NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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APRIL—JUNE
2025.

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Editorial

Dear reader,

The thirty-second European Integration Newsletter offers an overview of the key developments and activities in the EU accession process that took place in the second quarter of 2025.

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 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 related to coordination of the negotiation process, IPA, cooperation 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.

MINISTARSTVO EVROPSKIH POSLOVA

THE EVENT THAT MARKED THE PERIOD BEHIND US

27. VI 2025.

IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE WITH THE EU IN BRUSSELS MONTENEGRO CLOSED CHAPTER 5 – PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels, Montenegro closed Chapter 5 – Public Procurement – the first chapter within Cluster 1 (Fundamental rights), making thus another important step on the path towards membership in the European Union.

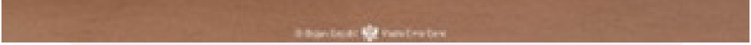
The Prime Minister Milojko Spajić was at the head of Montenegrin delegation in the Intergovernmental Conference with the EU.

He expressed gratitude to Polish Presidency, Member States and European Commission for the support in closing the Public Procurement Chapter.

“Six months ago, in the previous Intergovernmental Conference, I asked you to trust our motivation, determination and ability to deliver the 28th EU Member State to you by 2028. The continuity is of essence in our marathon – we need to close the chapters at a pace that will ensure we can fulfil our European ambitions,” underlined the Prime Minister.

As he emphasized, the progress achieved within the Chapter on Public Procurement showed Montenegro’s institutional maturity and ability to apply European standards in the fields necessary for the functioning of the rule of law and ensuring integrity of public administration.

“The overall credibility of our reform efforts is also enhanced, not only within the accession process but also in the achievement of European standards that we will have as a future EU member state”, added Montenegrin Prime Minister.



ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

2. IV 2025.

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

On Montenegrin side, the meeting was opened by the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović and Director General of the Directorate for International Cooperation, European Integration and Implementation of EU Funds, Ivona Savićević. The Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Directorate General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood and the Sub-Committee Co-Chair Heinke Veit addressed the participants on behalf of the European Commission.

The Chief Negotiator informed the participants that Montenegro continued the strong reform processes within the negotiations with the European Union, achieving significant progress in aligning its legislation with the EU acquis in the key areas.

03. IV 2025.

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND REGIONAL POLICY

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović on Montenegrin side and by the Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Directorate General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood Heinke Veit on behalf of the European Commission. The participants were also addressed by the Minister Development and Development of the North, Damjan Ćulafić, expressed gratitude to the EU for unambiguous support to the European prospects and fundamental reforms not only of the systems but also of values.

„Montenegro has 8 more closing benchmarks to meet in order to close Chapter 27. As for the of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Development of the North, Damjan Ćulafić and State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Development of the North Nenad Vitomirović.

„Our common goal is clear – Montenegro that is stable in terms of energy, networked with Europe, a country dedicated to sustainable development", said the Chief Negotiator, emphasizing that the progress in the cluster of Green Agenda and sustainable connectivity was of decisive importance for the process of Montenero's integration into the EU in terms of the fundamental long term policies of the European project, and heritage for future generations.

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, the Minister of the Environment, Sustainable

application and implementation of legislation, we are fully committed to the alignment with EU legislation, particularly in the field of horizontal legislation, nature protection, climate change, chemicals and noise", said Ćulafić.

State secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Development of the North, Head of the Working Group for Chapter 27 and member of the Negotiation team for Cluster 4, Nenad Vitomirović, underlined that Montenegro was fully committed to the accession to the EU and that it hoped that European Commission recognized the efforts Montenegro was investing in the negotiation process.

"I am certain that in the period ahead, with your guidelines and continuous support, we will achieve even better results, " said Vitomirović.

08. IV 2025.

PODGORICA - WORKSHOP ON CHANGES IN THE NEGOTIATION POSITIONS AND POST-CLOSURE CHAPTER MONITORING

Organized by the Ministry of European Affairs and PLAC Project (Policy and Legal Advice Centre for Montenegro), with the support of the European Union Delegation in Montenegro, the Workshop on changing negotiation positions and post-closure chapter monitoring took place in Podgorica.

The event was opened by the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with European Union Predrag Zenović who talked about the current state-of-affairs in the negotiation process and the forthcoming obligations in the context of accelerated pace of the negotiations.

Team leader of the PLAC project, Tatjana Tomić said that, within its capacities, the PLAC Project would continue providing support to the negotiation structure in facing the challenges in the process.

Croatian expert, Dubravka Vlašić Pleše, shared her experience from the Croatian negotiations since she was leading the working group for the negotiations in chapter 1 and was the secretary of the negotiation team in charge of the organization of expert and technical support for the Croatian negotiation team and coordination of preparations and adoption of negotiation document in all 35 negotiation chapters. She was at the same time leading the administration for legislative alignments.

08. IV 2025.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTH MACEDONIAN NEGOTIATION STRUCTURE IN A STUDY VISIT TO MONTENEGRO

A four-day study visit to Montenegro of the representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs, and the Negotiation Structure of North Macedonia has been successfully implemented under the auspices of the Project „Support to North Macedonia in the Process of European Integration" implemented by UNOPS in North Macedonia with the support of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro. The visit focused on the exchange of experience and best practices, strengthening of regional cooperation in the process of European integration, and had a with a particular emphasis on the Cluster 2.

The participants had an opportunity to get information about the organization and methodology of work in the Montenegrin negotiation structure, achievements within relevant chapters as well as abut the challenges that Montenegro faces on its European path.

The Chief Negotiator of Montenegro, Predrag Zenović, said that this study visit was more than an opportunity for knowledge exchange – it was a confirmation that the region shared a European vision. He underlined that Montenegro remained a forerunner in the European integration process that achieved significant progress in 2024 by getting a positive IBAR, closing three negotiation chapters and continuing intensive legislative and institutional reforms.

05. V 2025.

GOVERNMENT ADOPTED ACTION PLANS FOR CLOSING BENCHMARKS IN THE NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

Adoption of the Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24 constitute the key step in the process of Montenegro's European integration. These plans are not some mere administrative documents, but a basis for a long-term reform that will have a positive impact on the justice system, fight against corruption, protection of human rights and security of citizens. Implementation of the activities defined in these Action Plans will bring Montenegro closer to European standards and lay the foundations for a durable progress in the future.

Through these reforms Montenegro will not only meet the EU requirements but also ensure better quality of life for its citizens in the long run. Developing an efficient and independent justice system, combating organized crime and protecting fundamental human rights will be of key importance for the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

Final deadline for implementing the activities is the end of 2026 which provides sufficient time to achieve the set goals but also to monitor progress in a systemic manner and to react promptly to any potential challenge. Through these reforms, Montenegro will not only meet its obligations towards the EU but also create a stable and sustainable legal framework that will be beneficial for all citizens.

Vlada usvojila

Akcione planove za završna mjerila u poglavljima 23 i 24
Jasan putokaz ka zatvaranju ključnih poglavlja u procesu EU integracija
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16. VI 2025.

PRESS CONFERENCE - PRESENTATION OF THE NON-PAPER FOR THE NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

The Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović, member of the Negotiation team for Cluster 1, Head of the Negotiation Working Group for chapter 23 and Director General of the Directorate for Criminal and Civil Legislation in the Ministry of Justice Jelena Grdinić, as well as the Head of the Working Group for Chapter 24 and acting Secretary of the Ministry of Interior Jovana Mijović spoke in the press conference.

The press conference was also attended by representatives of the judiciary, prosecution service and Agency for Prevention of Corruption – Secretary of the Supreme Court of Montenegro Ksenija Jovićević Korać, Deputy Supreme State Prosecutor Jelena Deletić, Special Prosecutor Vukas Radonjić and acting Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption Dušan Drakić.

17. VI 2025.

16TH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INNOVATION, HUMAN RESOURCES, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SOCIAL POLICY

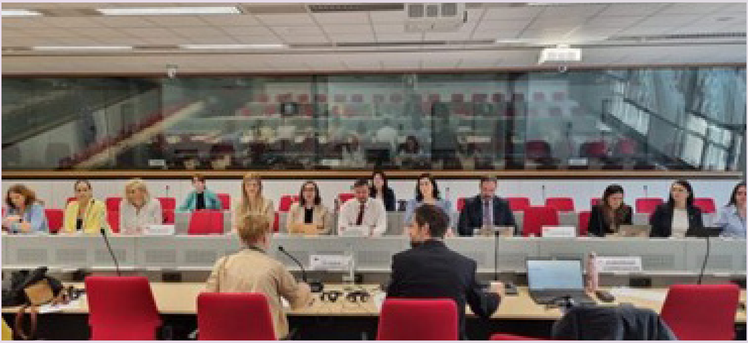
The meeting that took place in Brussels noted that Montenegro achieved a significant progress in the Chapters 2 – Freedom of Movement for Workers, 10 – Information Society and Media, 19 – Social Policy and Employment, 25 – Science and Research and 26 – Education and Culture.

With their colleagues from the European Commission, representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented the activities in the field covered by the above chapters.

Opening the meeting of the Subcommittee on behalf of the European side, Heinke Veit, Deputy Head of the Unit B4 – Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina – in the Directorate General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) underlined that Montenegro was the most advanced country in the region when it comes to the track records in the process of accession to the European Union and that it achieved significant progress in all chapters.

Ambassador of Montenegro in the EU, Petar Marković, said that the Government was committed to alignment with EU standards through concrete reforms, particularly those that encourage vulnerable groups in the society. He commended EC support through EU funds and Reform agenda and underlined the importance of the signing of financial agreements with the EU in the value of more than 80 million euros that will directly support protection of the environment, employment and social inclusion for 2024 – 2027.

Head of the Division for EU integration in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Family Care and Demography and Head of the Subcommittee for Innovation, Human Resources, Information Society and Social Policy, Anita Bilafer Mihaljević, emphasized that Montenegro translated its last year's operational conclusions into concrete activities particularly through legislative improvements, strengthened digitalization programmes and better strategic partnerships with the European Training Foundation and other EU agencies.



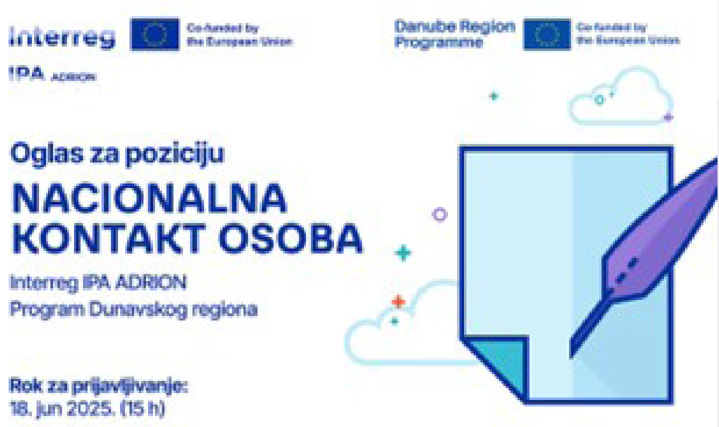
IPA

01. IV 2025.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF A NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR INTERREG IPA ADRION AND DANUBE REGION PROGRAMME

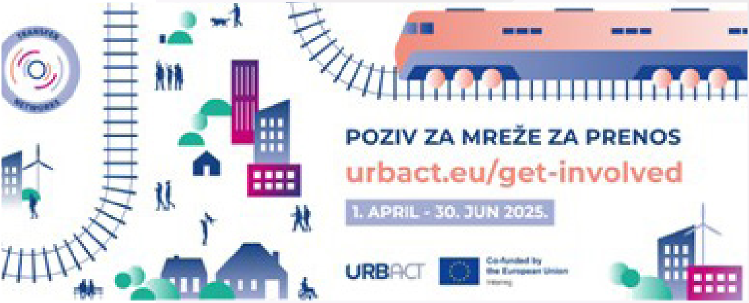
Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, in the capacity of the National body within the Interreg IPA ADRION and Danube Region Programme, invited interested candidates to apply for the position of a National Contact Point for the Interreg IPA ADRION and Danube Region Programme.

Deadline for submitting applications is 15 April 2025 at 3:00 PM.



02. IV 2025.

CALL FOR URBACT IV PROGRAMME TRANSFER NETWORKS



Programme of interregional cooperation URBACT IV launched a Call for Transfer Networks for the transfer of 116 good practices that got the label of URBACT good practice in 2024. Cities that have this label have an opportunity to transfer their good practices to other interested cities by establishing a Transfer Network.

The key goal is to ensure that the networks can improve and increase the positive influence of the already existing successful practices, projects or policies in those cities in Europe that have not yet developed such initiatives.

From 1 April to 30 June 2025, European cities will have an opportunity to apply for participation in transfer networks. The cities with URBACT good practice label will be in the position to act as leading partners, while Montenegrin cities can participate as partners taking over the good practices.

Maximum budget per network is 750,000 euros, including the co-financing.

03. IV 2025.

INFO DAYS ABOUT THE SECOND CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA PROGRAMME CROATIA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO

Info Days dedicated to the second call for project proposals within the Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021-2027 took place in Podgorica and Budva.

These events were attended by more than 150 representatives of institutions and organizations from the programme area who were presented rules for applying and steps in preparing project proposals. The presentations were made by the joint projects of the partners from the three countries.

Marina Škunca, representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia, commended the exceptionally high attendance of the potential beneficiaries in both of the Info Days.

The second call for projects was opened on 6th representatives of the Management Body – Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia and the Joint Secretariat of the Programme.

Opening the event, the Director General of the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, Miloš Marković, underlined that almost 30 million euros of European Union grants were available for March and will last until 6th June 2025. The call is opened for national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations as well as for entities founded by the state or local government unit with the headquarters in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Montenegro.

Programme area in Montenegro includes the Capital of Podgorica, Historic Capital Cetinje and municipalities of Bar, Budva, Danilovgrad, Herceg Novi, Kotor, Nikšić, Tivat, Tuzi, Ulcinj and Zeta.

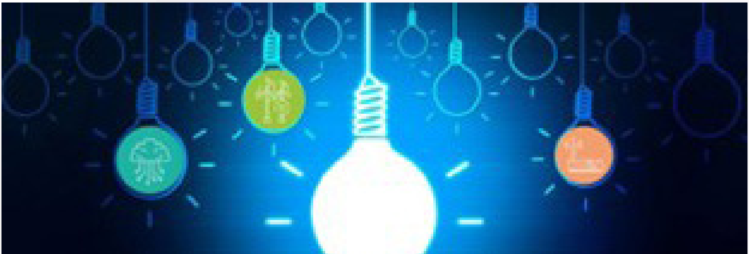
15. IV 2025.

SECOND CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS LAUNCHED WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA ADRION PROGRAMME

Trans-national cooperation programme Interreg IPA ADRION 2021-2027 launched the Second Call for project proposals inviting all interested institutions and organizations from the Adriatic-Ionian region to design projects in line with the set priorities and specific goals of this call.

Deadline for submitting project proposals is 30th June 2025 at 13:00. The total value of the available European Union grants is 21.87 million euros.

The Programme Interreg IPA ADRION focuses on cooperation of the countries in the Adriatic-Ionian region. In addition to Montenegro, the participating countries include Greece, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, San Marino, North Macedonia and Serbia.



IPA ADRION 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

25. IV 2025.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECTS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR WORTH 80 MILLION EUROS TO BE FINANCED FROM THE GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

The 7th Meeting of the Strategic and Operational Committee of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF), that took place in Brussels, was a platform for presentation of an updated list of Montenegrin projects to be financed through the Reform and Growth Facility, as well as three infrastructural projects applied for financing within the 10th WBIF Call in the total value of 80.3 million euros.

“Montenegro applied for the above projects requesting 14.6 million euros from the funds allocated for the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Implementation of the projects aims at ensuring certainty in energy supply, development of competitive energy market and sustainable energy development”, said the Minister of European Affairs and National IPA Coordinator, Maida Gorčević.

The proposed projects that will partly be financed through the Western Balkan Investment Framework include: 110 kV transmission line Herceg Novi – Vilusi in the value of 18.3 million euros, where we applied for the investment grant of 3.16 million euro; CEDIS smart digitalization – stage I in the value of 26.4 million euros, where we applied for 5.1 million euros and TS 400/110 kV Brezna – stage II in the value of 35.5 million euros, which will be supported through the Growth Plan with 6.38 million euros.

25. IV 2025.

INFO DAY ABOUT THE CALL FOR TRANSFER OF

GOOD PRACTICES OF THE URBACT IV PROGRAMME

Ministry of European Affairs organized in Podgorica an Info Day dedicated to the Call for Transfer Networks for Good Practices within the URBACT IV programme.

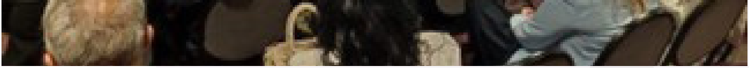
The Info Day was an opportunity for a detailed presentation of the Call rules, steps to be undertaken when preparing the project proposals, and practical ways to find project partners from Europe.

Participating in the transfer networks gives an opportunity to Montenegrin local self-governments to cooperate with other European cities and municipalities on adaptation and replication of good practices used by the cities with URBACT good practice label. In addition to this, through the process of replication, local self-governments will have an opportunity to improve such practices additionally, using the experience earned in the partner cities.

The Call is opened by 30 June 2025. Maximum budget per one transfer network is 750,000 euros, including co-financing. Information about this Call can be found at urbact.eu/get-involved.

13. V 2025.

INFO DAY DEDICATED TO THE SECOND CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA ADRION PROGRAMME



Ministry of European Affairs organized a national Info Day dedicated to the Second Call within the IPA ADRION programme, which provoked high interests of Montenegrin institutions and organizations.

The event offered an opportunity to the potential applicants to learn about the rules of the Call and to get practical advice related to preparation of project proposals from the representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs, Joint Secretariat located in Bologna, and Montenegrin Ministry of Finance.

During the Info Day, the participant had an opportunity also to hear about the experience that earlier beneficiaries had in the application process and to take an active part in the discussion, asking questions related to the current call.

The event also presented a new platform for looking for project partners that will make it easier for the potential applicants to establish cooperation among institutions and organizations from the Adriatic-Ionian Area.

15. V 2024.

MONTENEGRO OBTAINED PRE-FINANCING FROM THE EU GROWTH PLAN

Montenegro obtained 26.8 million euros pre-financing from the Reform Agenda – a part of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. Out of this amount, the total of 12.5 million euros of a favourable loan were paid today to the state budget. Additional 14.3 million euros, in form of grants and loans will be allocated through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) for infrastructure improvements country wide. This payment of pre-financing constitutes 7% of the total financial support envisaged for Montenegro within the EU Growth Plan.

Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević, said that the Government had made all the required steps to ensure the first payment – including the adoption of the Agreement on the Growth Plan in the Parliament and closing of the Loan Agreement with the European Commission. She clarified that, out of the total amount of pre-financing, 14.3 million euros would be allocated to infrastructural projects in the field of energy through the Western Balkan Investment Framework, while the rest will be paid through a direct budget support for implementation of the priorities defined in the Reform Agenda by 2027.

Montenegro has an opportunity, by 2027, to secure 383 million euros in total from the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility for progress in reforms in the rule of law and fundamental rights, renewable energy sources, digital economy, human capital and private sector development.

15. V 2025.

Q & A SESSION – SECOND CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA PROGRAMME CROATIA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO

2nd Call for Proposals
15 May 2025

Management body and the Joint Secretariat of the Cooperation programme Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021 – 2027 organized a Questions and Answers session dedicated to the Second Call for Project Proposals.

In this interactive session, potential applicants had an opportunity to get additional information and practical advice for preparing and submitting project proposals.

The Second Call within the Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021 – 2027 Programme will be opened by 6 June 2025 at 15:00.

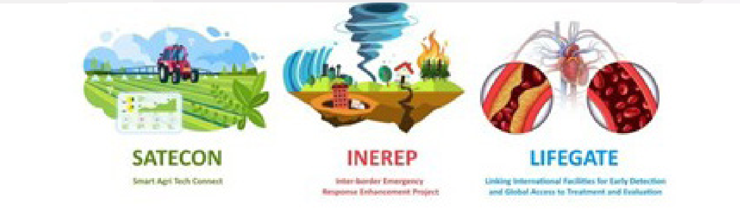
30. V 2025.

APPROVALS FOR THREE STRATEGIC PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY THE INSTITUTIONS FROM CROATIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO

Monitoring Committee of the Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021-2027 approved three joint strategic projects submitted by the institutions from these three countries. Their estimated total value is 30 million euros.

The approved projects will be financed by the European Union grants in the amount of 85% of total costs, while the remaining 15% will be provided through national co-financing.

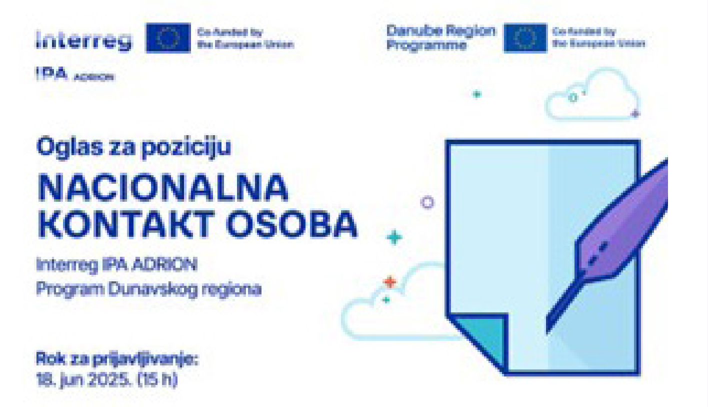
The projects will focus on adaptation to climate change, health sector and innovation in agriculture. They have resulted from the agreement of the national bodies and are in line with programme priorities. These projects are: INEREP (Inter-Border Emergency Response Enhancement Project) of the total value of about 14.8 million euros; LIFEGATE (Linking International Facilities for Early Detection and Global Access to Treatment and Evaluation) of the total value of 9.55 million euros and SATECON (Smart Agri Tech Connect) of the total value of 6.4 million euros.


SATECON
Smart Agri Tech Connect
INEREP
Inter-border Emergency Response Enhancement Project
LIFEGATE
Linking International Facilities for Early Detection and Global Access to Treatment and Evaluation

06. VI 2025.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PUBLISHED AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF A NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR THE INTERREG IPA ADRION AND DANUBE REGION PROGRAMME

Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, in the capacity of the National body within the Interreg IPA ADRION and Danube Region Programme, invited interested candidates to apply for the position of a National Contact Point for the Interreg IPA ADRION and Danube Region Programme. Deadline for submitting applications is 18 June at 3:00 PM


Interreg
Co-funded by the European Union
IPA ADRION
Danube Region Programme
Co-funded by the European Union

Oglas za poziciju

NACIONALNA KONTAKT OSOBA

Interreg IPA ADRION
Program Dunavskog regiona

Rok za prijavljivanje:
18. jun 2025. (15 h)

10. VI 2025.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ SIGNED FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE EU WORTH 80 MILLION EUROS

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević signed the financial agreements with the EU worth 80 million euros. The Agreements deal with multi-annual operational programmes in the field of environment protection and employment and social inclusion for the period 2024-2027.

She said that these financial agreements constitute a key step in the strengthening of the capacity of the state to implement important reforms and build sustainable society, as well as a confirmation of Montenegro's commitment to European integration and principles of sustainable development.

Operational programme for environment protection and climate change aims at preserving and improving natural capital of the country, as well as at protecting health and wellbeing of citizens from the risks of climate change.

Operational programme for employment and social inclusion focuses on encouraging inclusive and sustainable economic growth through three main areas of support: inclusive labour market, social care and inclusion, as well as the strengthening of administrative capacities.

18. VI 2025.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE CEREMONY WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAMME

Representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs participated in Tirana in the ceremony of signing the contracts with the leading partners in projects. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of Italy, Albania and Montenegro, Management Body, Joint Secretariat and European Commission.

Out of 198 received project proposals, 43 were approved for financing, while the total value of all projects amounts to 41 million euros. The total number of 220 partners participate in project implementation – universities, research centres, education institutions, chambers of commerce, regional and local authorities.

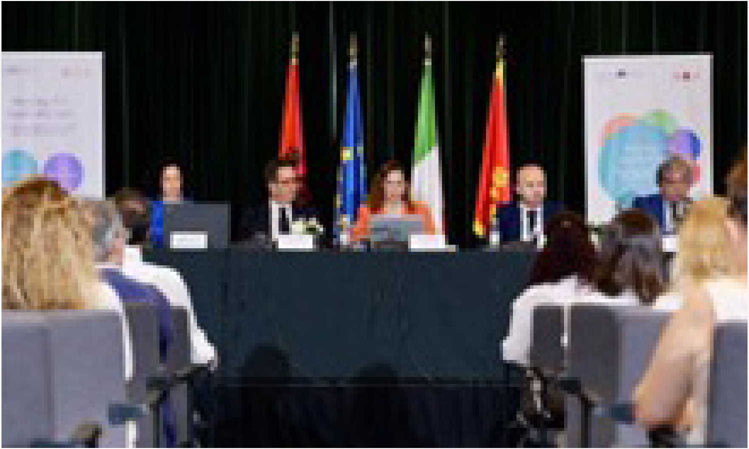
Albania within the programme Interreg IPA South Adriatic. More than 11 million euros of EU grants have already been allocated for their participation.

The projects cover four strategic areas: competitiveness and innovation, sustainable development and environment, mobility and transport, and social inclusion.

„We are proud that 49 Montenegrin institutions and organizations will participate in these cross-border projects, and I am convinced that they will give a full contribution to our shared vision of a more connected and more prosperous region of South

As many as 49 institutions and organizations from Montenegro will be implementing the projects in cooperation with the partners from Italy and

Adriatic," emphasized Miloš Marković, Director General of the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro.



24. VI 2025.

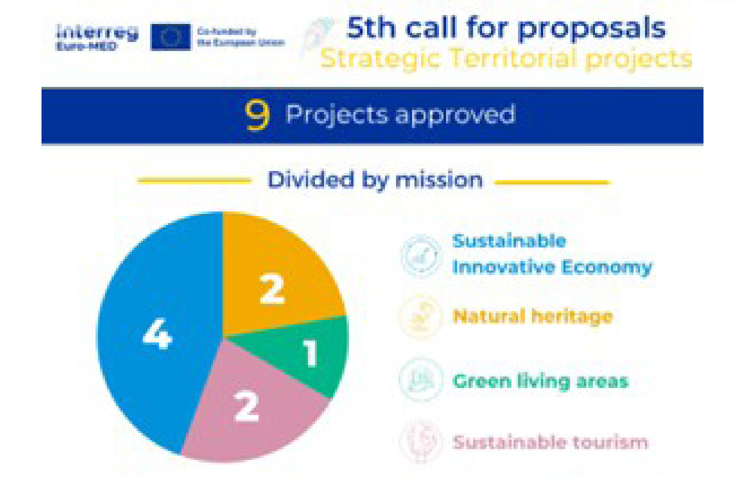
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PARTICIPATED IN THE 13TH MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERREG EURO-MED 2021-2027 PROGRAMME

The fifth call, with the total budget of 35 million euros of EU funds, was open from 18 June to 26 September 2024. Thematic areas of the call were focused on the lack of water and prevention and reduction of waste. Montenegro is the only country candidate for membership in the EU that has the position of a leading partner in this call. This fact is a confirmation of an increasingly strong credibility, as well as of the capacity of Montenegrin institutions to lead complex international projects in line with the standards and priorities of the European Union.

Out of the total of 95 proposed projects, 9 were approved. Three of them include Montenegrin partners – Municipality of Žabljak, as the leading partner in its project, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Industry.

Municipality of Žabljak will be the leading partner in the WATERVILL project within the mission "Innovative Sustainable Economy".

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Industry participates in the project RedeeM, within the programme mission "Preserving Nature", as well as in the project IDRON implemented within the mission "Innovative Sustainable Economy".



13. VI 2025.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN GLOBSEC FORUM IN PRAGUE

During the Forum, Minister Gorčević participated in two panels where she presented Montenegro's positions in the context of European integration, institutional reforms and economic cooperation.

In the panel "Strengthen, Safeguard and Simplify: The EU's Path Forward", she spoke about the need to modernize decision-making within the EU, about strengthening democratic resilience and enlargement as the key factor for security of the continent. The panel brought together the ministers of European affairs of the Czech Republic and Denmark, officials of the Government of Poland, as well as representatives of economy and civil society.

On the second day of the Forum, the Minister participated in the special session "Beyond Borders: Advancing European Economic Integration of the Balkans" that discussed concrete steps for the strengthening of economic dimension of the accession process – including the alignment with the rules of the single EU market, liberalization of the capital flows, fight against money laundering and improvement of the investment environment in the region. Representatives of candidate countries and EU Member States participated in the panel along with the reputable experts and parliamentarians.

Gorčević said that regional cooperation and strengthening of mutual connections constituted the key for unlocking the full potential of the Western Balkans. Initiatives like the Growth Plan for the region offer historic opportunity to accelerate economic integration into the European Union, upgrade infrastructural connectivity and attract sustainable investment that bring tangible benefits to the citizens.

GLOBSEC
FORUM
PRAGUE
2025
COMMANDING (IN) CHAOS: TIME FOR EUROPE TO STEP UP

10. IV 2025.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE PANEL „SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE WESTERN BALKANS “

The panel “Sustainable Future of the Western Balkan: Reform Policy and the Markets for Long-Term Growth” took place within the ESG Adria Summit in Tivat. The event was organized by GIZ RegioTrade programme funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro.

The panel brought together high representatives of the institutions, international organizations and they discussed the challenges and potentials for accelerated and sustainable economic development of the region in the context of European integration.

Minister Maida Gorčević said that the Growth Plan was the key instrument for accelerating reforms and integrating Montenegro into the EU single market.

„Our focus is on modernization of infrastructure, digital transformation and strengthening of the rule of law – to ensure that Montenegro can become a competitive, sustainable economy and reliable partner in the EU. Through the Growth Plan we do not work only on the alignment with European standards, but also on developing foundations for long-term economic development and stronger regional cooperation.”

She emphasized that the efficient use of foreign financial support was possible only with strong institutions, transparency and clear and measurable results: “Our goal is not to get short-term support, but durable, structural changes that will bring benefits to future generations.”

Future-Proofing the Western Balkans:
Reforming Policies and Markets for Sustainable Growth
ESG Adria

4. IV 2025.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PUBLISHED THE LIST OF NGO REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSED FOR THE POSITION OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES OF NGOS IN THE FIELD OF MONTENEGRO'S EURO-ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN 2025

On the basis of a Public Call for proposing representatives of non-governmental organizations in the commission for allocation of funds for projects and programmes of non-governmental organizations in the field of Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic and European integration in 2025 no. 07-056/25-829 as of 10 March 2025, Ministry of European Affairs published a List of NGO representatives proposed for the position of a member of the Commission for allocation of funds for projects and programmes of non-governmental organizations in the field of Euro-Atlantic and European integration of Montenegro in 2025.

Ministarstvo
evropskih
poslova

14. V 2025.

INFO DAY OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WITH NGOS – “DIALOGUE FOR EUROPE “

Ministry of European Affairs organized an Info Day

Biljana Papović – State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Gordana Despotović-Đekić – Director General of the Directorate for Informing the Public about the EU and EU Accession Process spoke with the representatives of the NGO sector, while Luka Stanković, Head of the Division for related to the public advertisement for financing projects and programmes of NGOs in the field of European integration for 2025 titled "Dialogue for Europe". It was attended by a large number of representatives of civil society organizations from Montenegro.

The attendees were presented goals and priorities of the advertisement, eligible activities, requirements for application and criteria for allocation of the funds. They also had an opportunity to get answers to their questions and clarify all dilemmas about the procedure.

Aligning Legislation in the Field of Economy and Finance presented details about the technical aspects of applying.

It was underlined that the total budget amounted to 103,604.49 euros, while the amount of individual support ranged from 5,000 to 10,000 euros. The advertisement is opened by 5 June, while the decisions are expected at the beginning of July, which will be followed by signing of contracts and regular monitoring of the projects throughout the year.

29. V 2025.

PUBLIC CALL FOR NGOS TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT THE SECTORAL ANALYSIS OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

In line with Article 12 of the Decree on the election of representatives of NGOs into working bodies of state administration and conducting public consultations in the process of preparing laws and strategies (Official Gazette of Montenegro 41/18) in relation to Article 32a paragraph 2 of the Law on Non-Governmental organizations (Official Gazette of Montenegro 39/11 and 37/17), the Ministry of European Affairs launched a Public Call for NGOs active in the field of Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic and European integration to participate in consultations aimed at developing Sectoral Analysis for adopting proposals of priority areas of public interests and the funds necessary for financing projects and programmes of NGO-s from the budget of Montenegro in 2026.

Deadline for consultations is 15 days, conclusive with 13 June 2025.

Ministarstvo
evropskih
poslova

11. VI 2025.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS LAUNCHED A PUBLIC CALL FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROPOSE FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE POSITION OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MONITORING MONTENEGRO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE REFORM AND GROWTH FACILITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Ministry of European Affairs invited non-governmental organizations that work in the field of any of the thematic areas defined in the Reform Agenda to submit their proposals for the election of one representative to the Committee for Monitoring Reform and Growth Facility for each of the thematic policies defined in the Reform Agenda.

Committee for Monitoring Montenegro's participation in the European Union Reform and Growth Facility has the task of monitoring and assessing the level and quality of implementation of all reforms and investment aimed at meeting the goals set in the Reform Agenda and Regulation (EU) 2024/1449. Participation of the representatives of the civil society ensures an inclusive, transparent and responsible process of monitoring of the implementation of European Union support to Montenegro through this instrument. Monitoring Committee will comprise representatives of the European Commission, Government of Montenegro and relevant institutions, bilateral donors, international organizations, international financial institutions, private sector and civil society.

Javni poziv

nevladinim organizacijama za članstvo u Odboru za praćenje učešća Crne Gore u Instrumentu EU za reforme i rast

rok za prijave 21. jun 2025. godine

više informacija na www.eu.me

OTHER

02. IV 2025.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN PUB QUIZ TOOK PLACE IN PODGORICA

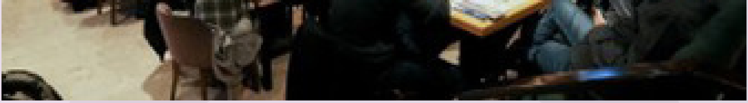
European Pub Quiz was organized by the Ministry of European Affairs and Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro, through the projects EU4ME and European House, in cooperation with the author of the quiz Zoran Miljanić.

During the European Pub Quiz, 39 teams, with more than 100 participants, competed in seven different games, while the organizers expressed pleasure with the response and interest of the competitors.

European Pub Quiz included different topics, covering European culture, arts, history and sports.

The goal of organizing the quiz was to promote European Union and its values in a fun and dynamic way in friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and to ensure that, through interaction and game, citizens can show how much they know and acquire new knowledge about the EU.

The best knowledge was shown by the team „K.K. Slakaši" comprising: Haris Divanović, Stevan Kandić, Danilo Backović, Ivan Stojanović and Radovan Ognjenović. They won a voucher in the value of 300 euros for purchasing technical goods. The second place was taken by the team "EUnkvizitori" that won a board game, while the team "Dežurni krivci" took the third place and won a cinema voucher.



07. IV 2025.

THE EIGHT FORUM „ASK THE MINISTER!“

On the occasion of celebrating the Day of Students, Ministry of European Affairs organized the eight Forum "Ask the Minister!" within the EU4ME project. The Forum gathered about 60 students from Montenegrin universities that had the opportunity to talk with the Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Development of the North, Damjan Ćulafić, and the Minister of Mining, Oil and Gas and Head of the Ministry of Energy Admir Šahmanović.

The goal of the Forum is to encourage stronger participation of youth in the process of accession to the EU, providing students with an opportunity to talk to the ministers about important topics and present their ideas and problems.

Opening the Forum, Aleksa Bečić, Vice-President of the Government for security, defence and fight against crime and internal policy, emphasized the importance of dialogue with the youth, who, in his opinion, were the key stakeholders in the process of transformation of the society and building European future.

Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević, congratulated the Day of Students and said that the Ministry supported the ideas and projects that give youth the space to take an active part in social processes. She underlined that it was important to listen to the youth because their opinions and criticism contribute to changes and their voice had to be heard when decisions about important matters are made.

With the Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Development of the North, Damjan Ćulafić, the students talked about the importance of sustainable development for the future of Montenegro and about the policies to be adopted to meet the criteria for closing the Chapter 27 – the Environment.

Admir Šahmanović, Minister of Mining, Oil and Gas and Head of the Ministry of Energy, presented projects in the energy sector and discussed with the students about the importance of energy efficiency and transfer to renewable energy sources.

The Forum was attended by a large number of students, and they had the opportunity to pose questions to the Ministers, express their opinions and dilemmas and everything that they are interested in.

15. IV 2025.

EUROPEAN DAY ORGANIZED IN TIVAT

Working visit to the Municipality of Tivat was implemented within the project “EU4ME – Support to Communicating the European Integration Process”. Minister Gorčević with her associates met with the President of the Municipality Željko Komnenović and his team. During the meeting, they discussed opportunities and projects available to the Municipality of Tivat through cross-border cooperation programmes; possibilities for further development of the Municipality; and the importance of active participation of local self-government in the process of European integration.

President of the Municipality of Tivat, Željko Komnenović, said it was his pleasure to welcome the Minister in the municipality and underlined the willingness of the local self-government to continue strengthening European path of the city.

During the visit to the Public Pre-School Institution “Bambi”, Minister Gorčević attended the educational workshop “Recycling in Colouring: We Preserve the Nature”, aimed at explaining to the youngest how important it is to dispose waste in a proper way and to preserve the environment. Within the project “EU4ME – Support to Communicating the European Integration Process”, the Ministry of European Affairs donated three eco-benches and three bins for recycling plastic, paper and glass to this institution. The benches and bins are built of eco-planks produced by recycling plastic with the labels 2 and 5, which additionally promotes sustainable use of resources. On this occasion, the youngest were given gifts by the Minister in form of colouring books. She said that adoption of environmental habits from the earliest age constituted the foundation for developing responsible and aware citizens.

European Day in Tivat was also an opportunity for the Minister Gorčević and President Komnenović to visit the Mixed Secondary School “Mladost”, where the Interreg IPA Project “CUHaCHA” equipped a modern professional kitchen for practical training of pupils of hospitality school. The students had an opportunity to talk with the Minister and President of the Municipality about the importance of education, professional training and opportunities provided by European Programmes and Funds.

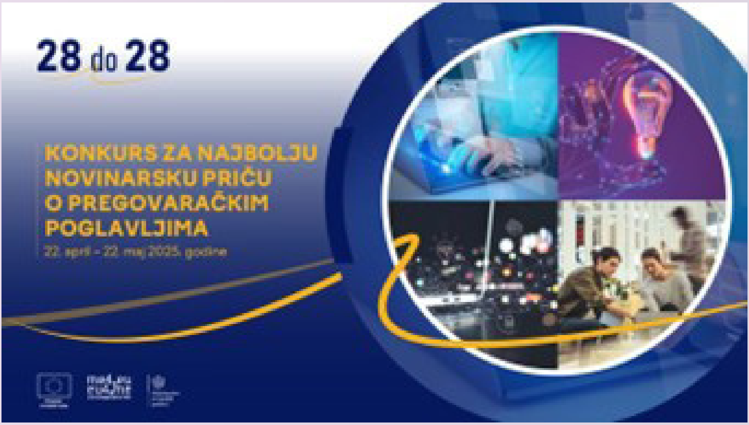
22. IV 2025.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS LAUNCHED AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS WITHIN THE CAMPAIGN “28TO28”

With the financial support of the European Union through the EU4ME project, Ministry of European Affairs launched an advertisement for the best newspaper stories about negotiation chapters within the process of Montenegro’s accession to the European Union. The advertisement is implemented within the campaign “28 to 28” which aims at explaining to the public how important it is to close negotiation chapters and achieve full preparedness for membership in the European Union.

Journalists from all Montenegrin media – television, radio stations, printed media and portals can participate, regardless of whether they are local or national media and what ownership structure they have.

This advertisement calls for newspaper stories addressing one or several of the following negotiation chapters: 7 – Intellectual Property Law; 10 – Information Society and Media; 20 – Entrepreneurship and Industrial Policy; 5 – Public Procurement. The stories should contain concrete examples, collocutors, analyses and stories that explain to the citizens how important it is to close the chapters and what benefits the process can produce to individuals and the society.


28 do 28
KONKURS ZA NAJBOLJU NOVINARSKU PRIČU O PREGOVARAČKIM POGLAVLJIMA
22. april – 22. maj 2025. godine

23. IV 2025.

PLJEVLJA CELEBRATED EARTH DAY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EU4ME PROJECT

Symbolically planting the tree of silver spruce in representatives of local and national institutions, the excursion site Smart Lake, the Municipality of Pljevlja, in cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs and with the support of the EU4ME project, celebrated 22nd April – Earth Day. The action was supported by the best athletes from Pljevlja for 2024 – Ena Plakalo and Nemanja Džaković, as well as by the local utility company DOO "Čistoća" Pljevlja.

Celebration of the Earth Day continued with the panel discussion that brought together non-governmental sector and experts. The participants were greeted in the introduction by Darko Gazdić, Vice-President of the municipality, Ljiljana Đonović, Manager of the municipality and Vaso Knežević, eco-ambassador of Montenegro. The discussion included representatives of the Agency for Environment Protection, Eco-Fund, NDO "ECO-TEAM" AND "Korak sa naukom", Coal Mine and Thermal Power Plant Pljevlja, as well as Dana Krezović, Head of the Service for Environment Protection in the Municipality of Pljevlja.

25. IV 2025.

WORKSHOP: IMAGINE. CREATE. PROTECT: PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In the preparations for the Day of Intellectual Property that is celebrated on 26th April, Ministry of European Affairs and Science-Technology Park organized a panel discussion and workshop "IMAGINE. CREATE. PROTECT: Perspectives and Challenges in the Field of Intellectual Property". They brought together representatives of the negotiation structure, the Government, economy, academic community, private sector and start-up companies who discussed topical issues in this field and the negotiation chapter 7: Intellectual Property Law, that Montenegro closed late last year.

The event was opened by Valentina Radulović, Director of the Science-Technology Park of Montenegro and Jasna Vujović, Director General of the Directorate for Internal Market and Competition in the Ministry of Economic Development. In their introductory speeches they underlined that successful development of the society was based on knowledge, innovation and protection of intellectual potential.

The panellists confirmed the importance of intellectual property as the key driver of creativity, innovation and economic development, underlining that Montenegro had a good institutional and legislative framework in this area, but that there are still significant challenges in practice.

The panellists agreed it was necessary to improve awareness and trainings about intellectual property, explain what intellectual property included and how it should be protected and explain these topics to lawyers, but also to artists, engineers and entrepreneurs.

06. V 2025.

THE FIRST CYCLE OF THE PROGRAMME “READY4EU”: CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO THE FIRST GENERATION OF PARTICIPANTS, THE BEST FIVE GO TO BRUSSELS

The first cycle of the Training Programme “Ready4EU” was officially finished in a ceremony, in the presence of representatives of institutions and international partners. This programme is aimed at strengthening civil servants for the work in European Union institutions, bodies and agencies.

This Programme, that was implemented by the Human Resources Management Agency with the support of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ministry of Public Administration, and Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), was attended by 23 participants from various state institutions, while during the six-month training as many as 21 workshops were organized.

The Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević, Director General of the Directorate for Strategic Planning in Public Administration, International Cooperation and IPA Funds in the Ministry of Public Administration, Marija Hajduković; Director of ReSPA Maja Handijska Trendafilova and Director of Human Resources Management Agency Agron M. Camaj spoke in the Certificate Award Ceremony. They emphasized that “Ready4EU” was a strategic investment into human capital, aimed at preparing Montenegro’s administration for membership in the European Union.

Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević, said that “Ready4ME” programme was designed as a bridge between knowledge and practice, potentials that Montenegro has and European standards that it strives for.

On the basis of the combined criteria – success in the final knowledge quiz and presence during the programme, five most successful participants were chosen and got an opportunity to visit European Union institutions in Brussels. The study visit is organized by the Human Resources Management Agency with the support of ReSPA. The event ended in the ceremony of awarding certificates to the participants.

Ready4EU
CEREMONIJA

03 —30. V 2025.

MONTH OF EUROPE CELEBRATED

Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro and the Ministry of European Affairs, with the support of EU projects, European House, EU4ME and Municipalities for EU, celebrated the Month of Europe across Montenegro through various activities. The goal of this year's celebration was to use arts, culture, education, games and environmental actions to explain European values to all citizens – in every part of the country.

Central celebration of Europe Days took place on 10th May in Podgorica, in the organization of the European House and in partnership with the Capital City.

From 9th to 20th May, through the EU4ME project, the Ministry of European Affairs, in cooperation with the local self-governments, organized educational-sports programme for children "European Tour – Games without Borders" in Nikšić, Žabljak, Pljevlja, Berane, Petnjica and Bar. The competition was intended for pupils of the seventh and eighth grade of local primary schools. Through games that combine physical, mental and educational challenges, the children learnt about European Union and its values, developed team spirit and promoted healthy lifestyles.

In each of the cities the events were attended by the ministers and Government representatives, as well as by high officials from the European institutions, EU Member States embassies and renowned athletes from every host city.

In cooperation with the municipalities of Andrijevica, Plav, Danilovgrad, Bijelo Polje, Plužine, Tivat, Ulcinj, Herceg Novi, Gusinje, Rožaje, Kotor, Tuzi, Šavnik, Cetinje, Budva, Mojkovac and Kolašin, the project "Municipalities for the EU" implemented an extensive programme that included environmental actions, fairs, knowledge quizzes, arts and crafts workshops, sport competitions, cultural events and promotion of the European cultural heritage.

European Tour, Nikšić, 9th May

European Tour, Žabljak, 13th May

Evropski
tim

Europe Day celebrated in Pljevlja, 14th May

European Tour in Berane, 15th May

European Tour in Petnjica, 16th May

European Tour in Bar, 20th May

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED A PANEL DEBATE ABOUT CHAPTER 10 – INFORMATION SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA

Through the project EU4ME, the Ministry of European Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Media organized a panel discussion about Chapter 10 – Information Society and the Media.

The panel named "Digitally. Critically. Responsibly: Challenges and Solutions for the Secure Online World" discussed the challenges of the digital environment, with the focus on (ab)use of artificial intelligence, protection of minors, disinformation and other aspects of digital security.

Predrag Zenović, Chief Negotiator with the European Union; Ružica Mišković, Head of the Negotiation Working Group for Chapter 10; Sunčica Bakić from the Agency for Audio-Visual Media Services; Sandra Bašić-Hrvatin, professor in the Faculty for Humanistic Studies of the University Primorska in Slovenia; Andreja Mihailović from the organization Women4Cyber; Nada Rakočević, Secretary of the ICT Committee in the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro; and Snežana Nikčević from the NGO 35 mm spoke in the event, while the panel was moderated by Đorđije Drinčić from the Ministry of Culture and the Media

Chief negotiator Predrag Zenović underlined the importance of digital literacy and skills for successful adaptation to modern flows within the European integration process.

„Chapter 10 also includes digital society and the media, and it is important that we develop capacities to be additionally prepared in digital terms for everything that the European Union envisaged in its digital compass with a view to be ready by 2030 for the time and challenges we live with", said Zenović.

Ružica Mišković, Head of the negotiation working group for this chapter emphasized that Montenegro was facing huge obligations in terms of alignment with the European legislation. "This is one of the most dynamic and most demanding chapters because of the speed of technological advancement. We have to deal with the obligations that are related to legislative alignment but also with concrete activities that demand an active, efficient and dedicated approach," said Mišković.

28 do 28
DIGITALNO.
KRITIČKI.
ODGOVORNO:

17. VI 2025.

REWARDS FOR THE BEST NEWSPAPER STORIES ABOUT NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS

Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević, awarded the authors of the best newspaper stories that were submitted to the advertisement launched by Ministry of European Affairs within the campaign "28 to 28", with the support of the European Union, through the EU4ME project.

On the basis of the scores given by the expert jury, which comprised representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Media and representatives of the media community, the rewards were awarded in the following way:

First place: Danijela Lasica (TV Vijesti), for the story about protection of intellectual property after closing of the Chapter 7.

Second place: Svetlana Mandić (ND Vijesti), for the story about entrepreneurship and industrial policy in the context of Chapter 20.

Third place: Danica Janković (TV Nova), for the story about the importance of closing Chapter 7 through concrete examples from practice.

Minister Gorčević underlined the importance of the initiatives like this one in the process of explaining European integration process to the citizens.

The awarded journalists expressed gratitude for the rewards, emphasizing that rewards like this one motivate further work and affirm journalism that promotes knowledge, development and quality of life.

26. VI 2025.

PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT CHAPTER 20 – ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Through the EU4ME project, the Ministry of European Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Regional-Investment Development and Cooperation with the NGOs organized a panel discussion about Chapter 20 – Entrepreneurship and Industrial Policy.

The event was opened by Renata Milutinović, acting Director General of the Directorate for Development of Industry and Crafts in the Ministry of Economic Development and Mirsada Bošnjak, State Secretary of the Ministry of Regional-the Business Start-Up Centre Bar; Tanja Radusinović, Director of the Sector for Projects in the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro; Žarko Miranović, beneficiary of the EEN/EENergy project; and Jelena Krivčević, Director of the Regional Development Agency Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, spoke in the panel "Opportunities Offered to Entrepreneurs through EU Single Market Programme Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)".

During the workshop "EU Funds for Entrepreneurs", Dragan Đurišić and Vlado Stojković from the Joint

Investment Development and Cooperation with NGOs.

Maja Jokanović from the Ministry of Economic Development, Head of the negotiation working group for Chapter 20; Ivana Tomašević, Director of Secretariat of the Interreg IPA Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro presented the EmBRACE project for micro and small companies and the Danube Region Programme, while Ljubica Kostić Bukarica talked about her experience in the implementation of the EmBRACE project.