

NEWSLETTER

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Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The ninth 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 third quarter of 2019.

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

The European Integration Office has been committed to coordination of work of 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, implementation of 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 is also a contribution to improving the understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

SECTOR FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE EU AND THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

25. Science and research	12. Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy	27. Environment and climate change
26. Education and culture	13. Fisheries	28. Consumer and health protection
30. External relations	14. Transport policy	29. Customs union
1. Free movement of goods	15. Energy	31. Foreign, security and defence policy
2. Free movement of workers	16. Taxation	32. Financial control
3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services	17. Economic and monetary policy	33. Financial and budgetary provisions
4. Free movement of capital	18. Statistics	8. Competition policy
5. Public procurement	19. Social policy and employment	
6. Company law	20. Enterprise and industrial policy	
7. Intellectual property law	21. Trans-European network	
9. Financial services	22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments	
10. Information society and media	23. Judiciary and fundamental rights	
11. Agriculture and rural development	24. Justice, freedom and security	

-  Provisionally closed chapter
-  Opened chapter
-  Drafting of the Negotiating Position

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

1. VII 2019.

FINLAND TAKES OVER EU PRESIDENCY



From 1 July until 31 December, Finland holds the six-month Presidency of the Council of the EU. This is the third time that Finland, as scheduled, holds the EU presidency. Finland has taken over the six-month presidency of the EU Council from Romania and will hand it over to Croatia on 1 January next year. Before taking over the presidency, Finland announced that its program would be based on the social, economic and environmental sustainability of Europe. Key priority for Finland's Presidency is the role of the EU in combating climate change. The Finnish Presidency program also includes strengthening the single market, rules-based free trade, using the potential provided by research, development, innovation and digitization. Finns believe that better education and training, regional and social justice, as well as gender equality, are key to the EU's sustainable development and the well-being of its citizens.

dynamics of the negotiation process, it was said during a visit of the European Commission expert mission. During this visit, independent experts discussed with the representatives of 10 institutions in charge of data protection and free access to information issues and got informed about the practice in this area. The Advisor to the Chief Negotiator, Dragana Marković, emphasized that the European Commission has continuously supported Montenegro in negotiation process, noting that this expert mission was a continuation of that support in fulfilling Montenegro's commitments in this area.



26. VII 2019.

DRLJEVIĆ AT THE PARLIAMENT: THE STATE DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS

Montenegro has continuously been meeting its obligations in the negotiation process and expects EU member states to decide on opening the remaining chapter in the negotiations now, after consolidating strengths within the European institutions, said Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević. Presenting to the MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro the 10th semi-annual Report on the overall activities in the process of EU integration of Montenegro, for the period July-December 2018. "The activities carried out during this period reflect a continued commitment to meeting obligations in the negotiation process, as well as our aspiration to intensify activities that will lead to achievement of the most important foreign policy goal", the Chief Negotiator said.



EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

26. VII 2019.

STRONG INSTITUTIONS IMPORTANT FOR PROGRESS IN PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AND FREE INFORMATION ACCESS

Montenegro should continue to strengthen capacities and responsibilities of institutions in charge of personal data protection and free information access, as these areas are important for progress in the area of rule of law, which determines the

25. VII 2019.**NEGOTIATING GROUP: INTENSIFIED WORK OF THE NEGOTIATING STRUCTURE ON MEETING COMMITMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN AGENDA**

Significant progress has been made over the past period in EU accession process, but instead of a break, the negotiating structure is awaiting new tasks, while activities have already been launched in order to intensify reforms that will lead to the end of the accession negotiations, it was assessed at a meeting of the Negotiating Group. The 20th session of the Negotiating Group, chaired by Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, was held in Podgorica. The members of the Negotiation Group discussed the ongoing and planned activities aimed at meeting closing benchmarks and implementing the recommendations from the European Commission Report on Montenegro 2019. Drljević noted that numerous commitments and significant results have been fulfilled in the previous period, but that additional efforts should be made in the forthcoming period in order to maintain the dynamics and quality of the process and primarily, to further improve citizens' living standard. "It is a good moment to intensify the reforms in the negotiation process, as Montenegro has entered the final stage of the negotiation phase, which will be completed by the opening the Chapter 8 - Competition. After the elections and new organization within the EU institutions, we have received confirmation that Brussels' commitment to enlargement to the Western Balkans is unchanged, which gives us additional motivation to devoted work", the Chief Negotiator said.

**18. VII 2019.****GOOD DYNAMICS OF MEETING OBLIGATIONS FROM THE PROGRAMME OF ACCESSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE EU**

During the first half of the year, Montenegro has fulfilled 95 out of 134 obligations planned by the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU, or more than 70%, while the expected implementation of the completed regulations in the upcoming few weeks will significantly increase the overall level of commitments implementation, the Deputy Chief Negotiator Marko Mrdak, announced. The Government has adopted the Report on the Implementation of the Pro-

gramme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU 2019 – 2020, for the first half of 2019. "Out of 134 planned obligations, 95 (71%) were fulfilled, 52 (62%) out of 84 planned laws and by-laws were implemented, while 43 (86%) out of 50 planned strategic documents were fulfilled", Mrdak said. The Government has also adopted the Information on the guidelines for the Collegium for Negotiations for further functioning of the negotiating structure, which were defined at the 22nd session of the Collegium, with the aim of intensifying the dynamics of the negotiation process and achieving better results in EU accession process.

**CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS****20. IX 2019.****MONTENEGRO IS PROUD TO BE THE ECOLOGICAL STATE**

On the occasion of celebrating the 28th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Ecological State of Montenegro, the Secretariat-General of the Government of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro have launched an ecological campaign "Let's make our country greener!" The campaign symbolically began on the day the

Declaration was adopted, by planting about 7,400 seedlings of different tree species in all Montenegrin municipalities. In Podgorica, trees are planted in the Tološi Forest Park. Along with representatives of the Government, the Union of Municipalities and Municipality of Podgorica, the action also included pupils from the nearby Elementary School “Štampar Makarije”. “28 years ago, environmental awareness was globally at a much lower level than it is today. At that time, a small country made a self-initiated decision to proclaim itself as an ecological state, which was unusual at the time. It was hard to bear that label, even harder to preserve it. Considering all these circumstances and the challenges of modern society, I believe we can proudly say that we are an ecological state, because this Government definitely strives for environmental protection”, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Pavle Radulović said. The Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević believes the campaign was a confirmation that there was significant environmental awareness in Montenegro and improvement in the area of environment protection. “Chapter 27 is one of the most significant ones in our negotiation process and in this way we confirm that we are ready to tackle all the challenges of this chapter with all the capacities we have. Environmental protection is a long-lasting process that has no end and it is important that we all participate in this process”, he added.

19. IX 2019.

DRLJEVIĆ: DEMANDING REFORMS OBLIGE THE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NGO SECTOR



The forthcoming obligations in the process of negotiations with the European Union and the demanding reforms that Montenegro must implement require significant cooperation between the Government and the civil sector, which is the only way to achieve the best possible result in the integration process, the Chief Negotiator, Aleksandar Drljević, said. Speaking at the conference “European light of democracy in Montenegro”, organized by the NGO Identity, he said that serious work is ahead of Montenegro and that cooperation of all actors is crucial, having in mind current stage of the negotiation process. “We monitor closely the situation within the EU – the new structure of the Brussels administration and current developments in the Member

States, and we believe that enlargement policy will be in the focus of future leaders in Brussels. The complexity of tasks that follow us in the negotiation process obliges us to a full potential synergy, i.e. significant cooperation between the Government and the NGO sector, in order to jointly contribute to the implementation of the key foreign policy priority of our country”, Drljević noted.

10. IX 2019.

CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF PLAY WITHIN THE EU: ENLARGEMENT TO BE IN FOCUS OF NEW BRUSSELS ADMINISTRATION



The European Union will only be complete with the accession of the Western Balkan countries, which is why it is important for EU enlargement to remain among the priorities of the new Brussels administration, with the support of EU member states, it was assessed at the conference “The current situation of the EU and future of EU enlargement policy”. The conference was organized by the Hungarian Embassy in Montenegro, in cooperation with the Hungarian Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Topics of the two panels of the conference were results and next steps of Montenegro in the EU negotiation process and previous enlargement experiences. The Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević emphasized that enlargement policy has been recognized through the history of the EU as one of the key mechanisms for strengthening unity, European spirit and cooperation and fostering diversity. “The most effective approach we have in achieving our common goals is through the integration process. Also, integration is the best way of bringing Member States and the Western Balkans closer in order to reach common solutions. A credible enlargement policy is a strategic investment in European security and prosperity and has already contributed to peace and stability in the Western Balkans, which are going well beyond the wars of the 1990s”, he said. The Ministerial Commissioner for Brexit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Szabolcs Takács, stressed that the EU is not complete without this region. “We have to work hard on this and Hungary will not be alone in this, because there is a group of friends of enlargement in the EU, who can easily be identified geographically. We believe that Montenegro and Serbia have already achieved a lot in the accession process, compared to others. We heard during the panel that Serbia and Montenegro are the leaders of the process, but I would still say - Montenegro and Serbia”, he said.

6. IX 2019.

MRDAK AT THE FORUM IN POLAND: EU SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS

Every enlargement of the European Union contributes to the democratization of the entire continent, and Montenegro, as the most successful candidate for membership, will continue with its positive dynamics, with the necessary motivation and support of the Union, Deputy Chief Negotiator Marko Mrdak said. He participated at the Economic Forum in Poland, which brought together more than 4,000 participants - political, economic and social leaders from 60 countries in Europe, Asia and America, with the presence of more than 500 journalists. Speaking at a panel discussion “Should enlargement policy be returned to the EU agenda?”, Mrdak said that the EU enlargement process was not a short-term political move, but a choice of generations based on democratic principles and core values, emphasizing that the policy must not be overshadowed by the ongoing challenges the EU is facing with. “EU membership of the Western Balkans is a mutual interest, from an economic, political and security point of view. In economic terms, the EU is by far the largest trading partner with the Western Balkan countries, while in political and security terms, the EU’s soft power plays an essential role in supporting the reform process, because the absence of this influence can create a distance between the EU and the Western Balkans, which might be used by the other geopolitical players”, Mrdak noted.



IPA

30. IX 2019.

CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS ARE A GOOD MODEL FOR OVERCOMING CHALLENGES OF COUNTRIES ON THEIR WAY TO THE EU

Numerous cross-border cooperation projects jointly implemented by the Western Balkan countries are a strong impulse to the European integration process and a way to overcome individual challenges on the way to the European Union. European Cooperation Day, which celebrates achievements and results of cross-border cooperation, was commemorated in Podgorica, with an exhibition of photographs in the gallery of Petrović Castle, illustrating results of European cooperation

projects. The Chief Negotiator, Aleksandar Drljević said that the European cooperation is a model that gives countries the opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge in the accession process and to adopt European standards in different fields through mutual cooperation with the Member States. According to Drljević, Montenegro successfully used the opportunities of cooperation in the period from 2007 to 2013, participating in 227 projects with a total value of 38 million euros. Montenegrin organizations and institutions are participating in nine cross-border cooperation programs within the current financial perspective 2014-2020 and are enthusiastically implementing a total of 104 projects, worth EUR 113.8 million. Deputy Head of the Cooperation Sector at the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Audrone Urbonaviciute reminded that the European Cooperation Day has been celebrated since 2012, but that cooperation between EU and neighbouring countries lasted more than 20 years.



16. IX 2019.

EUR 3.24 MILLION FOR CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS OF MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA



More than EUR 3 million has been allocated for cross-border projects of Montenegro and Serbia, which should contribute to strengthening the social and cultural inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as enhancing the capacity to use the tourism potential of both countries. The second call for proposals under the Serbia-Montenegro Cross-Border Cooperation Program, worth EUR 3.24 million, will be open until December 27. “This call is a continuation of successful cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Serbia, which started in 2008. As a part of this cooperation, 43 projects with a total value of EUR 9.6 million were contracted through four public calls for proposals, in the period 2008 – 2018. The projects were implemented or are ongoing in the areas of culture,

tourism, health care, economic cooperation, social inclusion, employment, environmental protection and risk prevention”, Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović said at a conference held in Podgorica on the occasion of launching the second call. Assistant Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia Mihajilo Dašić pointed out that this ceremony demonstrates in a practical way how the partnership between the governments of Serbia and Montenegro, municipalities involved in this program and the European Union works in the implementation of projects important for the citizens.

28. VIII 2019.

PRESENTATION OF IPA PROJECT “3C - CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES”

IPA project “3C - Cross-border exchange for the development of Cultural and Creative industries” was presented in Podgorica. According to the presentation, the project provided funds for the restoration of the Old Prison Building in Kotor and development of new cross border model of management in the field of creative industries. The Minister of Culture of Montenegro Aleksandar Bogdanović said that the restoration of Old Prison Building in Kotor, with the investment of almost 1,3 million euros, will contribute to the development of creative hub designated to both local population and residential artists. National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović recalled that the 3C project was supported through the thematic call of Interreg IPA CBC Programme Italy- Albania - Montenegro, emphasizing that the thematic projects, taking into account their scope and concrete results, represent the greatest innovation of this trilateral program in relation to the other eight European territorial cooperation programs in which Montenegro participates in the 2014-2020 period. She underlined that projects with Montenegrin institutions as the main partners – as in the case of the 3C project – represent a special responsibility, but also provide additional opportunities for our institutions in terms of sharing valuable knowledge with European partners and improving capacities, both in managing funds and in adopting European standards in various fields.



31. VII 2019.

VISITOR CENTRE OPENED: VIRTUAL WALK THROUGH THE MEDIEVAL KANLI TOWER AND HERCEG NOVI

Visitors of Herceg Novi Kanli Tower will have the opportunity to walk through the medieval Kanli Tower and see what this centuries-old fortress and the town of Herceg Novi looked like throughout history, using the augmented reality glasses and 3D animation. This is enabled through a high-tech Visitor Centre, which is opened at Kanli Tower and equipped and funded by EU funds allocated through the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 for the Fortress Reinvented Project - Innovative approach and digital content in historic fortifications. The total value of the project, whose funds are used by institutions and organizations from four municipalities (Šibenik, Klis, Herceg Novi and Zenica), is more than 1.3 million euros. “Kanli Tower in Herceg Novi, the Old Town of Vranduk near Zenica, the fortress of St. Mihovil in Šibenik and Klis in Klis will be equipped for production of digital content which will enable visitors to enter the Middle Ages and experience directly the invaluable value of this cultural and historical heritage. This equipment will be purchased thanks to the European funds and cross-border cooperation”, the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said on the occasion of the opening of the Centre. Mayor of Herceg Novi, Stevan Katić, emphasized that this municipality was the first in Montenegro to implement this type of project, which will surely attract the fans of cultural tourism and improve the tourist offer of the town.



19. VII 2019.

PROMOTIONAL EVENTS OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020 HELD

Cross-border cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro started in 2008 within the financial perspective 2007-2013 and through four open calls for proposals, a total of 38 projects worth 9.3 million euros have been contracted so far. These projects have contributed to improving the quality of life in the border region through joint actions in the fields of tourism and rural development, environmental protection, employment, social cohesion and connecting people and institutions in the border area, it was announced at the promotional events of the Programme in Žabljak and Tivat. The attendees were informed that the total funds for the IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme Bosnia and

Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020 amount to 8.4 million euros and that two calls for proposals have been published under the IPA II financial perspective. Three projects were supported through the First Call, with a total value of over one million euros, while the process of evaluating project proposals under the Second Call is in the final phase, for which almost 4.4 million euros are available.



18. VII 2019.

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAM HELD IN TIVAT

A two-day meeting of the Advisory Board of the Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Program (ADRION) was held in Tivat, as part of this year's Montenegro Presidency. Participants conditionally adopted a list of projects to be supported under the Second Call for Priority Area 2 - Sustainable region. The final list of projects will be known by the end of July 2019, after the final verification by the project partners. Under the Second Call, which amounts to 34.3 million euros, of which 5.1 million euros is from the IPA Fund, a total of 186 projects have been requested for support. 125 submitted project proposals are related to the promotion of natural and cultural heritage, while 61 applications represent a respond to the challenges of environmental vulnerability and prevention of natural disasters.



4. VII 2019.

40 MILLION EUROS FOR PROJECTS IN MONTENEGRO, ITALY AND ALBANIA

Grants for eight thematic projects supported under the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020, worth a total of 40 million euros, of which 10.5 million euros belongs to Montenegrin partners,

were awarded in Podgorica. Eight projects worth a total of 40 million euros will be implemented in Montenegro, Italy and Albania in the coming period, which will include activities in numerous areas – health, culture, environmental protection and tourism promotion. “In the process of preparing thematic projects, we had the opportunity to see all the features of the trilateral model of cross-border cooperation, which proved to be very successful in the financial perspective 2014-2020, as it gives the countries that are in the EU accession process the opportunity to make the most of Member States' experiences and best practices, thus enhancing their capacities to adopt European standards in various fields”, Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović said.



COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

23. IX 2019.

PM MARKOVIĆ WITH NGOS FROM THE NORTHERN REGION: WE APPRECIATE CONTRIBUTION OF NGOS TO POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, ESPECIALLY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Prime Minister of Montenegro Duško Marković met with representatives of NGOs from the northern region. He said that the Government is committed to constructive dialogue with the civil sector, as decision makers want those decisions to be a reflection of the entire society. “We need a dialogue with NGOs. We appreciate the contribution of the civil sector to policy implementation”, PM said at a roundtable “Cooperation between Government and NGOs - the key to civil society development”, held in Bijelo Polje. According to PM Marković, the Government is attentive to suggestions and criticisms of a civil sector and creates responses in a systematic and sustainable way. He also noted that successes in fulfilling the European agenda were result of the joint work of the Government and civil society organizations that are part of the negotiating structure. The round table was also attended by the Minister of Economy Dragica Sekulić and the Minister of Public Administration Suzana Pribilović, as well as the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević.



22. VII 2019.

PM MARKOVIĆ: WE WANT AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP WITH NGOS



Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and civil society is an important precondition for moving towards the EU, and more importantly, for the development of a healthy society as a whole. Having on mind that fact, the Government of Montenegro, through its partnership and cooperation policy, will continue to foster trust, dialogue and cooperation, and involve civil society in the process of European integration, it was said at the roundtable “Cooperation between the Government and NGOs in the EU accession process”, held in Podgorica. In his opening speech, Prime Minister Duško Marković addressed the need for a more active presence and a stronger contribution of NGO representatives in the working groups. “The Government is aware of the importance of civil society in the Montenegro’s EU accession process and that is why we are sincerely oriented towards the continuous improvement of direct dialogue between the Government and civil society. I firmly believe that your specific knowledge, practical experience and critical vision of things, put in concrete and constructive proposals, can raise the quality and speed of our negotiation process”, he said. The executive director at Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations, Ana Novaković, said that the cooperation of the Government and civil society in the European integration process has grown into a political benchmark for membership, and it was given special attention from year to year in reports for Montenegro. The Chief Negotiator, Aleksandar Drljević, emphasized that open 32 chapters and several chapters ready to be provisionally closed, represent a confirmation that the energy, professionalism and work invested have been put to good use, as well as that the results achieved by all prove that the negotiating structure is fulfilling its mission.

COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

8. VII 2019.

AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS



Municipalities have an important role in adopting and implementing European standards and values, which is why they should continue to implement projects that benefit local communities and its citizens, it was stated at the roundtable “Local self-government in the negotiation process – successes and challenges on the way to the EU”. The roundtable was organized by the Secretariat-General of the Government of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, bearing in mind the role of local governments in the process of Montenegro’s EU accession, as well as the need to strengthen the cooperation of state and local authorities, especially in the area of harmonization and implementation of European regulations and standards. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said that EU accession, as one of the key foreign policy priorities of the Government, would be impossible without active participation and significant contribution of local self-governments. Secretary General of the Union of Municipalities Refik Bojadžić believes that the involvement of local self-government representatives in the negotiating structures is of the greatest importance for the credibility of the negotiation process, since local self-governments have a responsibility to enforce laws in the accession process and after joining the EU. The importance of municipalities in ensuring the sustainable development of municipalities and the overall progress of the country towards the EU was also emphasized by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, Aivo Orav. “The Government has a key responsibility in developing a development strategy, while it is the responsibility of local self-governments to carry out concrete activities”, he added.

OTHER

26. IX 2019.

PUPILS TO LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND BE INFORMED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE EU

The European Union pursues to provide its citizens with necessary information on rights, obligations and opportunities in the 24 official languages, while language learning should be an important part of the formal and non-formal education of Montenegrin pupils, it was said at the European Day of Languages celebration. On the occasion of the European Day of Languages, the Secretariat-General of the Government of Montenegro organized an online competition for pupils of Montenegrin elementary schools in English, French, Italian, German and Russian languages, with 435 students participating. The top 15 contestants were awarded and given the opportunity to visit the embassies of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany and the Russian Federation in Podgorica and, through discussions with the ambassadors, test their knowledge of foreign languages and learn more about the culture and history of the countries whose languages they study at school. The Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, said that the European Day of Languages was an opportunity to raise awareness of language learning and linguistic diversity and encouraged pupils to learn as many foreign languages as possible. The Deputy Chief Negotiator, Marko Mrdak, said that language was, in fact, a starting point for the development of culture. "It transfers the specificities of a particular nation and area, making our environment more diverse and much nicer", he said.



16. VII 2019.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION AWARDED: JOURNALISTS TRANSFER A MESSAGE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EU SUPPORT

Six Montenegrin media journalists were awarded for the best stories on the process of Montenegro's EU accession, which highlighted topics that concern every Montenegrin citizen. Journalists of the daily Pobjeda, Radio and Television of Montenegro and Radio Jadran, Jovana Đurišić,

Maja Lalić Burzanović and Vuk Ilić are the winners of the competition for the best news article on Montenegro's EU accession process, while journalists of Radio-Television of Montenegro and Prva Television, Borislav Višnjić, Tatjana Debeljević and Jelena Gardović, are the winners of the competition for the best television story on Montenegro's EU accession process. The award-winning stories were about Erasmus program and opportunities it offers to young people, launching women's businesses with EU funds, and the importance of building an IPA funded wastewater treatment plant. Also, the journalists made stories about the Mrdak family, which, thanks EU funds, expanded the small family business of Pljevlja cheese production, as well as about the revitalization of Ivo Andrić's house in Herceg Novi, which will be renovated through an EU project. The competitions were conducted in accordance with the Public Information Strategy on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union 2019-2022 and within the EU4ME project funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP. The authors of the best stories have been awarded with cash prizes.



4. VII 2019.

EU SUPPORT IS A STRONG STIMULUS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND EU INTEGRATION

Support of the European Union and its greater presence in the Western Balkans is a strong stimulus to foster regional cooperation and to bring this part of Europe closer to the community of states and people to which it essentially belongs, said the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević at the Poznan Summit. Drljević spoke at the Western Balkans Summit in Poznan on the transformation of the Western Balkans region on its way to the EU. "Given its history, culture, multi-ethnic environment and significant economic potential, this region is an ally of the EU in achieving our common goal – overall progress. Regardless of other challenges, or precisely because of them, the Western Balkans must remain the focus of the EU", he stressed.

