



**Centar za građansko obrazovanje**  
**Centre for civic education**

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## **THE EUROPEAN UNION EXPECTS THE WHOLE SOCIETY, NOT ONLY THE RULING ELITE**

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) assess as positive the statement of **Slavica Milačić**, the main political advisor of the Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić**, that the possible establishment of negotiating teams with EU are already being considered. **This is an opportunity not to repeat the mistakes from the past, but to involve in this process all segments of society, including apart of the government officials, experts from NGOs, academic community, trade unions, local governments, and other stakeholders because the entire country and society enters EU, not just the government.**

In the process of preparing responses to the Questionnaire, the interested public was excluded, which proven to be damaging and a lesson should be learned from that exercise.

**Comparative experiences indicate to the benefits of inclusion of a broader social spectrum.** For example, in the process of negotiations Croatia has involved more than 400 different institutions, sectors, organizations and companies (or more precisely, in addition to all governmental entities: 39 faculties and educational institutions, 13 agencies, 20 bureaus, 24 institutes, 53 associations, 6 economic and interest associations, 9 chambers, 9 unions, 3 academies and more than 100 companies)... so the total number of experts who participated in the work amounted to about 1500, of which 900 was not part of the state administration. A similar experience, from the group of newer members, had Romania and Bulgaria.

**It should be reminded that the negotiations are conducted in order to agree on the deadlines to accept the *acquis communautaire*, because the standards are known, but through negotiations the estimation on their application is being made. The best manner to reach objective assessment is through working together, exactly in the range of issues where the government structure easily promises speed and civil society warns that we are very far from the desired situation.**

Negotiation platform itself must be adopted by the Government and in some form in the Parliament, whether to pass through relevant working bodies or to be given as information. **CCE believes that it would be the best and most effective if the Parliament adopts unanimously the negotiating platform or at least with two thirds majority, because it would be a guarantee for the stability of further negotiation process, regardless of all possible staff changes in the Government.**

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