

NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

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Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The eighth issue of Newsletter of the European Integration Office will present the most important events and activities under the process of accession to the EU during the second quarter of 2019.

Good results in negotiations with the EU are reflected in 32 opened and three provisionally closed negotiating chapters, as well as reforms which already gave visible results in many areas.

The European Integration Office has been committed to coordination of work of negotiating structure and intensification of activities with a view to achieving tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other authorities, as well as strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and its members so that Montenegro could take equal place among European partners.

The previous three months were also characterised by continuation of dynamic activities in terms of coordination of the negotiating process, implementation of IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, as well as organisation of numerous conferences, regional and international meetings.

We are convinced that this newsletter is also a contribution to improving the understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

Sector for informing the public about the EU and the EU accession process

General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro

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30. External relations	14. Transport policy	29. Customs union
1. Free movement of goods	15. Energy	31. Foreign, security and defence policy
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Provisionally closed chapter



Opened chapter



Drafting of the Negotiating Position

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

29. V 2019.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PUBLISHES THE 2019 REPORT ON MONTENEGRO



European Commission has published the 2019 Report on Montenegro. While presenting this year's enlargement package, the EC representatives emphasized that the credible enlargement policy is a geo-strategic investment in peace, stability, security and prosperity throughout Europe, and that the process of EU enlargement would still be based on established criteria, fair and rigorous requirements, as well as the individual merit principle. Representatives of the Government of Montenegro consider that the Report provides a realistic picture of Montenegro's successes and upcoming challenges, and also demonstrates that Montenegro continues to lead the EU accession process and thus maintains the position of a stable and sincere Union partner in the Balkans.

spoke about the decisive commitment of Montenegro to EU accession, emphasizing that the European integration process already had strong transformative power for the entire society, and that the reforms we are implementing already gave visible effects and affect improvement of the living standard of citizens. Montenegrin delegation also had several meetings in The Hague, where they stated that Montenegro had shown strong commitment in implementation of reforms, and that the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was ready to provide all the necessary support in continuing the EU accession process.



17.V 2019.

PROGRESS MADE BY INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT CIGARETTE TRADE

It was estimated during the visit of the EC's expert mission that Montenegrin institutions have made great progress over the past five years in the area of prevention and fight against smuggling and illicit trafficking of cigarettes and are fully committed to implementation of further reforms. The goal of the expert mission on the topic of prevention and fight against smuggling and illicit cigarette trade was to provide an assessment of the situation in this field from the perspective of Chapters 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security and 29 - Customs Union, as well as to consider the progress achieved in comparison with the last expert mission that took place in October 2014. Furthermore, a visit to the Port of Bar and the free trade zone was organized along with the visit to the new Tobacco Production Plant. Representatives of Montenegrin institutions and the European Commission noted significant progress, particularly with regard to cooperation between the Customs Administration, police and prosecution office.



EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

18. V 2019.

DRLJEVIĆ IN PARIS AND THE HAGUE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE AND EVALUATE OUR PROGRESS

Montenegro expects the European Commission to remain consistent and evaluate the progress of each country striving for the EU membership in this year's Report on the basis of individual results, said Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević during the meetings in Paris. Montenegrin delegation, which was led by the Chief Negotiator had several meetings in Paris with a view to presenting the latest results in the fight against corruption and organized crime to representatives of France. The Chief Negotiator

23. IV 2019.**MONTENEGRIN DELEGATION WITH AMBASSADORS IN BELGRADE: STATE IS DETERMINED TO FIGHT CRIME AND CORRUPTION**

Participants in the meeting between the Montenegrin delegation and non-resident ambassadors in Belgrade concluded that Montenegrin state authorities will continue to carry out quality reforms in the field of rule of law, with the expectation that the European Commission recognizes in this year's progress report the results that show Montenegro's readiness for the new stage of the negotiating process. Montenegrin delegation, which was led by Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, was comprised of negotiator for chapters 23 and 24 Marijana Laković, Chief Special Prosecutor Milivoje Katnić, director of the Anti-Corruption Agency Sreten Radonjić, and Montenegrin ambassador in Serbia Branislav Mićunović. During the meeting with representatives of the embassies of the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Spain and Portugal, they presented results in the field of fight against corruption and organized crime, saying that Montenegro is determined to continue with achievement of convincing results in the field of rule of law and show that is ready for the next stage of negotiations.

**11. IV 2019.****GOOD DYNAMICS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS**

Implementation of obligations under the negotiating process in the first quarter of 2019 has good dynamics, which is con-

firmed by the level of implementation of activities under the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU (PAMNE) 2019 – 2020, stated Dragana Marković, Adviser to the Chief Negotiator. The Government of Montenegro adopted the first quarterly report on the implementation of obligations under the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU for the period 2019-2020. Marković pointed out that the Government was satisfied with 74% fulfilment of obligations in the first quarter and indicated that 53 out of 72 planned commitments in the legislative and strategic segment were fulfilled. She stated that, when compared with the first quarter of 2018, when the level of realization of obligations was 67%, we can see the progress resulting from dedicated and responsible work of the institutions, as well as a good inter-ministerial coordination in fulfilment of obligations under the negotiating process.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT**28. VI 2019.****TENTH MEETING OF THE EU-MONTENEGRO STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**

During its tenth meeting in Brussels, the EU-Montenegro Stabilization and Association Council commended the opening of two more chapters since the last meeting. The SAA Council encouraged Montenegro to continue its work on fulfilling all the benchmarks and maintain its focus on the basics of the accession process: rule of law, economic governance and public administration reform, as well as to continue with open involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in preparations for EU accession and policy making process in general.



13. VI 2019.**IMPLEMENTATION OF HARMONIZED REGULATIONS IS THE MOST DEMANDING STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS**

Since the beginning of negotiations, Montenegro significantly amended its legislative and institutional framework in the fields of transport, environment, energy and regional development, and harmonized it with the European framework, and the implementation of the *acquis* represents the most demanding stage, bearing in mind complexity of chapters in administrative and financial terms, stated participants of the twelfth meeting of the Subcommittee on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional Development between Montenegro and the European Commission. As assessed during the meeting, Montenegro achieved significant results through all the chapters covered by the Subcommittee, which is proven by evaluations provided in this year's EC Report.

**12. VI 2019.****MONTENEGRO TO CONTINUE WITH PROGRESS IN LINE WITH THE EC GUIDELINES**

Montenegro achieved significant results in the field of competition and internal market and it should continue with progress in line with the guidelines given by the European Commission in this year's report, stated participants at the tenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Internal Market and Competition between Montenegro and European Commission. Dragica Sekulić, Darko Radunović, and Osman Nurković, ministers of economy, finance and transport and maritime affairs, presented results from the competencies

of their line ministries, as well as the upcoming activities, and their presence in the meeting, as assessed by the EC, shows Montenegro's commitment to EU integration. Chief Negotiator, Aleksandar Drljević believes that Montenegro achieved significant results through all the chapters covered by this Sub-Committee..

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**21. VI 2018.****PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT IS THE RIGHT MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO SEE THEIR ROLE IN THE PROCESS**

Day after publication of the European Commission's Report on Montenegro, Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević and members of the Negotiating Group presented its findings to representatives of the Montenegrin media. He indicated that in this year's report, the European Commission provided precise and detailed guidelines related to fulfilment of obligations stemming from the accession to the European Union, and that it was the right moment for every member of the Montenegrin society to consider his/her role in the process of European integration and contribute to the achievement of EU membership. A working breakfast with journalists was organized by the General Secretariat of the Government, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Drljević reminded that this year's European Commission's report provided an assessment of the progress made, both in terms of fulfilling political and economic criteria for EU membership and the ability to assume membership-related obligations in 33 negotiating chapters. "The EC recorded the achieved results and Montenegro's progress in the accession process, but also provided precise and detailed guidelines in order to continue with fulfilment

of obligations from the accession period in the best possible manner, with emphasis on the fields that require additional efforts so that reform effects could yield the desired results”, Drljević said.

28. V 2019.

YOUNG PEOPLE TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE ERASMUS



More than 750 students and teachers from Montenegro have so far been through Erasmus + programs at foreign universities, which is a great success for our country, stated participants of the panel “Be a part of success stories - use EU programmes”. The General Secretariat of the Government, under the EU4ME project, which is financed by the EU and implemented by the UNDP, in cooperation with the national Erasmus + Office, organized a panel where interested students had the opportunity to obtain useful information from Erasmus beneficiaries and representatives of the relevant institutions. As it was stated by participants during the mentioned panel, Erasmus is now a recognizable brand both at the EU and global level. Students agreed that this programme was not only a mere studying and passing of exams, it was much more, and it affects personal and professional development of individuals, giving them the opportunity to learn about new cultures and traditions. University graduates welcomed the opportunity for more than 4 million people to study, train, work or volunteer abroad through Erasmus + in the period 2014-2020.

13. V 2019.

EU FUNDS AND AGROBUDGET TO BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Montenegro, through the Agro-budget and European Union funds, has financial resources that will enable it to further develop the agricultural sector, as well as to distinguish on the global market with its quality products, stated participants during the public debate on Chapter 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development. They agreed that the common agricultural policy, as one of the most complex Union policies, tends to keep the EU at the top of the most serious stakeholders in the field of production and processing of agricultural products, as well as a stable market characterized by quality and healthy products and facilitated placement and

promotion for producers. Croatian experience and challenges during the negotiations in this field were presented by Ružica Gelo, the negotiator for Chapters 11, 12 and 13 from Croatia, pointing out that it is very difficult for the administrations of all small countries, such as Croatia and Montenegro, to bear the burden of the negotiating process. The EU Delegation to Montenegro emphasized their satisfaction with the situation in this field and indicated that the Montenegrin administration was aware of what should be done in this process and that producers were ready to work.



7. V 2019.

FOURTH EUSAIR FORUM TAKES PLACE: EUSAIR IS A GOOD MECHANISM FOR OVERCOMING REGIONAL CHALLENGES

European Union recognized the importance of the region as a driving force of innovation and growth based on the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), stated participants at the opening of the fourth EUSAIR Forum in Budva, and noted that Montenegro, with its development, promotes European values in the best possible way. The fourth EUSAIR Forum was jointly organized by Montenegro and the European Commission with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point strategic project. The Forum, which was held under the motto “Human Integration, Regional Development” was opened by Montenegrin Prime Minister Duško Marković and Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav. The President of the Montenegrin Government stated that Montenegro accepted presidency over the EUSAIR as a challenge, as well as an additional responsibility, aware that the Strategy represented the mechanism for strengthening European integration process, which is particularly important for our country, given the crucial phase in the process of integration.



3. IV 2019.**STUDENTS ARE THE DRIVING FORCE OF MONTENEGRO'S DEVELOPMENT AND ITS MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE**

Students are the most important resource of Montenegrin society and the main driving force of Montenegro's development, and systemic educational reforms have significantly contributed to their better knowledge and European competitiveness of degrees of all Montenegrin universities, concluded participants during the "Ask the Minister" Forum. Ministers of education, science and sport and youth, Damir Šehović, Sanja Damjanović and Nikola Janović, talked today with circa 60 students from all universities in Montenegro within the second "Ask the Minister" Forum. This year's "Ask the Minister" Forum was organized by the General Secretariat of the Government, in cooperation with the Rector's Office of the University of Montenegro, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sport and Youth and the Ministry of Science, within the project EU4ME, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP. It was pointed out that students represented the future intellectual elite and the generic power of development of Montenegrin society, and that they were also key witnesses of appropriate implementation of high education programmes, scientific and development projects and cultural and sports content at the university and wider social milieu.

**2. IV 2019.****GERMANY'S SUPPORT TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE RULE OF LAW**

Montenegro is significantly ahead of other countries that tend to become EU members – this was a conclusion derived during the visit of the Montenegrin delegation to Berlin, and it was announced that the continuation of quality implementation of reforms, with the support of European partners, particularly Germany, would lead to further progress in the field of rule of law. During their visit to Berlin, representatives of the Montenegrin delegation, led by Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, presented to German counterparts the latest results in the fight against corruption and organized crime, which show that Montenegro is ready for the new stage of the negotiating process. They indicated that the state authorities showed determination to direct all available resources towards achievement of convincing results in the fields of importance.

IPA**26. VI 2019.****EU ALLOCATES ADDITIONAL EUR 3.6 MILLION FOR THE PREPARATION OF INVESTMENTS INTO DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND RAILWAY**

The EU has allocated an additional amount of EUR 3.6 million to Montenegro for the preparation of project documentation for projects that will strengthen the infrastructure in the field of railway transport and digital sector. These additional funds were approved during the twentieth meeting of the Western Balkans Investment Framework Steering Committee (WBIF SC), which was organized in Berlin by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry of Finance. Montenegrin delegation was led by the Deputy Chief Negotiator – National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović. The project, worth EUR 3 million, will finance the preparation of the main designs for the reconstruction of the Golubovci – Bar railway line, as a part of the Bar – Vrbnica railway line, which is a section of the EU's main transport network. The design will encompass all elements of the infrastructure necessary for more efficient traffic and fulfilment of safety standards in accordance with the rules established at the EU level.



16. V 2019.**FIVE PROJECTS CONTRACTED UNDER CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

Five projects, worth EUR 1.1 million, have been contracted and are currently being implemented within the first Call for Proposals under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020. As announced at the conference held today in Podgorica, these projects aim to improve the welfare of the Programme-area population, first and foremost in the fields of increasing employability and employment opportunities, as well as protection of natural resources. “Through this Programme, successful cooperation between Serbia and Montenegro was established in 2008 and continued in this 10-year period through four public calls for proposals and 39 supported projects with a total value of EUR 8.5 million, laying down the bases for long-term cooperation in the fields of cultural exchange, tourism and health-care, economic cooperation, environmental protection and risk prevention, as well as employment and social cohesion”, the Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović pointed out.

**3. IV 2019.****EUR 2.8 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR JOINT PROJECTS FOR MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA**

EUR 2.8 million are available to possible beneficiaries from Montenegro and Albania for joint projects in the fields of environmental protection and employment, as it was announced at the two info-sessions in Plav and Bar, which were organized with the aim of presenting the second Call for Proposals under the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Albania, which is opened for proposals until 27 May 2019. “Possible beneficiaries from Montenegro and Albania have at their disposal EUR 2.8 million for projects that should contribute to protection of natural resources in lake and mountain areas, as well as to strengthen employability and social inclusion”, the speakers at the sessions pointed out. The IPA 2014-2020 CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania has been highlighted as continuation of the successful cooperation established within the previous IPA and under the first Call for proposals, as well as a great opportunity for cooperation and exchange of experience.

**COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR****28. VI 2019.****MONTENEGRO HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS UP TO THE HISTORICAL TASK OF JOINING THE EU**

During the negotiating process, Montenegro has shown that it is up to the historic task of joining the European Union and that it has established a system that delivers results in all fields, with the stable support of citizens to EU membership, said the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević. “We are glad to see that, seven years since the beginning of one of the most complex processes in the history of our country, the European idea is alive, as well as the fact that more than 65% of citizens believe in this project, 70% of which are young people who see Montenegro as a future EU member. This stable support of the Montenegrin citizens gives legitimacy to all our activities towards the EU and encourages us to continue our activities”, said Mr. Drljević at a conference on the occasion of seventh anniversary of the EU accession negotiations organized by the Centre for Civic Education.

**16. V 2019.****“UNITED IN DIVERSITY” CALLED FOR ENABLING INDEPENDENCE AND EQUALISING THE OPPORTUNITIES**

Independent living and accessibility are rights of persons with disabilities every society has to provide, and system and state have to enable and support them. This is the message that was sent from the event on the occasion of

European Independent Living Day and Global Accessibility Awareness Day, which was held in Podgorica on 15 May 2019. “Life in the home or in the institution, segregated life and grouping of persons with disabilities is much more expensive for the society than independent living. Independent living is not a caprice, neither a fight for it is a result of ungratefulness and selfishness of persons with disabilities. It arises and exists as a real need to have a dignified, decent life”, said Milenko Vojičić, president of the Assembly of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (AYDM) in his speech. About 100 participants took part in the event, including: UNDP Office in Montenegro, Parliament of Montenegro, political parties, European Integration Office, ministries, Capital city of Podgorica, National Employment Agency, Centre for Professional Rehabilitation, resource centres, Paralympic Committee and numerous NGOs. Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulović indicated that there were good accessibility standards, but we saw that even on the places which are architectural-ly adjusted, due to irresponsible behaviour of individuals, we are preventing functioning of our friends. Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Osman Nurković noted that was necessary to have a lot of activities and common work to achieve the goals. According to Deputy Mayor of Podgorica, Sladjana Vujačić, the Capital City of Podgorica has a responsible social policy and continuously develops new social services for its citizens.



7. VI 2019.

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE EU-MONTENEGRO CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The thirteenth meeting of the EU-Montenegro Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee took place in Podgorica. Representatives of the non-governmental sector who participated in the work of the Committee presented the situation of civil society organizations in Montenegro, emphasizing the need to improve results in implementing reforms and strengthening cooperation with state institutions, all with a view to accelerating the process and achieving more visible results. Participants have discussed sustainable development goals and Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change. They praised the fact that Montenegro has fully accepted and integrated into its national system the requirements of the United Nations established in Agenda 2030.



COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

19. VI 2019.

GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE EUROPEAN PATH OF OUR COUNTRY ENSURES A POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THIS PROCESS

The 12th session of the Joint Consultative Committee between the Montenegrin Association of Municipalities and the Committee of the Regions, which focuses on EU-Montenegro relations from a local perspective and EU pre-accession assistance to Montenegro, was held in Brussels. The Joint Consultative Committee emphasized the need for close cooperation and communication with local authorities on issues related to integration and reform processes in the EU. The session was co-chaired by Aleksandar Kaščelan, Mayor of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje. He indicated that the fact that two thirds of EU legislation is being implemented at the local and regional levels proves the need to involve and consult the local self-governments in all stages and activities of the integration process, including consulting in the preparation of the Progress Report. Barbara Jesus-Gimeno, Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro at DG NEAR, presented the main findings from the European Commission’s annual report on Montenegro, while EU Ambassador Bojan Šarkić pointed at positive aspects of the negotiating process, assessing that enlargement policy must remain an integral part of the EU agenda



27. V 2019.

DRLJEVIĆ IN BIJELO POLJE: DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE DEPENDS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES

The Municipality of Bjelo Polje has recognized on time benefits of joining the European Union and assumed responsibility that all local self-governments have in the process and in the overall development of the country, said Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević during the visit to Bijelo Polje. Under the project "European Day in Your Town Drljević, together with the Head of the Working Group for Chapter 22, Ivana Vujošević, visited Bijelo Polje, where he met the Mayor of the Municipality, Petar Smolović, participated in a public debate "The role of local self-governments in accession negotiations" and visited the city garage - a project implemented with the support of IPA funds. This visit to Bijelo Polje is a part of the "European day in your town" project. Mr. Drljević spoke to pupils of Bijelo Polje Gymnasium about Montenegro's accession to the EU. During the visit, they indicated that creation of conditions for a balanced and stable economic development throughout the country is an assumption of progress in the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU, and pointed out the importance of development at the local level for the general state development policy.



15. IV 2019.

MUNICIPALITY OF CETINJE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESSFUL USE OF EU FUNDS



The state's progress on its way to the European Union must be adequately accompanied by development of each local community, and the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje can serve

as an example of municipality that has successfully used EU funds to develop its own infrastructure and build capacities capacity, stated institutional representatives during the visit of Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević to Cetinje. Drljevic, together with negotiators for Chapters 19 and 27, Ljiljana Simović and Saša Radulović, visited Cetinje within the project "European Day in Your Town" and spoke with the Mayor Aleksandar Kaščelan on the role of municipalities in the accession negotiations and benefits of future EU membership. Members of the negotiating structure visited the project Vrtijeljka, noting that the adoption of European standards required transformation of the entire Montenegrin society. Furthermore, they said that the role of local self-governments was one of the more important segments of the European integration process. The Old Royal Capital of Cetinje has successfully used EU funds during the previous period in various priority fields – from wastewater treatment, ecology and energy efficiency, tourism to strengthening the administrative and technical capacities of the local self-government.

OTHER

25. VI 2019.

THREE STORIES SELECTED AT THE COMPETITION FOR THE BEST NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON THE PROCESS OF MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EU



Journalists of the daily newspapers Pobjeda, RTCG and Radio Jadran, Jovana Đurišić, Maja Lalić Burzanović and Vuk Ilić are the winners of this year's competition for the best newspaper article on the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU. The competition was announced by the Sector for informing the public on the European Union and the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU of the General Secretariat of the Government. The goal of the

competition was to motivate the media to report on Montenegro's accession to the EU, the impact of the process on life of Montenegrin citizens, implementation of European standards and regulations, adoption of European values and support of the EU through available funds. This is the second competition this year for journalists of the Montenegrin media, which was carried out in accordance with the Strategy for informing the public on Montenegro's accession to the European Union 2019-2022, within the EU4ME project financed by the European Union, and implemented by the UNDP. Under the first competition, three television journalists were awarded.

19. VI 2019.

PROGRAMMES FOR EDUCATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS IS A MECHANISM FOR QUALITY STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

Programme for educating civil servants in strategic planning is an important mechanism for improving the system of policy planning and stronger synergy of all Montenegrin institutions that create and implement them, stated participants during the ceremony of awarding certificates to attendees of the first Programme. Thirty attendees who have successfully completed the first cycle of the education programme obtained their certificates today. The mentioned programme was organized by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro in cooperation with the Human Resources Administration, with support of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. It was emphasized that participants, through their involvement, work and dedication, contributed to the overall quality of the programme, which will, through training of an adequate target group, help us to have better strategic plans and better documents, as well as to show that we know how to use knowledge in the synergies of the strategies adopted by the Government. The UNDP Office in Montenegro, which has been implementing the project of the Norwegian bilateral support (the Programme's literature – Methodology for developing policies, drafting and monitoring strategic documents was prepared during the project) noted that the Programme itself and the Methodology represent a huge step forward in boosting the quality of strategic documents.



18. VI 2019.

WORKING TOUR OF SPOKESPERSONS AND JOURNALISTS OF THE MONTENEGRIN MEDIA

The General Secretariat of the Government, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organized a working tour of spokespersons and media advisers in line ministries and journalists of the Montenegrin media. The event was a part of the project "Working breakfast with journalists", which is implemented with a view to ensuring comprehensive and quality informing of citizens on the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU. The mentioned tour was an opportunity to exchange opinions, present the current and future activities and consider joint activities and projects.



7. VI 2019.

JOIN CLEANING ACTIONS, AWARENESS IS A KEY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Raising awareness on the importance of environmental protection and preservation through personal example is the greatest contribution each individual can give to environmental protection, concluded today participants in the action of cleaning Skaline, which involved more than 150 people. Representatives of the Government, Union of municipalities of Montenegro, the Capital City, the Armed Forces, Police Administration, diplomatic corps and the civil sector took part in the action of cleaning Skaline on the occasion of celebrating the World Environment Day. Minister of Tourism and Sustainable Development, Pavle Radulović, thanked all participants in the action, noting that it is not enough to only talk about the environment, but to join such actions as well. "If we only gathered all those who have spoken in a negative sense about the state of the environment in Montenegro, today there would be a much larger number of participants in this action", he added. "Awareness is the key to protecting the environment. Within a year, we will start, or complete some of the projects of repairing the biggest pollution points in Montenegro. Montenegro is more than dedicated to preserving the environment, and we should start explaining our children in kindergartens and schools how important it is for them and their children", Mr. Radulović pointed out.



8. V 2019.

FRIENDLY MATCH COMPLETED: MONTENEGRO – EU: 3:2

Montenegro`s team beat the European Union`s team in futsal match with result 3: 2. Scorers from the Montenegrin team were: Nebojša Jovović - two goals in the 2nd and 23rd minute and Miloš Radonjić in the 38th minute, while the EU scorers were Juraj Leško in the 9th minute and Enis Čindrak in the 13th minute. A friendly futsal match was organized by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, on the occasion of celebration of the Europe Day. The friendly futsal game was played by members of negotiating structure for the EU accession negotiations with representatives of the EU Delegation and EU member states – Croatia, Slovakia, Germany, France and Great Britain. After the match, the Minister of Sports and Youth Nikola Janović awarded players and congratulated them on the fair game. He expressed satisfaction that diplomats and negotiators have shown that they are fostering the sport spirit.



6. V 2019.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION “EUROPE CAN YOU HEAR US?” AWARDED



Winners of the competition for pupils of elementary and high schools “Europe can you hear us?” were awarded today for their works, which show what their European peers should know about Montenegro. The authors of the three-best art pieces among pupils of elementary schools were Veljko Crvenica, Nikolina Krasić, and Andrea Vukčević from elementary schools “Milorad Musa Burzan”, “Pavle Rovinski” and “Vuk Karadžić”, in Podgorica. In the category of high school students, the best art pieces for the competition were provided by Evgenia Kesse from the secondary school “Ivan Goran Kovačić” from Herceg Novi, as well as Polina Lazarenko and Borko Popović from the art school “Petar Lubarda”. The competition was announced on the occasion of marking Europe Day within the EU4ME project financed by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP. The competition organisers received 900 art pieces through which students from various art forms showed what their peers in Europe should know about Montenegro and how they see Montenegro in Europe. Authors of the best art pieces (6 in total – 3 in the category of elementary school pupils and 3 in the category of high school students) were awarded with laptops, tablets and smartwatches.

25. IV 2019.

THREE BEST STORIES SELECTED AT THE COMPETITION FOR TELEVISION JOURNALISTS

Journalists of RTCG and Television Prva, Borislav Višnjić, Tatjana Debeljavić and Jelena Gardović, are the winners of this year`s competition for the best television story about the process of Montenegro`s accession to the EU. The competition was published by the Sector for informing the public on the European Union and the process of Montenegro`s accession to the EU of the General Secretariat of the Government, recognizing the importance of the Montenegrin media in the process. According to the expert jury, the best ideas for television stories were delivered by journalists Borislav Višnjić, Tatjana Debeljević and Jelena Gardović. After the broadcast of television stories, journalists will be awarded with cash prizes of EUR 1,000.



19. IV 2019.

STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS VISITED THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE



Students of the Faculty of Economics visited the European Integration Office and discussed with members of the negotiating structure about Montenegro's accession to the EU, with emphasis on the challenges that the process brings for the Montenegrin financial system and economy. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, his deputy Marko Mrdak, as well as negotiators for economic and financial chapters, Biljana Jakić and Nikola Fabris spoke with students. Mr. Drljević pointed out that the European Integration Office is open to all interested citizens, especially young people, who are also recognized by the new Strategy for informing the public on Montenegro's accession to the European Union 2019-2022 as an important target group. He recalled that public opinion polls show that young people have the most trust in the EU integration process, as well as the highest expectations of this process. "You represent the generation that will benefit the most from membership in the EU, because you will experience directly implementation of European standards and regulations", he said. Students' visit was organized within the EU4ME project funded by the European Union, and implemented by the UNDP.

10. IV 2019.

MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE AND THE FACULTY OF LAW

Representatives of the European Integration Office and the Faculty of Law of the University of Donja Gorica signed a

Memorandum on cooperation, which provides for the implementation of activities of common interest and professional practice for students at the European Integration Office. The Memorandum is based on the principles of partnership, transparency and mutual informing and it was signed today by Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević and dean of the Faculty of Law Zoran Stojanović. The aim of this Memorandum is the implementation of projects of common interest in the field of European integration, which will enable students of the Faculty of Law to improve their knowledge and apply the obtained skills in practice through training and professional practice in the European Integration Office.



4. IV 2019.

COOPERATION BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS



Representatives of the Directorate for European Integration visited their colleagues from the European Integration Office, with a view to exchanging knowledge and experience in coordination and implementation of activities in the negotiating process, with emphasis on alignment of national legislation with the acquis. It was assessed that the friendly relations and cooperation between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of EU accession is an important segment and an accompanying element of the reform activities that the two countries undertake in the process of adopting European standards and values as a prerequisite for a better quality of life for their citizens. Representatives of the Montenegrin European Integration Office pointed to the significance of cooperation between the Western Balkan countries in the negotiating process and reiterated Montenegro's readiness to share the lessons learned from the process with its neighbours.