EDITORIAL EU ACCESSION

NEGOTIATIONS

- IPA
- CONFERENCES,
- **CIVIL SECTOR** OTHER

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

chapters, partnership and cooperation with other bodies, as well as strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and members so that Montenegro takes an equal place among European partners. And during the last three months, we continued to implement activities regarding the coordination of the negotiation

process, IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and

the civil sector, and the organization of appropriate activities We are convinced that this newsletter also represents a contribution to improving citizens' information, understanding and knowledge about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

SECTOR FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE **EU AND THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS -GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

CONSTITUTIVE SESSIONS FOR CHAPTER 1 - FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT OF GOODS, CHAPTER 7 - INTELLECTUAL **PROPERTY LAW AND CHAPTER 20 - ENTERPRISE AND** The sessions were an opportunity for the members

of the working groups to get familiar with the Rules of Procedure, which are unified for all chapters of the acquis, and which were prepared by the Ministry of

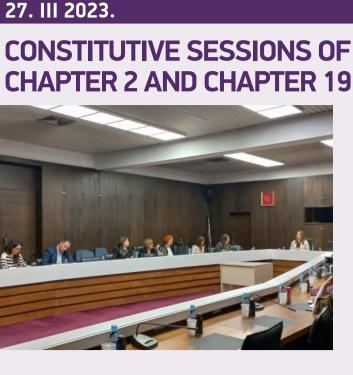
operational and efficient.

European Affairs in order to make these bodies more

"This chapter needs to be given additional attention

and efforts in the coming period in order to implement the remaining activities in the legislative part and additionally strengthen administrative capacities, and finally create the conditions for the economy to be integrated into EU flows," said the head of the working

group for the negotiation chapter 1, Dragan Vukčević. "In the coming period, the negotiating working group will pay additional attention to raising awareness of the significance of intellectual property rights, and that the focus will be on cooperation with rights holders in this area, which will lead to measurable results when it comes to the enforcement" said the head of the working group for negotiation chapter 7, Nebojša Mugoša. "Activities to fulfil the only closing benchmark in chapter 20, which refers to the industrial policy, are proceeding



precede the preparation of the new Industrial Policy of Montenegro 2024-2028", announced the head of the working group for negotiation chapter 20 Maja Jokanović. **CONSTITUTIVE SESSIONS OF WORKING GROUPS FOR** At the sessions, the composition and structure of the new working groups were discussed, regarding their adjustment and rationalisation to a certain level with the aim of more efficient work. The members

of the negotiating working groups got familiar with the Rules of Procedure of the negotiating working groups adopted by the Ministry of European Affairs in order to standardize the work of the negotiating working groups, their functionality and promptness. The upcoming obligations defined by the 2023-24. III 2023 THE SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 8 -

2024 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the EU were highlighted, and further dynamics of the preparation of the First Contribution to the EC Report on Montenegro for 2023 were agreed upon. "This chapter represents one of the most challenging chapters of the acquis in the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU, but we have focused all our capacities on speeding up activities in terms of meeting the closing benchmarks and better readiness of the economy for the rules we are adopting, which are valid in the EU," said the head of the group for labour, Dragan Damjanović. At the meeting of the working group, the activities planned under the 2023-2024 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the EU, which will further align the Montenegrin legislation with the EU acquis, were discussed, as well as the preparation

path. After a number of worrying decisions that that is in the interest of society as a whole and were made in the previous year against the advice emphasized that the appointment of the fourth of the European Commission and the Venice judge of the Constitutional Court remains at the top Commission, in 2023 decisive and tangible progress of the priority list. is urgently needed in the area of the rule of law, in

Michael Miller.

17. III 2023. CONSTITUTIVE SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATING WORKING **GROUP FOR CHAPTER 24 - JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY** "Montenegro is, without a doubt, in the key phase of the negotiation process, in which the fulfilment of the interim benchmarks in chapters 23 and 24 is expected, which is the absolute priority of the Government," said the head of the MEPa, Minister

15. III 2023.

2. III 2023.

23. II 2023.

degree of transparency.

draft of that documents.

BUNDESTAG

with the countries of Southeast Europe.

Hacker from the Freedom Party (FDP).

are obliged to dedicate ourselves more to Montenegro," Hacker said.

Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights.

in chapter 27.

AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MEETING OF THE JCC

With the aim of improving the work of the negotiating

structure, the Collegium has decided to amend the

impetus for this process, the greatest satisfaction for the officers who work diligently on these tasks, but also a strong message to the citizens who give great support to the process of European integration. She added that the election of female judges of the Constitutional Court opened a new perspective in Ana Novaković-Đurović. the process of EU integration, as well as that she She said that she hoped that, if the political hopes that the composition will be complete soon, consensus in Montenegro continues, by the end of even though the Constitutional Court has already the year, they could receive the closing benchmarks started its work. in chapters 23 and 24, which would be the greatest



eting room L

WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 27 - ENVIRONMENT

The head of the Negotiating Working Group, Milan Gazdić, emphasized the importance of intensifying activities in the negotiation chapter 27 and announced that the sessions will be organized on a monthly basis in order to adequately monitor the situation and the implementation of obligations, with a greater

A review was also made of the Draft Programme of Accession for 2023-2024 as well as the upcoming reporting on the implementation of obligations from the Action Plan on meeting the closing benchmarks



obligations leading to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for the negotiation chapters.

MEETING OF THE HEADS OF THE NEGOTIATING

for European Integration. It is necessary to have a body that will monitor the work of the negotiating the working groups quarterly", concluded Žižić.

26. I 2023. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ SPOKE WITH MEPS **BILČIK AND PICULA IN BRUSSELS** "The recipe for solving the political crisis and creating preconditions for entering the final phase of negotiations on accession to the European Union is found in Montenegro" - was the joint conclusion after the conversation that Minister Ana Novaković-Đurović had with members of the European Parliament Vladimir Bilčik and Tonin

Minister Novaković-Đurović thanked the MPs for the opportunity to exchange opinions regarding the current situation in the European agenda of Montenegro. She emphasized that the accession of Montenegro is a key foreign policy priority and that the Government is actively implementing reforms on that path that are within its jurisdiction. She emphasized that Montenegro is still in the process of political transition and that she believes that all political parties in it will show maturity and contribute to the building of independent institutions, above all the Constitutional Court, in order to give momentum to all other political processes, the

of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović, reminded that through the previous Interreg 23. III 2023. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOURTH CALL FOR**

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROJECTS WITH

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, in cooperation with the EU Delegation, officially presented the fourth Call for Project Proposals for the Cross-Border Cooperation

Projects that will be financed from these funds will be aimed at promoting tourism and cultural and natural heritage, as well as encouraging employment, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion of

Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020, worth EUR 2.8 million.

Enhancing Comperation!

16. III 2023. THE 19TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE **ADRIATIC-IONIAN REGION** Acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović, together with colleagues from the Ministry of European Affairs and Director General for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Radovan Bogojević, participated in the 19th meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region in Brussels. In addition to numerous topics, the meeting also discussed the implementation of the EUSAIR programme, the continuation of consultations with young people, as well as the review of the annual report. Also, current events within the IPA ADRION programme and strategic projects that contribute to the realization of the Strategy's goals were presented. Mr Vujović announced that the Ministry of European Affairs will continue to support the implementation of the EUSAIR strategy through the Facility Point project in the period 2021-2027.

according to plan and intensive work is expected in that part in order to complete the obligations that

COMPETITION

22. III 2023. THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR **JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY** The twelfth meeting of the Subcommittee for Justice, Freedom and Security between representatives of Montenegro and the European Commission was held on 22-23 March 2023 in Podgorica, in a hybrid format. The meeting was opened by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Milena Žižić, on behalf of Montenegrin side, and the head of Unit D2 for Montenegro and Serbia in the General Directorate for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Michael Miller on behalf of the European Commission. During the two-day meeting, the progress made by Montenegro in strengthening the rule of law, as a key area in the accession negotiations, was presented. "Montenegro must refocus on the EU accession

17. III 2023. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COLLEGIUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS "As soon as possible, we will improve the decision on the negotiating structure as soon as mechanisms for the coordination of the EU accession possible, appoint members of the Negotiating Team process, restore the position of chief negotiator and their deputies, as well as make decisions on and complete the formation of the negotiation the formation of the remaining negotiating working groups that will intensify the work on a monthly structure." This is crucial in order to ensure efficient basis and quarterly monitor the realization of and high-quality implementation and monitoring planned obligations. of the implementation of all reforms that are part of the European agenda of Montenegro and finally, It was agreed that the newly established speed up EU accession," said Prime Minister Dritan coordination body will be in charge of monitoring Abazović at the first session of the Collegium for the preparation and implementation of the 2023-2024 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to Negotiations. the EU, fulfilment of the obligations arising from the The Collegium for Negotiations discussed the status of the negotiation structure and improvement of interim and closing benchmarks, as well as other the coordination of the negotiation process. issues related to the legal assets and fulfilling the

STATE SECRETARY ŽIŽIĆ HELD A MEETING WITH THE **HEADS OF THE NEGOTIATING WORKING GROUPS** State Secretary at the Ministry of European Affairs, The meeting discussed the preparation and Milena Žižić, met with the heads of negotiating creation of two contributions to the 2023 European working groups. Commission Report for Montenegro. She said that the Ministry of European Affairs In order to achieve better coordination, the Rules of Procedure for the work of negotiating working would continue to hold meetings with the heads of working groups on a monthly basis. "Our goal is to groups for the preparation and management of review what has been done, coordinate plans for accession negotiations on 33 acquis chapters were the next period and make decisions together." adopted.

STATE SECRETARY ŽIŽIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE



State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Milena Žižić, at the round table on the preparation of the

She said that, during the preparation of the document, the competent bodies took into account the compatibility with the Government's work program, EC recommendations from the last Report on Montenegro, as well as

Representatives of the civil sector had questions and comments regarding the planned obligations in Chapter 6 - Company law, Chapter 26 - Education and culture, Chapter 19 - Social policy and employment, Chapter 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services, Chapter 10 - Information society and media and

WORKING GROUPS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS groups for all chapters and point out both good State Secretary in the MEA, Milena Žižić, said that it is necessary to start the negotiation process outcomes and problems and mistakes", announced Žižić. and activate working groups for conducting negotiations. The next step is to make decisions for "The MEA will coordinate the entire process, but we negotiation groups for all negotiation chapters and have to establish a system for the working groups to meet regularly and report on the results. We propose appoint negotiators by clusters. "We will propose to re-establish the Commission that the Commission for European Integration, when it is formed again, meets once a month, and

7. II 2023. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ: BY COMPLETING THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, WE ARE CERTAINLY SPEEDING UP THE PATH TOWARDS THE EU "Determining the list of candidates for the Constitutional Court, after a long blockade of the work of that body, is good news for our progress towards full membership in the EU, but also for the overall democratic development of our society," said the coordinator of the Ministry of European Affairs, Minister Ana Novaković-Đurović on the occasion of adoption the list of candidates by the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. Minister Novaković-Đurović said that she expected that Montenegro would get a functional Constitutional Court at the Parliament session scheduled for February 27, which will send a clear message to our European partners that we are strongly committed to intensifying the reform processes that have begun, both in the

She expressed her belief that, after the election of the remaining judges of the Constitutional Court, Montenegro would begin to accelerate the fulfilment of obligations from the negotiation process, which will enable the beginning of the temporary closure of negotiation chapters in which internal readiness has been

"The election of judges of the Constitutional Court will be a strong impulse for further reforms that will essentially bring our society closer to the European system of standards and values, and bring a higher quality

area of the rule of law and in all other fields and thus accelerate EU accession.

of life to our citizens in all fields," said Novaković-Đurović.

achieved.

Picula.

"Although deceleration in the negotiation process Commissioner Varhelyi confirmed that has been noticed, its blockade is not currently on European Commission remains a reliable partner the agenda of the European Commission, but the on the reform path of Montenegro, and that it will impact of the urgent appointment of judges of continue to support the process of Montenegro the Constitutional Court has been emphasized in joining the European Union with its full capacity, order to fulfil the basic prerequisites for the further through both expert and financial support. Finally, development of institutions that should support Commissioner Varhelyi called on all political actors the rule of law and the overall political system, as in Montenegro to recognize the current geopolitical the basic prerequisite for entering the final phase moment and to strengthen the dynamics of this of the negotiation process", is the summary of process by strengthening the rule of law system. 25. I 2023. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE STABILIZATION AND ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION The meeting was opened by the acting director for the Western Balkans in DG NEAR, Michela Matuello and the coordinator of the work of the Ministry of European Affairs Ana Novaković-Đurović.

"The European path and the obligations arising from the accession negotiations were in our focus during the previous year, which was marked by intense political life and changes at the level of the executive government in Montenegro," pointed out Minister Ana Novaković-Đurović at the twelfth meeting of the

Minister Novaković-Đurović reminded that, despite the challenging circumstances of dynamic political life, all regular annual meetings of seven sub-committees were held after the last meeting of the Committee, as well as two meetings of the Special Group for Public Administration Reform, while, at the state

Stabilization and Association Committee between Montenegro and the European Union.

IPA

30. III 2023.

ALBANIA

17. III 2023.

been implementing joint projects for 12 years,

which indicates the high-quality cooperation

between the two countries and the success of the

overall concept of cross-border cooperation. This

was announced at the ceremony in Peć, which

marked the beginning of the implementation of

projects contracted through the Third Call within

the IPA Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation

During the awarding of certificates to users of

the Third Call, acting Secretary of the Ministry of

European Affairs Miodrag Rašović pointed out that

Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020.

administration level, implementation of reform activities in all chapters of the acquis continued.

municipalities from the border regions of both countries. The deadline for submitting project proposals is June 15 of the current year. State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Milena Žižić, recalled that, through the pre-accession aid programmes IPA I and IPA II, a total of 45 projects worth around EUR 12.9 million were successfully implemented with the aim of improving the standards and quality of life of people in the programme areas. "In addition, the two countries implemented a strategic project worth EUR 3.6 million for the reconstruction of the Božaj-Hani Hotit cross-border crossing and the construction of a new joint border crossing Grabom - Zatrijebačka Cijevna," said Žižić.

8. III 2023.

ENERGY SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR MONTENEGRO Head of MEA, Minister Ana Novaković-Đurović signed the financial documentation with representatives of the European Union in Montenegro, marking the official start of the implementation of the EU energy support package for Montenegro worth EUR 30 million. "This aid is extremely important for the citizens of Montenegro in the time of financial and energy crisis, especially because it is aimed at the most vulnerable categories. I am very happy that this aid package includes a component for increasing energy efficiency and will help Montenegro's transition to green energy," said Novaković-Đurović. Support to Montenegro for transition to n energy dards

Dear readers, of 2023. **REGIONAL AND**

INTERNATIONAL **GATHERINGS** and campaigns.

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COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE

- - Integration presents the most important events and activities in the EU accession process during the first quarter The Ministry of European Affairs is dedicated to coordinating the work of the negotiating structure and intensifying activities with the aim of creating tangible results in all
- The twenty-third number of the Bulletin on European
- Opening speech

- JANUARY MARCH

- ja za evropu evropa za mene

- of first contribution to the European Commission Report as one of the important documents by which we inform the EC about the implemented activities. which there are well-known key shortcomings," said the head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in
- the European Commission's General Directorate for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, By overcoming the institutional deadlock, we are now in a position to direct all our efforts and strengthen activities in order to fulfil the remaining interim benchmarks in chapters 23 and 24 and give new dynamics to the European integration process as a whole, said State Secretary at the Ministry of European Affairs, Milena Žižić. She pointed out that the recent election of three judges of the Constitutional Court, although it took a long time, confirms that we are able to show political maturity and responsibility by finding a compromise

obligations arising from the process of negotiations

between Montenegro and the European Union.

- CONSTITUTIVE SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATING
- 17. II 2023. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ RECEIVED MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE GERMAN

The Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and Head of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković-Đurović, spoke with the members of the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation of the Bundestag

"We are here to get to know Montenegro and find a way to support you in becoming the next member of the European Union." You have to work on building institutions, particularly judicial ones, and progress in the area of the rule of law in order to keep young people in Montenegro, but also to attract investors," said Thomas

He announced more frequent visits by representatives of the Bundestag because, as he added, the German government promised to accompany Montenegro on its way to the EU. "We, as members of the Bundestag,

end result of which should be membership of Montenegro in the European Union. 25. | 2023. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ SPOKE WITH **COMMISSIONER VARHELYI IN BRUSSELS** the meeting of the coordinator of the work of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković-Đurović, and the Commissioner for Enlargement,

Oliver Varhelyi.

the negotiation chapters.

Minister Novaković-Đurović expressed her belief that the judges of the Constitutional Court will be elected in the Parliament of Montenegro, in the most transparent election process so far, and thus open a new perspective in the direction of closing

of the trilateral cross-border cooperation 57.2 million represent grants from the European programme Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia - Bosnia Union. and Herzegovina - Montenegro, which includes As he stressed, the fact that the European the programme period 2021-2027. Union doubled the amount of funds intended In his opening words, acting Director General for the new programme, from EUR 57 million to EUR 117 million, speaks best of the success of the cooperation between the three countries.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR OVERSIGHT OF

THE INTERREG VI-A TRILATERAL CROSS-BORDER

COOPERATION PROGRAMME IPA CROATIA – BOSNIA

IPA cross-border cooperation program Croatia

- Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-

2020, 59 projects with a total value of around EUR 67.3 million were supported, of which EUR

AND HERZEGOVINA - MONTENEGRO

In Kotor, a meeting of the Committee for monitoring the mentioned program was held,

where it was announced that the European Union

has allocated 117 million for the co-financing

THE BEGINNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS CONTRACTED THROUGH THE THIRD CALL WITHIN THE IPA PROGRAMME OF **CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION MONTENEGRO -**KOSOVO 2014-2020 WAS MARKED IN PEĆ Ten new cross-border projects were supported by within the IPA II program, 23 projects with a total the European Union through the IPA Programme value of over EUR 7 million were supported in the for cross-border cooperation Montenegro - Kosovo areas of employment, workforce mobility and social with EUR 3.2 million. Montenegro and Kosovo have and cultural inclusion, environmental protection

to almost 100%.

and tourism. He added that one more project from

the reserve list is expected to be contracted, which

will increase the contracting percentage of this call

"I would like to take this opportunity to refer

specifically to ten projects contracted within the

framework of the Third Call, with a total value of

EUR 3.2 million, in which as many as 29 partner

organizations and institutions from the territory

of Montenegro and Kosovo will implement their

activities in the programme area, which includes

the territory of 19 municipalities", Rašović said.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE EU

THE BEGINNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS CONTRACTED THROUGH THE THIRD CALL WITHIN THE IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA 2014-2020, **MARKED IN SHKODËR** During the awarding of certificates to the users of the Third Call, acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds, Bojan Vujović, stressed that cooperation between Montenegro and Albania is particularly important in the context of the accession process, where it is possible to exchange experience

and knowledge through the joint implementation of projects, in areas of importance and mutual interest. He reminded of the cooperation between the two countries, which started 15 years ago, and the fact that within IPA II, 21 projects with a total value of EUR 7 million are financed in the fields of employment, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion, environmental protection and tourism. "I will use the opportunity to refer specifically to the six projects that were contracted within this call, with a total value of EUR 2.1 million, in which as many as 19 partner organizations and institutions from the territory of Montenegro and Albania will participate," Vujović said. COLOSSEO Presentation of the I

21. II 2023. A MURAL THAT IS A SYMBOL OF EUROPEAN **UNITY AND DIVERSITY PROMOTED IN BAR** The State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, "These programmes are especially recognized in Dr Milena Žižić, and the President of the Municipality of Bar, where institutions and organizations implement

diversity". "The European Union represents a community of

different peoples, traditions and cultures." That is "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the

why it is essential that we teach children to respect Ministry of European Affairs for its continuous support, which resulted in a large number of projects that diversity and to grow up in such an environment," said Žižić. were implemented in our municipality with the help of EU pre-accession funds. The local administration, As she emphasized, Montenegro has been using pre-accession funds of the European Union for recognized as an example of successful practice in the implementation of these projects, will continue to cooperation with its neighbours through various cross-border cooperation programmes for more than 15 years.

citizens.

Bar Dušan Raičević visited the Yugoslavia Elementary

School in Bar, where they promoted a painted mural

Speaking about the symbolism of the mural, Žižić

pointed out that this artistic project strongly illustrates

the basic motto of the European Union "United in

dedicated to European cooperation.

strive to implement all international activities in the future with the aim of achieving concrete benefits for the citizens of Bar", pointed out Raičević.

numerous projects in cooperation with partners from

the surrounding area, all with the aim of providing

The President of the Municipality of Bar, Dušan

Raičević, said that the Municipality of Bar, through

cross-border cooperation, strives to bring the benefits of the European Union closer to our youngest fellow

citizens with a better quality of life," added Žižić.



13. II 2023.

MEETINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR MONITORING

AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE IPA CROSS-

BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA -

The meetings were attended by the delegation of Montenegro, led by acting Director General of the

At the meetings, it was announced that, within the framework of the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia - Montenegro 2014-2020, institutions and organizations from the two countries

MONTENEGRO 2014-2020 HELD IN BELGRADE

received financial support for the implementation of joint projects of a total value of EUR 8.4 million, the largest part of which was provided through the EU Pre-Accession Support Instrument. "These are projects aimed at increasing employability and employment opportunities, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion, as well as projects that contribute to environmental protection, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and risk management in order to protect natural resources." "Also, one part of the projects refers to the improvement of capacities for the use of touristic potential in the programme area," said Vujović.

Border Cooperation Programme, within which a total of 23 projects with a value of EUR 8.57 million were "Through successful partnerships, Montenegrin and Kosovo institutions and organizations with the support of the EU, implement projects in the fields of employment, agriculture, environmental protection and tourism." Under the first call, 7 projects worth EUR 2.3 million were implemented. In the second call, 6

MEETINGS OF THE JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

(JMC) AND THE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE

MONTENEGRO - KOSOVO 2014-2020 HELD IN PRISTINA

The meetings were attended by the delegation of Montenegro led by acting Director General of the

IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

It was jointly assessed that Montenegro and Kosovo cooperate successfully thanks to the IPA Crosssupported in the programme period 2014-2020 through three calls. projects worth EUR 2.4 million were contracted, three of which have already been completed, while in the third call 10 projects were supported with a total budget of EUR 3.87 million" Vujović said. As he stated, the Ministry of European Affairs is successfully cooperating with colleagues from Kosovo within the financial perspective of IPA II, adding that he expects continued successful cooperation with the local authorities during the financial cycle of IPA III, which covers the period from 2021 to 2027.

Montenegro could be denied part of the financial from the European Commission (EC) or other EU support from European funds cannot and will not institutions about a possible reduction in support happen. from European funds ", Vujović said. "Montenegro has not received any official He said that at the technical and administrative announcement from the institutions of the level, they regularly continue with the preparation

"This is supported by the fact that until now, even

in the context of the known challenges in the field of political criteria that we are facing, we have

not directly received any official announcement

current phase of the accession process.



MEETINGS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE

INTERREG MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME 2014-

2027 PROGRAMME HELD IN MARSEILLE

2020 (MED) AND THE INTERREG EURO-MED 2021-

Zižić said that during the previous year, the number of cross-border and Interreg projects from the IPA Il programme reached 255, which is a significant number considering the size of the country and the

Within each network, cities will share experiences and learn from each other to respond to local challenges and foster sustainable urban development, with themes and activities focused on digital transformation, green transition and gender equality. The implementation of activities within these networks will begin in June 2023 and will last until the end of 2025. In order to respond to the identified challenges, each partner city will develop an Integrated Action Plan in cooperation with the 21. II 2023.

"One of the priorities of the Government's work and the EU accession process is the development of the information society in Montenegro, so we are working intensively on the development of electronic administration and business, through the introduction of e-services, in order to facilitate and speed up procedures such as Minister Novaković-Đurović explained that Montenegro is significantly aligned with the EU obligations and standards under Chapter 10 - Information society and media, which is one of the more advanced chapters in the negotiation process. "In this entire process of digitization and introduction of electronic administration, local governments have a key role as the first address of citizens, and it is precisely there that they should feel the practical benefit of this process, which will ensure the improvement of the quality of life of citizens and the economy, as well as the optimization of business processes in public administration" said Novaković-Đurović.

COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR PUBLISHING OF THE LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AS MEMBERS OF THE **OPERATIONAL BODY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STRATEGY ON MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION 2023 - 2026** ne4,eu :u4,me Pursuant to Article 8 of the Decree on the election of

INFORMATION STRATEGY ON MONTENEGRO'S **ACCESSION TO THE EU 2023-2026.** Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2023-2026. 24. | 2023.

JAVNI POZIV NVO za predlaganje predstavnika za Operativno tijelo rovođenje Strategije informisar osti o pristupanju Crne Gore El 2023-2026.

The goal of the competition was to make the media more interested in reporting on Montenegro's accession to the EU, the impact of the process on



10. II 2023.

30. | 2023.

Directorate for European Funds, Bojan Vujović.

Directorate for European Funds, Bojan Vujović.

VUJOVIĆ: MONTENEGRO WILL NOT BE DENIED

SUPPORT FROM THE EU FUNDS

Acting Director General of the Directorate for

European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs,

Bojan Vujović, in an interview with the MINA agency, said that he believes that the outcome in which

European Union (EU) about a possible decrease in

with assessments that the sanctions could include

the termination of support from EU funds.

of new and the implementation of already support from European funds," Vujović said. approved projects funded by the EU, with constant In recent weeks, warning messages have been communication with the competent services of received from several addresses about the possible the EC. halting of the negotiation process with the EU due to According to Vujović, the continuation of EU the political and institutional crisis in Montenegro, financial support is extremely important during the

from the civil sector that can further elaborate the this process, said acting Director General of the Directorate for EU Funds, Bojan Vujović. institutional mechanisms for the implementation He added that it is necessary to establish systemic of gender equality policies," concluded Vujović. cooperation of all relevant institutions and the civil

19. I 2023.

great interest of Montenegrin institutions and organizations in the invitations of the new financial perspectives. "Confirmation of the commitment of users from Montenegro is also the fact that within the framework of the new calls related to the Smarter and Greener Mediterranean priorities, Montenegrin partners expressed interest for participating in 69 project proposals, while under the projects of I and III calls for management

The meetings, organized by the Joint Secretariat of the programme, were attended by representatives of the European Commission, the Management Body and the Joint Secretariat of the two programmes, and the national bodies of the participating countries. The delegation of Montenegro was led by acting Director General for European Funds in

the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović. Summarizing the results of Montenegro's participation in the programme, Vujović expressed satisfaction with the participation of Montenegrin partners in 28 projects of the Interreg MED programme, with a total budget of EUR 2.6 million, and added that the success is reflected in the

publishing of detailed information by the end of January. "Despite organizational and institutional changes, thanks to the intensive work of the EU funds management structure, we rounded off the year 2022 with the successful implementation of already approved programmes and projects, numerous new contracts and over EUR 120 million of newly allocated European funds through various national, regional, cross-border and transnational programmes", said Žižić. 10. I 2023. FIRST CALL FOR THE URBACT IV PROGRAMME FOR

The URBACT IV programme has published the first

call for project proposals, and for the first time cities from countries that are beneficiaries of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), including Montenegro, have the right to participate. The deadline for submitting project proposals is 31

CITIES

March 2023 at 3 p.m.

transformation at the local level. priorities of the Government's work and the process of accession to the European Union. company registration, scheduling inspections, electronic identification" said the Minister. NA CRNE GORE

Macedonia and Serbia), as well as cities from other states, which must provide their own resources. The lead partner of each network must be from an EU member state. The conference was organized by the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro with the support of the EUTAIEX instrument. Participants of the meeting exchanged experiences in developing and applying the concept of digital Minister Ana Novaković-Đurović stressed that the theme of the conference, e-government, is one of the

Kolašin, Rožaje and Mojkovac, as well as new

project documentation for the highway," said the

She also reminded that EUR 15 million were

allocated to Montenegro from the Multi-user IPA

for border surveillance equipment, as well as that,

as part of the reprogramming of the IPA 2023

national programme for the needs of the energy

crisis, we are expecting budget support amounting

Co-funded by the European Union

State Secretary.

to EUR 30 million.

LISTA representatives of non-governmental organizations to the public administration working bodies and the implementation of public hearings in the preparation of laws and strategies (Official Gazette of Montenegro 41/18), the General 2023-2026. Secretariat of the Government announced the list of representatives proposed for members of the Operational Anđela Miličić, UMHCG Body for the Implementation of the Public Information

PUBLIC CALL FOR NGOS TO NOMINATE A MEMBER

OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE RULE OF LAW

PUBLIC CALL FOR NGOS TO NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE OPERATIONAL BODY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC

Konkurs za

članak i video

O PROCESU PRISTUPANJA

Rok za dostavljanje predloga 25. mart

najbolji

CRNE GORE EU

support, which will be implemented in the next 7 years, Montenegrin partners are participating in the management of two projects", said Vujović. 12. I 2023. STATE SECRETARY ŽIŽIĆ: WE SUCCESSFULLY **MANAGED OVER EUR 120 MILLION OF NEW EU FUNDS** number of potential beneficiaries. "The first financial agreement for the national programme IPA 2021, worth over EUR 33 million, was signed in December, and at the beginning of December the EC adopted the national programme IPA 2022 worth almost EUR 40 million" said Žižić. She reminded that in 2022, two calls for the submission of projects of the Western Balkans Investment Framework were completed, where State Secretary at the Ministry of European Affairs, Montenegro was granted additional amount of Milena Žižić, presented key results in the area of circa EUR 42 million for new infrastructure projects. "Through these projects, we will get new and the EU support programme to Montenegro during 2022 at the Government session, announcing the reconstructed schools, as well as wastewater treatment plants and sewerage networks in

The goal of this call is to establish Networks for planning activities, which include 8 to 10 cities, through the participation of local selfgovernments, inter-municipal and regional entities and institutions dealing with urban development. local URBACT group, composed of local entities and citizens. Based on these plans, cities will be able to test solutions through smaller-scale activities. Partners within the networks can be cities from EU member states, partner states (Norway and Switzerland), IPA beneficiary states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ-ĐUROVIĆ SPOKE AT THE **CONFERENCE "E-GOVERNMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL"**

representatives of non-governmental organizations to the public administration working bodies and the implementation of public hearings in the preparation of laws and strategies (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 41/18), and in conjunction with the Decision on establishing the structure for negotiations on the accession of Montenegro to the European Union (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 112/22), the Ministry of European Affairs has published the list of representatives who have been proposed as members of the Council for the Rule of Law. 10. III 2023.

10. III 2023.

2023 - 2026.

20. II 2023.

that discusses all issues related to negotiations in the area of the rule of law, as well as monitoring the implementation of obligations arising from Chapters 23 - Justice and fundamental rights and Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security. As a member of the Council for the Rule of Law, a non-governmental organization could propose only one representative, and based on the results of the public call, the Ministry of European Affairs will include one representative of non-governmental organizations in the Council for the Rule of Law. 15. II 2023.

The Ministry of European Affairs has announced a public call for non-governmental organizations to nominate a representative to become a member of the Council for the Rule of Law, a working body

of Montenegro has announced a public call for the nomination of four representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Operational Body for the Implementation of the Public Information Strategy on MEA ANNOUNCED A PUBLIC CALL FOR CONSULTATION OF THE INTERESTED PUBLIC REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE ACCESSION OF MONTENEGRO **TO THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2023 - 2024.**

of laws and strategies (Official Gazette of Montenegro 41/18), the Ministry of European Affairs issued a public call for consultations to the interested public regarding the preparation of Draft 2023-2024 Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the European Union. OTHER TOPICS 06. III 2023. GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE CONTEST FOR THE BEST **NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AND VIDEO STORY ABOUT** THE PROCESS OF ACCESSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE EU

WHO HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AS MEMBERS OF THE predložen za člana predloženih za Operativno tijelo za sprovođenje Strategije informisanja Sara Nikčević, NVO Centar za ženska prava Strategy on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union Željko Đukić, NVO Multimedijal Montenegro

COUNCIL FOR THE RULE OF LAW Pursuant to Article 8 of the Decree on the election of PREDSTAVNIK NVO SAVJETA ZA VLADAVINU PRAVA Jovan Bojović, NVO Juventas PREDSTAVNIKA NVO

The Sector for Public Informing on the European Union and the European Union Accession Process of the General Secretariat of the Government Pursuant to Article 12 of the Decree on the election of representatives of non-governmental organizations to the public administration working bodies and the implementation of public hearings in the preparation

Recognizing the importance of the Montenegrin media in the European integration process, the Sector for Public Informing on the European Union and the EU Accession Process of the General Secretariat of the Government announced a contest for the best newspaper article and video story on the process of Montenegro's EU accession.

the lives of Montenegrin citizens, the application

of European standards and regulations, the

adoption of European values and the support of

the European Union through available funds and

the implementation of projects.