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Graphic design:

Radna soba

Contact:

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

Bulevar revolucije 15, Podgorica

E-mail: nada.vojvodic@gsv.gov.me

bojana.mucalica@mep.gov.me

Web: www.kei.gov.me

www.eu.me

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What can Montenegro expect in the continuation of the EU negotiation process

Optimised negotiation structure ready for new challenges



Author: Marko Mrdak, Deputy Chief Negotiator for Chapters of the EU Acquis

Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans, adopted by the European Commission in February 2018, reiterated the European Union's position that the Western Balkans belong to the family of European countries. In addition, this Strategy for the first time implies the perspective that can be expected for further enlargement. Following the presentation of the Strategy, numerous important events took place, namely the Summit of the EU and West-

ern Balkans' leaders in Sofia and high-level visits of the EU representatives to the Western Balkan countries, which confirms unambiguous support for the European integration process of the region.

Furthermore, key political signal for the upcoming future of the Western Balkans was given by President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker while delivering speech in the European Parliament in September 2018 regarding the current situation within the Union. On this occasion, President Juncker noted that the EU can produce stability in a very successful manner as it was the case with the previous enlargement cycles, stressing that the EU needs to be united with the Western Balkans in order not to let the destiny of this region depend on other political factors.

For Montenegro, clearly recognised by the European Union as a leader in the region when it comes to the European integration as well, political support represents unique responsibility having in mind that, as the most successful example in the region, it points to the continuing progress in the merit-based negotiation process.

In extremely challenging times for the EU, while witnessing security, political and economic challenges in Europe, it was really difficult to keep

Brussel's focus on meeting negotiation requirements of Montenegro. However, thanks to the enthusiasm of all stakeholders taking part in the negotiation process, today we can state that we have opened almost all negotiating chapters, of which three are temporarily closed. Furthermore, we have met all opening benchmarks for Chapter 8 – Competition, which represents the only chapter that remains to be opened. Although this chapter was very challenging in the previous negotiation process with the EU, we can expect the opening of this chapter in 2019.

The Government of Montenegro considers the year 2019 a year of the final phase of the negotiation process, that is of the gradual closure of negotiating chapters. How many chapters it will be possible to close depends on procedures towards the European Commission and the Council of the EU, which must precede the intergovernmental conferences which is an official mechanism for temporarily closing the chapters. Certainly, the Government is planning to intensify activities in the areas in which Montenegro has met all the criteria, in order to reach an internal readiness for closing chapters in 2019, namely: Chapter 6 – Company law, Chapter 7 – Intellectual property law, Chapter 10 – Information society and media, Chapter 20 – Enterprise and industrial policy, Chapter 21 – Trans-European networks and Chapter 28 – Consumer and health protection.

Having in mind the intensity of future requirements in the negotiation process, as well as numerous personnel changes that followed the initial establishment of the working groups for negotiating chapters during 2012 and 2013, in July 2018 the Negotiations Collegium instructed the Office for European Integration to submit to

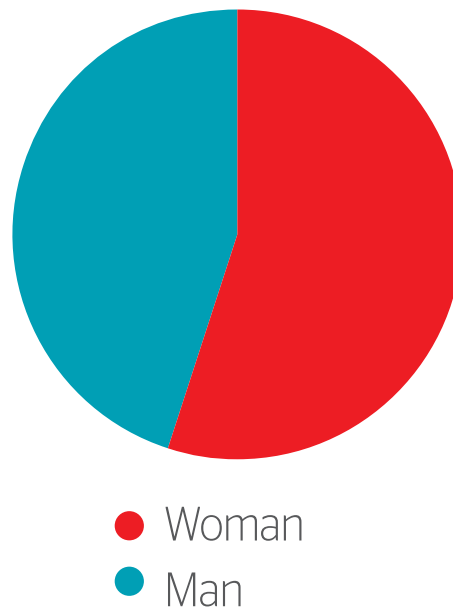
the Government proposals of 33 decisions for the working groups. In order to optimise the number of the working group members and ensure the adequate forum for the future work, as well as necessary expertise, the Government, upon the Office for European Integration's proposals, adopted 33 decisions on the establishment of 33 working groups by the end of September 2018. Although the intention was to reduce the number of working group members, the Office for European Integration did not want to jeopardise the engagement of the representatives of the civil society and enabled all the interested stakeholders to continue their participation in the working groups. In that regard, after the abovementioned changes, the number of working groups members was reduced from 1 394 to 900, along with the almost unchanged number of civil society representatives. As well as in the previous negotiation structure, working groups in charge for conducting the negotiation process with the EU are, in addition to representatives of the public administration, mostly supported by the academic community with 86 representatives, as well as NGOs with 76 representatives. When it comes to gender equality within the newly established negotiation structure, 57% of the working group members are women and 43% are men.

The transparent approach of the Government of Montenegro when it comes to the engagement of the public into the negotiation process throughout the work of the working groups is one of the reasons of the continuing public support for Montenegro's membership in the EU, which, according to the latest public opinion research, reached 65%.

Table 1 – negotiation structure for conducting negotiations on Montenegro's EU accession

Members of negotiation structure	Number
Public administration	614
Academic community	86
NGOs	76
Chamber of Economy of Montenegro	24
Montenegrin Employers Federation	24
Trade union associations	21
Other representatives of the civil society	54

Gender equality



Montenegro opened negotiations on Chapter 27 – Environment

European standards in the field of environment to be reached through fulfilment of demanding commitments

Author: Ivana Vojinović, Director General of the Directorate for Environment in the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism

The Intergovernmental conference on Montenegro's accession to the EU, during which the negotiations on Chapter 27 - Environment were opened, took place in Brussels on 10 December 2018. When observed by many parameters, as well as experience of the new Member States from the previous waves of enlargement, this is one of the most difficult and financially most demanding chapters in the negotiating process.

This could be a coincidence, but the fact that Montenegro opened negotiations on Chapter 27 in the year in which we mark 27 years since it was proclaimed an ecological state certainly has a special meaning.

In the previous period, although Chapter 27 was still not officially opened, Montenegrin administration worked hard on fulfilment of requirements under this chapter, which was recorded in the annual Progress Reports of the EC and on which we regularly informed the EC, particularly during the annual Subcommittee meetings under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.



Opening of Chapter 27 means the beginning of a new, more advanced stage in its negotiating process, which brings us new commitments and new responsibility to negotiate the most favourable conditions for Montenegro, which are aimed at improvement of standards in the field of environment, while the ultimate goal of the new processes in this field is to improve the quality of life of Montenegrin citizens. We are absolutely aware of the fact that the implementation of EU legislation related to environment is neither easy and cheap, nor swift process if we wish to perform it appropriately.

The financial forecasts produced so far showed that it is necessary to invest EUR 1.429 billion in the field of environment by 2035. Certain part of these funds in the amount of more than EUR 100 million has already been provided in the period 2016-2018 and invested in the field of air quality, recovery of landfills, construction of waste water treatment plants, sewage and water supply network, protection of environment, recovery of damage caused by industrial pollution, etc.

Although the funds were provided for a longer period of time, not on a one-off basis, we are carefully developing our financial construction by including all available sources of financing. Since this field implies a number of capital investments into waste and waste water infrastructure and improvement of technological processes in industry, the main financial sources are: favourable loan arrangements, IPA, donations, funds from

the state and municipal budget, as well as Eco fund. In addition to the abovementioned, bearing in mind the nature of commitments under Chapter 27 (for example in the field of air quality and prevention of industrial pollution), certain activities will be financed by the private sector (for example companies in the field of industry and energy).

In November 2018, the Government passed the Decision establishing the Environmental Protection Fund, i.e. Eco Fund. Functioning of the Eco Fund implies that the financial resources collected by entities polluting environment will be invested in programmes and projects in the field of environmental protection. In addition to resources obtained from eco fees, resources for financing the Fund will also be obtained from loans, donations, instruments, programmes and funds of the EU, United Nations and other international organisations. This will provide conditions for securing stable and solid source for financing of activities in the field of environment.

Certainly, due to the fact that Montenegro will become a beneficiary of EU structural funds from the date of full-fledged membership in the EU, there will be a substantial increase in available funds on which our country can count when it comes to realisation of a number of demanding activities under Chapter 27.

It is estimated that the largest financial share in the amount of EUR 841 million will refer to the

field of water quality, through construction of urban waste water treatment plants and infrastructure in the field of drinking water and protection against floods. There are currently eight waste water treatment plants in our country, while another three are being constructed. Preconditions have been created for the beginning of construction of similar systems in Podgorica, Danilovgrad, Andrijevica and Petnjica.

The amount of EUR 368 million need to be invested in order to make the waste management system function as same as the systems in the EU Member States, include selective waste collection at the level of all municipalities, fulfil the required rates of recycling of certain waste fractions, resolve the issue of hazardous waste treatment and meet a number of other requirements. Activities are ongoing for further construction of waste management infrastructure and recovery of unregulated landfills. Recovery of the following non-sanitary landfills has been completed: Vrtijeljka in Cetinje, Čarkovo polje in Žabljak, Vasove vode in Berane and Zaugline in Šavnik. Recovery of unregulated landfills Ćafe in Bar and Komarač in Plav.

Furthermore, it has also been envisaged that the industry and state should invest the amount of EUR 130 million in order to reach the air quality standards in line with EU regulations that have been transposed into our legal framework, regarding the introduction of new and efficient technology into energy and industrial systems, as well as the introduction of the remote heating system into critical zones. Certainly, further and more substantial investments in environmental protection are required. This alone is the basis for investment of EUR 33 million, which is largely related to establishment of ecological network Natura 2000, protected environmental areas management and generally protection of plant and animal species, particularly rare and endangered ones.

Anyway, all investments in the field of environment and necessary and justified. In fact, we are not talking here about costs, but solely about long-term investments in improving the conditions of public health and the quality of life of citizens of Montenegro, as well as the competitiveness of the entire economy.

The European Commission presented the Non-Paper for Chapters 23 and 24

Montenegrin institutions received clear recommendations and guidelines for further work

Author: Marijana Laković, Director General of the Directorate for Organisation of the Judiciary, Criminal Legislation and Supervision at the Ministry of Justice

Montenegro receives from the European Commission a feedback about its progress semi-annually, as well as about the remaining challenges in the area of rule of law in the form of both reports on Montenegro and unofficial working documents. As the negotiations go on, reports on Montenegro, as well as working documents of the European Commission regarding Negotiating Chapters 23 and 24, are becoming more specific, containing clear recommendations that Montenegrin institutions use as guidelines for further work.

The last unofficial Non-Paper was presented by the European Commission to the Working Group on Enlargement on 8 November 2018. On the same day, a press conference was held where representatives of Montenegrin institutions and the Head of the European Union Delegation presented the document to the public, all for the purpose of ensuring transparency of the process, which will, in the end, bring the greatest benefit to our citizens.

In its document, the European Commission recognised Montenegro's progress in several important areas as a steady one, acknowledging



concrete results that institutions had achieved in the previous period. Progress has been noted in the field of justice, particularly when it comes to implementation of laws in the field of judicial organisation, with particular reference to the national public vacancy announcements and the regular evaluation of judges and state prosecutors.

With regard to prevention of corruption, results of the Anti-Corruption Agency in terms of implementation of the Action Plan for implementation of specific recommendations from the Report on Montenegro have been noted, as well as activities in the area of capacity building and improvement of the IT system. Also, the initial track-record in the field of fight against organised crime was recognised, which is a result of the quality cooperation between our police achieved with EUROPOL and INTERPOL, as well as with the Member States, which led to visible results in the field of fight against organised crime, i.e. members of criminal groups have been arrested and significant quantity of narcotics seized. Furthermore, establishment of direct cooperation with EUROJUST, through the liaison officer of the State, contributed to effective actions in criminal cases with international element.

The document also noted the initial track-record in the field of fight against high-level corruption (by the end of September 2018 new investigations in eight high-level corruption cases were initiated, against 100 natural persons and 49 legal persons, while, in the same period, 28 natural persons and two legal persons have been charged with criminal offences with elements of corruption and abuse of office), money laundering, as well as when it comes to temporarily confiscated property, which is a result of good cooperation between the Police Administration and judicial institutions.

When it comes to discrimination, activities of the Government of Montenegro aimed at promoting the rights of LGBTI persons have been noted. The sixth Montenegro Pride was held on 17 November in Podgorica without any incident, thanks to the activities of the Montenegrin Police Administration aimed at creating conditions for this event to take place in a peaceful atmosphere, with the provision of a smaller number of police officers in comparison to the last year and the presence of the Director of the Police Administration.

The Law on Civil Partnership is under preparation. Additionally, the number of reported cases of hate speech against LGBTI persons is increasing, which clearly indicates the growing confidence of LGBTI persons in the work of the Montenegrin Police Administration and judicial institutions.

Also, when it comes to people with disabilities, the work on adaptation of public facilities for people with disabilities has been noted, as well as activities on aligning legislation with international standards when it comes to this area.

The number of reported cases in the area of gender-based violence has increased significantly when compared to the previous period, which is a clear indication of the growing confidence of citizens in the work of the Police Administration of Montenegro and judicial institutions.

Alignment of the legislative framework concerning the rights of minorities and other minority national communities with recommendations of the Venice Commission has been commended, particularly when it comes to the status of the Minority Fund, which contains safeguards for eliminating the risk of conflict of interest in the process of allocation of funds to minority councils.

Application of the new Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners (which regulates asylum-related issues) started on 1 January 2018, which coincided with the increased influx of migrants in Montenegro through the so-called “coastal route”. With the new legal solutions, the Ministry of Interior took over all obligations related to migration management, including accommodation facilities, which were within the competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare until the 1 January 2018.

During 2018, over 3,500 migrants were registered in the territory of Montenegro (for comparison, the number of migrants registered in 2017 was 849), which required full commitment of all competent authorities in charge of border surveillance, border checks, registration and acceptance and accommodation of migrants.

Migration management is mostly being carried out successfully. In cooperation with UNHCR, the capacities of the Centre in Spuž have been strengthened, while during the forthcoming period, these capacities will be further strengthened with an additional container settlement near the Božaj border crossing point (in cooperation with IOM).

Montenegro has also implemented internal procedures for the signing of the Agreement with Frontex in order to further improve the model for cooperation with the European Union. Implementation of this agreement will help Montenegro in the area of border management and management of possible crisis situations related to the increased influx of migrants from the Middle East and conflict areas, which is something that cannot be predicted and requires timely and professional response.

Certain challenges have been identified in the document, and recommendations on how to address them have been put forward. We are sure that the Government of Montenegro, as well as independent and judicial institutions, is ready to respond to all challenges and to use recommendations from the document as guidelines for further work.

Advanced stage of EU accession means more demanding competences for the Secretariat-General of the Government

Policy planning more than a commitment of EU negotiations

Author: Nataša Pešić, Secretary-general of the Government of Montenegro

Advanced stage of negotiations between Montenegro and the EU implies that in the part related to political criteria and good governance we have a more devoted, structured way of thinking about improvements in the system of policy planning. This also implies that our institutions assume increasingly demanding competences; and the Secretariat-General of the Government has recognised the necessity to adjust its role in the system and assume broader competences and specific responsibilities.

Improvement of the system of policy planning is certainly much more than an obligation arising from the EU negotiations, as we have multiple benefits from such a system: better policy planning demonstrates that we are building an image of a country with a clear perspective of progress and which creates public policies in accordance with the interests of its citizens; by focusing on the result-oriented policies we build a better position of Montenegro as a future EU Member State and the readiness for a better use of available EU funds.

The fact that policy coordination represents an important part of the public administration reform, which is one of the three pillars of the EU enlargement policy and from which the commitments of candidate countries arise, led us to dedicate particular attention to quality of



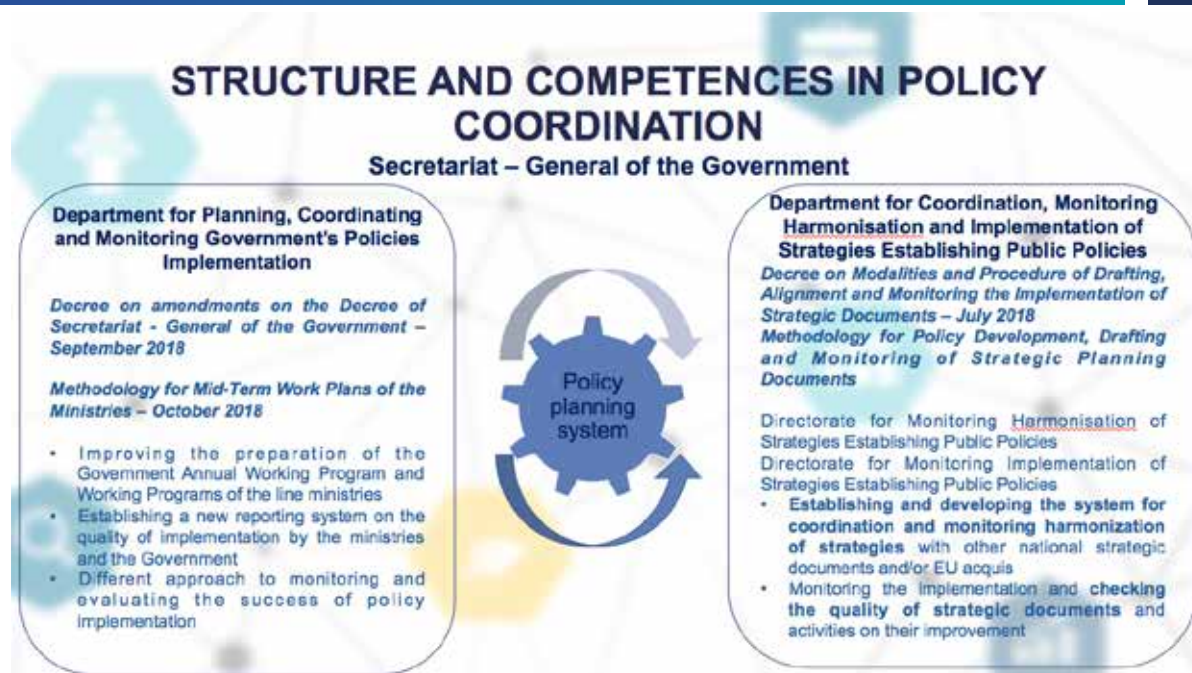
strategic documents and improvement of the relevant legal framework with the accompanying principles of policy development and planning. By establishing a new institutional and legislative framework, we assumed a large share of responsibilities in the policy planning system in Montenegro, in line with the Government's commitment to improve the strategic planning system, as well as the obligations arising from the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the segment of policy coordination.

In addition to the Annual Work Plan of the Government, which represents an important mechanism for monitoring the work of the Government and line ministries, we also recognised the need for consideration of the medium-term key priorities of the Government, which are directly linked to priorities defined in Prime Minister's Exposé, and which are contained in comprehensive medium-term planning document. For that purpose, the 2018-2020 Medium-Term Work Programme of the Government has been passed. The mentioned programme is aimed at improving of medium-term policy planning system with emphasis on results and coordination of policies of the Government.

The new concept of functioning of the Secretariat-General of the Government is a response to Montenegro's need to approach the task of coordination of policies and strategic planning in the medium term in a systematic way at this stage of negotiations. Obligations of the Secretariat-General regarding the coordination of policies and improvement of the strategic planning system have set a new way of functioning and are reflected in the obligations of the following two departments: Department for Coordination, Monitoring of Alignment and Monitoring of Implementation of Strategies and the Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Implementation of Government Policies.

The Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Implementation of Government Policies is focused on

the monitoring of implementation of the Medium-Term Work Programme of the Government for the period 2018-2020, on the preparation of the annual work programme of the Government and work programmes of the ministries, introduction of a new system of reporting of the ministries and Government on the quality of implementation, as well as on a different approach when it comes to the monitoring and assessment of successfulness of implementation of policies. In that regard, the Government adopted a Decree amending the Decree on the Secretariat-General of the Government in September, by which the mandate of the Secretariat-General has been extended when it comes to planning, coordination and monitoring of implementation of Government policies, i.e. to determine the methodology for medium-term planning of the work of the Government and ministries, to coordinate the preparation and to monitor their implementation. In this way, institutional and legislative conditions have been created for further activities oriented towards further enhancement of the current manner of preparation of the work programme of the Government and work programmes of the ministries and introduction of a new system of reporting on the quality of implementation, as well as towards a different approach when it comes to the monitoring and assessment of successfulness of implementation of policies. The methodology for mid-term planning of the work of ministries was prepared in cooperation of representatives of the Sector for planning, coordination and monitoring of implementation of Government policies of the General Secretariat of the Government, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the support of SIGMA and it will be applied as a pilot project under the preparation of the mid-term work programs of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 2019 and from 2020 in all ministries.



In July 2018 the Decree on the Manner and Procedure for Drafting Strategic Documents and the Methodology for Developing Policies, Drafting and Monitoring the Implementation of Strategic Documents was adopted as the work framework of the Sector for the monitoring the compliance of strategies and monitoring the implementation of strategies and its two divisions (Division for monitoring strategy compliance and Division for monitoring the implementation of strategies establishing public policies). This Sector deals with the issues under two key areas of competences: establishing and developing a system of coordination and monitoring the compliance of strategies defining public policies with other national strategic documents and the EU acquis, as well as monitoring their implementation and quality control of strategic documents and activities on their improvement.

Through the work of this Sector, the General Secretariat of Government was given the mandate for giving opinions to strategic documents while they are in the form of draft and proposal, by which the line ministries imply the phases of development of policies in concrete areas. On the other hand, this Sector is in charge of monitoring of implementation of strategies

establishing public policies, in a way that it issues opinions on annual reports of the lines ministries on the implementation of certain strategic document. While the Decree sets the clear legislative framework, the Methodology aims to explain in more detail all parts of the Decree, to provide broader picture of the basis for planning policies and provide practical guidelines for development, preparation and monitoring of implementation of strategic documents. The focus is on strengthening the system of midterm planning, through which we build a clear vision of progress, but also achieve financial sustainability for implementation of planned policies.

By establishing such an organizational structure, we confirm that the General Secretariat of Government in its mandate is oriented towards the quality of strategic documents planning, its alignment, alignment with the process of EU integration, that is full implementation of legislative framework for strategic planning, both for strategic documents and annual and midterm plans of the work of ministries. In this way we strive to additionally affirm the unbreakable relation between EU negotiation process and improvement of strategic planning.

New Strategy for Informing the Public about Montenegro's Accession to the European Union 2019-2022

An informed citizen makes the best decisions for himself and his country



Author: Nada Vojvodić, Assistant to the Secretary General of the Government of Montenegro and Head of the Department for Informing the Public about the European Union and the Process of Accession to the European Union

The current trend of accession negotiations with the European Union and, especially, the results achieved have changed and continue changing the Montenegrin society in accordance with the values and standards inherited by the Union Member States.

The core of European integration are the reforms that the entire society undergoes in order to achieve standards in the area of rule of law, eco-

nomical and overall development. Montenegro is not undergoing that process in order to meet the requirements of the European Union and to mark the tasks that have been fulfilled, but the key objective of the European integration process is to transform the society in order to better meet the needs of its citizens.

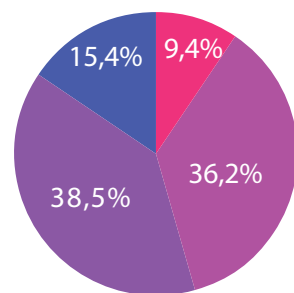
Negotiations are per se a technical process, often uninteresting and unfamiliar to its citizens. However, the results of this process are important because they affect the quality of our lives, shaping our present and building our future.

We are successful in aligning legislation, strengthening capacities, enforcing regulations and achieving measurable results, but, we can all agree, it is equally important to get our citizens acquainted with our activities, our objectives, as well as to inform them about effects that the changes will bring about, i.e. how this will affect their lives.

For years, we have enjoyed stable citizens' support when it comes to the EU accession process, which, according to the last survey, accounts for 65.9%, while 67.4% of Montenegrin citizens have a positive attitude towards the EU. Furthermore, the latest survey shows that the level of information among population exceeds 80%. However, when it comes to the level of understanding, further work and improvements are needed.

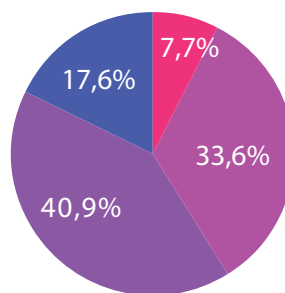
Generally speaking, how informed are you about...

European Union?



2018

Montenegro's accession to EU?



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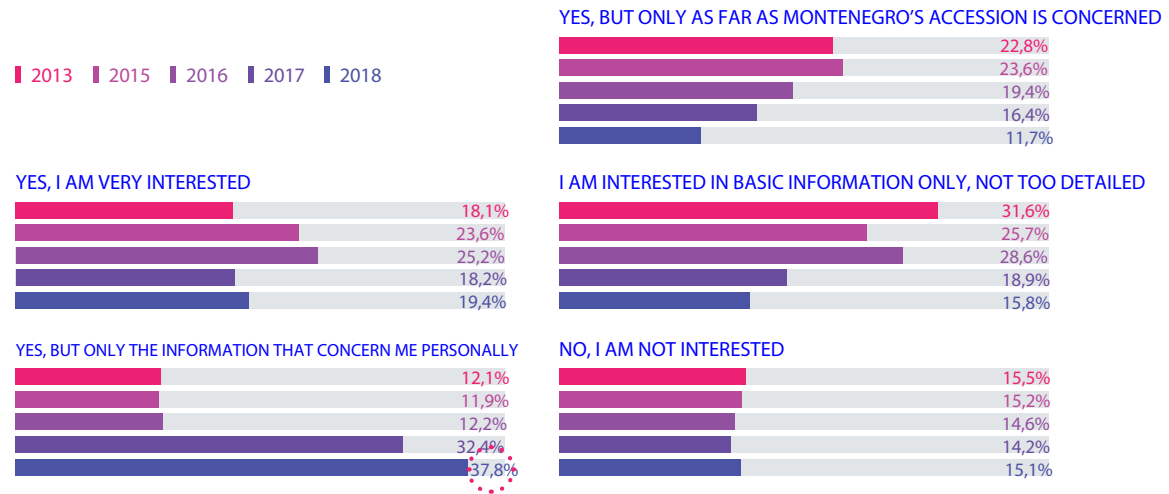
This is exactly why we have been trying to bring the process closer to the citizens, highlight the benefits it brings and the obligations arising from it since the beginning of the accession negotiations, as well as to inform them about the changes that will take place on the path towards full-fledged membership, as well as after.

The current dynamics of the process of European integration and the complexity of the reform process proved the need for development of a strategic approach in informing the public about European integration of Montenegro. Over the past decade and a half, three strategic documents have been adopted aimed at informing the public about the European integration process of Montenegro. Implementation of communication strategies has strengthened the cooperation between the Government and the Parliament, local self-governments, civil society, academic and business community and the media. This cooperation has resulted in significant partnership projects and joint activities that have been positively accepted by the citizens and that have contributed to the im-

provement of dissemination of information, as well as to increased interest of citizens for the process of European integration.

Over the past years, we have undertaken a number of activities aimed at improving citizens' knowledge of the process of accession to the EU. An information campaign under the project called "Europe in your town" covered all Montenegrin municipalities, and we have organised many lectures for elementary school pupils, high school pupils and students, as well as quizzes, with a view to promoting the values of the European Union, workshops, conferences and forums aimed at fostering public debate on the obligations, responsibilities and benefits arising from the membership. We also improved cooperation with the media. We are particularly proud of our TV documentaries about the EU, presenting life stories that show to Montenegrin citizens the advantages and the responsibilities arising from the EU membership. We are also taking into account the specific characteristics of the target groups. That is why we have created the EU4ME web platform for the younger population, and increased the

Are you interested in information about EU accession, and to which extent?



presence in social networks, so that the easily accessible and understandable information about the EU could be reached by every citizen.

The fourth Strategy for Informing the Public about Montenegro's Accession to the European Union 2019-2022 is adapted to the current trend in the accession process and modern communication channels, and will contribute to better dissemination of information about the European integration process to the Montenegrin citizens, the most extensive reform process in the history of Montenegro.

By implementing it, we will strive to make the information available to every target group, by means of adapted forms and channels. We will focus on the topics and issues that citizens are most interested in. We will communicate using an understandable and substantive language that will awaken people's interest.

It is very important to get young people, especially high school pupils and students, familiar with the EU programmes that are available to them, so that

they could to be aware of the opportunities they are offered for further education, training and mobility. As future EU citizens, we need to know what rights and obligations we will have on the labour market in the future so that we could prepare ourselves for them on time. The same goes for our companies and farmers who are preparing themselves to enter the market and for competition at the European level. The time until accession to the European Union is a period during which we must work on ourselves and prepare ourselves for the opportunities and obligations that we will face on the day of accession.

The fact is that only a well-informed citizen can make rational decisions on what he/she wants for himself/herself and his/her country.

Therefore, by implementing a new document, we will provide a framework in which the level of information and understanding of the process of accession to the EU will be improved, all through an open and inclusive approach, and with a sincere intention to enhance communication and dissemination of information about this important process.

What are the benefits of the European Youth Card when it comes to young people in Montenegro?

Ticket to the world of discounts, information and mobility

Author: Bojana Milićević, RTCG



The European Youth Card, which has recently become available to young people in Montenegro, provides a large number of discounts and benefits, opportunities in terms of employment and scholarships. The first card users are satisfied with the benefits it brought to them and do recommend it, and the Ministry of Sports has announced that additional 1,000 free copies will be made.

The European Youth Card helps young people aged between 13- 29 to achieve their plans and fulfil their wishes, regardless of whether they are

going shopping, going out, attending a foreign language course, going to theatre or on a trip.

Director of the Centre for Youth Education, Jugoslav Radović, explains that the European Youth Card is a benefit card that has recently become available to young people in Montenegro.

“Besides discounts on a number of services, which are the main advantages of the card, it offers other benefits to young people as well, such as free insurance against accidents, free youth banking package or opportunities for employ-

ment, scholarships, etc. Young people can find all information about the card on the website www.omladinskakartica.me and order it via the same website. The NGO Centre for Youth Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, applied for, and was granted membership, in the European Youth Card Association, thus enabling young people in Montenegro to get more than 100 discounts in our country and more than 70 thousand discounts throughout Europe”, Radović said.

Miloš Darmanović is one among 1,000 young people who received free cards at the beginning of the project. Darmanović explained that he had already used the card and that he had been satisfied with the benefits it brought to him.

“The variety of discounts allows me to use the card on a daily basis for transportation, education, shopping and, of course, for travelling, which is something that I love the most.



During my recent visit to Slovenia, I used the card and obtained discounts in several cultural and historical institutions. Such visits enrich our knowledge and cultural awareness”, Darmanović said.

Besides financial reliefs, that is exactly what the project aims at, Radović emphasized.

“What was taken into consideration during preparation of the project is to direct young people towards education, culture, better spending of spare time and prevention of health problems. In addition, thanks to the cooperation with partners, you can always find the most recent job offers, free training courses and workshops on the website”, Radović explained.

What makes Miloš Darmanović happy is the fact that volunteering and working practices in some companies could later lead to employment.

“I see this as a huge help for young people, taking into consideration the fact that they also need to have a certain work experience when applying for a job. Therefore, I use the portal of the European Youth Card to get information about new job offers for young people, as well as to recommend and get friends and younger family members acquainted with employment opportunities”, Darmanović said.

Hence, Radović announced that the Ministry of Sports and the Centre for Youth Education announced that would try to work on making new connections in the forthcoming period with a view to continuously creating opportunities for young people.

“We are receiving a lot of suggestions and questions on a daily basis, so all comment and suggestions are taken into consideration and recorded.

We are inviting young people to put forward their comments in the future as well, since this is the only way to further improve the project. According to the first analyses, in less than two months, the card was without any problems used in all service categories that are part of this project. We have received more than 1,000 applications, and the Ministry of Sports plans to make additional 1,000 free copies in the upcoming period”, Radović added.

Krsto Vukadinović, from the Youth Directorate within the Ministry of Sports, said that the Ministry of Sport would continue supporting all projects aiming at promoting the position of young people in the future.

“In the course of 2018, the Centre for Youth Education implemented two projects. What makes us particularly happy is the fact that the representatives of the Ministry of Sports are involved in the organisation of every activity, which, in fact, shows that cooperation with the Centre for Youth Education is at the highest level. This year, via a public call for allocation of funds to youth organisations for the financing and co-financing of projects, we supported a total of 86 projects of non-governmental organisations amounting to EUR 400,000 “, Vukadinović added.

The European Youth Card is one of these projects. The experiences of those who already have the card indicate that the number of cardholders in Montenegro will increase in the forthcoming period. Miloš Darmanović recommends the card and invites young people to order one.

“If you don’t have a job, this is a great way to ease your everyday activities, save money and contribute to your household budget. Everyone strives for mobility and easier access to information, and the European Youth Card is a tool that will help us achieve this goal”, Darmanović concluded.



Montenegro protected five products

We develop the brand of Montenegro by promoting the quality of our national products

Author: Irena Kovačević, advisor for public relations in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

During the previous two years, Montenegro made significant step forward in harmonisation of Montenegrin agriculture with EU policies and standards. Particular progress was made in the segment of improvement of quality and affirmation of domestic products, through protection of product brands in line with EU quality schemes. As a small country, Montenegro cannot be positioned on global and more demanding market with its scope of production, but certainly can with high quality of its agricultural and food products, as well as its offer of specific, autochthonous and traditional products, which can be properly valorised through increased tourist spending.

A number of support measures for manufacturers, which are aimed at improvement of quality of domestic products as well as continuous education of and work with agricultural manufacturers led to achievement of tangible results.

During the previous two years, five products have been protected: "Njeguški pršut" (smoked ham) – protected by geographical indication, "Pljevaljski sir" (cheese) – protected by designation of origin and "Crnogorska goveđa pršuta" (smoked beef

ham) and "Crnogorska stelja" (dried whole sheep carcass) – protected by designations of origin. The product "Crnogorski pršut" has been protected recently by geographical indication. Requests for protection of product "Durmitorski skorup" (cream made from skimmed cow and ewe milk) and "Kolašinski lisnati sir" (cow milk cheese) are currently under procedure, while the beginning of the procedure for protection of honey and olive oil is expected soon.

According to the Law on Quality Schemes, agricultural and food products can be protected by designation of origin, geographical indication and indication "traditional speciality guaranteed", where a group of producers initiates the protection procedure. Since 2018, it is possible to protect products with labels "High quality", "Mountain product" and "From my farm", for which the request for registration can be submitted by one manufacturer, which is an important incentive for further extension of list of protected products.

The protection procedure is initiated by submission of application for registration to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. An application is provided with the manufacturer's specification and supporting evidence contained in that document. The most demanding part is the definition of a specification in which the product and the production method are described in details.

Elements of proven reputation and history are entered, and the specificity of the product must be conditioned by the geographical environment, skills or proven traditional method of production.

Protection of products with one of the above-mentioned labels is a very complex process and requires dedication and joint work. The Ministry adopted regulations and created institutional prerequisites for protection of products at the national level. We worked intensively with producers, primarily with a view to informing them on opportunities they have under quality policies and on benefits of protection of products to encourage them to enter the certification process. We also worked with interested producers during each stage of the process, from merging to writing the manufacturer's product specification as a basic protection document. Support of the local self-government is also an important factor of success at all stages of protection of product,

which is unique since it implies local specificities based on natural characteristics and traditional method of production and will, ultimately, contribute to greater recognition and valorization of this area. However, producers themselves have the most important role; they need to recognize their interest and work hard to meet the requirements dictated by protection procedure.

On that occasion, we want to commend dedication and efforts of producers of five protected products who are gathered into following associations – „Udruženje proizvođača njeguških specijaliteta” (association of producers of Njeguši specialities), „Pljevaljski sir” (association of producers of Pljevlja cheese), „Udruženje za kvalitet mesa sjevera Crne Gore” (association of producers dealing with quality of meat from the northern region of Montenegro) and association „Crnogorski pršut” from Cetinje.





Support to producers and associations

As we have already stated, during the previous period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development had been intensively working on creating conditions for applying protection system, stipulating production standards and education of producers through trainings, as well as thematic meetings and study visits to EU countries. The process of quality certification is free, while the support is provided for preparation of producer groups, quality product control and study visits. During the last few years, the special emphasis was put on improvement of processing in family farms and traditional products manufacturing. In order to ensure safe production of traditional products on family farms, decree on hygiene requirements to be fulfilled by processing facilities for production of small quantities of food for the market has been adopted in accordance with the EU policy in this area. Producers who use support for entering the so called “quality schemes “ can also use a number of support measures from Agro budget and EU funds (IPARD) both as individual producers and through associations.

Significant benefits for producers and country

As regards the members of producers’ associations, protection of products will imply an important benefit in the field of achieving the additional value on the market, as well as the possibility of better valorisation through increased tourist spending in Montenegro and better opportunities for export to regional, European and wider markets.

For Montenegro, the extension of list of protected products and progress in the field of quality policy at the national level means not only improvement of position of the national producers, but also creation of preconditions for opening new working places and more dynamic development of the local and the entire Montenegrin economy.

Branding of quality, specific and autochthonous domestic products contributes to development of our economy, improvement of tourist offer and generally further development of Montenegrin brand in the world. Many areas in Montenegro are known by some of products with a single recipe, and each of them is confirms the existence of tradition, experience and customs that may be protected. Therefore, the Ministry will continue to encourage and support, both financially and through consultations, the interested producers in order to have as much as possible protected products in the future period both on the national and European list.

Elections for the European Parliament - an opportunity for EU enlargement

Does the Western Balkans remain a priority for Brussels?

Author: Jovana Đurišić, daily "Pobjeda"

The elections for the European Parliament have been scheduled for May 2019 and in the Western Balkan countries it is already being speculated that in the election atmosphere, the enlargement of the European Union and negotiations with the countries of the region could get the secondary importance. It is certain that the elections, but also the situation with regard to Brexit, will affect the events in Brussels, but the Eurokaz interlocutors agree that the enlargement remains a priority, regardless of the election dynamics.

European MP Jozo Radoš believes that the Western Balkans will be the topic of elections for the European Parliament.

"It is possible that during the campaign for European elections, the issue of enlargement will be significantly more prominent in some Member States, but due to the resistance to the enlargement of the Union, in some members, mostly as a negative campaign", Radoš assessed in a statement for Eurokaz.



When it comes to his country, Croatia, Radoš expects enlargement to be one of the issues in the campaign, but not too high on the list of pre-election topics.

“During the formation of the new composition of the European Parliament and the European Commission, the enlargement to the countries of the Western Balkans will surely be very present”, he says.

Radoš believes that, following the upcoming elections, Eurosceptic forces will be significantly more represented in the European Parliament, but does not expect centrist political groups to change their attitude towards enlargement. “On the contrary, I expect that this issue will be high on the agenda of the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of the EU,” the Croatian representative in the European Parliament emphasized.

He adds that in the past mandate, thanks to his work and the work of other colleagues coming from the region of Southeast Europe, awareness about the importance of the integration of the Western Balkan countries with the EU was significantly raised.

“The Western Balkans is a geographical part of the EU, and for a number of reasons it is important that



this space is an integral part of it. Migration flows and various external geopolitical influences have helped to raise awareness of the importance of the Western Balkans. In this sense, nothing will change over the next few years and it is logical that the policy of joining the countries of the Western Balkans continues. Montenegro is a positive example in a series of open and complicated relations in that region, and it is certainly necessary to make this positive example stronger. I expect that in the new mandate of the EU institutions, that is, in the period 2019-2024, Montenegro will complete pre-accession negotiations, and that it will start the process of Montenegro’s formal inclusion in the EU membership”, Radoš concluded.

In addition to the elections for the European Parliament, which are the main reason for the fear that the Brussels agenda could change, another “obstacle” is also the issue of Britain’s exit from the EU, to which the entire Union is dedicated at the moment. A recent summit of EU Member States Heads at the EU headquarters has shown that in the Brexit era it will not be easy to stay at the top of the list of priorities.

Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford and former Director of the European Council for Foreign Policy in Sofia, Dimitar Bečev, is convinced that the Western Balkans remains a priority without difference what the results will be.

“It’s one of the few regions in the world where Europe has great influence. Secondly, the process of enlargement continues, and the future composition of the European Parliament will have relatively little effect on enlargement”, says Bečev in a statement for Eurokaz.

The main role, he explains, is played by the Council of the EU, where the Member States are, while the parliament does not have as much formal authorities. Commenting the opposition of some EU members to enlargement, as a possible obstacle for our region, Bečev says this will certainly be happening.

“I think it will be again France the opposing one, plus a few other countries - for example, the Netherlands. On the other hand, the situation in the region, and especially the conflict over Kosovo and the process of democratization in local states, can pose a serious obstacle”, Bečev concluded.

A different position is given by the European Parliament’s MEP and the former reporter for Mon-

tenegro, Charles Tannock, who believes that the Brussels agenda will find issues that are currently burdening the European Union.

“Taking into account many of the issues that are currently taking place throughout the European Union, from Brexit to climate change and the spread of Russian influence, I do not expect that the enlargement to the Western Balkans will be the main topic of the debate. The issues are much more internal and imply the need to talk about them - the economy, especially in the Eurozone, the migrant crisis, the rise of nationalism and populism, and the relationship between the European and anti-European parties will be the main issues in the upcoming period”, Tannock told Eurokaz.



Tannock believes that information on EU enlargement may appear in some of these discussions subconsciously, but adds that, in addition to the immediate neighbours in the Western Balkans, the rest will not deal with enlargement.

“I really do not think this topic will be among the main points during the current campaign, although it is true that Turkey`s accession to the European Union in some countries will be the dominant issue when it comes to enlargement”, he said.

When it comes to the future relationship of forces in the European Parliament and their attitude towards enlargement, Tannock says it is early to give any solid projections of the election result, especially from the level of the European Parliament, because, as they say, they can often be surprising.

“I doubt that nationalism and populism have reached their peak for the time being. However, I expect to see a more divided European Parliament – a foreign, internationalist party in the main right and left groups of political centres that want to work together to solve the problem, and another - a more populist, in some cases an open nationalist, right and extreme left faction which wants to capitalize on its influence and the power to damage the EU and its support for effective multilateralism and rules based on the international legal order for its own benefit. Most of them will be, as we see, openly hostile towards the EU enlargement agenda, in particular Turkey”, Tannock concluded.

The presidency of the EU Council after the elections for the European Parliament will be taken over by Croatia. For this reason, political elites in the region are encouraged and believe that the youngest EU member is open to the neighbours, and that joint efforts will giving results in keeping the Balkans where it belongs.



Theatre play “The Sailors` Mutiny”: the first product of the ADNICH project

The story about great people, repression and mutiny

Authors: Nataša Kraljević, programme coordinator of the Zetski Dom Royal Theatre and Jelena Marković-Čeđenović, PR of the Zetski Dom Royal Theatre

In August the Zetski Dom Royal Theatre put on the play “The Sailors` Mutiny”, a story about great people and models of repression and mutiny as human right. “The Sailors` Mutiny” is the first products of the ADNICH project and cooperation with Italian and Albanian colleagues, that gathered an ensemble of actors from all countries of former Yugoslavia. The inspiration for making the play came from the texts “The Sailors of Cattaro” by Friedrich Wolf and “The Fourth Angle” by Radoslav Rotković, and it was directed and adapted by Diego De Brea, who was also responsible for the visual identity and the choice of music. The soprano from Albania Gjylie Pelingu also joined the ex-Yugoslavia ensemble on the stage.

The Slovenian director Diego de Brea created a play which describes differences that create community, giving us a complete image of hunger and thirst, aggression of those who are above us, raw blood and breath that dramatically abandon life. This is the reason why revolutions happen, because there will be no life if we don't dare.

“These scenes of horror are not for everyone. It is the approach I have chosen; I did not want to do some empty monumental heroism. This mutiny did not change anything, but it wasn't in vain. Today people are passive, they consent to capitalistic and neoliberal conditions which offer false sense of security, but on the other hand there is complete discontent which is not reflected anywhere, we agree to everything.



These people, in hunger and thirst, suffering confined on a boat which they did not leave for four years.... this is unthinkable to us. We watch it all like some movie, we do not identify with them, such is the nature of a man, to not care if something has nothing directly to do with him. Capitalism works strategically to create this passivity. This is why I believe that some people will deny it, because we need populism. This is a colossal topic which comes back and which is present again” said the director Diego de Brea.

The consultant and editor of the play, professor of production at the Faculty of Drama Arts, Janko Ljumović said that the theatre play “The Sailors of Cattaro” is an exceptional project which achieved good artistic result.

The play, as he said, treated the topic which is related to a jubilee, but actually offers much more.

“Very seriously, deliberately, thrillingly, it speaks of the models of repression and mutiny as human right. Our question is whether anything changed in these 100 years. In this context, the play tackles all critical and painful issues of the 21st century, and it seems that only humanistic sciences and art seriously raise these questions and enter a dialog with the audience and citizens. The second part of this project is the production model which is a good story created in the Zetski Dom. This theatre already has several projects

that confirm brave and important idea that the theatre should work on coproduction, based on differences which come from an individual artist who are, like in the project, the image of the united Europe”, said Ljumović.

The eight performing actors gave their best. Srđan Grahovac, Romano Nikolić, Atanas Atanasovski, Valentin Tino Kostadinovski, Omar Bajramspahić, Peđa Marjanović, Mak Čengiđ and Marko Todorović are members of the innovative concept Art Geto, an international ensemble that Lidija Dedović, the art director of the Zetski Dom realized as an idea in an attempt to comprehend what devastated us so much.

That is precisely why the intention was to create a new art community, and, as the process and the premiere itself have shown, it has already produced important results. Young artists have bonded, winning yet





another chunk of freedom, giving a lot in the process as people and artists who have something to say. All of them, they say, would rebel today as well.

“This concept has given us the opportunity to work together in Montenegro, not only as young actors and peers, but also as friends. Such a move by Lidija Dedović proved to be a great idea. I am from Dubrovnik, it was an honour for me to be a part of this story, a subject that forces us, young people, to rise up so that we can move forward. I, personally, would rise up for solidarity, for peace, for equality, and for love”, said after the premiere Croatian actor Romano Nikolić.

Peđa Marjanović, an actor from Serbia, thinks that the biggest challenge was to adapt to the work methodology of Diego de Brea, who is a demanding director.

“We had to undergo various physical exercises that would bring some sort of emotion so that we could reach the state of mind comparable to the states and feelings of the sailors. As an approach, that is very interesting. There is no rebellion nowadays. It has been systematically curbed. Hence, there is a prevailing climate of conformity, a feeling that we are fine and well and that we can afford everything, while the basic human values are lost. This is what capitalism brings. Today, I would rise up for the position of actors in the Balkans”, said Marjanović.

Montenegrin actor Marko Todorović is happy about positive reactions to the play and that they have managed to tell a story differently, in a manner than no one had expected.

“And then again, it seems to me that at certain moments we perhaps presented the realities of the sailors too mildly. It is disheartening to return to the present day after this story about great people from the past. After only 100 years, we no longer have that, as if we became different people, we forgot to rebel, the youth have no sense of identity. I would rebel against everything. Each segment of our lives, from education, everything really, can be better, it is too long a list”, concluded Todorović.





The goal of the ADNICH project is smart management of natural and cultural goods for the purpose of development of trans-border sustainable tourism and promotion of the southern Adriatic region. The project in particular emphasises the strengthening of cooperation among relevant institutions and individuals in the area of southern Adriatic with a view to creating new and innovative and creative products. Besides the Royal Theatre Zetski Dom in Cetinje, the leader of the ADNCIH project, which was officially launched in April 2018 and will last for 24 months, four more partner institutions take part: from Albania - University of Arts, Tirana, and the municipality of Pogradec, while there are also partners from the city of Lecce - University of Salento, Department of sociology and the private company ITI - Italian Theatre Institute.

Conceived as a rather complex programme, ADNICH actively glorifies Mediterranean culture, but at the same time addresses the problems facing this region, such as the problems among various ethnic groups, arrival and integration of immigrants, relations/differences between genders (remnants of the patriarchal system), which, if properly addressed by the project, will provide new artistic and cultural creations in the form of theatrical productions.

Since the project itself was created in a way so that all partners, in their own way, could contribute to the achievement of the best possible results foreseen by the project, this summer Royal Theatre Zetski Dom started the production lifecycle of the project, and did what it is best at - it put on a play *Sailors' Mutiny*, on 30 August in Tivat, in front of the Training Ship Jadran at the promenade Pine.

What influence will the Brexit have on the Montenegrin European Path?

EU continues to enlarge, while relations between Montenegro and UK remain good

Author: Aneta Đurović, Montenegrin News Agency - MINA

Once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, our Agreement on Free Trade with the EU, i.e. Stabilization and Association Agreement will no longer have effect on the state leaving the Union. Montenegro will not experience any other direct effects. Our country has good relations with the UK and it will remain so, said the President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Gordana Đurović.

Speaking for Eurokaz, she explained that Montenegro will have to negotiate as soon as possible a similar, although bilateral agreement, which will allow for the unlimited pursuit of trade and economic cooperation.

“It is in the interest of both parties and I believe that there will be no other issues emerging down the road. There are no other direct effects. As a country, we maintain good relations with the UK, and it will remain so”, Đurović believes.

She highlighted that the Brexit is opposed to the enlargement policy but that the official Brussels remains determined that the EU will consolidate itself and continue to expand.



“The Brexit is only one and there is no domino effect. The Enlargement Policy remains in effect, so that EU27 grows bigger. Following the period of consolidation, the Union will continue to expand and voluntarily unite European states in peace and prosperity”, she added.

When asked if Montenegro can experience the rise of Euroscepticism as a result of the Brexit process, Đurović explained that it is the component of the general European integration process.

“Euroscepticism, in fact, symbolises the transparency of the process and the citizens voice calling for a stronger public dialogue on all aspects of integration and changes that it brings. Euroscepticism is not against integration per se. It is, in a certain extent, useful, as it invites sincere supporters of the integration to fight even more for our Europe and Montenegro in it, as well as to clearly represent benefits of the process and to use lessons learned to emphasise additional things needed to be done”, she reminded.

If constructive, she said, Euroscepticism is similar to Euro-pragmatism and a desire for clearer definition of economic benefits and control of reduction of the discretionary power of the executive that is to be gained in the accession process.

“Those who oppose the integration are the so-called Europhobes and the member states’ right wing parties, which reject and underestimate all benefits that European integration brought to their respective states (and which they enjoyed for decades). Their only gain is the short-term local political calculation and populist messages, which bring no responsibility”, Đurović highlighted.

She believes that it encouraged many fears and expectations from the European Parliamentary elections to be held in May 2019. She considers it important that the “European majority” continues to hold respective number of seats in the Parliament, as it understands the mutual interest and need for further expansion of the Union to the Western Balkan region”.

Đurović of people favoured leaving the EU, had its epilogue in the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union, in accordance with the Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

“On 25 November, during one of the shortest sessions, the European Council adopted the Draft Agreement, which has been drafted for 20 months, defining the terms and conditions of the withdrawal before the 2020, written on 600 pages”, Đurović said.

She added that, if the British Parliament decides to support the Agreement, it will come into force on 30 March, 2019. The UK will, however, remain the member of the common market (“the unique customs union”), but it will not have the right to vote in the EU institutions.

“In other words, elections for the European Parliament to be held on May 21-23, 2019 will “empty” 73 seats in the European Parliament. There will no longer be commissioners, judges, nor European auditors from the UK but the UK will reserve the right to complete all EU projects planned and to adequately contribute to the EU budget, in line with the indicative amount of the annual apauages in the next two years, until the end of the transition period (about 39 billion euros)”, Đurović said.

She mentioned that the Agreement on Withdrawal defines all complex relations that the UK has been developing with the Union for four decades. Therefore, this process shows that it is as complicated to withdraw, as it is to access the EU.

The UK is deeply integrated in all European common policies and finances. Its withdrawal affects regular citizens, business activities, education, and all other segments of daily life”, she added.

Đurović highlighted that all annexes to the UK Draft Agreement on the Withdrawal de facto constitute the arrangement of relations between the two parties until the end of the transition period. However, the establishment of new relations will be negotiated

in future, followed by the adoption of new agreements (better than those the EU has with the so-called third countries).

Moreover, she explained that “the Political Declaration, also adopted by the EU, states that negotiations on the establishment of a free trade zone with zero tariffs and similar modes of cooperation will continue in the spirit of the strategic partnership and values they share”.

She reminded that the other, special issue is the foreign policy and the impact that the Brexit will have on EU and UK relations with third countries and alliances: “It is where both sides lose, especially the UK”.

“According to her opinion, the Brexit has strongly shook the British political scene and alliances, triggering a series of political crises, snap elections, change of coalition partners, a large number of resignations, the replacement of the Chief Negotiator, etc.

No one counted on the term „political instability”, which significantly influenced economic opportunities and expectations. All the main exit forerunners are no longer so high on the political scene, and Theresa May has a difficult task to present negotiated as a `success`” - thinks Đurović.

Britain, she added, uses the benefits of exit as „the liberation from European bureaucracy and policies in which she often participated involuntarily. Britain is deeply aware of the risk which Brexit brings, such as economic relations not only with EU, but other partners.

The fact is that UK had many benefits from EU – four and a half decades of strong economic development, which would never be the same if there wasn't on big European market with four econom-

ic liberties with London as financially centre of the EU for others big players outside of the Union.

By leaving the Union, she believes, Britain can hardly become a “global player”, as it certainly was within the EU28.

Brexit, she says, is primarily the term for British exit from the EU, but not for a clear profile of future relations with the Union.

“Scenarios are different, but if the UK does not accept the Contract Proposal, it certainly makes the divorce more complicated and uncertain. Divorce without a clear Termination contract, i.e. without “paper”, is much harder for everyone, as there is no transition period, transitional joint bodies, a mechanism for resolving possible disputes... Overnight the relations are changing”, said Đurović.

If, in her view, it comes to accept of the Contract Proposal, there is a reasonable time for gradual departure, and enough time to negotiate future relations - in the mutual interest.

As she said, this is not the first Union crisis.

“Many of the crises she has successfully overcome, and we, the citizens of the Western Balkans, are certainly optimistic that it will be this time too. That Europe will win all the current challenges and that it will get stronger”, Đurović said.

Jovana Marović, Executive Director of the Politikon Network, agrees with the French President Emanuel Macron's assessment that the European Union was fragile and needed renovation from its foundation.

“The negotiations on the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Union, that were long and exhaustive

and despite the agreement reached due to numerous outstanding issues, have not yet been fully completed, have shown that the process of leaving the Union is not simple and without consequence, which should potentially discourage other states they are thinking of such a step”, Marović said.

In addition, she said, the analysis prepared by the government of that country shows that after leaving UK, the UK will have a worse economic situation and lower GDP than it has remained in the EU, and that will be the case no matter what the scenario is, or independent of the content of the trade agreement that this country concludes with the EU.

“Despite the certain political benefits to which the British Government points out, the other benefits of leaving the Union are not visible, and because of the disagreement the Union itself is suffering. The long-standing apathy and the absence of timely reactions at all levels have contributed to this state of “fragility” becoming a normal state within the EU”, Marović said.

On the one hand, she says, the Union and its member states have been clumsy for decades in response to frequent crises at the supranational and national levels as well as external challenges.

“The British government, on the other hand, has failed to explain to citizens the benefits of community membership since 1973”, Marović said.

Marović thinks, considering that country which is an important pillar of European architecture, has decided to leave the EU, the Union is losing its attractiveness to some extent, and the greater potential for the de-candidate countries will come if the EU is no longer the most important democratisation framework.

“By launching a strategy at the beginning of the year, the European Union, due to Brexit, but also the fear of strengthening the influence of the non-Western forces in the Western Balkans, wanted to demonstrate determination in policy of enlargement. However, that “momentum” was a short breath”, Marović said.

As stated, the focus of this document is the announcement of new instruments and initiatives whose content depends on accelerating democratization and greater EU commitment to monitoring reforms.

“As we are now calculating that these initiatives could only be completed by 2020, this is practically a continuation of the EU reform trend that can be briefly described as “progress, but inadequate”. For now, there has been no move to EU enlargement, which challenges its ability and willingness to further integrate new members”, concluded Marović.



Winners of the quiz “How much do you know about the EU?” awarded



Celebration of the International Day of Volunteerism in Gymnasium “Slobodan Škerović” - Be socially active. Make a contribution.













140 years since the recognition of Montenegro's independence at the Berlin Congress



