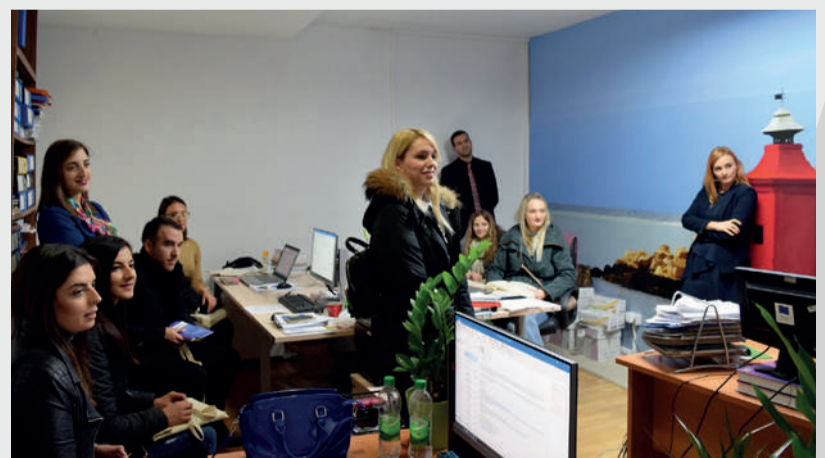
## SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS PROVIDED THROUGH THREE EU PROJECTS WORTH EUR 2.24 MILLION



Capacities of Montenegrin institutions for the EU accession process have been substantially strengthened, while coordination within the negotiating structure has been improved through three projects worth EUR 2.24 million, stated participants of the Open Door Day at the European Integration Office. The EU financed three projects during the previous two years: Strengthening the capacity of the Montenegrin administration for the EU accession process and IPA II instrument, Development of the IT Portal for European Affairs and Procurement of equipment. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević pointed out that a new portal, which was prepared through the implementation of projects, would allow all those who are part of the negotiating structure to monitor the process of harmonization of the Montenegrin legislation with the acquis in a more efficient and effective way. Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, stated that EU projects supported Montenegrin administration to establish adequate structures, such as functional offices with modern equipment and IT solutions, as well as to contribute to professional training and education of employees.

27. XI 2018.

## STUDENTS OF FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES VISIT THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE



Students of the Faculty of Political Sciences visited the European Integration Office and discussed with its representatives about Montenegro's accession to the EU, as well as benefits and challenges of the mentioned process. Deputy Chief Negotiator Marko Mrdak, Adviser to the Chief Negotiator Dragana Marković and the Head of the Group for



Programmes with Member States, Ana Savjak, spoke to 20 students. Representatives of the European Integration Office noted that students presented part of society that additionally motivates decision-makers. They added that the process of Montenegro`s integration into the EU was mostly based on young people - members of negotiating teams who are aware of the responsibilities and complexity of their work. "You are learning at your faculty about current events both in our country and global community, as well as EU policies and values, so that you could apply your knowledge in practice in future. Former students of the Faculty of Political Sciences are employees of the European Integration Office and, therefore, we encourage you to continue with education, so that, once you become citizens of the EU, you will make a valuable contribution not only to Montenegrin, but also to EU administration", representatives of the European Integration Office stated.

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**17. X 2018.**

### **A WORKING LUNCH WITH AMBASSADORS OF EU MEMBER STATES HELD**

Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulović and Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević discussed with the ambassadors of EU Member States about Montenegro`s results in the EU accession process and presented further activities in this year. A working lunch with ambassadors is organized as a part of the project implemented by the Office for European Integration and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, aiming to inform the public about the process of Montenegro`s accession to the EU. Minister Radulović stressed that the Montenegrin administration has fulfilled all requirements in Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change. Adding that all technical preconditions have been fulfilled, he expressed expectation that this chapter will be opened by the end of 2018. Chief Negotiator Drljević reminded of key results achieved in negotiation process, with a focus on results in the area of rule of law. He pointed out that meeting interim benchmarks in Chapters 23 and 24, as well as the finalization of work on meeting final benchmarks, is in the focus of the Government and negotiating structure

