NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE

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Table of content

- INTRODUCTORY SPEECH
- CHAPTER OVERVIEW
- EVENT THAT MARKED PREVIOUS PERIOD
- EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS
- CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
- IPA
- COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR
- COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS
- ANY OTHER BUSINESs

Introductory

Dear readers,

The nineteenth issue of the Newsletter of the European Integration Office will present the most important events and activities in the EU accession process that took place during the first quarter of 2022.

The European Integration Office is committed to coordinating the work of negotiating structure and intensifying activities aiming at achieving tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other authorities, as well as to strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and members in order for Montenegro to take equal place among the European partners.

During the previous three months, we have continued with implementation of activities in terms of coordinating the negotiation process, implementation of IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, as well as the organisation of relevant activities and campaigns.

We believe that this Newsletter also represents a contribution to improvement of informing, understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

**THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ON EU AND EU ACCESSION PROCESS
– GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

21. I 2021.

REPRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLL – THREE QUARTERS OF CITIZENS HAVE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EU

The poll "Citizens' Attitudes on European Integration and Montenegro's EU Accession Process" was conducted by the "DeFacto" agency, in the period between November 19 and December 4, and 1000 citizens were sampled. According to the results, almost three quarters of citizens, namely, 75.5% have a positive attitude towards the European Union, which is almost 4% more than in June 2021. There is also a growth of number of citizens supporting the accession of Montenegro to the European Union, that number is 74.6%.

Around three quarters of interviewees believe that the EU membership of Montenegro will provide them personally with more benefit than loss. Out of persons that would vote at the hypothetical referendum on accession of Montenegro to the EU, 80.2% of them would vote in favour of the accession.

EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

During the first quarter of 2022, there were ten sessions of the working groups for conducting the negotiation on the EU accession. The sessions of working groups for the following negotiation chapters took place: Chapter 7 – Intellectual property rights, Chapter 3 – Right of establishment and freedom to provide services, Chapter 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights (3 sessions), Chapter 24 – Justice, freedom and security (3 sessions), Chapter 25 – Science and research and Chapter 30 – External relations.

27. I 2022.

THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE STABILISATION AND ACCESSION COUNCIL BETWEEN THE EU AND MONTENEGRO

The meeting, which was held in virtual format due to Covid 19 pandemics environment, discussed activities and results in the areas covered by 7 sectorial Subcommittees, as well as the Working Group on Public Administration Reform.

"Fulfilment of remaining interim benchmarks in chapters 23 and 24 remains a key priority of all of our competent institutions and reform of judiciary is in the heart of the rule of law reform. This has been demonstrated by drafting the Action Plan addressing the recommendations from the EC Report on Montenegro 2021, as well as the focused Map for the Rule of Law reflecting both short-term and medium-term priorities, as well as the need for synergy of all the three branches of power", Chief Negotiator Kordić pointed out. She highlighted that in this way, not only do the competent authorities show commitment to reforms and the EU accession process, but also responsibility towards the vast majority of citizens who support the EU accession process.

The meeting also underlined that good neighbourly relations and the regional cooperation are important elements of the EU accession process and that Montenegro cherishes constructive bilateral cooperation with the Western Balkans countries. In that regard, it was highlighted that Montenegro, as the most advanced country in the region when it comes to harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU acquis, sets a good example for the region and that the country can benefit from the Economic and Investment Plan in terms of using this plan in order to accelerate the accession process in specific areas even before the full-fledged membership in the EU.

17. II 2022.

THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY BETWEEN THE EU AND MONTENEGRO TOOK PLACE

During the meeting, the representatives of the European Commission and relevant Montenegrin institutions were analysing achieved results and considering crucial forthcoming steps in areas covered by Chapters 23 and 24, related to judiciary reform, fundamental rights, the fight against corruption and organised crime, judicial cooperation, cooperation in the field of fight against drug trafficking and terrorism, as well as migration and border management.

"The priority for further general progress in the accession negotiations, and before moving towards the provisional closure of other chapters, remains the fulfilment of the remaining rule of law interim benchmarks set under chapters 23 and 24. In order to achieve this important step, Montenegro needs to close the remaining gaps in critical areas of judiciary, freedom of expression and freedom of the media, the fight against corruption and organized crime", said Michael Miller, head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

will significantly affect further dynamics of shaping the political landscape in Montenegro, bearing in mind that especially the reform of judiciary requires higher degree of responsibility of all political entities.

Negotiator for Cluster 1 and head of the Working Group for Chapter 23, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights Bojan Božović said that the Subcommittee is the best platform for presenting the results of the previous period. He pointed out that the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights, continues to make efforts to achieve positive practices, both in area of judiciary and the fight against corruption, as well as in the area of fundamental rights.

The head of the Working Group for Chapter 24 and advisor to the Minister of the Interior, Majda Adžović,

Negotiations.
"Consistent implementation of reforms in the field of Rule of Law in the EU accession process remains a key driver of all positive changes in Montenegrin society for a better future of citizens", said the Chief Negotiator, Zorka Kordić. The transformative capacity that entails the obligations in Chapters 23 and 24 expressed satisfaction with the statement that significant progress has been made within Chapter 24 and thanked the European Commission for acknowledging the progress achieved in this area. As she said, the achieved results confirm that the work and work in the past period paid off, and that it will continue at the same pace in the following period.

23. II 2022.

ODRŽANA TREĆA SJEDNICA PREGOVARAČKE GRUPE

Na dnevnom redu sjednice bila je dinamika i kvalitet pripreme tromjesečnog izvještaja o realizaciji Akcionog plana za adresiranje ključnih preporuka iz Izvještaja Evropske komisije o Crnoj Gori 2021, koji između ostalog sadrži i set preporuka Skupštini.
Glavna pregovaračica je ocjenila da uspješnost sprovođenja Akcionog plana, naročito nakon posljednjeg zasijedanja Skupštine krajem prošle godine, šalje poruku, kako domaćoj javnosti, tako i evropskim partnerima, o spremnosti Crne Gore da uz učešće sve tri grane vlasti sinergijski adresira prioritetne obaveze iz pregovaračkog procesa s EU.
Podsjetila je da je Akcioni plan osmišljen kao dodatni mehanizam za jasno usmjeravanje obaveza iz evropske agende i praćenje toka pregovaračkog procesa, te da zajedno sa Programom pristupanja Crne Gore Evropskoj uniji, mapama puta za sva pregovaračka poglavlja i dinamičkim planovima za poglavlja vladavine prava, predstavlja najvažniji instrument za podsticanje i planiranje daljih reformi na putu evropske integracije.

8. III 2022.

THE THIRD SESSION OF NEGOTIATING GROUP TOOK PLACE

The agenda included the dynamics and quality of preparation of quarterly report on implementation of the Action plan for addressing key recommendations from the European Commission Report on Montenegro 2021 that among other things also includes the set of recommendations to the Parliament.

The Chief Negotiator said that the successful implementation of the Action Plan, particularly after the last Parliament session at the end of last year, sends a message, both to the national public and to the European partners, about the readiness of Montenegro to address the priority obligations from the negotiation process with the EU through the synergy of all three branches of power.
She reminded that the Action Plan is designed as an additional mechanism for clear directing of obligations from the European agenda and monitoring course of negotiation process, and together with the Programme of accession of Montenegro to the EU, roadmaps for all negotiating chapters and dynamic plans for chapters of Rule of Law, it represents the most important instrument for encouragement and planning of further reforms on the way of European integration.

14. III 2022.

A NEW PROJECT OF SUPPORT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY TO THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MONTENEGRO IS INITIATED

The Conference was organised by the Embassy of France and the Embassy of Austria and the European Integration Office, with the support of the French institute Jacques Delors in Montenegro.

The event was part of activities organised within the French presidency of the EU with the aim to encourage dialogues and visibility of the process of integration into the European Union, as well as the fundamental values it promotes.

Belonging to the EU values, the European integration process and regional belonging and cooperation were discussed at the three panels participated by the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the EU, representatives of the embassies, academic community and non-governmental and regional organisations.

The panels were attended by: Mr. Macek, Jacques Delors Institute, Director of Sciences Po campus Europe with focus to Central and Eastern Europe, Dijon, France, Vladimir Savković, the Professor at the Faculty of the Law, Podgorica; Milena Bešić, the Director of NGO "Center for Democracy and Human Rights"; Karl Müller, the Ambassador of Austria to Montenegro; Milena Muk, Public Policy researcher at NGO „Institute Alternative"; Bojana Bulatović, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in Podgorica; Tanja Miščević, Deputy Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and Nikoleta Đukanović, researcher at NGO Sociological Center of Montenegro – SOCEN.

"Montenegro has always been part of Europe. Although it is small in terms of population and geography, it was of interest, as well as the whole region, to many European and Asian countries, so Montenegro has turbulent history. Now we live in different time and today Montenegro is, from the political aspect, at the field of general consensus to make this country part of the EU. And that is a destination ", the Acting President of the Parliament, Strahinja Bulajić, said.

"Montenegro has its place in the EU and now we wait the implementation of central reforms and political obligations proportionate to the European project that will enable the successful integration", the Ambassador of France to Montenegro, Christian Thimonier.

Deputy Secretary-General of the Vienna-based Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Florent Marciacq, said that the identity is not obtained or given. It is being built through relations with others.

Montenegro, as the most advanced candidate country, has a clear strategic objective: the full-fledged EU membership. The responsibility for its realisation is in hands of not only the Government, but also in the hands of the Parliament and democratic capacity of our entire society to enable, first of all, the depoliticised judiciary. On the way to that objective it is important to provide the most possible benefit for citizens and administration", the Chief Negotiator, Zorka Kordić, stated.

IPA

28. I 2022.

THE VALUABLE EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE AND FLOOD PREVENTION IS INTRODUCED

There was an event in Nikšić where the equipment is procured within the project "Let's be prepared", realised by FORS Montenegro as a part of IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020. It is the equipment intended to the Ministry of the Interior, Rescue and Protection Directorate, municipal protection and rescue services from Nikšić, Pljevlja, Žabljak and Šavnik, voluntary firefight societies and elementary schools, with the overall value of approximately 73.000€.

When greeting the participants, the Deputy Chief Negotiator and national IPA coordinator Bojan Vujović stated that thanks to the project there are improved capacities of institutions and services from Montenegro and Serbia that deal with protection and rescue, fire and flood prevention and mitigation of their consequences, but also we have improved awareness of population of cross-border area about reduced risk of hazards.

"This project is only one of numerous examples that imply to the importance of cross-border cooperation, that represents the most visible expression of joint efforts taken by the countries of the European space with the aim to overcome numerous challenges exceeding their individual strengths", Vujović said.

He reminded that the Cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – Montenegro is being conducted since 2008 through which within five public invitations for submitting proposals for projects, up to now, 52 projects have been contracted in the overall value of 10.16 million of euros, that contribute to strengthening of social-economic development of programme area.

17. II 2022.

PUBLICATION OF JOB VACANCY FOR OFFICIAL FOR HORIZONTAL MATTERS WITHIN INTERREG IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME CROATIA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

Interreg - IPA CBC
EUROPEAN UNION
Hrvatska - Bosna i Hercegovina - Crna Gora

The European Integration Office of Montenegro, as the national authority for Interreg IPA CBC programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020, invited all interested candidates to apply for the job vacancy: official for horizontal matters within Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020

22. II 2022.

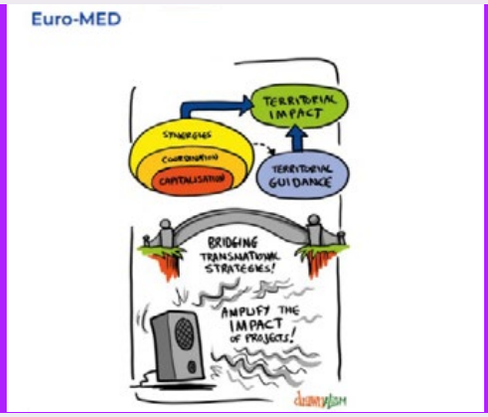
PUBLICATION OF JOB VACANCY FOR OFFICIAL FOR VISIBILITY WITHIN INTERREG IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME ITALY –

ALBANIA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

The European Integration Office of Montenegro, as the national authority for Interreg IPA CBC programme Italy – Albania – Montenegro 2014-2020, invited all interested candidates to apply for the job vacancy: official for visibility within Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Italy – Albania – Montenegro 2014-2020

24. II 2022.

PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST INVITATION FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS INTERREG EURO-MED PROGRAMME 2021-2027



The European Integration Office informed the interested public that the first invitation for submitting proposals for projects Interreg Euro-MED programme 2021-2027 is published. The invitation is opened in the period between February 24 and May 24 2022, and it is focused to the third programme priority "Mediterranean Governance". Eight projects shall be approved within this invitation, and the fund for their implementation is 36 million euros.

3. III 2022.

PUBLICATION OF THE THIRD INVITATION FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS WITHIN THE IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020. The invitation is opened for institutions and organisations from 14 municipalities from central and northern part of Montenegro, and the funds for joint projects is 3.41 million euros.

General objective of the third invitation is providing contribution to economic, social and territorial

Projects in the area of employment, waste management and waste waters management and development of tourism capacities are in focus of the third invitation for submitting proposals within IPA Cross-border cooperation programme

development of programme area by encouraging integration, joint development and utilisation of potential and possibilities in order to make the area attractive for life and work.

The assets in the amount of 3.41 million euros, disposable through this invitation, are allocated for the following specific objectives:

- Increase of employability and possibilities for employment
- Improvement of waste management and treatment of waste waters
- Improvement of capacities for utilisation of tourism potentials of programme area

9. III 2022.

LAUNCHING OF CONTEST FOR ENGAGEMENT OF EVALUATOR OF PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE THIRD INVITATION OF IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
2014-2020

The European Integration office informed the interested public that the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia launched the contest for engagement of evaluator of proposal for projects submitted within the third invitation of IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020.

Deadline for submitting applications is 30th of March 2022, 3.00 p.m.

18. III 2022.

CONVERSATION WITH HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS FROM PODGORICA AND CETINJE ABOUT THE EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Issues Tatjana Bošković provided high school pupils from Cetinje with the explanation regarding

On the occasion of the EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week, the representatives of the European Integration Office and the Ministry of Economic Development had conversation with high school pupils from Podgorica and Cetinje about participation of Montenegro in the EU macro-regional strategies and their influence to development of tourism, energetics, transport, environment protection.

The advisor to the Chief Negotiator – Head of Sector for EU Funds, Irena Bošković, acquainted the high school pupils from tourism departments of the high school for trading, tourism and hospitality "Sergije Stanić" with macro-regional strategies in which Montenegro participates – EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), area of their implementation, their objectives and users.

Head of the Department for Horizontal and Strategic significance of celebrating the EU macro-regional strategies week and said that this year the focus is on Strategy for the Danube Region that celebrated 10 years of its existence last year.

Maja Kovačević, Senior Advisor from the Ministry of Economic Development and representative of Montenegro in working groups for tourism within EUSAIR and EUSDR emphasised that the connecting through macro-regional strategies is important for Montenegro for the purpose of exchanging experience, ideas, but the most important, knowledge in the area of using the European funds for better diversification in tourism, as well as encouragement of tourism development in general.

The pupils found particularly interesting the establishment of the youth council for the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian region, whose founding provided the youth population, between 18 and 35 years of age, with the accelerated processes of information exchange and learning, as well as development of capacities and cooperation for youth within the abovementioned regions. Advice for youth shall generate numerous benefits for youth (travels, education, exchange of opinions…). They were also interested how make connection with institutions and organisations from the region, so they would be able to cooperate in joint projects.

22. III 2022.

ORGANISED EVENT "GREEN AGENDA IN ACTION"

"In the spirit of the Green Agenda and in the endeavour to offer at least a symbolical contribution to realisation of its objectives, the European Integration Office enabled electric car, electric bicycles and scooters, through the EU donation, via the Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020, and put them at disposal to its employees for the purpose of performing their daily activities", it is stated at the event named Green Agenda in Action organised by the European Integration Office.

Employees of the Office, during the event, organised a promotional ride with electric vehicles and in that manner reminded citizens to everyone's individual responsibility so they can contribute promotion of electro-mobility benefits, that are directly reflecting the health of our population, as well as healthy life styles that simultaneously contribute to reducing pollution, of air primarily, and preservation of environment.

12. III 2022.

THE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, KORDIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE ROUND TABLE: "ITALY AND THE BALKANS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE WAY TO THE EU ACCESSION "

At the round table, held in online format, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, in cooperation with the University in Salerno, the participants took into consideration the actual challenges and chances of the EU enlargement policy, including the application of revised enlargement methodology, influence of war in Ukraine to the process of the EU accession, as well as specific steps of individual candidate countries and potential candidates on the way to the EU membership.

"The EU accession has a transformative power over the Montenegrin society because it encourages reforms, directs democratic processes and enables better quality of public policies in numerous areas", according to the words of the Chief Negotiator, Zorka Kordić. On the other hand, it is also a matter of geostrategic interest of the EU itself, to strengthen the stability and security of entire European continent by including the Western Balkans region.

Kordić emphasised that the focus of the Montenegrin negotiation process is on the three pillars related to the full compliance with the common EU foreign and security policy, reforms in the area of the Rule of the Law, including the judiciary reform, as well as measures focused on ensuring the economic growth.

Participants of the round table were also the Chief Negotiator of Albania, Zef Mazi, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Bojan Maričić, Director of the Development Cooperation Office of Kosovo, Florim Canolli, Director of the Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Edin Dilberović, Acting Assistant Minister for European Integrations, Miroslav Gačević, and it was moderated by Andrea Cascone, Adriatic and Balkans Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

31. III 2022.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, DRAGANA MARKOVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE ONLINE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

ABOUT THE NEW METHODOLOGY OF THE EU ACCESSION

"In May 2020 Montenegro accepted the revised negotiations methodology, as an expression of clear commitment to make the Western Balkans part of the European future, and primarily as a political incentive that fits in the actual negotiations framework between Montenegro and the EU, and that should make the process credible and tangible, to provide support to stronger political dimension and affirmation of enlargement policy. In that way, Montenegro confirmed that it is a credible and reliable partner to the Union and that it wants to use this encouragement in the best possible way, through defining specific programmes of early integration, stronger use of pre-accession funds and improvement of the system for full implementation of the EU acquis", the Deputy Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the EU, Dragana Marković, said.

She participated the online regional workshop about the New Methodology of the EU Accession that was organised by the German society for international cooperation - GIZ.

Marković reminded that the negotiation process of Montenegro, from the opening of accession negotiations, in June 2012, up to now, was based on three key pillars: compliance with the common EU foreign and security policy, reforms in the Rule of the Law and ensuring the economic growth.

She pointed out that the negotiations structure is adapted to this new mechanism and focused to the full valorisation of the new methodology, primarily in view of its added values and identification of specific measures of early integration and before the very EU membership.

Apart from representatives of the European Integration Office of Montenegro, the workshop was also participated by representatives of competent institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.

COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL

24. I 2022.

ONLINE CONSULTATIONS ARE HELD REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION 2022-2023.

mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Programme of Accession 2022-2023. Particular interest was shown for the Labour Law, as well as for earnings of persons employed in state administration, and solving labour disputes and protection from mobbing, but also laws regulating the area of health, including the Law on Pharmaceutical Activity. Likewise, questions and comments related to the area of gender mainstreaming of policies – Law on protection against family violence and

"With the Programme of Montenegro's Accession to the European Union 2022-2023 we have a clear direction of our further acting with the aim of membership in the EU in the forthcoming two-year period", the Chief Negotiator Zorka Kordić stated at the consultations with representatives of the civil sector regarding the development of that draft document.

She stated that the Programme of Montenegro's Accession to the European Union is a reflection of intensive work and reconsideration of the Commission for European Integration, and particularly heads of working groups and their teams in the previous couple of months, that defines the scope and dynamics of reforms required for compliance of Montenegro with the European Union policies. It is at the same time an instrument for monitoring reforms, particularly in part of compliance of national legislation with the EU acquis, but also for preparation of administrative capacities of our institutions.

Representatives of the civil sector had questions and comments regarding the implementation and gender based statistics. At consultations, the topics for discussion were also the planned strengthening of administrative capacities of State institutions, and its compliance with the public administration reform, while there was an exchange of opinions about the need for better planning and programming in the forthcoming financial perspective, through the obligations in the Negotiating chapter 22 – Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments. Consultations participants exchanged opinions and provided suggestions regarding amendments to the Law on prevention of corruption, as well as the Law on public procurements, while pointing out the significance of the Negotiating chapter 5 that is, pursuant to the new methodology, at the same cluster with the Negotiating chapters 23 and 24.

Consultations are believed to be a good opportunity to jointly, through the constructive dialogue, perceive possibilities for improvement of quality of this strategic document for the purpose of its more quality implementation.

PUBLISHED LISTS OF NGO REPRESENTATIVES FOR WORKING GROUPS

In the period January-March 2022, the lists were published containing NGO representatives proposed for representatives for members of working groups for Negotiating chapters: 31 – Foreign, security and defence policy; 18 – Statistics and 32 – Financial control.

23. III 2022.

MONTENEGRO COMMITTED TO ADDITIONALLY INCLUDE CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALL PROCESSES

The Chief Negotiator Kordić received representatives of the Centre for civil society promotion from Sarajevo, Dajana Cvjetković and Lejla Mijović.

"Montenegro is committed to, together with countries form the region, work on improvement of model for essential inclusion of civil sector in processes of making public policies and negotiations with the EU. Through that we would like to valorise effects of the civil society projects and contribute to strengthening of their capacities. We find that very important in the context of the EU accession process and adoption of the European system of values, and particularly because that is the way of building and strengthening the participative democracy", the Chief Negotiator, Zorka Kordić, said.

Cvetković and Mijović presented the SMART Balkans project – civil society for connected Western Balkans whose objective is to strengthen the participative democracy and Euro-Atlantic integrations at the Western Balkans through strengthening of organisations of civil society and measures for the purpose of stronger and more active role in creation of more inclusive societies for sustainable development in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. They pointed out that the project, whose value is 17 million euros, is funded by the Kingdom of Norway and they announced large conference in June in Montenegro, where the project will be presented.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THE WORKSHOP SERIES "ORIJENTIŠI SE KA EU" IS FINISHED

11. II 2022.

"Montenegrin high school pupils want the EU membership and more active participation in the accession process". This message was sent by the pupils from nine high schools during the workshops organised by the General Secretariat of the Government, European Integration Office and NGO 35mm, with assistance of UNDP in Montenegro. "Orijentiši se ka EU" workshops opened dialogue

Representatives of the European Integration Office Andrej Orlandić, Melita Rastoder Ljajić, Aleksandar Nikčević, Marija Tripunović, Luka Dedić, Vanja Banović and Granica Kovačević, as well as representatives of NGO 35mm, Milica Đokđurić, Kristina Ćetković and Snežana Nikčević, discussed with high school pupils about European values and standards, as well as about obligations and benefits provided to the youth and overall Montenegrin society by the EU accession process and membership.

The workshops, held during February, covered nine high schools, i.e. mixed-high schools, namely: High school, Bijelo Polje; Mixed-high school "Ivan Goran Kovačić", Herceg Novi; High school, Nikšić; High school, Rožaje; High school for electro-technical studies "Vaso Aligrudić", Podgorica; Mixed-high school "Danilo Kiš", Budva; High school, Cetinje; High school, Pljevlja and Mixed-high school "Bratstvo –

with youth about importance of the European integration, their expectations and interests.

Through the knowledge quiz about the EU and discussion with the topic integrations of Montenegro in the EU, we found out what is the level of awareness of youth from high schools about the EU and the accession process, their interest in it, the manner they obtain information and what they want to be informed about.

jedinstvo", Ulcinj.

Workshops attended by high school pupils named "Orijentiši se ka EU", were realised by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro and the European Integration Office, in cooperation with the NGO 35mm, within the project of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Strengthening capacities for accelerating EU accession negotiations" implemented by the UNDP.

9. III 2022.

LAUNCHING OF CONTEST FOR THE BEST NEWSPAPERS ARTICLE ON THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS OF MONTENEGRO

Department for Public Information on EU and EU Accession Process of the General Secretariat of the Government, launched the contest with the aim to cause interest of media about reporting on accession of Montenegro to the Union, influence of process to Montenegrin citizens' life, application of European standards and regulations, adoption of the European values and support of the European Union through accessible funds and realisation of the projects.

The contest defined the following topics/areas:

1) Advantages of "EU early integration measure" provided to Montenegro by the application of revised methodology of the EU enlargement

2) Influence of the European integration process to local self-governments, with focus to the results of the EU projects

3) Education policy – results of ERASMUS in Montenegro

4) Energy policy – challenges and chances

10. III 2022.

LAUNCHING OF CONTEST FOR THE BEST VIDEO STORY ABOUT THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS OF MONTENEGRO

Department for Public Information on EU and EU Accession Process of the General Secretariat of the

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The contest defined the following topics/areas:

1) Contribution of the process of the European integration to the gender equality
2) Results of the EU projects and their influence to citizens' life
3) EU support for overcoming the financial crisis
4) Environment protection policy

14. III 2022.

CAMPAIGN FOR WORLD CUSTOMER RIGHTS DAY IS LAUNCHED

For the purpose of quality informing of citizens/ customers about their rights and obligations, as well as about all potential manners of their protection, the General Secretariat of the Government, within project ME4EU funded by the EU, launched online campaign dedicated to the World Customer Rights Day, March 15.

In the campaign about the importance of customer protection, establishment of Central Information System for customer protection, services of public interest, manners of consumer rights protection and collective complaints institute, in five video clips the citizens were informed by the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the EU, Zorka Kordić, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Development, Milena Lipovina Božović, Acting Director of the Directorate for Internal Market and Competitiveness in the Ministry of Economic Development Jasna Vujović, Chief Market Inspector in Administration for inspection affairs Marina Radulović and Attorney at Law and Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Mediterranean University, professor Miloš Vukčević.