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FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE

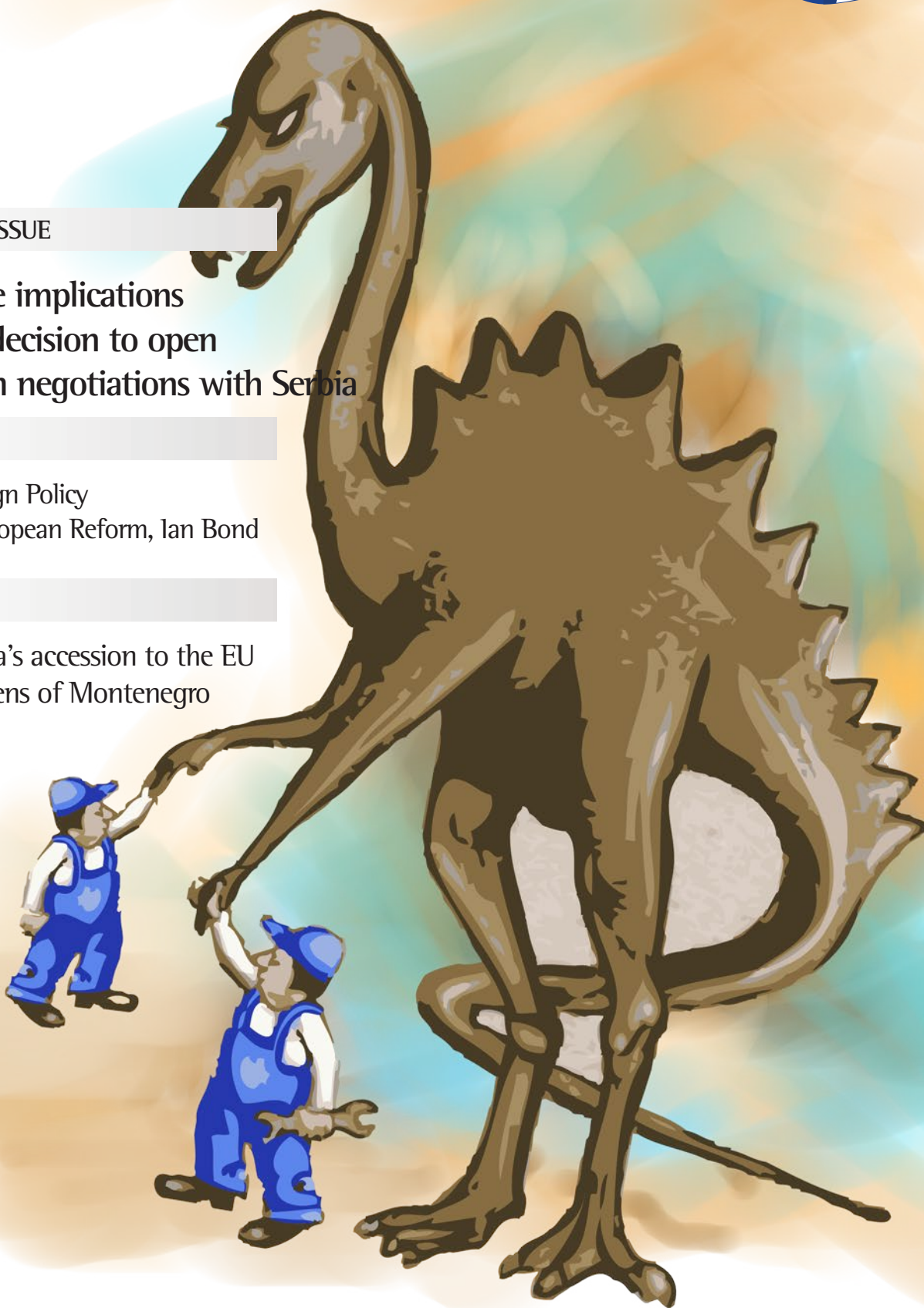
What are the implications
of the EU's decision to open
the accession negotiations with Serbia

interview

Director of Foreign Policy
at Centre for European Reform, Ian Bond

region

How will Croatia's accession to the EU
affects the citizens of Montenegro



Foreword: **Suicide**

Vladan Žugić

How do you imagine Eurosceptics in Montenegro? Probably as a group of tycoons, politicians who – in line with their selfish interests – either directly or discursively undermine efforts of the majority to implement comprehensive reforms. Can such behavior be institutionalized? It turns out it can. The Constitutional Court of Montenegro declared unconstitutional a provision of the Law on general education by which – on the basis of the political agreement between former Prime Minister Igor Luksic and opposition leaders from two years ago – Serbian language was given a status on an equal footing with the Montenegrin in schools. The problem is not the decision, but the timing. The Constitutional Court passed the decision in the run up to the Parliamentary discussion on constitutional amendments concerning judicial reform, which is a key precondition for the opening of Chapters 23 and 24. The decision was published at this exact moment, even though there are countless cases – much older than two years when the Social Democratic Party (SDP) filed their initiative for assessing the constitutionality of the said provisions of the Law on general education – which are still waiting on the decision of the Court. The decision came at this moment regardless of the fact – which the President of the Constitutional Court **Milan Markovic** had to be aware of – that the decision could have strong political implications, notably on the decision on the parties – and their leaders – who do not have the courage or the strength to overcome the referendum era, without whose votes it would be impossible to change the Constitution. It was simply unbelievable and tragic to hear judge of the Constitutional Court **Miodrag Latkovic** calling the MPs assassins who, as he pointed out – with help of the foreign and the national criminal groups – changed the Constitution and striped the Constitutional Court of its competences. Latkovic is right to question adoption of the constitutional amendments which weaken the rights of the Constitutional Court judges, guaranteed by the earlier provisions. However, if Latkovic and his colleagues had defended the Constitution and the interests of the citizens with same devotion as they are now trying to protect their own interests and the interests of DPS members who probably influenced the Court to pass the decision on the Law on general education when they did, the EU wouldn't have had to insist on the constitutional changes. That is why this is not an assassination but the suicide of the Constitutional Court, the State Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary. After all, isn't it better to be able to replace the political elites, rather than the institutions?

Calendar

- 01 July **Lithuania presides the EU** / Lithuania took over the EU Presidency from Ireland, and its top priorities will be to ensure sounder public finances, implement the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), and strengthen the EU role as a global model for openness and security. This presidency is first for Lithuania and the Baltic states, and also the first presidency over a 28-member EU as Croatia joined the bloc on the same day.
- 11 July **Serbia motivates Montenegro** / Start of negotiations with Serbia will motivate Montenegro to take bolder steps in its EU integration, Head of EU Delegation in Podgorica **Mitja Drobnič** said. "Serbia's opening of accession negotiations will be another success story. This might introduce some competition, but also closer cooperation of the two governments toward a more efficient negotiation process," Mr Drobnič remarked at the "Montenegro's EU process: EU means YES" panel discussion in Ulcinj.
- 24 July **Montenegro's first pride parade** / Montenegro's first Pride Parade, organised by LGBT Forum Progress took place in Budva. During the event, police arrested a few dozen hooligans, who threw stones and lightly injured several parade-goers.
- 25 July **France returns to the Balkans** / French president **François Hollande** stated that France strongly supports Western Balkans' EU perspective and stands ready to mediate in any open issues. He delivered this message at the Western Balkans' heads of state meeting at Brdo near Kranj and announced a more active role of France in the region. The hosts were Slovenia's and Croatia's **Borut Pahor** and **Ivo Josipović**, and **Filip Vujanović** also took part in the meeting.
- 31 July **Constitutional amendments adopted** / MPs of the ruling coalition and opposition parties Socialist People's Party (SNP) and Positive Montenegro voted in the amendments to the constitution in the area of judiciary, which were among the key conditions for the opening of negotiating chapters 23 and 24. The amendments mean that the Supreme State Prosecutor, Constitutional Court judges, and four distinguished lawyers on the Judiciary Senate will be appointed by a two-thirds majority in the first round, or by a three-fifths majority in the second round of parliamentary vote. The Democratic Front (DF) voted against.

Thessaloniki – 10 years later



Heather Grabbe

The Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 was the apogee of Greek diplomacy in Europe. Amid today's economic depression and political chaos in Athens, it is difficult to remember that only ten years ago the Greek government impressed Europe with a productive summit that crowned a successful presidency. As the foreign minister who drove the Presidency, **George Papandreou** was highly respected by his peers – indeed, he was talked of as a possible successor to **Javier Solana** as High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. His powers of persuasion were crucial to get agreement on the text of the Thessaloniki Declaration, in which the EU gave an unambiguous promise of future membership to the Balkans. That text now looks very bold, and the EU has never exceeded this level of commitment. The Thessaloniki Declaration was supposed to be just the first step on the road to accession: a declaration of principles and intent that subsequent presidencies could build on and improve. Unfortunately, that never happened. For the region, the declaration has served as a touchstone for hopes of European integration, even though many had hoped for more at the time. The political theatre mattered too: at the beautiful summit venue by the sea, Balkan leaders were treated on a par with their EU counterparts. Heads of state and government from the region signed the declaration alongside EU prime ministers and presidents, rather than being kept in a waiting room. They felt treated with respect, which did much to foster trust and hope at a vital moment. The June 2003 summit was also a high point of hope for resolution of the unfinished business of the break-up of Yugoslavia. With the Ohrid peace agreement still in the early stages of implementation, the security stakes were high. Many critical issues seemed on the verge of resolution: Papandreou worked hard to forge agreement on the UN-brokered Cyprus deal; resolution of the Macedonian name issue seemed within reach; and Russia was then in favour of finding a final status for Kosovo through a UN process. Resolution of status issues took much longer than seemed likely at Thessaloniki. Only a decade later has Pristina gained effective control of the whole of Kosovo's territory. And there is still no deal on the Macedonian name issue. Regional cooperation continues to be hampered by what some diplomats call 'the country that cannot be named and the name that cannot be called a country.' Protracted status problems have hindered regional cooperation and economic integration, while organised crime thrives where the rule of law is absent or weak. The region now badly needs a new political generation to emerge that can move on from the legacy of conflict. Status problems have helped many political leaders of the older generation to maintain their grip on power by playing identity politics. It is easier to gain public support and votes by focusing on threats – both real and imagined – to one or another ethnic group or

their new nation than to tackle the huge challenges of unemployment, budget deficits or corrupt institutions. On the EU side, a new political generation has yet to rediscover the importance of the region. Few of the foreign ministers who negotiated the Thessaloniki text are still in office, and many of those who worked to bring peace to the region – **Javier Solana**, **Joschka Fischer**, **George Robertson** and, of course, Papandreou himself – are gone from the political scene. In the crisis-ridden Union, obsessed with saving the euro, the sense of historical duty to reunite Europe and overcome the legacies of war has been overtaken by a rush to *sauve qui peut*. Yet as much as there are reasons for pessimism in the short term, there is room for optimism about the long-term outlook for the Western Balkans and the EU. The Balkans is an enclave within the EU's borders which neither foreign nor interior ministries can ignore for long, given its potential both to be a help and hindrance to the EU's security. For the region, the EU is the only option. Turkey and Russia offer diplomatic flattery from time to time but not the size of markets, aid or political clout that the EU offers. The question is how long the accession process might take. After Croatia joins this year, there is likely to be a long gap before any other country is ready. Each little step remains important, but will the region be able to gain momentum? The leverage of EU membership prospects always depends on how close a country feels it is to joining. If it seems only a couple of elections away, then governments can use it effectively to motivate domestic reforms. But if the accession process gets repeatedly blocked, by new conditions from the EU side or bilateral disputes, it becomes impossible to overcome domestic resistance to the major efforts needed to meet the conditions for economic and political reforms, as well as massive investments in improving the public administration and the judiciary. This is why the Balkans is a worthy agenda for Greece's next EU Presidency in 2014. Greece has many useful lessons for the region on the need for sustained reform to close the gap on governance standards, and the risk of efforts to catch up with EU standards stalling after accession. Can the Greek Presidency of 2014 bring a renewed commitment from a crisis-torn EU? And can the region make use of the EU's offer? Political will is a scarce commodity in Europe now. Where are the leaders who will show that the EU's own interests lie in integrating the Balkans into a stable regional system? The security and stability of the Balkans and the rest of Europe remain mutually dependent. This interdependence would be much better fostered through a reliable and well-managed accession process than a return to crisis management.

Source: excerpts from conclusions of the publication "Thessaloniki @ 10 – European future of Western Balkans".

What the Decision of the EU to open accession negotiations with Serbia means for Montenegro

Competition breathing down the neck



Mirela Rebronja

If Serbia's EU integration process continues at the same pace, and the Montenegrin institutions fail to step up the fight against corruption and organised crime, chances are that Montenegro will lose the title of 'the least problematic pupil' in the region. The status, progress, and dynamics of the negotiations depend on the progress of countries which aim to join the EU in meeting the commitments, and there will not be any surprises in that sense. However, it is clear that a little healthy competition could be beneficial for both countries. This is the conclusion of the NGO sector following the decision of the European Council of 28 June to open accession negotiations with Serbia, which came as a reward the country's success in dialogue with

Montenegro is currently, time wise, around a year and a half ahead of Serbia in the EU integration process

process, notably the adoption of the constitutional amendments. On the other hand, Serbia recently adopted two documents: Strategy for the fight against corruption and organised crime and the Strategy for judicial reform, which – as the Serbian announced – will be the basis for drafting the future Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24. These Strategies cover the period until 2018, when Montenegro planned to come close to closing these two key negotiating chapters. Therefore, if both countries succeed in meeting the commitments contained in the aforementioned documents, the two countries should be ready to join the EU roughly at the same time. If Serbia sticks with the deadlines outlines in the strategies, it will easily catch up with Montenegro in the EU integration process, especially in the Montenegrin institutions fail to comply with the commitments contained in their Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24. Deputy Director of Serbian Government's European Integration Office **Srdjan Majstorovic** stated for the European Pulse that the fact that Montenegro recently completed the phases of the EU integration process which Serbia is only yet to start is very useful in the sense that they were able to draw certain conclusions and avoid mistakes which could slow down the process. In March 2012, Serbia was invited to attend Explanatory Screenings for Montenegro in observer's capacity, together with Macedonia, which – as he pointed out – allowed Serbian representatives to get the first hand experience of what these meetings will be look like when Serbia starts the negotiations'. He also underlined that Serbia and Montenegro have regular cooperation on issues which could help Serbia prepare better for the negotiations, especially for the screenings for Chapters 23 and 24. Majstorovic believes that the first



Srdjan Majstorovic

Pristina, as well as the results in fight against corruption and organised crime. At the moment, the situation is as follows – following the adoption of the constitutional amendments concerning judiciary, Montenegro has good chances to open Chapters 23 and 24 by the end of the year, possibly in December when the first Intergovernmental Conference between Serbia and the EU on the occasion of formal opening of accession negotiations is likely to take place. This means that Montenegro is about a year and a half ahead of Serbia in the EU integration process, because – after the Intergovernmental Conference between the EU and Montenegro was held at the end of June 2012 – it took about a year and a half before the screening has been completed and Montenegro adopted Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24, and complied with some other commitments related to the

Intergovernmental conference will take place in January 2014 at the latest. For Serbia, like for Montenegro, in line with the new methodology of the EU, the screening exercise will begin with Chapters 23 and 24. Explanatory screening for Chapter 23 will take place on 25



Daliborka Uljarevic

and 26 September; and for Chapter 24 from 2 to 4 October. Bilateral screenings for Chapters 23 and 24 will take place on 9 and 10 and 11 to 13 November, respectively. Majstorovic did not specify whether he believes that Serbia will be able to outrun Montenegro in the accession negotiations, although he did underline that internal organisation and determination to comply with the commitments of the process are the only factor which will influence progress in this sense. He stressed that 'this is an inclusive process which requires mobilisation of all available capacities internally and day-to-day cooperation among the countries of the region, aimed at sharing information and promoting examples of good practice.' According to Majstorovic, this will be the way for both Serbia and Montenegro to move faster towards a common goal, until they become full



Maja Bobic

members of the EU, in the same time strengthening competitiveness and the overall

It could happen that Montenegro and Serbia close Chapters 23 and 24 practically at the same time, which means that the two countries would also enter the EU at the same time, if Serbia manages to consistently implement the strategies based on which they intend to create action plans for Chapters 23 and 23; as well as if Montenegro meets the commitments contained in their own Action Plans for these chapters.

capacity of the region as a whole. CCE CEO **Daliborka Uljarevic** believes that laggard progress in dealing with issues covered by Chapters 23 and 24 – the most serious challenges for the Montenegrin government – is simply impermissible. She pointed out that for a while now the EU and certain member states have been sending clear messages that the time when ticking off the boxes from the technical to do list was considered progress has long passed. According to her, 'Montenegrin government has lulled into their role of the least problematic pupil in a problematic class' and that now, when others started to resolve their issues 'it is no longer enough just not to cause new problems outside the school' and that 'it is high time to actually do some homework in order to achieve success.' This in effect means that, without tangible results in fight against corruption and organised crime, Montenegro cannot say it has achieved true progress, which will be the key for the dynamics of negotiations. In an interview for the European Pulse, Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia **Maja Bobic** noted that Serbia has already started the preparations for the start of the accession negotiations, including the work on the establishment of necessary administrative structures, which have already been put in place. The only thing missing is to complete the process of appointing the negotiation team, as Serbia still hasn't appointed the Chief Negotiator. When it comes to the action plans, Serbian Government has already adopted two key documents for reforms in areas covered by



Tim Judah

Chapters 23 and 24. These are the Strategy for fight against corruption and the Strategy for Judicial Reform. Both documents cover the period 2013-2018, while the action plans aimed at achieving the goals set in the strategies will also cover the same five-year period. Bobic believes that the plans for meeting the commitments contained in Chapters 23 and 24 – will probably have to wait until the screening reports for these Chapters have been published. National strategy for judicial reform envisages measures for shortening court procedures, reducing the number of case backlog, and the reform of the court network aimed at reducing the costs and improving citizens' access to justice, reforms concerning the functioning of judicial bodies, including appointment procedures for prosecutors and judges. National strategy for fight against corruption contains Commission recommendations, as well as the inputs of the interested public and representatives of NGOs. The document outlines six strategic principles in fight against corruption – the principle of the rule of law,

British journalist and analyst Tim Judah also believes that anything's possible. He believes that competition is good, and that both Montenegro and Serbia could benefit from it. He stressed that tangible results in fight against corruption and organised crime are a very important indicator that candidate countries are truly ready to join the EU, thus underlining that Montenegro would have to show more determination in this sense.

zero tolerance for corruption, accountability, comprehensive implementation of agreed measures for fighting this phenomenon, inter-institutional cooperation, as well as principles of efficiency and transparency. Srđan Majstorovic noted that these strategies cover many issues which constituted requirements for the opening of accession negotiations with Montenegro, as well as for Croatia. Serbia started to address these issues by implementing the aforementioned strategic documents, which outline comprehensive measures for dealing with these phenomena. He pointed out that he believes the 'systematic approach to resolving the issues in such important areas will facilitate the negotiation process, while the success will only depend on concrete results in practical implementation of the aforementioned plans. British journalist and analyst Tim Judah also believes that any scenario is possible. He believes that competition is healthy, and that both Montenegro and Serbia could benefit from it: Serbia has a bigger public administration and thus bigger capacities to comply with the requirements of the accession process, which can be both an asset and a challenge. He also noted that it is very difficult to say whether Serbia will at some point get ahead of Montenegro, thus underlining that in theory – everything is possible. Finally, Judah stressed that tangible results in fight against corruption and organised crime are a very important indicator that candidate countries are truly ready to join the EU, thus underlining that Montenegro would have to show more determination in this sense.

Ian Bond, Director of foreign policy at CER, London

Regatta is gone, EU now looks at individual progress



Director of foreign policy at London's prestigious institute for analytics, Centre for European Reform (CER), Ian Bond believes the European Union's (EU) decision to open accession negotiations with Serbia is not going to turn its relations with Montenegro into a competition. "What we once called regatta is now gone. Lesson from the last rounds of enlargement is that a country is admitted if and when it is ready," Mr Bond said. "The pace of EU accession will mostly depend on the ability of governments to implement the vast body of European legislation and reform requested by Brussels. Since Montenegro is small it will obviously be very difficult," Mr Bond, former British diplomat, said. He added Montenegro should talk to Malta about their experience, having in mind its small administration vis-à-vis requests from Brussels.

» On the other hand, many believe it not a bad idea for two countries to negotiate as a pair, as they would then have more political power. Is it not hard to rush towards Brussels alone, since the climate is not favourable for enlargement?

It has all been tried before: big ten-state enlargement, two states, like Spain and Portugal, one country, like Greece or now Croatia. However, Croatian example showed that

The EU is past the invitation phase. Now come negotiations, meaning bureaucracy, plenty of boring work, no political messages, no love notes, just hard work

the tendency now is to look only at individual progress. Moreover, states now have different arrangements among themselves. For instance, for the next 10 years at least you may be able to have a flexible travel regime. It was that way for Britain and Ireland – we did not need our passports stamped at border crossings. Since Croatia joined the EU, troubles ensued with Bosnia and Herzegovina over border transit, but the solution depends on Bosnia, who is very far behind. The wall separating Bosnia from the EU, i.e. Croatia, could be much lower if Bosnia's politicians were more serious.

» Do you believe cards are now on the table and that Montenegro will not have to wait for Serbia to deal with its issues? Kosovo is still a very real and serious problem and it will take time to find a solution. Recently, there were times when Montenegro, and even Croatia, had to wait in order to see if there would be some progress in Serbia?

The EU suffered greatly due to Cyprus-Turkey relations and the lack of solution for the Cyprus issue. The EU will therefore not suffer from Serbia-Kosovo process until a viable solution is found. Outstanding conflicts will no longer be imported into the EU. However, I do not see what bearing it should have on Montenegro. Just as it is up to Serbia to solve its issues, the same goes for Montenegro.

» When it comes to enlargement, things are much different now than 20 or 15 years ago. Opening of negotiations with Serbia got lukewarm reactions, as did Croatia's accession. Has the EU had enough of the Balkans?

This loss of interest is due to many factors, most importantly the economic situation. EU



leaders are focused on salvaging the eurozone. Vast energy is invested in it, focus is put elsewhere, on their economies, their own back-yard, and it is only normal.

But the political process also changed. The EU is past the invitation phase. Now come negotiations, meaning bureaucracy, plenty of boring work, no political messages, no love notes, just hard work and process. Just look at Romania and Bulgaria, who still have huge issues

with corruption and rule of law. They had not adjusted their systems. When Croatia was game, it was all very different, and it will continue that way. When it comes to Greece, it does not matter whether it is in the Balkans. Other countries also have difficulties, and big ones, and they are not in the Balkans.

» Let us imagine the UK starts leaving the EU, or radically changing its position within the EU. Could that have strong effect on Western Balkans' enlargement, like the current economic crisis does?

It is too early to make such conclusions. True, the largest party in the Parliament promised to hold a referendum on remaining in the EU if they win the next election. To start, we do not know whether they will. We do not know where the British debate will go. All in all, we could now say that it is becoming more complex, that arguments in favour of the EU are emerging. Many businesses are now acting in favour of the EU, arguing that Britain needs the single market to have more bearing internationally, for instance in relations with China, but also America. It is impossible to tell now where the discussion will end.

I.S.

One should always ask whence the money comes and where it goes

• How does the EU view Turkey's and Russia's influence in the region, primarily their economic influence?

It depends what kind of influence we are discussing. Turkey is the fastest growing economy and it seems natural and reasonable that it has economic interest in the Balkans.

When it comes to Russian investment, if they are transparent and honest, they are obviously welcome anywhere. They are everywhere, even in Britain.

But what causes worry is that banking systems might be used for money laundering, suspicious activities. That is what happened in Cyprus and it did not end well. Of course, in discussing Cyprus, one should consider the Russian argument, that they did not believe Russian banks and chose to invest in Cyprus. So, when it comes to investment, one should always ask whence the money comes and where it goes afterwards. One should keep one's eyes open.



Plastics manufacturers turned environmentalists

Plastics manufacturers are pushing for an EU-wide ban on the disposal of plastics in landfills, arguing that Europe needs tougher recycling requirements to stop an important raw material from being thrown away. Manufacturers' association is also calling for a so-called "Schen-gen area of waste" to encourage trans-border shipment of recyclables to sorting facilities.

EU member states recycle on average 40% of all waste, but the figures for recycling of used bottles and plastic packaging vary between 15% and 40%. Driven in part by volatile prices of oil, a key ingredient in the production of raw plastic, businesses are looking to the European Commission to call for an end to landfill disposal of drinks bottles and packaging by 2020.



Is a product really "green"

Some 80% of Europeans are concerned by the environmental impact of their purchases but only one-quarter say they "often" buy the so-called green products. A slim majority say they "sometimes" buy environmentally-friendly products, while another 15% does not buy them at all, finds an opinion poll conducted by Eurobarometer. At the same time, the citizens say they would be willing to change their purchasing habits for environmental reasons, but feel they lack information and distrust manufacturers' green claims. The biggest trouble with environmentally-friendly products is that they are also generally more expensive – however, ¾ of the respondents say that they would be willing to pay more if they were confident that the products were truly green. The poll also showed that only 66% of respondents were confident that the products branded as environmentally friendly are really less damaging to the environment than other products. This is especially the case in Portugal (84%), Malta (82%), France and Belgium (81%), while the German consumers are the least trustful (44%).

EU money for metro and highways



To date, European Union co-financed 171 559 new projects in Poland: the most expensive on consists of 6 km of the new second metro line in Warsaw, which together with the leasing of new wagons costs 1.485 billion euro, 54% of which will be provided by the city of Warsaw. A slightly cheaper deal, but more expensive for the EU is the 44 km section of A1 highway, worth approximately 1.47 bn euro, 80% of which is paid out of the common European coffers. According to the Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza, an average Polish citizens earning the average 925 euro gross wage would have to save up for three years, leaving aside his or her entire wage, in order to finance one meter of this highway.

Bank cards safer than ever



Credit card frauds have been on decline in Europe since 2007, due to technological improvements which brought greater safety of transactions. In EU, the highest likelihood of bank card fraud is in Ireland, which has about one fraud case for 1000 bank card transactions. The eurozone average is one fraud for each 4000 transactions, the greatest number of them linked to internet purchases. The value of bank card transactions is as high as 3.3. thousand billion per year and in 2011 the total value of money embezzled in this way within the Single European Payments Zone (SEPA) was 1.16bn, or 5.8% less than in 2020. SEPA covers 32 countries – the EU, as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland.

What were CCE findings regarding working expenses of MPs in 2012

More money spent on journeys to and from home than for travelling abroad

Pilot research **'Parliament of Montenegro: how much did the citizens of Montenegro pay for the work of their Parliament representatives in 2012?'** is part of Centre for Civic Education's (CCE) *Accountability and Transparency Programme*, aimed at contributing to raising awareness about the importance of responsible management of public funds. The aim of the research was to obtain and publish information on working expenses of Members of the Parliament (MPs), provided for from the budget of the Parliament of Montenegro.

In the course of 2012 – the election year – Parliament of Montenegro had 143 employees, which is more than in 2011, when the Parliament had the total of 125 employees. In the same time, in 2012, Parliament's activity decreased compared to 2011, notably concerning the number of plenary sittings, duration of the sittings, the number of issues included in the sitting agendas, the number and duration of sittings of parliamentary bodies, and the number of issues discussed at these sittings.

According to the 2012 Law on State Budget, the Parliament of Montenegro received €6.451.151, 67. Due to budget revision, this sum was reduced by €335.000, 00 and Parliament received the total of 6.116.151, 67 (1.02% of the state budget).

As part of its regular project activities, based on the provisions of the Law on free access to information, CCE collected information on:

- The list of MPs who received salaries and the aforementioned additional payments, containing also information on annual payments to individual MPs;
- The total amount of money paid in 2012 for MPs' in-land business trips and related daily expenses;
- The list of MPs and the individual amounts paid on the account of business trips and related daily expenses for abroad and in-land trips during 2012.

CCE found that the in-land business trips were €212. 034, 46, of which travel expenses for attending plenary and the sittings of the parliamentary bodies amounted to €164.199, 46, while the daily expenses were €47.835, 00. Also, during 2012, Parliament of Montenegro spent €96.844, 93 for business trips abroad. An additional sum of €43.645, 40 was spent on flight tickets. However, given the fact that the travel expenses were often covered by the organisers of international events, it is important to stress that the aforementioned amount concerns only the payments made by the Parliament. The total payment for abroad and in-land business trips of MPs in 2012 was €300.879, 32, which – together with the flight tickets – amounted to €352.524, 75. It is interesting to note that Montenegrin MPs spent much more on in-land than on abroad business trips. The amount of money spent on this budget item is questionable also because Montenegro is among the smallest European countries, which should have an impact on this type of expenditures.

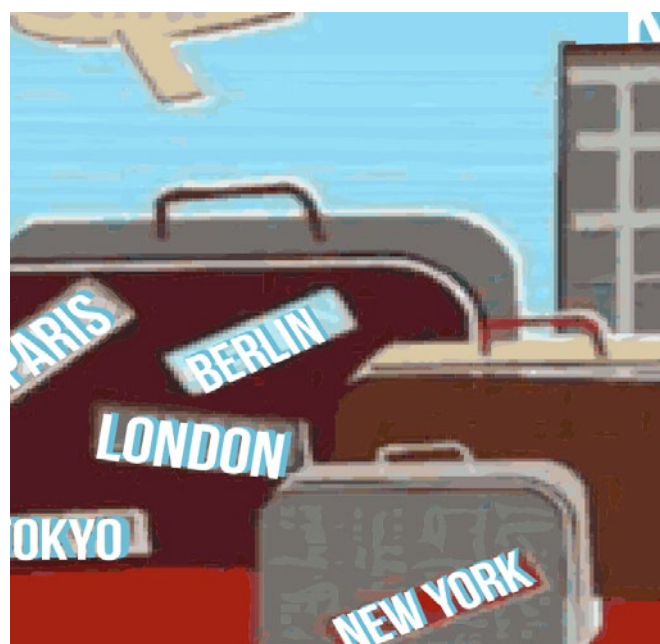
When it comes to comparison of individual business trip- and related-expenses of MPs, Parliament Speaker **Ranko Krivokapic** (SDP), **Goran Danilovic** (NOVA/DF) and **Miodrag**

Vukovic (DPS) spent the most – €11.109, 50 ; €9.181, 74 and €8.576, 30 respectively.

In 2012, Parliament of Montenegro spent the total of €1.281 184, 34 on net income of MPs . MPs with highest net income in 2012 (taking into account their professional qualifications, working experience, etc.) were: **Ranko Krivokapic** (SDP) who had received €19.200, 01, **Radivoje Nikcevic** (DPS) who received €18.518, 21 and **Ljerka Dragicevic** (HGI) who received €18.248, 94. In the same time, the Parliament paid €198 564, 13 for MPs work in parliamentary bodies and €47 835, 00 for daily expenses for MPs attending plenary and the sittings of parliamentary bodies. The total amount paid for net incomes and related expenses in 2012 was €1 479 748, 47.

Finally, ten MPs who received most money from the budget of the Parliament of Montenegro (for abroad and in-land business trips, net incomes and related expenses) are:

	MP	TOTAL - 2012
1	Krivokapić Ranko (SDP)	34.809,51€
2	Lalošević Vasilije (SNP)	31.011,02€
3	Danilović Goran (NOVA/DF)	30.691,08€
4	Spahić Ervin (SDP)	30.352,86€
5	Vuković Miodrag (DPS)	29.696,59€
6	Šljivančanin Dobrica (SNP)	27.396,20€
7	Jonica Snežana (SNP)	26.412,93€
8	Škrelja Luid (DPS)	26.123,81€
9	Šćepanović Valentina (DPS)	25.995,40€
10	Simović Milutin (DPS)	25.569,97€



According to the data CCE received from the Parliament of Montenegro, which have been carefully processed by the team of CCE assistants, for all the aforementioned budget items (in-land business trips – travel and daily expenses, abroad business trips and related expenses, net incomes and MPs work in parliamentary bodies), Parliament of Montenegro paid the total of €1.832 237, 26. Having in mind the overall cost of MPs' work in the Parliament of Montenegro, CCE believes that the work of the Parliament needs to be considerably improved, notably concerning its legislative role. More emphasis needs to be put on improving the analysis of draft laws in the plenary and the parliamentary bodies. Evidently, the draft laws are being adopted relatively quickly, without the MPs having been sufficiently engaged in the process. In the same time, the need to amend the already adopted legislation is also very high, also because the laws are often adopted not being fully aligned with the European standards; or because it later turns out that they cannot be properly implemented. In this context, MPs should be much more focused on draft laws they receive and finding time to improve them, especially having in mind that considerable amounts of money have been allocated from the state budget for this exact purpose.
S.P. – C.G.I.

Chapter 7: Intellectual property rights



Marko Sošić

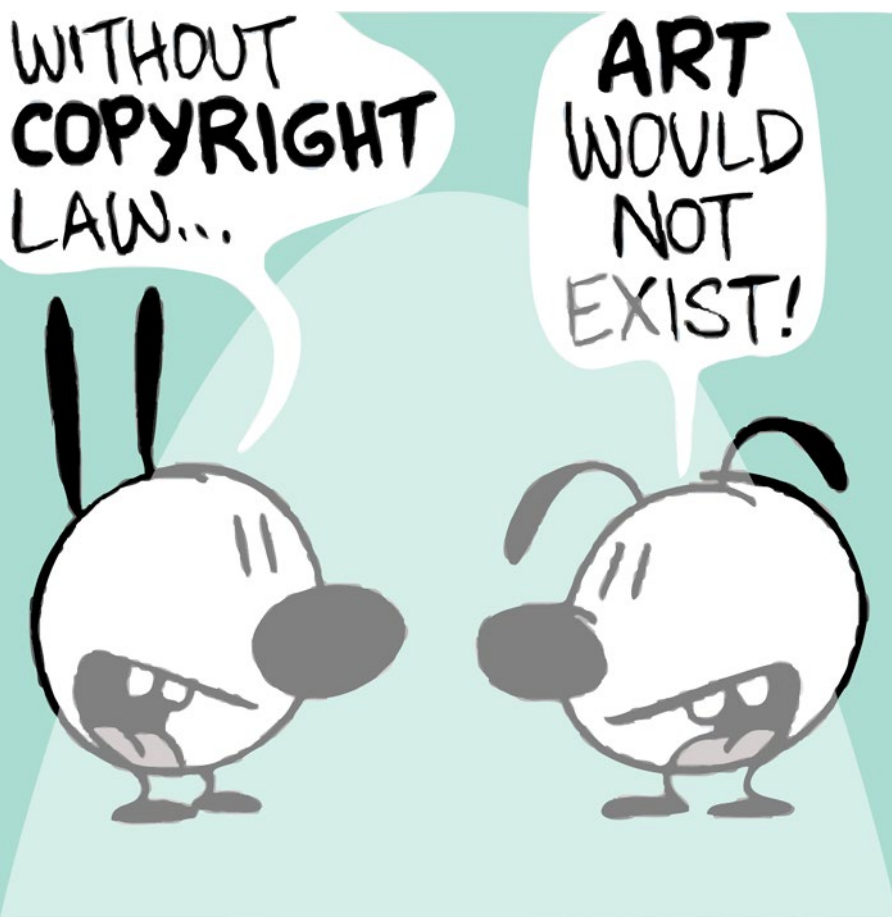
Intellectual property rights are legal titles by which their bearers transform their intellectual achievements into certain business values. On the European level, intellectual property is protected by a well regulated, advanced common body of law, which is summarized in Chapter 7 of the *acquis*. Bearers of the titles to intellectual property within the EU have an advantage over the competition, because intellectual property rights allow them to protect their products and services against unauthorised copying, use and piracy, i.e. allows them to manage these rights as their property. Intellectual property concerns copyright and related rights, as well as those of industrial intellectual property. While authorial and related rights are acquired by the very act of creating the work in question, the right of industrial intellectual property have to be certified by a relevant body in charge of their recognition or registration.

The main goal of the *acquis* in the area of intellectual property rights is to guarantee proper functioning of the single market, balancing the interests of authors with those of users, and adapting the legal framework to a permanently changing technological environment. Also, the *acquis* sets out harmonised rules for the protection of copyright and related rights and industrial intellectual property, which requires the member states to establish adequate implementation mechanisms and capacities for their effective implementation.

Montenegro has largely aligned its legislation with the *acquis* on industrial property rights, although some incompatibilities remain. In the area of copyright and neighbouring rights, Montenegro adopted the Law on Copyright and Related rights, as well as a later revised version. In the area of industrial property rights, the Trademark Law, the Law on protection of topographies of semi-conductors and the Law on the legal protection of industrial designs were adopted in December 2010.

There is an entire network of bodies and institutions in charge of implementing legislation in this area: Montenegrin Intellectual Property Office, Customs Authority, Police Directorate, Agency for Market Research, Commercial court and basic courts. Also, there is the Inspectorate for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, Construction Inspectorate, Inspectorate for tourism and the designated officer of the independent Broadcasting Agency.

Early in 2011 the Montenegrin Intellectual Property Office (MIPO) moved to secure premises, acting on a recommendation of the European Commission. Currently a database and register system are in use, providing a high level of document security. MIPO is implementing the Industrial Property Automation System, with the cooperation of the World Intellectual Property Organisation





(WIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO). However, it has not completely fulfilled its legal obligations with regard to technical infrastructure for processing intellectual property rights. The MIPO premises have been secured and human resources and capacity-building have improved. Awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts have also taken place within enforcement agencies.

Regarding enforcement of intellectual property rights, Montenegro started preparing a National Strategy on Intellectual Property. The Government adopted the Decree on customs authorities' treatment of goods reasonably suspected of infringing intellectual property rights. In 2010 a limited number of specialised training courses took place to build the capacity of judges from the basic and commercial courts and to train market inspectors and customs officers. Customs control capacity has also been built up. Awareness raising sessions on copyright issues were organised by public and professional associations, chambers of commerce and academic institutions.

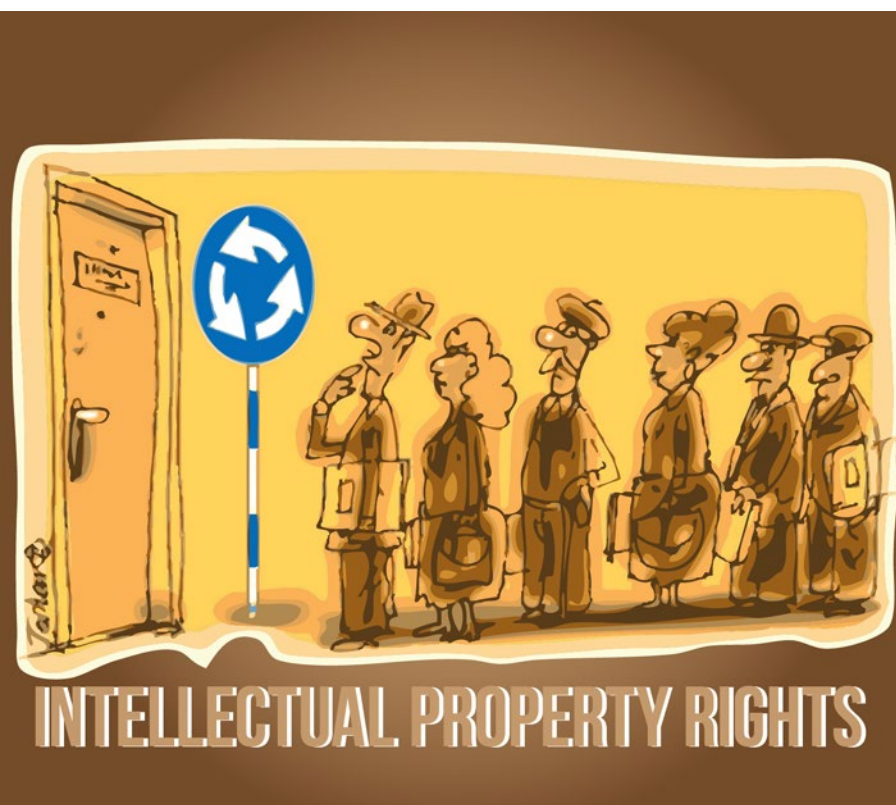
However, activities of the relevant bodies in this area are still insufficient. It can therefore be concluded that Montenegro has not yet created the bases for efficient eradication of counterfeits and piracy, which leads to significant economic, social and developmental losses.

According to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, Montenegro ought to undertake all necessary measures to ensure a similar level of intellectual industrial and commercial property rights as exists in EU by January 2013. By the same deadline, Montenegro was to become party to multilateral conventions on the intellectual, industrial and commercial rights.

Montenegro also promised to guarantee citizens and commercial entities from EU the treatment of the most favoured nations in the area of intellectual, industrial and commercial property.

As regards enforcement, the main obstacles to effective implementation of European Commission's requirements come from the lack of capacity of numerous bodies responsible for implementation of legislation in the area of intellectual property. Most of them generally lack adequate office space and staff with specialised expertise in the area. Coordination between these bodies is sporadic and limited to particular cases, and exchange and provision of information are intermittent, not being based on modern IT platforms which would guarantee quality and timeliness of information. The continuing lack of human and financial resources and expertise are preventing the agencies from being more effective. Efforts on training and awareness-raising need to be strengthened, both for the public and for officials. Additional significant efforts are needed to increase efficiency and coordination between the relevant agencies.

In addition to enforcement, which is the key problem in most negotiation chapters, Montenegro will have to make additional



efforts to align its legislation with the EU acquis in this area. To that end, it is necessary to harmonise a whole range of provisions related to intellectual property rights in a large number of areas.

Consequences of Montenegro's alignment with EU legislation will be greater legal security, due to a more reliable process of recognition and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

For the ordinary citizens of Montenegro, announcements of stricter regulation of intellectual property rights are usually taken to mean the end to free downloads of copyrighted software, music, films, books, etc., which in the future will be severely sanctioned and monitored.

However, improvements in the legal provisions and practice in this area will also mean greater protection of the interest of Montenegrin consumers. This means there will be less uncertainty as to whether a product we bought is really manufactured by the brand it bears, as well as protection against paying high prices for counterfeited goods.

Source: publication "Europe in my town – what are we negotiating and what the negotiations with the EU are bringing to us?", published as part of the project "Europe in my town", which was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) during 2011 and 2012, in cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiatives (CI) from Belgrade, with the support of the EU Delegation in Montenegro.

Conclusions on Montenegro
from the latest meeting of the Council of EU ministers in 2012

Some criticism, some praise



Ono što ostaje kao mogući izvor budućih problema to su, kao što i sami znamo, reforme u pravosuđu i naravno pokretanje novih istraga i završavanje niza postojećih procesa vezanih za korupciju i organizovani kriminal u Crnoj Gori, kazao generalni sekretar Evropskog pokreta u Crnoj Gori Momčilo Radulović

important feature of these conclusions was the fact that the Council assessment will be used as a basis for further development of the process, and that they validate Montenegro's success in the fulfilment of its "European agenda". "The report scanned the situation and told us where we are still not doing well, where we could do better and make more efforts, and where we must make sure to be more functional, normatively and functionally. All in all, if these conclusions are communicated in the official report as they stand now, I see no reason to focus only on the most negative assessments about the way in which we approach our duty, which is also directly related to one of our state and political priorities – the European integration", Vuković explained. The Council of EU ministers praised Montenegro's progress to date with regard to the strengthening of judiciary, the role of the parliament, anti-corruption policy, human and minority rights, but also warned that further progress in the negotiations will depend on the progress in the preparations for accession and removal of the shortcomings identified in the European Commission's Opinion. EU's foreign affairs ministers stressed that more effort is needed to strengthen the rule of law in order to implement long-term reforms concerning fight against organised crime and corruption. "The conclusions of the Council of EU ministers are based on the European Commission's Progress

In its conclusions from yesterday's meeting, the Council of EU ministers offers a positive assessment of the progress made by Montenegro and Macedonia on the road to EU, while sharply criticising BiH for its own performance. This, however, does not mean that the praise for Montenegro wasn't balanced by some serious criticism. Like so many times before, the Council has repeated the same concerns about the key problems of the Montenegrin system. "The conclusions revealed so far on Montenegro from the Council of EU ministers fully reflect Montenegrin reality", **Miodrag Vuković**, official of the Democratic Party of Socialists told RSE. He said the most

Report, which gives Montenegro very high grades in a range of areas, and records reform processes in almost all aspects of integration”, said **Momčilo Radulović**, secretary general of European Movement in Montenegro. “The progress is not the same in all area, and its intensity clearly varies: there are some very small steps forward, and some significant ones. What remains as the potential source of future problems are, as we know, reforms of judiciary and of course the start of new investigations and conclusion of the current processes concerning corruption and organised crime in Montenegro. I believe that in the coming years there will also be more demand to strengthen administrative capacities, and this may produce a number of challenges which are to confront Montenegro in the recent future”, he added. Montenegro got the official candidate status for EU membership in late 2010, and began the process of accession negotiations this summer, starting with the chapters 23 – judiciary and fundamental rights, and 24 – home affairs. These two chapters will remain open until the very end, i.e. accession to EU. The latest report by European Commission on Montenegro's progress recommends Montenegro to strengthen its negotiating structures, but also



to: step up the fight against corruption and organise crimes and ensure a proactive attitude of all institutions, from investigative bodies to judiciary.

By: Esad Krcić

The author is a journalist for Radio Free Europe. The article was originally published on the website of Radio Free Europe on 12 December 2012. It received the second place in the competition for best articles on the European integration of Montenegro.

Enough with the charges against nurses and traffic policemen

“We are glad that the Council of EU Ministers for General Affairs stressed Montenegro’s progress in improving the performance of the Parliament and some other institutions. We have often expressed our doubt that simple improvements of the legislative framework and general declarations of readiness to fight corruption and organised crime will be enough, and we can already see in the second paragraph the reminder to stick to our commitments, especially when it comes to the cases of high-level crime and corruption. As the proverb goes, the fish smells from the head, and Montenegro should stop prosecuting nurses, traffic controllers, postmen etc. and to really put its hands on the people from the newspaper headlines, who we all know are in one way or another implicated in organised crime and corruption”, said Slaven Radunović, official of the Democratic Front.

247 participants at consultative trainings

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), in cooperation with partners, and with the support of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, within the project "Corruption at the local level – zero tolerance", organized 14 consultative trainings in the period of 3-25 July, in the municipalities of Tivat, Kotor, Bar, Herceg Novi, Budva, Pljevlja, Plužine, Rožaje, Mojkovac, Kolašin, Danilovgrad, Cetinje, Nikšić and Podgorica. These meetings with chief administrators, councilors, members of local boards of economy, finance and budget, local government representatives, and representatives of local non-governmental organizations, within the broader framework of the project, aim at strengthening the role of civil society organizations, local government and state authorities in policy development, monitoring and implementation of the campaign to reduce corruption in local communities of Montenegro. During these meetings, special attention has been paid to issues such as public-private partnerships, public procurement, reducing corruption in employment at local level, work and possibilities of local parliaments, control of local budgets and political corruption. Introductory lectures on these topics were given by: **Jovana Marovic**, Research Coordinator at the Institute Alternative (IA); **Damir Nikočević**, Programme Associate at CCE; **Marko Susic**, Public Policy Researcher at the IA; **Boris Maric**, Senior Legal Advisor at CCE; and Prof. Čedomir Čupić from the Political Science Department of the University of Belgrade. The meetings were attended by 247 councilors, employees of local governments, and representatives of local non-governmental organizations. The interest of councilors, officials and local NGOs varied from city to city. The most visited consultation training was in Cetinje, where there were 43 participants, while the training that was held in Nikšić had only 6 participants. Representatives of the NGO sector showed far more interest in the subject than local administration. Consultative trainings showed that the administration of local government, councilors and civil society at the local level are struggling with a number of dilemmas and problems in their work. The most common are those related to employment, non-transparent procurement process or, in some cases, limited access to information on public procurement, the lack of attendance to public discussions by citizens, the lack of quality external and internal budget control, insufficient control of the local budget, too many items on the agenda in the local parliament whose size prevents quality debate, insufficient support for the initiatives of NGOs, etc. In addition to the common denominators, all of these municipalities have a number of specifics and differences in their approach to work, which have



both good and bad sides. For example, during the implementation phase of this project, it has been observed that in municipality of Bar employees often receive severance pay, and then they are being re-employed in the state authority. In this way, a double injustice is being made, and later the same person is being enabled the right to a recalculation of pension which is a direct result of the lack of a clear legal framework. This problem has also been recognized in some other municipalities. Also, the problem, or at least the subject of dispute in all cities, is within the sphere of public-private partnerships (PPPs), where numerous irregularities were mentioned. Example of the controversial PPP in Herceg Novi is a General Hospital in Meljine, which according to the opinion of local NGOs do not operate in a manner that meets all the criteria and controls, and development of the city square in Mojkovac, which is an example of a "good" PPP, which took 20 years of negotiations and agreements. Apparently, the brightest example of PPPs in these 14 municipalities is Mall of Montenegro – Podgorica, namely, the contract between the Municipality of Podgorica – Public Enterprise "Utilities services" and the Turkish company "Gintaš". At the consultations it emerged that the main problem related to PPPs, as well as to concessions and employment, is the lack of an adequate legal framework to precisely regulate these areas. It is necessary to improve transparency and to establish a functioning registry of contracts concluded within the model of public-private partnerships. In each municipality there is an excess of employees, which must be resolved by rationalization in the forthcoming period. Compliance with the criteria for transparent employment, which will, be accompanied by regular trainings and advancement by merit system, improve the status of employees, but also the expertise and professionalism of the department of local government, is the way which the local government should pursue in the sustainable confronting accumulated problems, but also in the further development of local communities. The project "Corruption at the local level – zero tolerance" is implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in cooperation with NGO Institute Alternative (IA) from Podgorica, NGO Bonum from Pljevlja and NGO Nada from Herceg Novi, with support of EU's IPA 2011 fund, via the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

Consequences of Croatia's EU membership
on its economy and standard of its citizens

European standards still a distant dream

There are many conflicting prognoses regarding the economic consequences of Croatia's accession to European Union on the country and its citizens who – just like the citizens of most other West Balkan Countries – support EU accession primarily because of the hopes that it might bring them better living standards. For example, Moody's rating agency predicts that the membership of EU will enhance Croatia's funding opportunities. Moody's notes that as a result of its EU membership, Croatia is scheduled to receive EUR 13.7 billion from Cohesion and Structural funds during the 2014-2020 period, compared with the EUR 1.0 billion allocated from 2007 to mid-2013 from EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Fund. It is expected that this increase in EU financing

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revenue bases. It will also diminish their need to issue debt to fund their investments, and incentivise local and regional governments to improve their ability to prepare, plan, and implement complex, multi-year investment projects and make appropriate use of available funds. European Central Bank (ECB) offered a similarly optimistic assessment for Croatia's long-term outlook in its July bulletin. Croatia's accession to EU could contribute to economic growth and welfare of the country, but the country must first implement some reforms, warns ECB. According to the business news network Seebiz.eu, ECB's macroeconomic analysis of Croatian economy also points to a number of negative factors, such as protracted recession and high unemployment, but also some positive ones, such as low inflation and improvements in the balance of payments. ECB warns that Croatia needs to implement a number of important measures and reforms to fully reap the benefits of EU accession. "By attracting capital and growth-enhancing investment, improving competitiveness, strengthening the absorption of EU funds, and pursuing counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies and sound micro- and macro-prudential policies, Croatia has the potential to resume the catching-up process and resume income convergence", says ECB. Above all, further structural reforms are needed, including those aimed at improving the efficiency of the public sector, raising labour force participation, increasing flexibility in the labour market, improving the institutional



will particularly benefit the City of Zagreb. In a special commentary published on the City of Zagreb as a sub-sovereign issuer of bonds, Moody's notes that the current rating of the city debt is Ba1 (speculative), with a negative outlook. Moody's notes that the increase in available European funds will Moody's expects this increase in funding will support regional and local governments' efforts to expand infrastructure and stimulate local economic growth, which will ultimately strengthen their

and business environment, and combating the informal economy, says ECB. It also stresses that such reforms should be stepped up now that EU accession has taken place. "Only in this manner will participation in the EU act as a catalyst for Croatia to evolve towards a more prosperous economy. In achieving this aim, a lot will depend on political will, social cohesion and a fruitful partnership with the European institutions and the other Member States" concludes the latest ECB monthly bulletin. On the other hand, the Viennese daily "Kurier" says all indicators suggest that Croatia will be a problem child for EU, and that the prospects of the youngest EU member states are far less rosy than the government in Zagreb wishes us to believe. For example, the Croatian statistical office published a large brochure about the country on the occasion of its accession to EU, but it used the data from four years ago to describe the most sensitive area – budget deficit and debt. Eurostat also only has access to older data, as the first numbers compiled according to the rules of EU's statistical arm will only be published on 1 October. Eurostat's port-parole **Tim Allen** explained that the member states are only obliged to align their statistical methods with EU after accession. Speaker for the EU finance commissioner **Olli Rehn, Simon O'Connor**, says that Croatia has carefully prepared for EU membership, and that the Commission will examine its budget plan as soon as the numbers come in. According to "Kurier", there is good reason to worry about Croatia, whose economy has been contracting for the fourth year in a row, debt is approaching the limit of 60% of gross domestic product, and the deficit is likely to be around 4%. Expert from the consulting firm Roland Berger **Vladimir Preveden** says that the Croatian government, which is half way through the term, is trying to show things as better than they really are. "This is understandable, and many governments do it. Croatia is always more optimistic when the summer comes, because the seasonal unemployment drops", he added. Preveden does not think there will be many surprises, as Croatia's accession was

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more rigorously monitored than that of some earlier membership candidates. "However, the country is by no means in a good situation. Other candidate countries had 1-2% higher GDP growth before the accession than in the first years of membership. Croatia unfortunately did not have this growth period, as it has been struggling with recession for the last four years", he explained. According to him, the country is not sufficiently competitive: domestic companies must look for stronger foreign partners, and the unprofitable ones must be closed. As for tourism, Preveden says that although this is the largest economic sector, it is just barely profitable. "The number of guest nights is growing, but the income has been declining since 2008. We invested too much in low-cost tourism. Inexperienced managers are cutting prices in the midst of the season. There are no specific plans for different regions that would make them especially interesting for foreign guests", he said. Preveden warns that investments have also dropped drastically between 2008 and 2010, by 92%, and that there are hardly any greenfield investments into manufacturing. He says that compared to the region the Croatian labour force is considered too expensive and its legal framework too insecure.

V.Ž.

CCE hosts AMMF in Montenegro for the 6th time



AMMF 2013 participants and CCE representatives with Montenegro's chief negotiator Aleksandar Andrija Pejović

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) hosted the fellows of this year's *American Marshall Memorial Fellowship* (AMMF) programme during their stay in Montenegro between 28 June and 3 July. Founded in 1982, the Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) was created by the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) to introduce a new generation of European leaders to the US. The programme aims to intensify the exchange of ideas and best practices between the US and Europe and is a unique opportunity for emerging leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to explore each other's politics, business, innovation, and culture. The fellows meet formally and informally with a range of policy-makers, financial, and corporate decision-makers, and distinguished community members. The programme encompasses the US and 39 European states and has a network of over 3000 leaders world-wide. During their stay, the AMMF programme representatives had an opportunity to learn about various aspects of Montenegro by travelling the country and meeting

decision-makers from politics, business, NGO sector, and the media. AMMF visits to Montenegro have become a tradition thanks to the CCE initiative in 2008, when CCE hosted the group for the first time and has since developed cooperation with the most distinguished organisations world-wide, constantly broadening the circle of decision-makers who get to know Montenegro first-hand and contribute to its well-being. This year's AMMF delegation comprised: **Derek Chen**, director of international affairs at the Chamber of Commerce of North Carolina; **Sol Flores**, executive director of the La Casa Norte (LCN) organisation, Chicago, IL; **Charles Knutson**, senior political adviser at the office of the Governor of Washington and vice-president for political and foreign affairs at the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; **Anna Sifford**, high-school teacher at Uplift Education, Dallas, TX; and **Marlowe Stoudamire**, Project Director for Strategic Business Development and Planning at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) in Detroit, MI.

Preparation of calls for IPA 2013 projects

On 10-11 July, TASCOS office in Montenegro hosted a two-day consultation meeting with NGOs aimed at preparing a call for projects for the IPA 2013 Civil Society Programme. The meeting was moderated by **Daliborka Uljarević** and **Lidija Brnović** as TASCOS consultants, and the participants were addressed by **Andre Lys**, Head of Operations, and **Roman Boitard**, task manager, from the EU Delegation to Montenegro. They discussed the aims of the next call for projects and the importance of NGO participation in its draft and explained key challenges, activities, and details of this year's call. The participants identified key areas, specific requests, and discussed the civil society proposals. The two-day meeting was rounded up by a training on fact-based decision making given by **Benjamin Perks**, UNICEF representative to Montenegro. CCE's programme coordinator **Mirela Rebronja** took part in the event.

Montenegro's first Pride Parade takes place

NGO LGBT Forum Progress organised Montenegro's first Pride Parade – *SeaSide Pride* – which took place at 12noon on 24 July in Budva. Despite a number of protestors in Budva, sabotage of organisers, and petitions against the parade, around 30 activists gathered at the Budva city walls and walked from the little park toward the old bus station, from where the police escorted them to the starting point. The parade was secured by 400 police officers, who performed their tasks very professionally. The event was attended by civil society representatives, state institutions (the Ombudsman, Human and Minority Rights Ministry, Parliament's Committee on



SeaSide Pride in Budvi

their poor situation and to fight for equality in enjoying their rights without fear of violence and judgement. In this respect, we give full support to the organisation of the 'SeaSide Pride', deeming it very important for the improvement of the position of the LGBT community in our society and for the overall democratic development of Montenegro," reads the KORAK coalition press release. The KORAK coalition comprises: YUCOM, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, CHRIS human rights network, Gay-Straight Alliance, Fund for Humanitarian Law, Youth Human Rights Initiative (Kosovo), Centre for Civic Education (Montenegro), and LGBT Forum Progress (Montenegro).

Human Rights and Freedoms), international organisations and embassies (embassies of the Netherlands and the UK, EU Delegation), and political parties (DPS, Positive Montenegro). The SeaSide Pride organisers said they were satisfied the event went through in spite of hate speech and acts, including stone-throwing and other violence, and noted there was no serious harm to people or property. **Zdravko Cimbalević**, LGBT Forum Progress executive director, received a number of threats before and after the parade, which prompted the KORAK coalition to condemn hate speech and the calls for lynch of SeaSide Pride organisers, and they asked the police to assign security protection for Mr Cimbalević. "Pride Parade is just one of the legitimate ways enshrined in the constitution through which the LGBT community wishes to draw attention to

"Europe – It Is you"

Training seminar "Europe – It Is You", which took place on 5-9 July 2013 in Iceland, focused on the topic of European Citizenship and aimed to explore the concepts of European citizenship as value based citizenship. This five-day seminar served as an important opportunity for youth networking in promotion of citizenship and opportunities in the EU. The training course gathered 32 participants from a diverse set of European countries with various relationships toward the EU. The training participants critically explored the meaning, relevance, and implications European citizenship in youth work in all its dimensions; discussed promotion and facilitation of the active use of programmes and structures in support of youth work on European Citizenship, including the 'Youth in Action' and the new programme for Youth; discussed the potential of European Citizenship for active democratic change in society; discussed the current discourse on European Citizenship; and illustrated the connection between European Citizenship, Human Rights, Democracy and Intercultural Learning and core European values. Montenegro's representatives were **Tamara Milaš**, programme associate at the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), **Blagota Marunović**, adviser at the Sector for research, analysis, library, and documents at the Parliament of Montenegro, **Sandra Đukanović**, trainee at the Supreme State Prosecutor's office, and **Slobodan Đurović**, trainee at the Public Relations Department, International Affairs and Protocol of the Parliament of Montenegro. The participants were selected by the organisation of Youth European Federalist of Montenegro with the assistance of Young European Federalists of Iceland.

NGO experience exchange in relations with local governments

Regional conference on the exchange of best practices in citizen engagement in local government took place in Priština on 15-16 July 2013 in cooperation with OSCE missions in Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro. It was the first event aimed at networking region's organisations dealing with these issues. At the conference, various civil society organisations from the region had an opportunity to exchange best practices on municipal oversight, cooperation with local governments, and influencing local decision-making and citizen participation. The organisations presented the legal framework for NGO activity and their cooperation with local governments, as well as their experience in working with local governments. Centre for Civic Education's (CCE) experience was presented **Željka Četković**, programme associate.

Youth in 2020 – the Future of Youth Policies Conference

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy – the EU-CoE Youth partnership organizes the Conference “Youth in 2020 – the Future of Youth Policies”, to be held 1-4 October 2013 in Budapest, Hungary.

This conference has the vocation to contribute to furthering constructive reflection in the above mentioned directions, in the midst of the implementation of the institutional strategies, the EU Strategy for Youth “Investing and Empowering” and “Agenda 2020” describing the future of the Council of Europe youth policy. It will discuss trends and challenges in the youth field in Europe and their possible implications for European youth policy, youth work and research. The debates will focus on what the perspectives and scenarios for young people are until 2020, providing an opportunity for exchange of research findings and knowledge from youth policy and practice, discussing emerging phenomena and trends, mapping developments in selected areas of interest concerning young people such as learning, work, health, inclusion, citizenship, identity / lifestyles, diversity / solidarity, mobility, housing & family, crime & justice. It will consider the political and social dimensions and implications of the existing and emerging societies of knowledge and information, risk society (inclusion – exclusion), global and sustainable societies (think global – act local), intercultural and civil societies.

155 participants from research, practice, policy from all over Europe and beyond, in particular from the regions of South-East Europe, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and South Mediterranean region will participate in the event. Majority of participants will be youth experts and young people, but a certain number will come from beyond/outside of the youth field: employment, education, health etc.

Travel and full board for all participants, expert contracts, preparatory costs, promotional and logistical costs will be covered by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

Deadline for applications: 18 August 2013.

Read more: http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/news/News_414.html

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