NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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NEWSLETTER ▪

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Editorial

Dear reader,

The twenty-ninth Newsletter on European Integration offers an overview of the key developments and activities in the EU accession process that took place in the second quarter of 2024.

The Ministry of European Affairs is committed to coordinating the work of the negotiation structure and intensifying activities aimed at producing tangible results in all chapters, ensuring partnership and cooperation with other bodies, and strengthening of the ties and relations with EU institutions and EU Member States so that Montenegro can take its place in the European family as one of equal partners.

During the previous three months we continued implementing the activities aimed at coordinating the negotiation process, IPA, cooperating with local self-governments and civil sector, as well as organizing appropriate activities and campaigns.

We believe that this Newsletter contributes to raising the level of information, understanding and awareness among our citizens about the accession process and future Montenegro's membership in the EU.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

THE EVENT THAT MARKED THE PERIOD BEHIND US

26. VI 2024.

HISTORIC DAY – MONTENEGRO GOT POSITIVE IBAR

Intergovernmental Conference took place in Brussels and Montenegro got a positive Interim Benchmark Assessment Report (IBAR) in the field of the rule of law.

Montenegrin Prime Minister Milojko Spajić said that Montenegro must not allow ever again to find itself in the situation of the years of stagnation and waiting for the implementation of reforms that were essentially to improve the standard and quality of life of Montenegrin citizens.

"This is the day when, in addition to obtaining the positive IBAR in the field of the rule of law, we will finally deblock the opportunity to close the remaining chapters, for the first time in the last seven years. That is a reason to celebrate, but also a new hope for our EU path", said the Prime Minister Spajić in the Intergovernmental Conference chaired by the Belgian Head of Diplomacy Hadja Lahbib.

European Commissionaire for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi congratulated to Montenegro for the exceptional work done to get the IBAR, but also for the efforts in the context of achieving the strict EU standards.

"IBAR is the achievement which announces that you are entering the final stage of the negotiation process. This is a strong political signal for people in Montenegro that the enlargement process is alive. This is a historic moment for all candidate countries, because it is the first time since Croatia that a country has received IBAR, which is a great message", emphasized Varhelyi.

Appreciations for the performance of the Government and the Parliament in the previous months came from the representatives of all Member States.

"Montenegro has yet again demonstrated its commitment to the European Union and took the position of a forerunner in the integration process. We welcome your efforts and determination to achieve the values cherished by the European family. Montenegro has done everything to return to the proper European path and I hope you will stay on that path in political terms. Other candidate countries will look up to you and that is why your success is so important. Now we, as European Union, must show the commitment to support you in your efforts", underlined Marko Stucin, Minister of European Affairs of Slovenia.

During the meeting participants emphasized that Montenegro was an important European Union partner in the Western Balkans and that the enlargement was an important geopolitical and strategic goal significant for stability of Europe.

THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

05. IV 2024.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

„Everything is going as planned and in line with the dynamic plan for obtaining the positive IBAR and the deadlines agreed with the EC, and we expect to get the Interim Benchmark Assessment Report during the summer. It is the obligation of the Ministry of European Affairs to inform the European Commission by the end of April about the obligations we met, to send a report on the level of preparedness regarding the interim benchmarks and operational conclusions, and to provide an explanation of why certain benchmarks will not be fully achieved, with a clear plan when and how they will be treated in the time to come", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević in the meeting of the Committee on European Integration.

The Minister said that the matter of IBAR and the matter of European integration was set very high on the agenda and was one of the key priorities not only of the Government but of the Parliament too, emphasizing that it was of exceptional importance that we had a consensus regarding European integration process.

„As for the Government, we are not worried when it comes to meeting the obligations for obtaining a positive IBAR. Political will is there. As I can see, there is a constructive attitude in the Parliament. I am sure that after obtaining the positive opinion from the EC, these laws that are in the draft stage will get a priority treatment in the voting process in the Parliament," added Gorčević.

16. IV 2024.

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE EU-MONTENEGRO JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The eighteenth meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the civil society of the European Union and Montenegro (JCC) that took place in Podgorica, sent a clear message to the EU institutions that Montenegro was firmly committed to becoming the 28th member of the EU by 2028.

„EU remains Montenegro's most important foreign-policy goal, the national interest that all stakeholders in the society are dedicated to. The Government will pursue even more intensive activities aimed at ensuring that Montenegro can become the 28th member state by 2028", said the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović.

The meeting was co-chaired by the member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Mr Decebal-Stefanita Padure and the professor Gordana Đurović from Montenegrin Pan-European Union.

Ambassador of the EU to Montenegro Oana Cristina Popa welcomed the involvement of the representatives of civil society in all working groups in the Montenegrin negotiation structure.

„This goes together with a strong engagement of the EU on the strengthening and supporting full integration of the entire Western Balkan region. Montenegro now has a great opportunity to finally go forward in a determined manner, becoming thus a source of inspiration for its neighbours. We will all put efforts into ensuring that this opportunity is not missed," said the EU Ambassador.

Participants in the meeting adopted a Joint Declaration of the JCC which was then forwarded to the Stabilization and Association Committee, Parliamentary Committee for stabilization and association, European External Action Service, European Commission, and the Government of Montenegro.

18. IV 2024.

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ TALKED TO THE COELA MEMBERS

Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the European Union Predrag Zenović and the Head of Montenegro's Mission to the EU, Ambassador Petar Marković, met in Brussels with the members of the EU Council's Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the Union (COELA), to inform them about the current developments in the European integration process expected administration to show its strength and capacity to implement the remaining activities, i.e. implement reforms to obtain IBAR.

Member States extended unanimous support for the finalization of reforms, encouragement, and positive messages for everything done in such a short period of time, as well as congratulations for the operation of the negotiation structure and intensive activities that marked the work of this and challenges on that path, with a particular focus on the results in the Chapters 23 and 24.

Chief Negotiator Zenović reminded that the dialogue between Montenegro and EU was continuous and intensive and that was taking place on all levels. He also underlined that there was a strong political will to meet the remaining obligations and that he Government. All the delegates of COELA agreed in one thing – that Montenegro had achieved a visible progress on its path to the EU and that they expected this pace of meeting the interim benchmarks to continue in line with the agreed deadlines so that it could all be followed by IBAR and Inter-Governmental Conference in June.

11. VI 2024.

17TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, CUSTOMS AND TAXES

The meeting was opened by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Mr Bojan Božović.

„The Government of Montenegro continues working even more intensively to meet all the obligations defined in the European agenda. A large part of the most demanding obligations within the Chapters 23 and 24 has been accomplished and, I believe, it will significantly contribute to meeting the closing benchmarks in other negotiation chapters and accelerate the path towards their temporary closing", said Božović.

Speaking about the fields that fall within the scope of work of this Sub-Committee that are related to the chapters 1. Freedom of movement of goods, 16. Taxation, 20. Enterprise and industrial policy, 29. Customs union, and 30. External relations, Božović said that the activities were being done at an accelerated pace and that Montenegro worked in a dedicated manner on further alignment and implementation of the adopted legislation.

Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General of the EC for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Cindy van der Boogert welcomed Montenegro's strong focus in the last six months on the implementation of reforms with a view to obtaining a positive Interim Benchmarks Assessment Report (IBAR) for the chapters 23 and 24 in the field of the rule of law. This turning point paves the path for temporary closing of other negotiation chapters.

12. VI 2024.

14TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR INNOVATION, HUMAN RESOURCES, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SOCIAL POLICY

The meeting was opened by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Božović.

„This Government has taken seriously both its job and the will of the citizens to see Montenegro as the next EU member. In the period behind us, we were focused on achieving concrete results in the chapters 23 and 24 in order to revive the negotiation process. We also invested all the capacities in the consistent implementation of what we defined within the European agenda regarding the process of meeting the closing benchmarks in other chapters of the EU acquis", said Božović.

Božović expressed his belief that Montenegro had already proven that it was capable of dealing with the challenges on this path and that it was increasingly close to achieving its goal – membership in the EU.

Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General of the EC for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Cindy van der Boogert welcomed Montenegro's strong focus in the last six months on the implementation of reforms with a view to obtaining the positive IBAR.

19. VI 2024.

17TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REGIONAL POLICY

The meeting discussed the progress achieved in the fields covered by the following chapters: 14. Transport policy, 15. Energy, 22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments and 27. Environment and climate change.

Representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented the results achieved, as well as the ongoing and planned activities related to alignment of the national legislation with the EU acquis and strengthening of administrative capacities. They exchanged opinions with their colleagues from the EC about the process of meeting the requirements stemming from the European agenda in the fields treated by these chapters.

"Montenegro has been investing continuous efforts aimed at aligning our legislation with the European legislation in the field of transport, energy, environment and climate change, as well as regional policy, and its high quality implementation", said the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović.

The Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović said that, after an intensive and successful work on the Chapters 23 and 24, Montenegro was strongly committed to intensifying activities on meeting the closing benchmarks in other negotiation chapters.

21. VI 2024.

FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR INTERNAL MARKET AND COMPETITION

"We have made a significant progress in aligning our legislation with the EU acquis. Montenegro adopted numerous reforms to improve regulatory

Predrag Zenović in Brussels during the Fifteenth meeting of the EC - Montenegro Sub-committee for internal market and competition.

framework regulating the internal market. These efforts are not related only to compliance with the legislation, but also reflect our commitment to contributing to the overall stability and prosperity of the European continent. We recognize that the harmonized internal market is not only a bureaucratic request but the key path to economic growth, innovations and strengthening of competitiveness for our country and broader European community", said the Chief Negotiator

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General of the EC for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Cindy van der Boogert. European Commission commended Montenegro for the progress achieved in the chapters on the rule of law and fundamental rights, which was the key for unlocking the next stage of the negotiation process and starting with temporary closing of chapters.

IPA

02. IV 2024.

CLOSING CONFERENCE OF THE IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA 2014-2020

The conference sent the message that, for 16 years already, Montenegro and Albania had been cooperating within the cross-border cooperation programmes, and that 21 projects supported by the European Union with the total of 7 million euros were successfully implemented through the financial framework IPA II.

State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro Bojan Božović said that the Projects within the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Albania constituted a response to the challenges in the fields of employment, labour mobility, social and cultural inclusion, environment protection and adaptation to climate change.

20. IV 2024.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAMME

The meeting that took place in Bari was attended by the representatives of the national authorities from the countries participating in the programme – Italy (regions Puglia and Molise), Albania and Montenegro.

In the meeting it was agreed that the Call for Proposals for standard projects within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme would be published in May 2024.

The envisaged total value of the budget for joint cross-border projects within this call amounts to 38 million euros, out of which more than 31 million are EU grants. As announced, after the opening of the Call, Info Days will be organized in all three partner countries, presenting in detail the requirements and application process.

The meeting reviewed current state of affairs in the implementation of strategic and small-scale projects that had been approved within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021-2027. As for the joint strategic projects, their value amounts to the total of 24.9 million euros, out of which 7 million euros for Montenegrin partners. Ministry of Culture and Media of Montenegro and Marine Biology Institute of the University of Montenegro are the leading partners in two approved strategic projects.

26. VI 2024.

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME INTERREG IPA VI-A IPA CROATIA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO 2021-2027

36 Montenegrin institutions and organizations will participate in the implementation of 29 projects supported within the First Call for Project Proposals within the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021-2027.

As presented in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Programme that took place in Mostar, the total value of participation of Montenegrin institutions and organizations in these projects amounts to about 12.5 million euros, out of which 10.5 million are European Union grants.

Within the 29 projects, three Montenegrin institutions will be leading partners. These are Municipality of Tuzi (project To 0 Waste), Marine Biology Institute of the University of Montenegro (project BLUECONNECT) and General Hospital „Blažo Orlandić" in Bar (project PATODIGITAL).

Other entities from Montenegro participate as project partners.

26. IV 2024.

INFO DAY FOR TWO CALLS WITHIN THE INTERREG EUROPE PROGRAMME

The message from the Info Day dedicated to the Third and Restrictive Call within the Programme of interregional cooperation Interreg Europe is that Montenegrin institutions and organizations have an opportunity to establish cooperation with partners from 35 European countries within this Programme and to implement projects that focus strengthening of capacities for research and innovation, through environment protection and social policies to integrated urban development – the Programme works on creating a smarter, greener, better connected and more inclusive Europe, Europe that is closer to its citizens, encouraging better governance at the same tame", on exchange of experience and better management of the regional development policies.

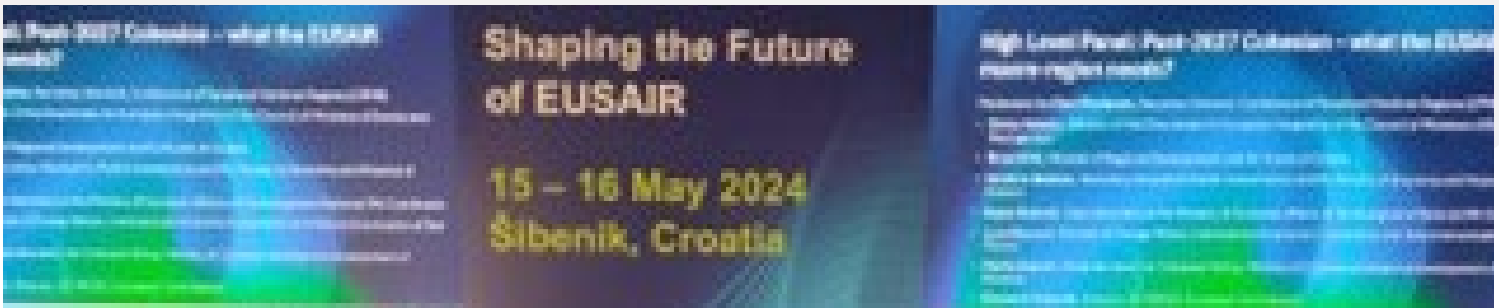
„Through a broad range of topics – from said the acting Director General in the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs, Miloš Marković.

15. V 2024.

STATE SECRETARY BOŽOVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE NINTH ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR ADRIATIC-IONIAN REGION

Regional cooperation, integration of Western Balkan states into European Union and good governance are of key importance for development and prosperity of the Adriatic Ionian region. This is the message from the Ninth Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) that took place on 15th and 16th May in Šibenik.

Montenegrin delegation in the Forum was led by Bojan Božović, State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs who said that, thanks to cooperation within EUSAIR, Montenegro had got a significant support for infrastructural projects, which ensured better connections of the country with the region, better protection of biodiversity, development of sustainable tourism and better governance.



30. V 2024.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECT „SA CREATIVITY“

Meeting of partners officially marked the beginning of the strategic project „SA Creativity“ (Creativity in South Adriatic), which is implemented jointly by institutions from Italy, Albania and Montenegro within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme.

The Project aims at improving tourism offer in the three countries through strengthening of culture and creative industries, exchange of knowledge among artists and creators and reviving cultural sites.

Holder of the project on Montenegrin side is the Ministry of Culture and Media. Along with the institutions from the Italian regions of Puglia and Molise and from Albania, one of the partners is the National Tourism Organization of Montenegro.

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević congratulated to the Ministry of Culture and Media on the opportunity to be a holder of the project worth almost 4.8 million euros, which is this time financed through the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme. She expressed her belief that they got this opportunity thanks to their success in managing the recently finished project 3C implemented within the previous perspective of the Interreg IPA programme Italy – Albania – Montenegro.

Minister of Culture and Media Tamara Vujović said that the Ministry of Culture and Media would work on a more active and more responsible use of the potentials of the European Union funds for the sectors of culture and creativity, so that together with the partners they could accelerate growth and ensure sustainability of the sector, which would put it one step ahead other sectors.

11. VI 2024.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN

AFFAIRS IN THE WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS WITHIN THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA - MONTENEGRO 2021–2027

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme.

The workshop was attended by more than 40 representatives of national and local institutions and non-governmental organizations. During the training, the participants got a detailed presentation of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme of these two countries, its goals, structure and priorities, key aspects of the project cycle and project development, but also practical advice about the manner of application, preparation of the logical frame matrix and budget. All interested persons had an opportunity to get answers to their questions.

11. VI 2024.

INFO DAY ABOUT THE CALL FOR STANDARD PROJECTS WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAMME

The message of the national Info Day dedicated to the Call for standard projects within the Interreg and Montenegro was of key importance for development and prosperity of our countries.

IPA South Adriatic Programme, that took place in Podgorica, is that 38 million euros will be allocated for joint projects of the institutions and organizations from Italy, Albania, and Montenegro, out of which 31 million euros are European Union grants.

State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs and the national IPA coordinator Bojan Božović emphasized that cooperation of Italy, Albania „Through the previous cooperation programme, we have laid solid foundations for the joint future of the South Adriatic region, with the financial support of the European Union. This area, rich in history, culture and natural beauties, has a huge potential that we can activate by working together, improving thus the quality of life for our citizens, addressing common challenges and using numerous possibilities available to us", said Božović.

13. VI 2024.

MONTENEGRO TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERREG EURO-MED PROGRAMME

In the 10th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg Euro-MED programme that took place on 12th June in Valletta in Malta, Montenegro officially took over the presidency of this programme for six months, i.e. by the end of 2024.

Interreg Euro-MED is the programme of trans-national cooperation among 14 countries of the European Mediterranean, the goal of which is to contribute to transition to climate neutral and resilient societies, and to reduce the impact of global changes on the Mediterranean resources.

Taking over the presidency provides Montenegro with an opportunity to increase visibility of this programme among various stakeholders and additionally improve cooperation within the programme area.

In his presentation in the Monitoring Committee meeting, Miloš Marković, acting Director General of the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs, said that Montenegro's participation in the Interreg Euro-MED programme significantly contributed to sustainable development, economic growth, protection of the environment, social cohesion and building of institutional capacities, positioning Montenegro as an active and equal member of the community of the Mediterranean countries.

14. VI 2024.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN BRUSSELS FOR THE EU MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASINS STRATEGIES DAY

Macro-Regional and Sea Basins Strategies Days took place on 12th and 13th June in Brussels with the motto „Strategies for Cooperation" and participation of the delegation of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro.

The event, organized by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), brought together representatives of numerous institutions and representatives of the civil society from EU countries and countries candidates for membership in the EU.

The event was organized with a view to promoting cooperation and exchange of experience among the key stakeholders of the four EU macro-regional strategies (Alpine, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian, Baltic) and three sea basin strategies (Atlantic, Western Mediterranean and Black Sea).

The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs and the head of the delegation was the head of the Directorate for horizontal issues and macro-regional cooperation Tatjana Bošković.

In the meeting of national coordinators of the EU strategy for the Danube region, Bošković stated that Montenegro was on a turning point on its path towards EU, given the fact that we were expecting the positive Interim Benchmark Assessment Report for the chapters 23 and 24, and that Montenegro's participation in macro-regional strategies facilitated the accession process and preparations for using the available European funds.

24. VI 2024.

INFO DAY ON THE FIFTH CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS WITHIN THE INTERREG EURO-MED PROGRAMME

Info Day on the Fifth Call for Proposals of strategic territorial projects within the Trans-national cooperation programme Interreg Euro-MED took place in the National Library „Radosav Ljumović" in Podgorica, organized by the Ministry of European Affairs.

The event presented the manner and requirements for application, as well as information important for potential partners from Montenegro.

Interreg Euro-MED is the trans-national cooperation programme among the countries of the European Mediterranean, the goal of which is to contribute to green transition, sustainable development and building of a climate-neutral and resilient society, through cooperation and finding solutions for common challenges.

With the support of the European Union, this programme finances projects that can produce concrete responses to the four missions of the programme – innovative economy, preservation of natural resources, green living areas and sustainable tourism.

28. VI 2024.

SECTORIAL IPA MONITORING COMMITTEES MEETING

The meeting emphasized that alignment to and achievement of EU standards using the pre-accession funds was of key importance for the process of Montenegro's integration. It discussed the progress in all sectors supported by pre-accession programmes and the ways to use the support in the best possible way for Montenegro to close the accession process in the years to come.

Acting Director General for coordination of the EU financial support in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Vujović provided information about the current state of affairs in the field of using European funds. He underlined a high level of contracting the funds within the IPA II financial perspective that amounted to 95%, which was a solid basis for the current efforts invested within the IPA III perspective. He emphasized activities on the strengthening of institutional capacities for using EU funds and meeting the closing benchmarks within the Chapter 22 – Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments. He also highlighted the current work on the review of the Action Plan for meeting the cohesion policy requirements, aimed at ensuring that Montenegro is ready to absorb and efficiently use available EU funds after membership.

28. VI 2024.

MUNICIPALITY OF NIKŠIĆ SUPPORTED THROUGH THE URBACT IV PROGRAMME

Nikšić will participate in the network for innovation

Municipality of Nikšić will participate in one of the 10 networks of the programme of inter-regional cooperation URBACT IV, approved in today's meeting of the Monitoring Committee of this programme.

transfer Co-CALICO, that deals with innovative solutions for the challenges in housing policy, i.e. the lack of housing units. In addition to municipalities from Montenegro, the network includes partner municipalities form Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

This Montenegrin municipality is thus joining the municipalities of Berane, Bijelo Polje and Budva that already participate in the URBACT programme through the action planning networks approved earlier (Bijelo Polje in two and Berane and Budva in one each).

URBACT IV is the programme of inter-regional cooperation aimed at promoting integrated sustainable urban development, improving local policies and better management in cities and municipalities. All 27 EU Member States participate in the programme, together with Norway and Switzerland and countries candidates for EU membership (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine). The programme is co-financed by the European Union.

28-30. VI 2024.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPEN FEST

Tourism festival – Kolašin Open Fest, funded by the European Union (EU) through the IPA cross-border cooperation programme Montenegro – Kosovo

Tourism for the Future. She reminded that the project started on 15th June 2023 "with a view to contributing to cross-border cooperation in and implemented by the Municipality of Kolašin, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, Prishtina Rea and Đeravica, took place from 28th to 30th June.

The goal of the festival was to build a branded tourism identity that provides Kolašin with joy and entertainment, tastes and adventures, promotion and networking of tourism potentials, opportunities and connections with about 30 diverse activities and events organized in the three days of the festival.

The Head of the Directorate for Bilateral Cross-Border Programmes in the Ministry of European Affairs, Nada Pejović talked in the opening of the Festival about the importance of the programme sustainable tourism between Montenegro and Kosovo".

„That cooperation is implemented through networking, implementation of the Green Key, environmental standards, and improvement of competitiveness and joint promotions. It is already visible that the project brought new energy and new approach to the tourism industry and that it presented the city of Kolašin as one of the most beautiful and most demanded tourism destinations. We deeply believe that this festival will become traditional and have its life after the end of this project. We also believe it will be a good role model of the best way to promote good neighbourly relations and natural and cultural heritage of both countries", explained Pejović.

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

08. IV 2024.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE PANEL DEBATE „ACCELERATED INTEGRATION: INVESTMENT IN EUROPEAN SECURITY" HELD IN SOFIA

„Having 12 years of negotiations about EU membership behind us, we can say that only now this idea has genuinely realistic prospects. Through serious and comprehensive reforms that we have made in a very short period of time, we have turned the accession to the EU from an unreachable dream to reality at hand", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević in the panel debate „Accelerated Integration: Investment in European Security" that was organized by Alde party, Atlantic Club and European Liberal Forum in Sofia.

In the panel where the Rector of the College of Europe Federica Mogherini was moderating and representatives of Western Balkan countries, Turkey and Romania were participating, the Minister Gorčević said that Montenegro had a realistic chance and a historic opportunity to accede to the union of European states and nations in a very short period of time.

16. IV 2024.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN BRUSSELS IN THE PANEL „TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE"

The panel took place within the conference „Towards a Common Future" that was organized by the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

"Accession to the EU is not just another political priority for Montenegro, but a choice of a whole generation with which we plan to shape our society in the years to come. In the last couple of months only good news came from Montenegro. With a determined approach we managed to meet the most challenging obligations in the field of the rule of law and we are convinced that, if we continue working this way, we will ensure completion of the negotiations and becoming the 28th Member State of the EU by 2028", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević in Brussels.

26. IV 2024.

MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS TOOK PLACE IN PODGORICA

European Commission's initiative – the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans – is a great opportunity for accelerated development of the countries in the region and for intensifying the process of their accession to the EU. A clear commitment of these countries to implementing the reforms, together with the readiness of the EU to help them in the key areas and to increase funding of the projects, will contribute to achieving the long term and sustainable results, further the transformation and development of the region, as well as accelerate its integration in the EU. This is the message from the ministerial meeting on the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans that took place in Podgorica.

The meeting was attended by Valentina Superti, Director for Western Balkans in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Negotiations, as well as by the ministers of European Affairs and Finances of the countries from the region. Kosovo was represented by the Deputy Prime Minister Besnik Beslimi, while Northern Macedonia was represented by Deputy Minister of Finance Filip Nikolovski. Albanian delegation comprised the Minister of State and Chief Negotiator Majlinda Dhuka and Minister of Finance Ervin Mete. The Government of Serbia was represented by the Minister of European Integration Tanja Miščević, and Bosnia and Herzegovina by Deputy Director of the Directorate for European Integration Zara Halilović.

30. IV 2024.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (GAC) IN BRUSSELS

„20 years ago the world saw a brave and visionary Europe where the „Big Bang" enlargement brought peace and prosperity both in the EU and in the 10 new Member States. I am here today to say to my colleagues from the EU that Montenegro today has the same courage and vision. An additional lesson that we have all learnt in the meantime is that the permanent peace and prosperity may be achieved only if we protect our dynamic democracies and if we guarantee the rule of law", said Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević.

Minister Gorčević presented the current state of affairs in the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU, as well future activities related to the preparation and implementation of the Reform Agenda for the EU Reform and Growth Facility. She also indicated to the determination of the Government to ensure that by the end of its term of office Montenegro is prepared for membership.

Ministers of European Affairs of the EU Member States welcomed the strong momentum in reforms and the results that the Government achieved in a very short period of time. They emphasized that it was important for Montenegro to continue meeting the criteria, particularly in the field of the rule of law, and to achieve EU standards.

15. V 2024.

MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE OF THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES DEDICATED TO THE GROWTH PLAN TOOK PLACE IN KOTOR

Opening the meeting, the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević said that the Growth Plan was not only a well-designed initiative, but that it became formally and legally fully operational, the willingness of the EU to help us in the key areas and increase funding for the projects, it will be the best encouragement to accelerate growth. I am convinced that, if they are applied with the which was welcomed in the entire region.

„We are aware that, if we want to benefit from this facility, we will have to show a clear commitment to implementing the key reforms. Together with same ambitious spirit, these reform agendas will transform Western Balkan societies in a genuine European way, creating at the same time the conditions for increasing growth", said Gorčević.

04. VI 2024.

PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FINAL STAGE OF MONTENEGRO'S NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

In the last couple of months, Montenegro did an impressive job and made exceptional results in the chapters 23 and 24. It is important that in the period to come we maintain the good pace and accelerate the process of accession to the EU, because it will bring numerous benefits for the society and citizens. This was the message from the Panel Discussion about the Final Stage of Montenegro's Negotiations for Membership in the European Union.

Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the EU Mr Predrag Zenović, former Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Croatia with the EU Mr Vladimir Drobnjak, Head of the Political Division in the EU Delegation in Montenegro Riccardo Serri and Head of the PLAC Project Tatjana Tomić spoke in the event.

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of European Affairs within the project financed by the EU funds „Policy and Legal Advice for Montenegro – PLAC", and it was attended by members of the negotiation structure.

07. VI 2024.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ SPOKE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE „EU REGIONAL POLICY: KNOWLEDGE SHARING, LESSONS LEARNED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE VISEGRAD GROUP TO MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA"

The conference was organized in Podgorica by the Montenegrin Pan-European Union.

Minister Gorčević said that the regional policy was the corner stone of the EU, and that the Government was aware of the importance of the chapter 22 but also of the equal economic regional development.

„Chapter 22 – Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments is one of the most important chapters in the process of negotiations with the European Union, and particularly after Montenegro's membership", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević.

Gorčević underlined how important it was to reduce differences between the regions and align institutional framework with the EU regional policy.

07. VI 2024.

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ SPOKE IN VIENNA IN THE PANEL „EUROPE DAY 2024 – THE SUCCESS STORY OF ENLARGEMENT – CONNECTING PAST AND FUTURE"

The event was organized on the occasion of 20 years since the fifth and largest enlargement of the European Union and 30 years of Austria's membership in the EU.

„The big EU enlargement from 2004 erased borders in Europe and made many-centuries-long dreams of Central European nations about united Europe come true", said the Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the EU Predrag Zenović.

Minister for the European Union and Constitution of Austria, Karoline Edtstadler underlined how important it was to continue the enlargement and encouraged Western Balkan countries and Montenegro as the forerunner in the process of accession to the EU.

In addition to the Chief Negotiator Zenović, the speakers in the panel included the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of Moldova Cristina Gherasimov; former Chief Advisor of the Slovenian Government on financial aspects of the accession of Slovenia to the EU, Mojmir Mrak; Political Scientist and Professor at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Kathrin Stainer-Hämmerle; former EU Commissioner, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chief Negotiator for the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU. Pavel Telička.

COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

05. IV 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS INVITED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS ABOUT SECTORIAL ANALYSIS

Ministry of European Affairs extended invitation to interested non-governmental organizations active in the fields of Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic and European integrations to participate in the consultations aimed at composing the Sectorial Analysis for adopting the proposals of priority areas of public interest and the funds required for financing the projects and programmes of non-governmental organizations from the Budget of Montenegro in 2025.

10. IV 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED

CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EU 2024–2027

„Giving the priority to the EU agenda, the Government of Montenegro plans to meet the largest part of its obligations, particularly the essential ones, in the following year and a half, i.e. by the end of 2025, so that we can dedicate the second part of our term of office to successful finalization of all obligations and to achieving internal preparedness for our membership in the EU", said the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union Predrag Zenović in the consultations about the Draft Programme of Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2024–2027.

The event, attended by all members of the negotiation structure and representatives of the European Integration Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as by representatives of four non-governmental organizations, was an opportunity for exchange of opinions with a view to ensuring as high-quality finalization of this strategic document as possible.

17. VI 2024.

PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FINANCING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF EURO-ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FOR 2024

The Commission for allocation of funds to non-governmental organizations of the Ministry of European Affairs completed the entire procedure and adopted their Decision on allocation of funds for financing projects and programmes of non-governmental organizations in the field of Euro-Atlantic and European integration for 2024, based on the public advertisement called „On the European Path".

Ministarstvo evropskih poslova

OTHER

03. IV 2024.

THE SEVENTH FORUM „ASK THE MINISTER!“

On the occasion of 4th April, Students' Day, the Ministry of European Affairs organized the Forum „Ask the Minister!“.

Ministers of education, science and innovation, of interior, and of energy and mining, Anđela Jakšić-Stojanović, Danilo Šaranović and Saša Mujović talked with about 70 students from all universities in Montenegro about the topics of importance for their education and professional training, as well as about the current political, economic and overall situation in Montenegro and the role of students in building Montenegrin society on the path to full-fledged membership in the EU.

Opening the Forum, the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević extended congratulations to the students for the forthcoming holiday and underlined that on the path towards the EU, the Government counted on students, as the force in the society to share responsibility, but also to explore new horizons with.

The students expressed pleasure for having the opportunity to exchange opinions about different topics with the ministers, to ask them questions and to give them proposals for improving the situation in several fields. They expressed willingness to continue constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Government and work in that way on the improvements of all segments of the society.

10. IV 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC BROADCASTERS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION

Ministry of European Affairs signed a Memorandum on Cooperation with local public broadcasters aimed at ensuring better information about the process of European integration on the local level. Signing the Memorandum on Cooperation the Ministry wishes to institutionalize cooperation with the media and to provide a contribution to training and improving knowledge of journalists about the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU.

Opening this event, the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović emphasized that the role of journalists was of decisive importance in clarifying the process of European integration to the citizens and that the close relations of the public local broadcasters with the community gave them the power to ensure in the most direct manner that the citizens could obtain timely, accurate and understandable information necessary to shape informed and engaged society.

Director General of the Directorate for Media in the Ministry of Culture and Media Neđeljko Rudović said that the local public broadcasters constituted a great potential for development of democratic processes in their communities, because they could contribute to the openness of work of the local authorities, inform the citizens and encourage them to discuss problems and participate in political processes on the local level.

22. IV 2024.

EUROPE DAY ORGANIZED IN PETNJICA AND BERANE

Ministry of European Affairs Maida Gorčević with associates visited Petnjica and Berane within the project „Europe Day in Your City".

The Minister had meetings with the mayors Samir Agović and Vuk Todorović and their associates and visited projects funded by EU funds.

In Petnjica, together with the mayor Agović, she visited the cross-border project „Montenegro's and Albania's Youth in Raspberry Growths", Centre for Culture, as well as the Collection of Carpets from Bihor that is protected as non-material cultural good of Montenegro.

In Berane, she visited the waste water treatment plant that was financed by EU funds, and the Primary School „Vuk Karadžić", where she spoke with the pupils about the importance of preservation of the environment. Together with the mayor Vuk Todorović and the school Principal Milka Boričić she planted several ash trees.

„Although we are entering the final stage of the negotiation process, we are yet to work a lot on implementing the reforms. The Ministry of European Affairs will provide support to the municipalities, particularly the small ones that do not have sufficiently developed capacities. We will be a voice of the entire Montenegro, all municipalities and citizens on the path to the EU", said the Minister Gorčević.

24. IV 2024.

WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL VERSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ACQUIS

The workshop was attended by the students of translation studies of the faculties of philology of the University of Montenegro and University of Donja Gorica and it was organized by the Ministry of European Affairs within the project funded by EU funds „Policy and Legal Advice Centre for Montenegro – PLAC"

The workshop emphasized that the preparation of the national version of European legislation was a precondition for membership in the European Union and one of the most demanding legal-translation projects that the candidate country had to undertake before accession to the EU. It was emphasized that, given the acceleration of the negotiation process and the wish to become the next, 28th member state of the European Union, Montenegro had to plan intensively the education of a large number of professionals to work on the translation of the acquis and other tasks within the negotiations and membership.

The workshop sent the message that the Ministry of European Affairs planned the establishment of cooperation with the faculties of philology in that field.

9-17. V 2024.

MONTENEGRO CELEBRATED THE EUROPE DAY WITH „EUROPEAN TOUR"

Montenegro celebrated this year's Europe Day with a series of diverse events in several municipalities, within the EU4ME programme, under the motto „European Tour", reflecting its ambitions in the field of European integration and adoption of common European values.

The name „European Tour" symbolizes the dynamics and energy that Montenegro invests in the European integration process, and emphasizes the importance of movement, progress and unity. Through a series of diverse events in several Montenegrin municipalities - Bar, Nikšić, Mojkovac, Berane, Žabljak, Petnjica and Pljevlja – under this symbolic motto – Montenegro celebrated the Europe Day in May with a view to ensure strengthening of the European spirit and identity and celebration of Montenegro's European future.

A hiking tour was organized in Bar, with an educative lesson „Let's talk about Europe", as well as visit to the monuments in Tuđemili, and a workshop and quiz for children „Symbols of Europe".

On that occasion, the acting Director of the Directorate for European territorial cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs Miloš Marković said that, celebrating the Europe Day, we paid respect to the idea of union, cooperation and peace that had been shaping our continent.

In Nikšić, the Europe Day was marked by the conference „Initiative Nikšić as European Capital of Culture in 2030 – Benefits for Community and the Youth", exhibition of pieces of arts of the participants in the school of art „Tibor" and the „Art Centre" in the plateau of the Revolution Centre and by planting a tree near the building of the Municipality sending the message of how important forests and trees are for greener and more beautiful Europe.

On that occasion, the acting Director General for coordination of the EU financial support in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Vujović said that the process of accession to the EU was not to lead us to the formal membership only, but also to the situation where we would gradually adopt European values.

On the following day, the Europe Day was celebrated by cycling through the Nikšić streets, within the European Tour. This event was organized by the Municipality of Nikšić, Ministry of European Affairs and NGO Biciklo.me, with the support of the Delegation of the EU within the EU4ME programme.

European Tour was also organized in Mojkovac, where the programme included children from the kindergarten „Jevrosima Jevra Rabrenović" who danced and produced entertainment activities in the square of Ljubomir Bakoč.

„As the citizens of the country candidate for membership in the EU, we have an opportunity today to restore our commitment to strengthening cooperation and dialogue in Europe and with the rest of the world", said the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Sports and Youth Dragoslav Šćekić.

Within the European Tour in Berane, the main city street was vivid as the venue for the performance of pupils from the Primary Music School and Cultural and Arts Association „DUGA". Painting for primary school pupils with the topic „Europe and Me" was also organized in the main city street.

On that occasion, the acting Director General for Montenegro's Accession to the EU and EU Acquis in the Ministry of European Affairs Jovana Dragović said that the 44th Government of Montenegro had European future as its priority goal, which it confirmed with concrete steps and results.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Vladimir Joković, together with Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the EU Predrag Zenović, Mayor of Žabljak Radoš Žugić and representative of the Delegation of the EU in Montenegro Orlando Fusco, participated today in the event „European Tour" celebrating the Europe Day and promoting European values in Montenegro.

In Žabljak, the European Tour confirmed that this region cherished European values, but also indicated to how important it was for Europe to reach every city in Montenegro.

The European Tour that took place in Petnjica sent the message that we shared a common vision that Montenegro should be a part of the European Union family. Through rich and diverse programme in the Divan garden, dominated by children that would make the future of Montenegro and of the EU, we confirmed that our country was already a part of Europe.

„Our goal is to ensure full implementation of the EU law, through establishment of public administration based on inclusiveness, transparency, equality and equal opportunities for all, as well as through establishment of public services in line with the citizens' needs", said Naim Djokaj, State Secretary in the Ministry of Public Administration.

Head of the Department for Evaluation and Support in the Ministry of European Affairs, Irena Bošković, underlined the role of the local self-governments in dealing with complex issues in the society. She said it was precisely them that should drive the change.

"Today, celebrating the Europe Day, we remind ourselves that our goals are much greater than the membership itself. We truly strive to developing the society where we can live with dignity, feel safe and have equal opportunities for progress and development", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević in the closing event of the „European Tour" in Pljevlja.

Deputy Head of the Cooperation Sector in the Delegation of the European Union Liselotte Isaksson expressed pleasure for seeing that the Municipality of Pljevlja joined the celebration of the Europe Day through organizing nice activities in the field of music, culture and cultural heritage of Pljevlja. She said that Pljevlja that day presented the best from Europe.

10. V 2024.

STATE SECRETARY BOŽOVIĆ SPOKE IN KOLAŠIN IN THE DEBATE: „EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE EYES OF THE YOUTH"

The event in Kolašin was organized by the NGO "Multimedial Montenegro" within the celebration of the Europe Day, with the support of the Delegation

In addition to Mr Božović, the speakers included the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU in Montenegro Riccardo Serri, and the Deputy of the EU in Montenegro and the Ministry of European Affairs.

„Young people are exceptionally important for the process of European integration. In Montenegro, we lack knowledge about the EU and the negotiation process and it is important that all of us learn every day and know more and more about importance of membership of our country in the EU", said the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Božović.

Ambassador of Germany in Montenegro, Ralf Reusch. Mayor of Kolašin Petko Bakić also participated, as well as young people from Kolašin, Bijelo Polje, Mojkovac and Berane who exchanged their opinions regarding the role of the young in the process of accession to the EU with the panellists.

After the panel, an exhibition of photographs was organized in the city square, as well as promotion stands and the competition „Europe on Your Palm".

11. V 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PARTICIPATED IN CELEBRATING THE EUROPE DAY IN PODGORICA

Minister Gorčević and officers of the Ministry of European Affairs participated in the central event organized on the occasion of Europe Day near the monument to St. Peter Cetinjski in the University Square.

The Ministry had its stand in the traditional EU Fair where the embassies presented the culture and history of EU countries as well as programmes and projects implemented by the EU in Montenegro.

The Flower Carpet was officially opened during the central event.

Minister Gorčević underlined that she was proud of the fact that majority of citizens supported the idea of Montenegro becoming the next EU member.

„Our strength is in our diversity and ability to unite to solve challenges that lie ahead. We know that the process of European integration belongs to all of us and that all of us can contribute. That is why we celebrate the Europe Day all around Montenegro. Today in Podgorica, through the European Tour, we can celebrate European values together with our citizens. May this Europe Day be a reminder of our common responsibility for prosperity, security and stability of the entire continent. We owe particular gratitude to the Ambassador Popa for paving our path to Europe with flowers. We promise to cherish European values and to lead Montenegro to become the 28th member state in 2028" said Gorčević.

23. V 2024.

TWENTY EIGHT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MONTENEGRO

The twenty eight issue of the Newsletter on European Integration presents the most important events and activities in the process of accession to the EU during the first quarter of 2024.

7. VI 2024.

THE EVENT „ELECTION NIGHT" ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In the event organized by the Delegation of the European Union and the Ministry of European Affairs, with the support of the EU4ME project, the Ambassador of the EU Cristina Oana Popa underlined that the European elections constituted one of the most important democratic events and the only multi-national direct elections in the world. She underlined that these elections strengthened citizens, enhanced legitimacy of the EU and reinforced unity in diversity.

More than 370 million people from 27 member states will vote in the elections that started yesterday in the Netherlands and that will last by Sunday evening. The total number of 720 Members of European Parliament will be elected, and every country has a fixed number of MPs who can be in the EP – Germany as the largest EU country will have 96 MEPs, while Malta as the smallest will have six.

„On the basis of the ability of Montenegro to implement reforms and remain firmly on the European course, I hope that Montenegrin candidates will soon be candidates for the European Parliament", said Popa in the event where the attendees had an opportunity to participate in the simulated voting for the EP.

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević also spoke about the committed work of the administration. She emphasized that the adoption of the laws needed for a positive IBAR that the Parliament of Montenegro was to accomplish that day would show that our country was not working for European integration only on the level of declaration, but that the commitment was genuine.

"However, all these results are not only ours – they have been produced by us working together with our European partners who have been providing continuous support, knowledge and understanding so that we can persist and give a new strong impetus to the reform processes", said Gorčević.

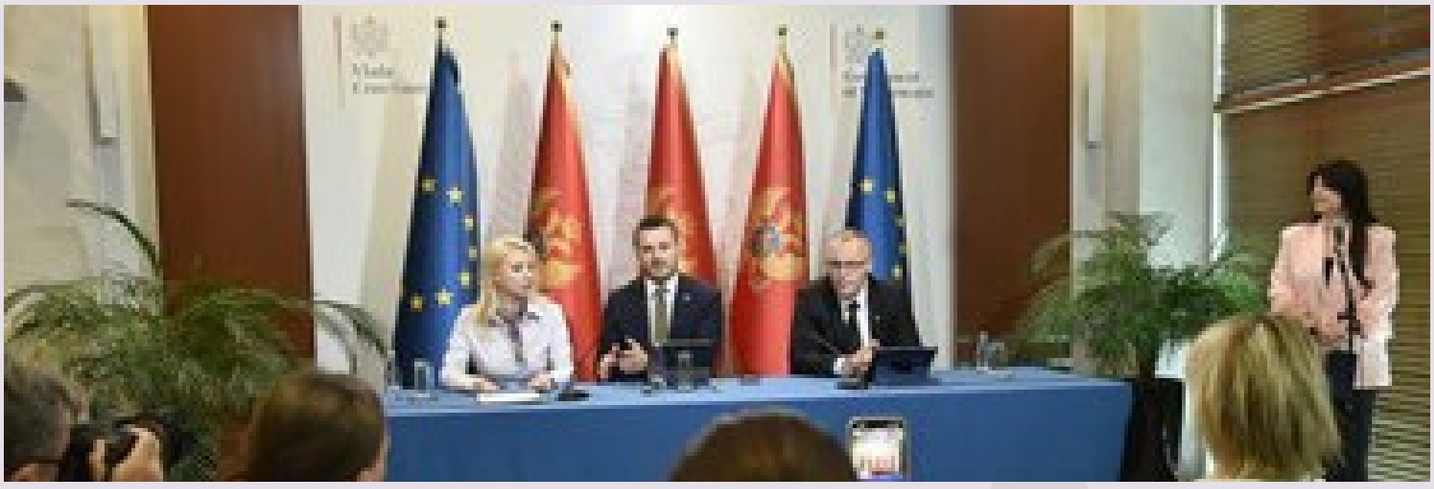
The event also included a panel where Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the EU Predrag Zenović, assistant lecturer in the University of Donja Gorica Nikoleta Đukanović, and the Brussels correspondent of "Jutarnji list" Augustin Palokaj discussed the influence of the elections for EP on Montenegro.

13. VI 2024.

THE GOVERNMENT STARTED THE TRAINING „READY FOR EU“ FOR PREPARING CIVIL SERVANTS TO WORK IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS

Given the acceleration of the negotiation process and the increasingly certain accession of Montenegro to the EU, the Ministry of European Affairs, with the support of the Ministry of Public Administration, Human Resources Administration and Regional School for Public Administration (RESPA) developed the training programme „Ready for EU“. This programme will provide Montenegrin civil servants with an opportunity to learn about EU administrative practices, to obtain relevant expertise and specific knowledge and to prepare for working in the European Union institutions.

„Membership of Montenegro in the EU seems to be increasingly close and certain, and the goal of this Government is to meet all its obligation in the accession process by the end of its four-year term of office and ensure that Montenegro can become a member by 2028. After becoming a full-fledged member, Montenegro will have to delegate its representatives to all European Union institutions. Our assessment is that this means between 100 and 200 civil servants. This led to the idea of designing a training programme already in this stage of the negotiation process to ensure that civil servants can obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to present their state in a proper way, shoulder to shoulder with other members“, explained the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević.



16. VI 2024.

AWARDS TO THE WINNERS IN THE VIDEO COMPETITION #MYCITY ON THE PATH TO THE EU

Montenegro’s Chief Negotiator with the European Union Predrag Zenović awarded the winners in the

School ,,Mahmut Lekić” from Tuzi, Drinčić Helena, Dedvukaj Iva, Niković Najla and Krnič Bisera, won a video competition #MyCity on the path to the EU that the Ministry of European Affairs organized for primary school pupils in May within the Europe Day celebration. The competition was organized with the financial support of the European Union through the project EU4ME, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.

The winners were Filip Bigović, a 7th grade pupil of the Primary School „Njegoš" from Cetinje and Edin Bećirović , a 7th grade pupil of the Primary School „Nedakusi" from Bijelo Polje. Petra Bogdanović, a 7th grade pupil of the Primary School „Njegoš" from Kotor took the second place, while Andrija Deretić, an 8th grade pupil from the Primary School „Milorad Musa Burzan" from Podgorica was the third. A group of 8th grade pupils from the Primary special award for the team effort.

„I am particularly happy that the winners are children from all three regions of Montenegro, because European integration is about all of us and together, we can contribute to its success. You can contribute by continuing your hard work, studying, and exploring new horizons, being curious and creative. We, on the other side, can contribute by working diligently on ensuring that in the future you can have more opportunities for education, specialization, and work. You are the generation that will have an opportunity to study wherever you want in Europe, because we believe that by the time of your enrolment in universities Montenegro will be a member of the European Union", said Zenović at the end of the awarding ceremony.

21. VI 2024.

AWARDING THE WINNERS OF THE BEST JOURNALISTIC STORIES ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MONTENEGRO

On the eve of Europe Day, the Ministry of European Affairs opened its traditional competition for the best stories about European integration of Montenegro, with a financial support from the European Union through the EU4ME project.

The Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević awarded the winners of the competition for the best journalistic stories about European integration of Montenegro. The winner was the journalist of the Radio-Television Nikšić Maja Lalatović, with the story about the plant for treatment of animal origin side products, the construction of which will be financed by the EU. Ivana Boljević, the journalist from TV Prva won the second place with her story about the EU support to farmers. The third place was taken by the journalist of TV Vijesti Alisa Hajdarpašić, who prepared the story about the EU support to solving the problem of polluted air in Pljevlja through support to the energy efficiency programme.

8 – 26. VI 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IMPLEMENTED THE ONLINE CAMPAIGN „IBAR – THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU“

The goal of the campaign was to educate citizens about the importance of IBAR and increase public awareness about the importance of the reforms in the chapters 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and 24 (Justice, Freedom, and Security).

The campaign was also focused on motivating citizens to support reforms and follow Montenegro's progress to the membership in the EU.

The campaign included the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević, Minister of Foreign Affairs Filip Ivanović, Minister of Interior Danilo Šaranović, Minister of Culture and Media Tamara Vujović, Ambassador of the Delegation of the EU in Montenegro Oana Cristina Popa, Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović, State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Božović, State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior Jovana Mijović, Head of the Mission of Montenegro to the EU Petar Marković, Assistant lecturer in the University of Donja Gorica Nikoleta Đukanović, correspondent to the Radio and Television of Montenegro in Brussels Ivan Mijanović, Executive director of LLC "Prezla" Tamara Stanić, student of the Faculty of Political Science Tatjana Minić, and citizens of Montenegro.