

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



NEWSLETTER ■

OCTOBER - DECEMBER
2024.

Sadržaj

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Dear reader,

The thirtieth Newsletter on European Integration offers an overview of the key developments and activities in the EU accession process that took place in the fourth 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

16. XII 2024

DECEMBER – MONTENEGRO TEMPORARILY CLOSED THREE NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

In the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels, Montenegro closed three chapters in the negotiations with the European Union (EU). These are the Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property Law, 10 – Information Society and Media and 20 – Enterprise and Industrial Policy.

Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanović led Montenegrin delegation that participated in the Intergovernmental Conference with the EU.

"We are finishing this year by closing these three chapters – with absolute enthusiasm that we will close all the remaining ones by 2026 and become the 28th EU member by 2028", said Mr Spajić.

"In only 12 months, we have closed three chapters and met all the requirements for closing the fourth one, which I hope we will close soon, as recommended

by our friends from the EU. In the last 12 months we have achieved more on this path than in the last 12 years", said the Prime Minister.

European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kossowska, extended congratulations to Montenegrin Prime Minister, his team and everyone in Podgorica, "for the relentless work on the implementation of reforms".

"Today, we are witnessing the achievement of yet another key step on Montenegro's path to the membership in the EU. I see this as a step closer to the family of European nations", said Ms Kossowska.

She underlined that on that day Montenegro showed to all the countries that are on the same path what can be achieved if there is a political will and determination. Ms Kossowska emphasized that the enlargement process is merit based.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

15. X 2024

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TOOK PLACE IN PODGORICA

The meeting was opened by the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović, and Deputy Head of the Unit for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Cindy van den Boogert.

"Looking back at the year behind us, and the first year of work of the 44th Government, and seeing the plans that cover the period by the end of 2024, we can freely say that we are at the turning point of our negotiation process. This year will remain remembered for the exquisite results and key steps on our path towards the goal of Montenegro

becoming the 28th member of the EU by 2028", said Mr Zenović in his introductory statement.

"Congratulations for reaching this turning point! European Commission supports your ambitious plans for progress in the accession process. We started the work on planning the closing of all chapters by the end of 2026. However, the ball is Montenegro's court now and Montenegro should enhance its efforts and accelerate progress in all areas to achieve the goal. The work that Montenegro is doing must be thorough and credible and it may not be rushed", said Ms Van den Boogert.



25. X 2024

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COMMITTEE

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević informed the members of the European Integration Committee about the current state of affairs in Montenegro's negotiation process and the pace of closing the negotiation chapters. She presented the quarterly and semi-annual reports on the activities within the process of Montenegro's integration into the EU.

The Committee adopted 40th, 41st and 42nd quarterly reports that refer to the period from December last year to June this year, as well as 20th and 21st semi-annual reports on the overall activities within the process of Montenegro's integration into the EU that refer to the period from June last year to June this year.



31. X 2024

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE MEETING OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE: IN THE YEARS BEHIND, MONTENEGRO BECAME THE EPICENTRE OF EURO-OPTIMISM

Minister Gorčević expressed her belief that the current convocation of the European Parliament, as well as the current composition of the European Commission, would focus on the strengthening of the enlargement policy as the most important pillar of the EU foreign policy.

"With the enviable level of political stability that Montenegro established in the year behind, it became the epicentre of Euro-optimism", said the Minister, emphasizing the exceptionally high level of support coming from citizens and full alignment with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU.

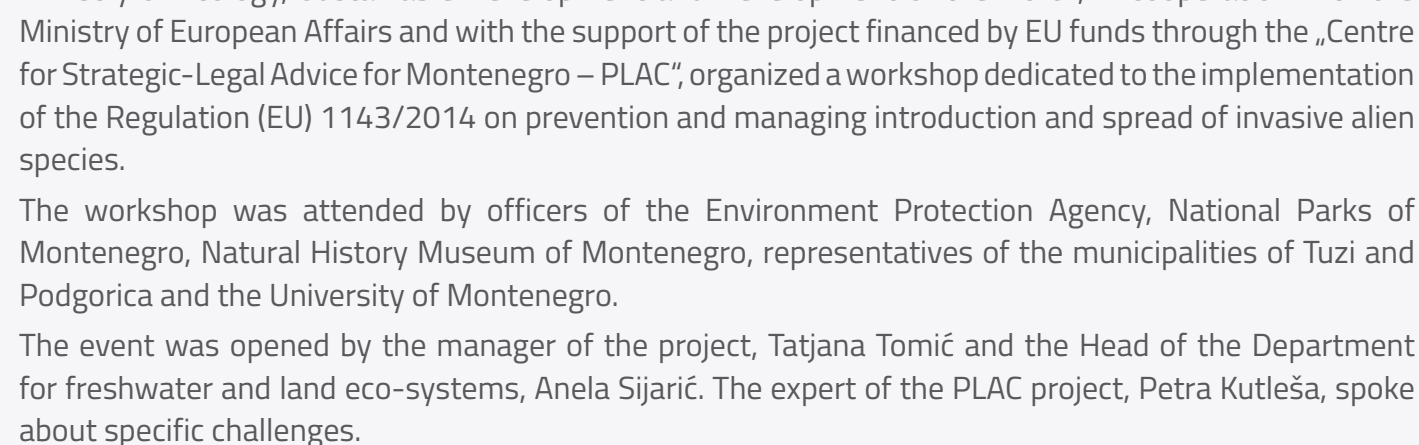


1. XI 2024

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ MET WITH THE MEMBERS OF COELA IN BRUSSELS: EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPORT REFLECTS MONTENEGRO'S CONTINUOUS PROGRESS TOWARDS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU

Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović expressed his satisfaction with the assessment of the European Commission expressed in the latest Progress Report, underlining that the report recognised Montenegro's commitment to European integration. He expressed gratitude to the COELA members for support, emphasizing that the Report constituted an additional encouragement for implementation of reforms in the process of aligning legislation with the EU acquis.

"European Commission report reflects Montenegro's continuous progress towards the membership in the EU and confirms the commitment of Montenegrin institutions to the European standards, particularly in the field of the rule of law, judiciary and fight against corruption", said Mr Zenović.



IPA

2. X 2024

THE POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM PRESENTED WITHIN THE INTERREG EUROPE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

"Through the Policy Learning Platform, as one of the key components of the Interreg Europa Cooperation Programme, Montenegrin institutions and organizations get access to a rich treasury of knowledge and expertise. They get an opportunity to connect with the policy creators who face similar challenges, improving thus their professional capacities", said Miloš Marković, Director General of the Directorate for European territorial cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs.



Marković expressed satisfaction with the fact that four beneficiaries from Montenegro already participated in this programme through the Restrictive Call, and underlined the expectations that this event would inspire potential beneficiaries to explore the possibilities this platform can offer and use its potential for the future projects within the Interreg programme.

24. X 2024

PLAC WORKSHOP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Development of the North, in cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs and with the support of the project financed by EU funds through the 'Centre for Strategic-Legal Advice for Montenegro – PLAC', organized a workshop dedicated to the implementation of the Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on prevention and managing introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

The workshop was attended by officers of the Environment Protection Agency, National Parks of Montenegro, Natural History Museum of Montenegro, representatives of the municipalities of Tuzi and Podgorica and the University of Montenegro.

The event was opened by the manager of the project, Tatjana Tomić and the Head of the Department for freshwater and land eco-systems, Anela Sijarić. The expert of the PLAC project, Petra Kutleša, spoke about specific challenges.



8. XI 2024

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAMME TOOK PLACE IN KOTOR

Within the regular semi-annual meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Cross-border cooperation programme Interreg IPA Italy – Albania – Montenegro 2021-2027 and the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021-2027, the representatives of the institutions from Italy, Albania and Montenegro discussed the issues of importance for implementation of these two programmes and adopted relevant decisions. In addition to the

representatives of the programme bodies, the meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro.

During this two-day event, it was noted that the total of 100 cross-border projects of the total value of 84.2 million euro, out of which 70 million from the European Union funds, were supported through the programme of cross-border cooperation Interreg IPA Italy – Albania – Montenegro 2014-2020.



22. XI 2024

IMPLEMENTATION SEMINAR FOR THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE SEED MONEY FACILITY

Implementation seminar for the beneficiaries of the projects supported through the Seed Money Facility within the Danube region project took place in Podgorica.

In this meeting, the representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs and Ministry of Finance presented key guidelines for implementation of the projects, including the information on managing project cycle, eligibility of costs and reporting. Within this instrument, Montenegrin institutions and organizations participate in 5 projects. In cooperation with their partners from the Danube region, they will work on developing proposals of strategic projects that are in line with the priorities of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and are designed in such a way

that they can be financed from any sources of funds available in the territory of this region.

"This achievement reflects commitment of Montenegrin partners to macro-regional and territorial policies of the EU and, at the same time, provides an incentive for other institutions in Montenegro that want to participate in the Interreg programmes to develop project ideas important for EU macro-regions and implement projects that are important for development of the society", said Veselin Šćepanović from the Directorate for European territorial cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs. Total value of EU funds for the projects with Montenegrin beneficiaries amounts to 344.748 euros, out of which 76.886 euros are allocated to Montenegrin beneficiaries.



27. XI 2024

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS FOR PREPARATION OF EU PROJECTS

The training was organized within the strategic project, 'Empowerment and simplification of processes for a digital and well governed South Adriatic – SA GOVERNANCE'; INTERREG IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro. This project is implemented by the regions of Apulia and Molise in Italy, State Agency for Strategic Programming and Coordination of Support of Albania, Ministry of Finance of Montenegro and Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro and it will last by the end of 2027.

Strengthening capacities of municipalities is of essential importance for encouraging sustainable local development, improving provision of services and enhancing the quality of life of citizens. Building capacities of municipalities for using EU funds constitutes a significant contribution to dealing with challenges on the local level.



28. XI 2024

IMPLEMENTATION SEMINAR FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE FIRST CALL OF THE IPA ADRION PROGRAMME

Ministry of European Affairs organized the implementation seminar for beneficiaries of the First Call of the Interreg IPA Adriatic-Ionian Programme 2021-2027 (IPA ADRIION). The seminar was organized in Podgorica in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Joint Secretariat of the programme.

The seminar presented detailed guidelines for implementation of projects, including programme rules that refer to financial management, reporting and visibility.

Representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs expressed satisfaction with the prominent success

of Montenegrin partners, whose activities were allocated about 6.72 million euros of EU grants.

"I want to congratulate all the partners for high-quality project ideas that are now in the implementation stage. This achievement reflects the commitment of Montenegrin partners and at the same time encourages other institutions in Montenegro that want to take part in the programmes of European territorial cooperation and implement projects important for development of their society", said Milena Adžić from the Directorate for European territorial cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs.



29. XI 2024

MEETING OF THE IPA MONITORING COMMITTEE

Implementation of the programmes supported through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the recently adopted Reform Agenda through which Montenegro will get additional 383.5 million euros, will be priorities in the years to come. This is a conclusion of the 19th meeting of the IPA Monitoring Committee that took place in Podgorica.

Director General for coordination of the EU financial support in the Ministry of European Affairs Bojan Vujović emphasized that the Ministry of European Affairs used its full capacities in the work on coordination of important activities and reform processes within the Agenda for accession to the EU, implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and issues related to pre-accession assistance, i.e., EU funds.



3. XII 2024

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERREG EURO-MED 2021-2027 PROGRAMME

Monitoring Committee for the Interreg Euro-MED 2021-2027 programme, composed by representatives of 14 countries of the Northern Mediterranean, met in Tivat within the Montenegrin Presidency of this trans-national cooperation programme.

Opening the meeting on behalf of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, Director General of the Directorate for European territorial cooperation Miloš Marković expressed satisfaction that the 11th meeting of the Monitoring Committee was taking place precisely on the Mediterranean coast, drawing particular attention to the need of making this area greener, smarter and more sustainable.



11. XII 2024

OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE VISITED ROMANIA TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC OF PREPARATION FOR USING EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS WITH THEIR ROMANIAN COLLEAGUES

Representatives of Montenegro's Ministry of European Affairs and Ministry of Finance visited relevant institutions in Romania that coordinate and implement programmes financed from EU funds, i.e. the Ministry for European Investment Projects, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, as well as the Romanian Audit Body.

During the visit, special attention was dedicated to learning from good practices, and to functionality of financial management and control management systems. The visit was organized within the project 'Empowerment and simplification of processes for a digital and well governed South Adriatic – SA GOVERNANCE', implemented through the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme.



12. XII 2024

TWELVE MONTENEGRIN INSTITUTIONS OBTAINED SUPPORT WITHIN THE THIRD CALL OF THE INTERREG EUROPA PROGRAMME

The meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Interreg Europa programme that took place in Budapest approved 113 project proposals submitted within the Third Call of this inter-regional cooperation programme. The approved projects focus on all six topics of the Programme: Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, Better Connected Europe, More Social Europe, Europe closer to the citizens and better management of the regions.

13. XII 2024

CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR FIVE PROJECTS WITHIN THE IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO

Implementation of the five joint projects of the institutions and organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro approved within the First Call of the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021-2027 will start this month and the beginning of the next year, after the contracts on allocation of grants were signed in Sarajevo by the contracting Authority and leading partners.

Cross-Border Cooperation Funded by the European Union

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

14. X 2024

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN PRAGUE: ENLARGEMENT SENDS THE MESSAGE THAT EU IS THE PLACE TO STRIVE FOR

Accession of another country to the European Union would inspire the spirit of optimism among the members, because it sends a strong message that EU is still the place to strive for. This could strengthen its role and encourage stronger integration within the Union, said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević participating in the panel „Predrag Zenović - Montenegro 2024 - organized by Montenegro Chamber of Commerce with the topic „A Decade of the Berlin Process“.

In the panel, in which she participated together with the Minister of European Affairs of the Czech

Republic, Martin Dvořák, Minister Gorčević said that Montenegro must not miss either the momentum when the enlargement policy was still alive, or the positive atmosphere among the member states.

“Couple of days ago we adopted the key legislation required for closing of four chapters. This is for the first time in the last 7 years that Montenegro temporarily closes chapters. The expectation is that it will happen in the Intergovernmental Conference with the EU by the end of December. It will be the third IGC this year, after two years in which no IGC took place”, explained Ms Gorčević.



23. X 2024

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ IN THE CONFERENCE IN BUDVA DEDICATED TO A DECADE OF THE BERLIN PROCESS

European future of all Western Balkan countries is and all of them want to live together and in peace, said Predrag Zenović, Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union. He spoke in the Conference about economy - Montenegro 2024 - organized by Montenegro Chamber of Commerce with the topic „A Decade of the Berlin Process“.



„When we think about the future of the Western Balkans, we can in a way draw a parallel with a man's life. In his life, a man wants to have stability, equality, and health. The same can be said of the states that want to be prosperous, equal to other states and sovereign. European integration has two dimensions: horizontal - enlargement in the continent, and vertical - establishing stronger connections among the states. In the last 10 years we have not seen any horizontal enlargement. If there was enlargement fatigue 10 years ago, now we can see the lack-of-enlargement fatigue”, said Zenović.

24. X 2024

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN AUSTRIA: MONTENEGRO CAN BE THE 28TH MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BY 2028

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević participated in the Europe Summit organized by the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE) in Salzburg. She spoke in the panel „EU Enlargement – a geopolitical necessity“ that was opened by the Minister for EU and Constitution in the Government of Austria Karoline Nedstadler.

“We think that Montenegro can be the 28th member of the European Union by 2028. It is our responsibility to show that Union is open for new candidates and to build a strong and resilient EU. We will be your advocate on the EU side”, said Ms Nedstadler.

Minister Gorčević said that Montenegro had a plan agreed with the European Commission for closing of all chapters by the end of 2026, so that by 2028 it could become the next member of the European Union.

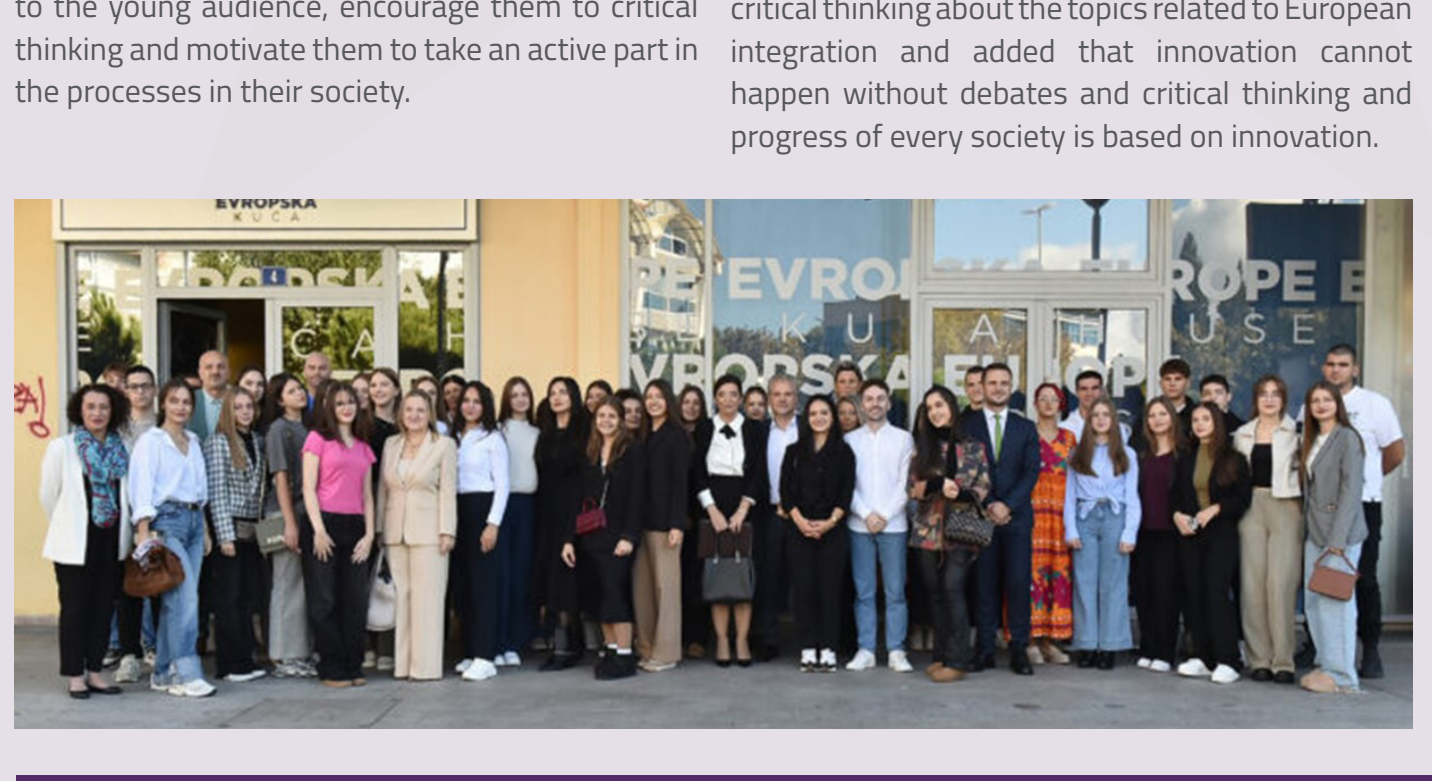


COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

10. X 2024

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE PANEL „EU INTEGRATION AND BERLIN PROCESS ”

“Berlin Process has stood the test of time, and its mission is more vibrant than ever. All the countries of the Western Balkans are committed to EU integration, and although they have not acceded the EU yet, they have all made significant steps forward since the Berlin Conference of 2014. In spite of occasional alternatives that were emerging and tried to compete with this inter-governmental process, none of them managed to sustain and succeed as much as the Berlin Process”, said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević in the panel „EU integration and the Berlin Process“ within the Forum of the civil society and think tank organizations (CSF) that took place in Berlin.



THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EU-MONTENEGRO

Representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) discussed with Montenegro civil society about the current moment in the relations between EU and Montenegro, with a particular emphasis on the latest Enlargement Package, EC Report for Montenegro, Reform Agenda for Montenegro and Implementation of the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans.

They also discussed Montenegro plan for meeting the benchmarks for closing negotiation chapters after the positive IBAR and made an overview of the current state of affairs of Montenegro's civil society, including the social dialogue, the platform „Barometer 26“, and inclusion of social partners and civil society as active stakeholders.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and the President of the EESC Oliver Röpke.

„I am happy to see that this Committee welcomes the development of the platform „Barometer 26“, the intention of which is to include entire society so that Montenegro can meet all the obligations from the negotiation process and become the next EU member state by 2028“, said Ms Gorčević.

Minister Gorčević noted everything that this Government managed to achieve in the year behind within the negotiation process, but also presented the ambitious plan for Montenegro to finish the negotiations with the EU by the end of 2026. She reminded of the EC Report on Montenegro and the Reform Agenda for the Growth Plan that was adopted in September.

She added that the Government had recognized that building strong and efficient public administration that could meet EU standards is a gradual, but essential process, that demands not only reforms but also permanent investment in human and technical resources.

OSTALO

3. X 2024

VIA FERRATA PIVA HAS BEEN OPENED

After Durmitor and Kotor, Piva also got its via ferrata, a touristic attraction that, with the support of metal stairs and steel cables, ensures safe climbing on the vertical and horizontal rocks. It has been developed within the project „Via Ferrata“ by the municipalities of Plužine and Tutin, INTER from Serbia, and Park of Nature Piva, co-financed by the European Union.



7. X 2024

EUBUZZ CAMPAIGN STARTED

Ministry of European Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, with the financial support of the European Union through the EU4ME project, started the education-communication campaign EUBuzz, which will include debates about EU topics in secondary schools across Montenegro. The goal of this campaign is to explain EU topics to the young audience, encourage them to critical thinking and motivate them to take an active part in the processes in their society.

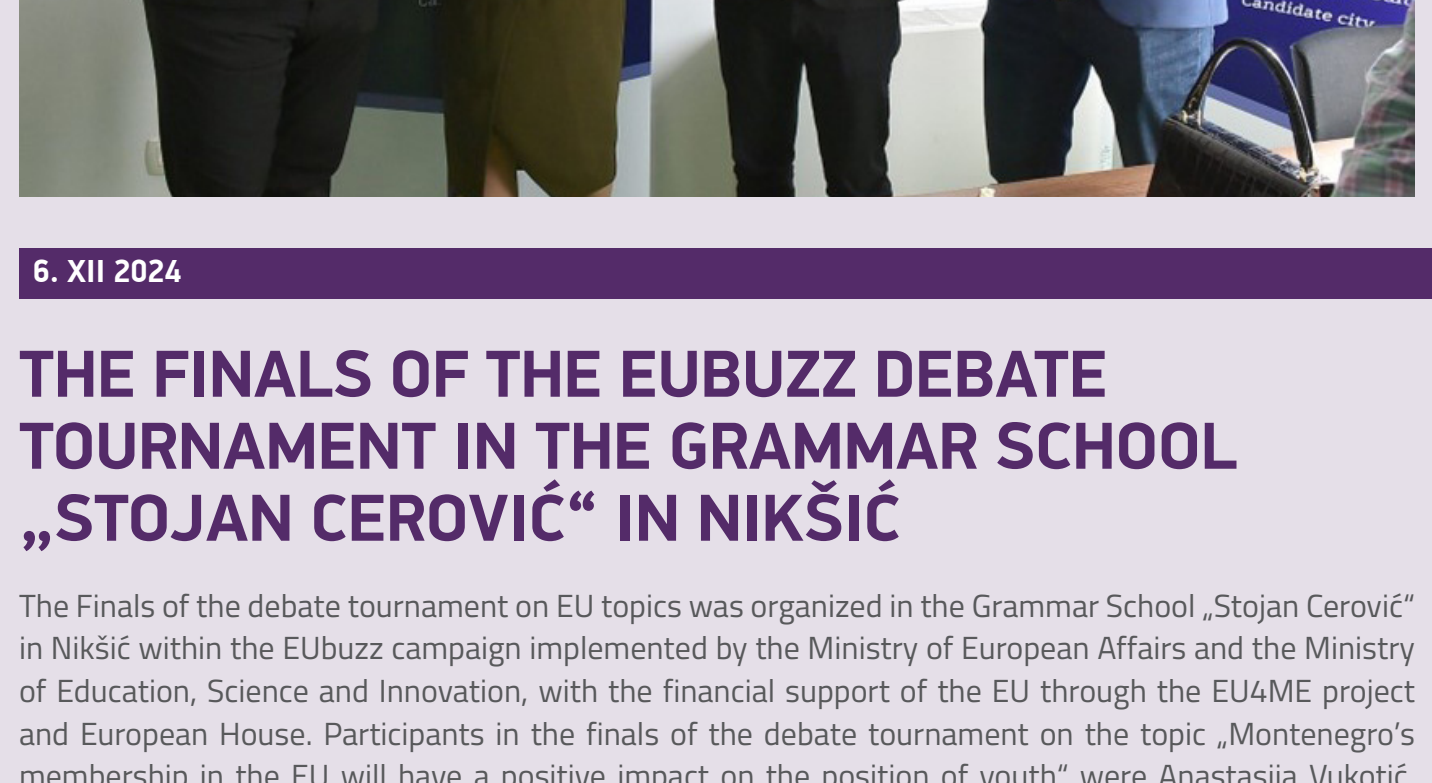
The EUBuzz campaign started with the organization of Info Days in the European House in Podgorica, with around 50 participants of the debate clubs from seven schools from Podgorica, Nikšić, Danilovgrad, Tuzi and Žabljak. On that occasion, the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the EU, Predrag Zenović emphasized the importance of critical thinking about the topics related to European integration and added that innovation cannot happen without debates and critical thinking and progress of every society is based on innovation.



14. X 2024

EUBUZZ INFO DAY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM THE NORTH OF MONTENEGRO TOOK PLACE IN BERANE

EUBuzz Info Day for the debate clubs from the North of Montenegro was organized in the Berane Grammar School „Panto Mališić“. It was attended by more than 40 members of the debate clubs and their mentors from Berane, Bijelo Polje, Petnjica, Mojkovac, Pljevlja and Rožaje.



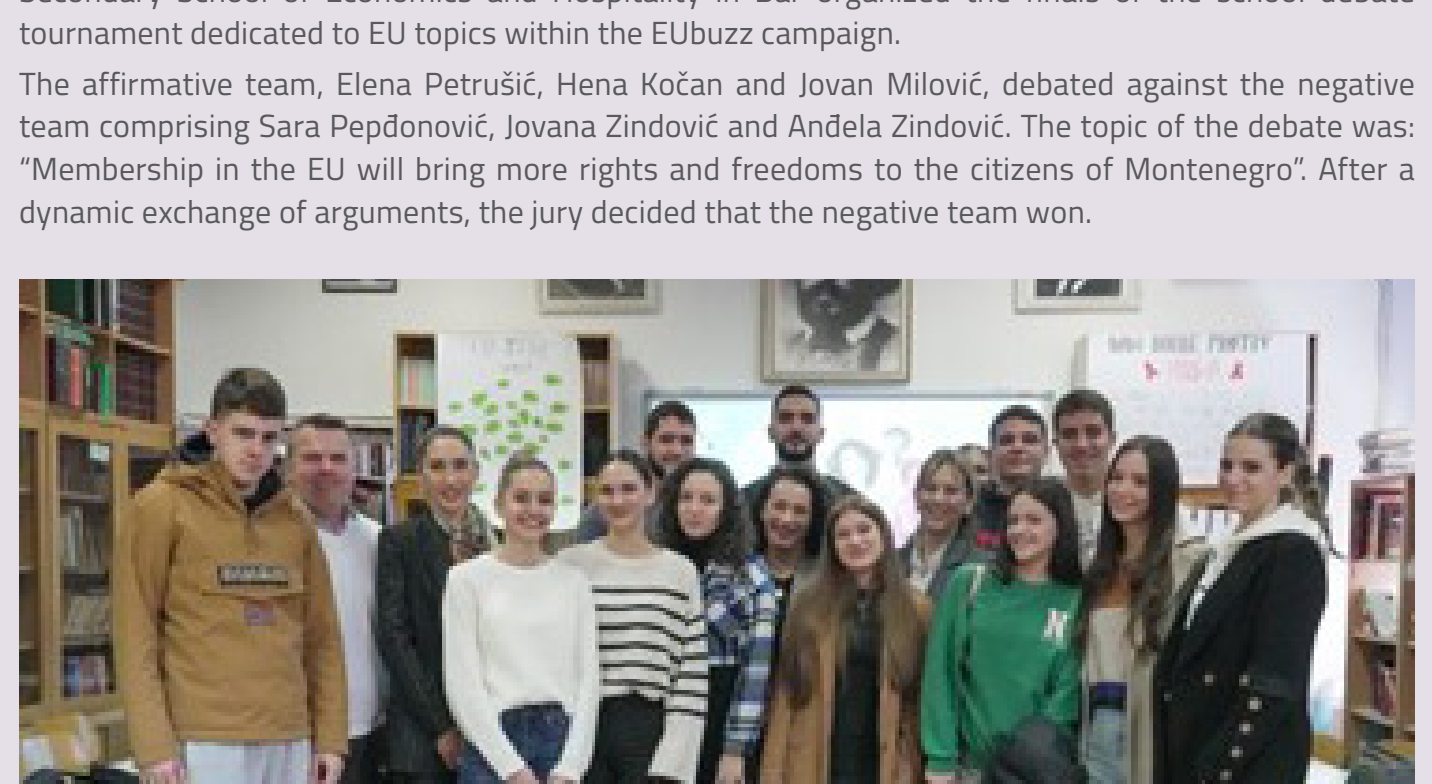
16. X 2024

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION WITH THE FACULTIES OF PHILOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO AND UNIVERSITY OF DONJA GORICA

Ministry of European Affairs signed a Memorandum on Cooperation with the faculties of philology of the University of Montenegro and University of Donja Gorica. The aim of the cooperation is implementation of activities and projects of common interest, primarily in the fields of preparation of Montenegro version of the European acquis, training of students in the field of translation of European documents and using the computer assisted translation tools, translation in national and European institutions and standardization of Montenegro terminology in specific fields.

Chief negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union Predrag Zenović clarified that the corps of European legislation at that moment contained about 250,000 pages of the Official Journal of the EU, and that the preparation of the national version of field-specific and legal texts was a test of preparedness of the state to deal with the tasks that membership in the EU brought.

“Preparation of the national version of the EU acquis is the most demanding translation-legal endeavour in Montenegrin history, where we have to have in mind in particular the specificities of translation of legal text, as the so called „high risk texts“. After we become an EU Member State these texts will produce legal effect and have a direct impact on the processes within the society and the rights of individuals”, said Zenović.



18. X 2024

START OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME „READY4EU“ FOR WORKING IN EU INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Training Programme „Ready for EU“ is intended for civil servants who want to acquire knowledge and skills and become competitive and qualified for undertaking responsible roles in the EU institutions and bodies.

The first cycle of the programme created by the Human Resources Management Agency with the support of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ministry of Public Administration and Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA) in the light of acceleration of the negotiation process and increasingly certain Montenegro's accession to the EU, gathered 25 participants from various state institutions.

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević, acting Director of the Directorate for Local Self-Government in the Ministry of Public Administration Nina Blažić, Director of the Human Resources Management Agency Agnora M. Camaj and Director of ReSPA Maja Handjiska Trendafilova spoke in the opening ceremony.

Minister Gorčević said that the training programme „Ready4EU“ was one of the key investments into the future of Montenegro as a future EU member state. She added that, through employment of civil servants in numerous EU institutions, Montenegro would have an opportunity to participate on equal footing in development and implementation of policies after membership.



21. X 2024

EUBUZZ INFO DAY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES TOOK PLACE IN BUDVA

EUBuzz Info Day for the debate clubs from the Southern Municipalities took place in Budva within the EUBuzz campaign aimed at explaining EU topics to the young audience, encouraging them to critical thinking and motivating them to take an active part in the processes in their society. Almost 40 members of the debate clubs of secondary schools from Budva, Bar, Kotor, Tivat and Herceg Novi had an opportunity to learn about functioning of the EU, its values and opportunities for the youth, but also to acquire new skills for successful debating about EU topics.

24. X 2024

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OPENED A PUBLIC CALL FOR STUDENTS' TRAINEESHIP IN THE MINISTRY

With a view to ensuring integrated knowledge in the field of negotiation process with the EU, international relations, European integration and accession to European funds, and development of skills in the field of political and public communication, Ministry of European Affairs opened a public call for students of political science and related disciplines to participate in the programme of rotation practice in the Ministry of European Affairs.

5. XI 2024

EUROPEAN DAY ORGANIZED IN NIKŠIĆ: EUROPEAN IDEA LIVES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL TOO

Within the project European Day in Your Town, Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević visited Municipality of Nikšić, where she met with the president of the municipality, visited EU projects in the Innovation-Entrepreneurship Centre Technopolis and newly opened building of TV Nikšić.

Appreciating the important role of municipalities as partners in the process of Montenegro's European integration, Gorčević expressed satisfaction with the continuation of the practice of visiting Montenegrin municipalities.

„We want all municipalities to be trained to use European Union funds in a better way, to improve the quality of life and modernize their services. I am glad that European idea does not live only on the national level, but on the local level too. I believe that the Ministry of European Affairs will continue being a partner to the Municipality of Nikšić, local organizations and NGO sector“, said the Minister.

6. XII 2024

THE FINALS OF THE EUBUZZ DEBATE TOURNAMENT IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL „STOJAN CEROVIC“ IN NIKŠIĆ

The Finals of the debate tournament on EU topics was organized in the Grammar School „Stojan Cerović“ in Nikšić within the EUBuzz campaign implemented by the Ministry of European Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, with the financial support of the EU through the EU4ME project and European House. Participants in the finals of the debate tournament on the topic „Montenegro's membership in the EU will have a positive impact on the position of youth“ were Anastasija Vukotić, Teodora Agramović and Ljiljana Radović in the affirmative team and Ivana Đukanović, Tijana Dendić and Andrea Mišević in the negative team. The jury was of the opinion that the affirmative team had stronger arguments, and they were declared winners of the finals.

9. XII 2024

THE FINALS OF THE EUBUZZ DEBATE TOURNAMENT IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL „PANTO MALIŠIĆ“ IN BERANE

The finals of the school debate tournament on EU topics was organized in the Grammar School „Panto Mališić“ in Berane within the EUBuzz campaign implemented by the Ministry of European Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, with the financial support of the EU through the projects EU4ME and European House.

Participants, Nikola Miličević, Nina Drobniak and Božana Bračkočević in the affirmative team, and Ana Božović, Saška Ivanović and Tamara Ostojić in the negative team, debated on the topic „Montenegro's membership in the EU will have more benefits than disadvantages“. The affirmative team won.

11. XII 2024

WINNERS AWARDED IN THE DEBATE TOURNAMENT IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND HOSPITALITY IN BAR

Secondary School of Economics and Hospitality in Bar organized the finals of the school debate tournament dedicated to EU topics within the EUBuzz campaign.

The affirmative team, Elena Petrušić, Hena Kočan and Jovan Milović, debated against the negative team comprising Sara Peđonović, Jovana Zindović and Anđela Zindović. The topic of the debate was: “Membership in the EU will bring more rights and freedoms to the citizens of Montenegro“. After a dynamic exchange of arguments, the jury decided that the negative team won.

11. XII 2024

EUROPEAN DAY ORGANIZED IN KOLAŠIN

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and Ambassador Johann Sattler with associates paid a working visit to the Municipality of Kolašin.

Minister Gorčević and Ambassador Sattler, together with the President of the Municipality of Kolašin Petko Bakić, visited the city Bazaar and the city walking area the construction of which had been financed from EU funds.

The visit included a lecture about European Union and European integration – a class in the Primary School „Risto Manojlović“ attended by the Minister Gorčević, Ambassador Sattler and President of Municipality Bakić.

13. XII 2024

AWARDS GIVEN OUT TO THE BEST PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEBATES WITHIN THE EUBUZZ CAMPAIGN

Ministry of European Affairs and Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, with the financial support of the European Union through the projects EU4ME and European House, implemented the EUBuzz campaign which included debates on EU topics in secondary schools across Montenegro. The goal of the campaign that started in October was to explain EU topics to the young, to encourage them to critical thinking and motivate them to take an active part in the processes in their society.

During the previous two months, school debate tournaments on EU topics were organized in 18 secondary schools in 16 Montenegrin cities. More than 300 pupils participated in the debates. The winning teams in the school debates, their members and mentors were awarded certificates and prizes in the ceremony in Podgorica.

