

European pulse

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Foreword: **Prosecution**

Vladan Žugić

Prosecution did NOTHING to clear up the affair “listing”, except for asserting that the Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić** and the Foreign Affairs Minister **Milan Ročen** had not phone contact with the runaway narco-boss **Darko Šarić**. Prosecution did NOTHING in reaction to the most recent corruption warnings related to the privatization of KAP.

Prosecution did NOTHING to investigate the allegations by the Mayor of Podgorica **Miomir Mugoša** who said that he has evidence of illegal dealings inside the courts and that he has received personal threats from a president of one court (now imagine what would happen if such allegations came from the mayors of Berlin or Paris). Prosecution did NOTHING to investigate the claims that some party activists were “buying” votes ahead of the local elections in Herceg Novi.

Prosecution will most likely do NOTHING once again in response to Mugoša’s clear intention to damage the budget of the Capital City by re-selling the land to the company “Carine”, under the same conditions as in the previous contract which had been declared flawed by the Supreme Court. Prosecution managed to compile this impressive list in a mere few months since early December, when Montenegro was promised the beginning of negotiations by the Council of EU, if it demonstrates tangible results in fighting crime and corruption.

Should Montenegro fail to secure the beginning of negotiations, there can be no mistake about the culprit. If it does begin negotiations, the EC will have an easy time setting the benchmarks for Chapter 23 – fundamental reform of the constitution. It need not be stressed that the place to start should be the acting State Prosecutor **Ranka Čarapić**.

Calendar

- 08. March** **Lakočević and Pejanović to head the groups** / The Government adopted the decision establishing the working groups for Chapters 23 and 24. The groups will consist of 83 members, and will include six representatives of the civil sector, announced Montenegro's chief negotiator with EU **Aleksandar Pejović**. President of the working group for Chapter 23, concerning judiciary and fundamental rights, will be deputy Minister of Justice **Branka Lakočević**, and for Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) secretary of the Minister of Interior **Dragan Pejanović**.
- 12 - 15. March** **EU experts surveying the situation** / EU expert mission for the rule of law, with a special focus on the fight against corruption and organised crime, visited Montenegro and met with representatives of Montenegrin institutions. “Information collected by the expert group during this visit will constitute one of the sources for EC’s progress report on Montenegro's fulfilment of the seven key priorities necessary to begin negotiations with EU”, explained the Government.
- 15. March** **In EU before Turkey** / President of the Turkish Parliament Cemil Çiçek said that Turkey has been trying to join EU since 1963 but that he is “absolutely certain that Montenegro will join before Turkey”. During the visit of Montenegro's state delegation to the Parliament of Turkey, Çiçek warned his guests that they are about to join a Union “whose scales are a little off”.
- 21 - 22. March** **Run up to the finish line** / Montenegro is close to the beginning of accession negotiations with EU and needs to muster political will and strength to reach the finish line, said President of EC **Jose Manuel Barroso** after the meeting with Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić**. During his stay in Brussels Lukšić also met the Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** and Speaker of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz**.
- 29. March** **EP Resolution on Montenegro** / European Parliament adopted with a large majority the resolution calling on the EU member states to begin the accession talks with Montenegro this June, without further ado. All MEPs endorsed the call to the Montenegrin government to consistently enforce anti-corruption legislation, law on the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, and urged it to conclude a greater number of court cases, including those of high-level corruption. The EP encouraged the Parliament to strengthen oversight over anti-corruption bodies, especially in privatization.

“Sanaderization” of the Balkan space is still considered desirable transitional behaviour

Is Croatia in the Balkans



Ines Šaškor

Recently Belgrade hosted an expert international discussion on the limits and perspectives of the “West Balkan” project. Changing international environment and Croatia’s accession to EU have cast serious doubts on the survival of this project. International experts find that Croatia made tremendous progress a lot and call it the champion on integrations. They believe Serbia and Montenegro are lagging behind Croatia but still advancing, whereas BiH, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo are stagnating, if not sliding backwards. Each for their own reasons. Because of this, and because of the changing international circumstances – our region has after all left the armed conflicts behind, and the world has other priorities – the question is whether Western Balkans remains a useful concept at all. Has it become outdated, has it lost the meaning? This discussion made me think how we confront the world and if we learned anything from the recent past. When in mid-1990s the mysterious project “Western Balkans” reached these parts, ambiguous and unclear, never officially presented, the then Croatian leadership fiercely opposed it. They saw in it an attempt to restore Yugoslavia (according to the formula “Yugoslavia minus Slovenia, plus Albania”) and scared their citizens with a world conspiracy against the young Croatian nation. President **Tuđman** was obsessed by it. In an innovative take on geography, he announced that Croatia is not even in the Balkans, and that consequently it cannot be part of any Balkan projects. I remember the then deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs **Ivo Sanader** who used every meeting with the journalists to deride the idea of the “Western Balkans”. Few years later, however, as the Prime Minister, he became the standard-bearer of the project. “Sanaderization” of the Balkans is still considered a desirable transitional behaviour. Naturally, Sanader did not campaign for restoration of Yugoslavia, because this wasn’t what the project was about, but for normalisation of relations and cooperation among the countries on their path to Euro-Atlantic integrations. In the political Newspeak, he had a “post-conflict agenda”. The regional leaders always knew what this was about, but during the period of primitive

capital accumulation it was in their interest to lie to their citizens. We have seen too much of it in each of these countries – the strategy of keeping the nation always on its toes, stoking nationalism and isolationism, while you grab its wealth for yourself and your clients. The consequences



will haunt us for a long time to come. “West Balkan” project is not a philanthropic idea. The much-boasted “post-conflict agenda” contained a very clear political and geostrategic interest: to pacify the boiling region in the heart of Europe and draw it to the West. A few small wars less, 20 million consumers more. Plus the safe corridors. The mix from the international laboratory also contained the flavours of missionary “agenda” for immature peoples and states which provoked resistance and suspicion. Our corrupt politicians are all but naive. Once they were welcome in the most influential international capitals. Now they are not. Well, that’s also a form of progress. This is why we should approach this international project, like many others, with a grain of salt. Rationally and without illusion. Take in the aspects that contribute to the peace and improvement in mutual cooperation, restoration of trust, building of democratic institutions, and these were definitely part of the mix. And act in our own interest, in the interest of our citizens above all, without harming others, and without serving another.

Source: Radio Free Europe

Unprepared for the quick and demanding ride

What to expect from Montenegrin negotiating structures



Slađan Blagojević

What will be the relations between members of the working groups? Will the process be centralised, will the access to the frequent questions coming from Brussels be limited to a handful of people in the Government? What does it mean that the Government refused to pay the trip and board of NGO representatives for their time in Brussels during the screening? Will the members of the working group remain sufficiently motivated for this marathon run if they don't even get paid for it, as the Government suggested will be the case? Will the lack of knowledge of English language on the part of the group leaders aggravate the negotiating position of the Montenegrin team since, at least according to the Croatian experience, most of the agreements are actually made in an informal setting? Is it good that the negotiating team will be accountable to the Government or would it be better, as in

Government is lying

Top government officials have insisted in the past few weeks that Montenegro is the first country to have included the non-governmental and even civil sector in the negotiations with EU, but this is not true. It is enough to check the Accession Treaty between Croatia and EU which has been signed in December to see that our western neighbour has been involving a large number of NGO and civil society representatives – university professors, representatives of professional associations, business associations... Slovenia also recruited a large number of experts from a wide variety of areas.



the case of our western neighbours, to have the negotiating positions approved by the Parliament? Finally, is the host of dilemmas and perceived problems of the negotiating teams a

consequence of the lack of experience, or, as argued by the opposition and the civil sector, a calculated move to postpone EU membership for as long as it's possible, in order to preserve party and family privileges of the ruling circle? These are only some of the question that engulfed the Montenegrin public shortly after the Government established the first Working Groups of the Montenegrin negotiating team for EU accession, responsible for chapters 23 and 24. However, apart from unsurprisingly sharp reproaches from the opposition and the firm assertion of the Government that we're on the right track, the majority of analysts and experts for European integrations are reserved, saying it is too early to say what we can expect from the negotiating structures. Representatives of the civil society were told at the outset that, if they wish to travel to Brussels for meetings, their organisation should pay the costs – otherwise, they can follow the meetings through a video-conference. After the first screenings in Brussels, for Chapters 23 and 24,



it seems that everything at the outset is a little chaotic or a victim of a scrambled tactic. **Boris Marić**, senior legal advisor in Centre for Civic Education (CCE), said the first screening in Brussels revealed some unforgivable blunders, such as leaving out NGO representatives and the weak, unsystematic questions asked by the members of the working group representing public institutions. Many analysts, as well as representatives of the opposition, fear that the NGO representatives might end up marginalized, and that there won't be any genuine communication within the groups. **Koča Pavlović**, MP of the Movement for Changes, says that the same fate awaits the Parliament, which has been excluded from the negotiating structures and has no oversight of the process. Political analyst **Prof Dr Filip Kovačević** says the negotiations have been entrusted to the party soldiers whose task is to halt European integrations to make sure the bosses of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) **Milo Đukanović** and of the Social-Democratic Party (SDP) **Ranko Krivokapić** can keep their

Pavlović: Roćen prefers Asia

Pavlović advocates urgent development of a clear, powerful position of the Parliament in the process of European negotiations.

The process of Euro-integrations, according to him, has been monopolized by the ruling majority, while the opposition occasionally got to participate as a form of democratic decoration, a marketing bonus.

"If we wish to become a full EU member in the near future, we must change the approach. The biggest problem of the negotiating structure is its key figure – Foreign Affairs Minister Milan Roćen, who has a reputation at home and abroad of being a minister of Asian, not European integrations. All our obstacles on the way to EU membership are directly linked to the head of the regime and the chief of DPS, and Roćen is his most loyal servant. This makes it crystal clear that this man will be a huge burden for our dialogue with Brussels", said Pavlović for European Pulse.

He added that it is extremely problematic to have the whole negotiating structure balanced on a single man, head of the State Delegation and part of the five-member Collegium and that "this will be a huge obstacle in the upcoming process".

monopolies. In the meantime, representatives of non-governmental organisations fell into the trap of being mistreated and humiliated. The chief negotiator of Montenegro with EU **Aleksandar Pejović** tried on several occasions to explain the first doubts regarding the structure of the negotiating teams. He said that the NGOs didn't complain when the Government adopted the decision according to which all costs of the

members of the negotiating structures will be borne by their home institutions. He said that the screening for each chapter only takes place twice at the beginning of a long process of negotiations, and that 99% of the work is really done at home. He is not worried about the fact that the heads of the two groups do not speak English. In early February the Government adopted the Decision on negotiating structures of Montenegro with EU, and in March it appointed the heads of the working groups for chapters 23 and 24. The key role in the negotiations was entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations. The complete structure for negotiations of EU accession is under the Prime Minister and his close Collegium (two deputies), reinforced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations and the chief negotiator. The Collegium discusses all issues relevant to the negotiations, analyses the proposals of the negotiating positions and submits them to the Government for adoption, following the opinion of the relevant parliamentary working body. State Delegation is the second in the line of command, negotiating under the leadership of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Other members of the Delegation are the chief negotiator, his deputies, head of Montenegro's Mission to EU and secretary of the group. The Chairman of the Delegation, according to the Government decision, oversees and directs negotiations on all chapters. The immediate task of negotiations is handled by the Negotiating Group, third in line, which is appointed by the Government, on the proposal of the head of the State Delegation and with agreement of the chief negotiator. Negotiating Group also consists of members selected specifically for the particular chapter, head of Mission to EU and secretary. The fourth layer of the negotiating structure consists of working groups, which are responsible for analysis and assessment of compatibility of Montenegro's legislation with EU acquis (screening), as well as development of negotiating positions, with support of public and other bodies and institutions. Negotiating

Kovačević: Farce of an anti-European government

Negotiating teams established by a government which is deep-rooted in corruption and organised crime networks and which harbours anti-European core under its pro-European rhetoric is but a farce", said Prof Kovačević for European Pulse.

He claims that the teams were formed in order to stage a pretence at European integrations, and that the people leading them are the "party soldiers of the ruling oligarchy", whose task is to postpone and, if possible, entirely halt introduction of the rule of law to Montenegro. The reason is, simply, that this would endanger the monopolies and privileges of their party "commanders", Đukanović and Krivokapić.

"I believe NGO representatives in these negotiating teams will only be mistreated, humiliated and abused for everyday political goals of the ruling coalition, and I feel sorry that they even accepted to be part of this farce", he said.

Group and the working groups are effectively responsible for the technical aspects of negotiations with EU, while the Collegium and State Delegation deal with the political level. During the negotiations Montenegro will have to form 35 working groups. Following EU's announcement that it intends to begin negotiations with chapters concerning the rule of law, working groups were already formed for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security. The structure also includes office of the chief negotiator and secretariat of the Negotiating Group, whose role is primarily of logistic nature. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

European Integrations will be financing the work of these two groups, while the costs of others will be covered by the home institutions of each member. An exception is the cost of foreign and local experts who will be financed by the Government as need arises. Working groups 23 and 24 were established some ten days ago. The head of the group 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, is the deputy Minister of Justice **Branka Lakočević**, and the group consists of 41 members. This may seem a lot, but Croatia, for instance, had more than 100 people in this group. Five members are from the non-governmental sector and University

of Montenegro: Dr **Ivana Jelić** from the Legal Department, **Ana Novaković** from Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations, **Boris Marić** from CCE, **Jovana Marović** from Institute Alternative and **Velida Hodžić** from Ikra. Analysis and assessment of legal compatibility in the area of justice, freedom and security (Chapter 24), will be the responsibility by a 38-member working group led by **Dragan Pejanović**, secretary of the Ministry of Interior. Two representatives of the NGO sector are in this group: **Siniša Bjeković** from the Civic Alliance and **Vlado Dedović** from the Centre for Monitoring.

Marić: self-censorship undermines public interest

Marić believes that the working groups were formed very late, contributing to weak initial coordination, and that absence of NGO representatives from the first screening in Brussels is an unforgivable organisational failure on the part of the Government.

He told European Pulse that civil society representatives see their role in the working group as monitors of various aspects of their performance. Accordingly, they also offered their opinion on the character and importance of questions submitted at the explanatory screening for Chapter 23 for the future process, and primarily for the preparation of the bilateral meeting.

“When we talk about the lack of capacity to ask questions, we mean first of all a form of self-censorship and the belief that by boasting our results at all times and without a shadow of criticism we will score point with our partners in Europe. This is amateurish and unsustainable. The question of the judicial system and anti-corruption policies has to be pursued to the end. These two aspects are the ones that receive most criticism. European acquis in these areas is thin and such matters are differently regulated in different EU members. This is precisely the reasons we should confront the European Commission representatives with as many dilemmas as possible. Where acquis is well developed things are clearer and the tasks more concrete. Where this is not the case, we should have gathered more information on the possibilities for reform, ways of implementation of anti-corruption policies, confiscation of property acquired through crime and corruption, access to data, transparency of work and conflict of interest of public institutions”, he said.

Marić said that the first screening ended without us learning anything new, but now we know that the Government representatives will stick to the old line, which will soon prove to be insufficient.

“This approach requires homework-like methods. The problem here is the fact that our administration won’t be able to keep up the right pace in capacity-building, which will slow down the whole process, as well as the possibilities for faster economic consolidation of the society. In short, we seem to be unprepared for the phase where we need to tackle the root of our problems, not the surface, and this demands a lot of knowledge, clear political will and dedication to the public interest”, Marić said.

Montenegro – the champion of European integrations in the Balkans or a perfect crime?

Into EU with bought votes



Neđeljko Rudović

In the course of late March, the Prime Minister Igor Lukšić was visiting a number of high European addresses and listening to the messages of Herman van Rompuy, Jose Manuel Barroso, Martin Schultz and Štefan Füle. At the same time, his DPS was deep in the business of buying human souls. While Rompuy talked of Montenegro as the “champion of European integrations”, Lukšić’s and Đukanović’s party, reinforced by the customary inertia of the police and prosecution, was laying the ground for another victory at the elections in the traditional Balkan way. In early March, for the first time a name was put on the decades-long practice of DPS – buying up the IDs of the potential supporters of the opposition to prevent them from showing up at the elections. This reduces the turnout while at the same time allowing DPS to bring out to vote all of its supporters, thanks to the well oiled, state-budget financed party machinery. On the eve of April 7 local elections in Herceg Novi and Tivat, this is once again a widespread practice. This brings back the key question – is there a minimum of prerequisites for democracy in Montenegro, or is it just a very subtly crafted dictatorship. On 8 March, **Branko Miljanić** and three of his friends M.P, M.Ž. and Goran P. from Herceg Novi publically announced that they “sold” their IDs to **Milija Krgović** from Tivat in order not to show up at the local elections in Herceg Novi. Krgović promised that after “checking” their documents they will pay them each 80 euros, but never called them back. All four said Krgović was doing the business for DPS. Miljanić said that he himself recruited in the same manner another 30 to 40 persons who were all left without their ID and without money. Soon afterwards, the local branch of the Movement for Changes published the names of another four people who “bought” IDs on behalf of DPS. **Zoran Bošnjak** from the local office of DPS claims that “DPS has nothing to do with these activities”, and the police and the prosecution completely failed to locate Krgović. They explained that they only issued a local warrant for his arrest, which means that



only the police of Herceg Novi is “looking for him”. Pre-electoral crime games of the ruling party offer a very compelling illustration of a state where “the perfect crime” exists, because the state is the perpetrator. Even if one dares to speak up publicly against DPS activists violating the law, it all ends there. Police and the prosecution, which are thoroughly controlled by those they should be investigating, put up a show of doing their job and the circle is closed. There is no crime without evidence, it’s as if nothing happened. It will be another successful performance for Europe and another mockery of the citizens, the state, and its so-called institutions. To make it all even more absurd, the “buying” of IDs is, according to the insiders, financed from the black funds of various “businessmen” from the clique of the ruling party. They give the money, in exchange for rigged tenders, formally “according to the law”, but actually set in their favour by the local and municipal leaders. There are also many who cast their vote for DPS in order to keep their job, employ family members, get a construction permit etc. At the end of all this, there are “free and fair elections”, its results already known in advance by DPS, which has activists and monitors by every ballot. Clearly, Rompuy is right: Montenegro must be a real champion, if the EU Delegation in Montenegro does not think it’s necessary to react even to the most recent events in Herceg Novi.

President of the Committee
for European Integration and Foreign Affairs, Dr Miodrag Vuković

Parliament to play an important strong role in EU negotiations



The national council or a committee would have the power to return the Government's platform for revision if it doesn't think the interests of Montenegro are sufficiently protected or well formulated. No platform should be discussed with EU without the approval of this parliamentary body

President of the parliamentary committee for European integration and European Affairs Dr Miodrag Vuković denies that the Government marginalised the Parliament in the preparations for Montenegro's membership negotiations with EU. On the contrary, he is sure that the Parliament is to play a very important role in this process.

In the interview for *European Pulse*, Vuković said that by establishing negotiating structures which are directly responsible to the Government, and by establishing working groups for Chapters 23 and 24 the Government has only taken the basic measures that will precede negotiations for each of the 35 Chapters. "I think the Government did a good job for its part. The Government will carry the biggest burden during negotiations, but it will be accountable for it to the Parliament", he said.

» **How will it be responsible to the Parliament?**

In the previous phases the Parliament could not have done anything more or differently. The Government alone was responsible for the selection of the working groups and negotiating teams for these two chapters, it was responsible for training these people, in-

roducing them to the European requirements in these areas.

On the other hand, the Parliament made the preliminary preparations to accommodate its part of responsibility. A special task group worked from June to November last year to prepare amendments to the Rules of Procedure and forwarded its suggestions to the Collegium.

For instance, we even heard from the opposition that the Parliament should divide the current Committee for European Integration into a Committee responsible for international parliamentary diplomacy, regional cooperation etc, everything that falls into standard parliamentary diplomacy, and transfer the tasks currently assigned to the Committee for European Integration to the Constitutional Committee or Committee for Constitutional Affairs and Legislation, which is currently in charge of assessing compliance of the legal acts with Constitution.

» **Is that all that the Parliament would be doing?**

No, much more important would be the establishment of a separate parliamentary body, similar to the one Croatia had, a national

council or a committee for European integration, whose task would be to assess the negotiating platforms before they are presented at the negotiations by our teams. In addition to the MPs, this body would consist of people from other institutions: trade unions, chamber of commerce etc.

This body would have the power to return the Government's platform for revision if it doesn't think the interests of Montenegro are sufficiently protected or well formulated. No platform should be discussed with EU without the approval of this parliamentary body.

» Does that mean the National Council for European Integrations will be abolished?

NCEI has fulfilled its role, in spite of the fact that in the last two years there were many misunderstandings about its performance, its conception and accountability, since there were many representatives of the executive among its members, including the State Prosecutor and the president of the Supreme Court.

In the future, this body should be a parliamentary body so that the Parliament can exercise sufficient oversight of the Government by having the right to veto negotiating platforms. This is not the final solutions, we are discussing things at the Collegium of the President of the Parliament, but it's important that we're going in the right direction and not lagging behind...

» When will the Parliament adopt these changes?

We should be able to do so over the next two months.

As a president of the Committee for European Integration and Foreign Affairs, I would like these changes to be done properly, to agree on all urgent and important measures for the beginning of negotiations, and as a member of the Constitutional Committee working to formulate the changes and amendments of the Constitution in what regards the judiciary, I would be keen to move on with that process.

We heard that EP's Resolution was accompanied by a message that we need to finish this work in order to begin negotiations. We have to forget all side issues which interfered to delay the procedure.

WARNING TO THE POLICE, PROSECUTION AND COURTS

» Speaking about prosecution, how do you see the messages from EU, which seem to be getting more intensive, that we need further efforts to combat corruption on the highest level or to arrest or prosecute high officials involved in corruption?

I don't see it very dramatically. It's normal to talk about crime and corruption in a democratic country which is deeply involved in eradicating this plague.

Nobody here would say that we have no crime and corruption in this country, the difference is only in the places and levels where different people see corruption and crime.

Some people talk about "big fish" in very demagogical terms. This is not the language of Europe, there are no animals in European documents – they only speak about people performing different functions. A sensible approach to the fight against crime and corruption means a warning that those who are most exposed in this fight – the police, prosecution, courts – must put more effort into their work, more dedication, to make sure the results are more visible in the near future.

V.Ž.

Eggs (not) more expensive because of directive



In Bulgaria the people are up in arms over soaring prices of eggs, and the producers blame the new European regulations on cages for laying hen. However, Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture says the reason the price of eggs went up by 40% to 0.40 lev or 20 eurocents per egg is in the supply system, and in the anticipated rise in demand around Easter. As a countermeasure, he announced a meeting with supermarkets and threatened to import cheaper eggs from Poland. Najdenov said the prices were lower even in the big European capitals like Paris, Berlin and Brussels. Bulgaria is among the 13 EU members against whom the EC started infringement procedure because of cruel treatment of laying hen. This is not a new requirement: the directive against keeping laying hen in cages dates from 1999, although it only became binding on 1 January this year. According to the directive, laying hens must be kept in special cages, with at least 750 cm² cage area, provided with nests and perches, or in alternative systems (on the ground or outdoors).

Nice forbids smoking on the beach



This summer France will get the first non-smoking beach. The ban will be introduced on a beach in Nice, on Cote d'Azur, and is a result of an initiative by the city authorities and the French association of citizens against cancer. Visitors violating the ban will be faced with a fine of 38 euros.

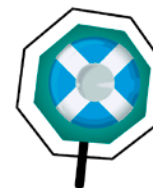
German still in the race



Ever fewer Europeans are learning Germany, but Goethe's tongue still keeps in the race – a growing number of highly educated students from Southern Europe are coming to Germany to look for work, and so the German language becomes necessary. Although German is the mother tongue of nearly every fifth European, European institutions are dominated by English and French. The efforts to balance this out to some extent have been fruitful: the official website of EU presidencies have been providing a German version for a number of years.

According to a Eurostat poll conducted between 2005 and 2010 among students aged 15 to 20, only 44% students in the Netherlands are still learning German, compared to 86% only five years ago. In Poland the percentage sunk from 73% to 52%, while in France only 22% of high school students studied German in 2010.

Would an independent Scotland be part of EU



Should the Scots opt for independence in 2014, their place in the EU will not follow automatically. According to a report by a British consortium Business for New Europe, the decision by EU members on the accession procedure for Scotland will depend on whether its declaration of independence can be considered a dangerous precedent, with consequences for other countries with strong independence movements. Besides, the procedure will be influenced by Edinburgh's demands on EU. As part of UK Scotland enjoys a number of privileges, including reduced contributions to EU budget. However, the current prime minister and advocate of independence **Alex Salmond** believes the country will stay in EU, after renegotiations of the conditions of membership.

Western Balkans 20 years after the fall of former Yugoslavia

Life would have been better if SFRY remained

Citizens of the Western Balkans do not trust each other and don't think of the region as a single cultural space. They prefer to visit EU than other countries of the region where they haven't been. On the other hand, most of them believe life would be better if former Yugoslavia still existed. These are the findings of a public opinion poll "20 years after 1991" conducted by IPSOS Strategic Marketing and European Fund for the Balkans. The research was conducted in 2011, 20 years after the dissolution of former Yugoslavia, and the respondents were selected from two generations – born in 1971 and 1991. Between 25% and 40% of the respondents trust other peoples from the region – citizens of Serbia and Kosovo trust each other the least, those of Macedonia and BiH the most. Due to profound differences in the attitudes of different ethnic communities in Bosnia, their results have been recorded separately. In Serbia, 43% of the respondents trust Slovenians, with other nations lagging far behind – 33% trust Montenegrins, 9% Albanians. In Kosovo, only 7% trust the Serbs. Very few people in the

countries. The respondents were also asked to assess cultural proximity with other countries of the Western Balkans with regard to music, literature, art and entertainment. It turns out the level of perceived proximity is the highest in Kosovo (58%) and Macedonia (50%) and the lowest in Croatia. There are significant generational differences with regard to the wish to visit other countries of the region, which is more pronounced among younger people. In Serbia 47% of the 1971 generation wants to visit countries of the region they have not visited before, compared to 54% of 1991 generation. Such wish is most widespread in Macedonia – 79% of the 1971 generation and 83% of the 1991 generation, and lowest among the Croats from Bosnia – 34% of 1971 generation and 39% of the younger ones. The highest number of respondents who explicitly said they don't wish to visit neighbouring countries was found in Albania – 38% of the 1971 generation. The research showed that in all countries, except for Croatia and Kosovo, people believe that their lives would be better if SFRY still existed. Nevertheless, the majority believes dissolution was inevitable, and that the collapse was initiated by the political leaders, most notably **Slobodan Milošević**. The highest number of people who believe that their lives would be better if SFRY still existed, with the same political system as in Tito's time, is in the Republic of Srpska (81%) and Serbia (69%), while in Croatia and Kosovo only a minority shares this opinion (30% and 25%). With the exception of Macedonia, the younger generation is slightly less likely to believe that life under Tito's system would have been better. The current living standards received the lowest rating in Serbia, where 24% of the respondents say they don't live well, 51% has an average standard, and 25% says they and their families live well. By contrast, the highest share of respondents who rate their standard of living highly is in Kosovo – 51% say they live well, 39% rates their standard "average" and 10% think they don't live well.



Western Balkans think of this region as a single cultural space – 6% in BiH Federation, 2% in Montenegro and Macedonia and 1% in Croatia and Serbia. The respondents were more likely to define a cultural space consisting of 3 to 4

The road to contemporary



Milica Petričević

The author is a second year student of the Political Science Department in Podgorica. She attended XIX generation of CCE's Democracy School.

As of 1 July 2013 Montenegro will officially border European Union, or rather its 28th member – Croatia. Montenegro set off on the road to contemporary Europe with the restoration of state independence. It is the responsibility of Montenegrin institutions to turn our dirt roads into highways that will take us safely but surely to our goal. Now that we know for sure that already next summer we will border on “Europe”, we have to make sure our borders will be open. Why should Montenegro, which is geographically part of Europe, not have access to the benefits of EU membership? Why is it that Montenegrins live worse than, for instance, Estonians. Historical overthrows have been the greatest obstacles on Montenegro's “European” path. Throughout its history, Montenegro had to fight for territorial freedom, freedom from occupier, and today it has to fight for the freedom of individual, which at the same time should not endanger the national identity of its peoples. Related to this, there is an ever declining number of people who believe that entry into EU will annihilate our specificities. Another obstacle is the fact that the ruling structures have been preoccupied with issues that have nothing or little to do with EU, or rather with the universal values it embodies.

Member states of European Union are brought together by the principles of freedom, peace, tolerance, democracy, and rule of law, which altogether result in economic efficiency and better living standards. The idea of isolated islands doesn't even work for the most backward societies of the world, and this all suggests it is necessary to integrate. Europe, whose citizens I wish to be, is a Europe of multiculturalism, difference, Europe dedicated to the protection of human rights and the promotion of democratic principles. It's a Europe which demands, and gives. Because of all this, Europe is the only hope that Montenegro might finally take the high road.



Our streets and squares have been seething in the last few months, rebellion and dissatisfaction abound, but I still wish to believe that those responsible for changes will be able to hear and interpret it properly. Mistakes decried by us, dissatisfied students, workers and other citizens, are the same ones which are pointed out by EU, and it should be a strong warning for the authorities to correct them. We should make effort to fulfil all demands coming from Europe, like we would work on homework, not on a side task. The citizens are not dissatisfied because of a handful of errors from the past – they are upset with the direction our country has been taking, especially in the early nineties. Wrong roadsigns from the war only took us to the dirt road we are now trying to leave. The young people want to live better, unburdened by the heavy chains from the past. We want an environment protected by the European laws and standards, life in a European environment. Let's try something different

The legend says Zeus turned into a white bull with wings and golden horns, an embodiment of strength and power, and soared towards the most beautiful Phoenician princess called Europe, whom he loved and wanted to seduce. When he came very close to her, the princess felt his power and flew away with him into a “new life”. *Does Montenegro have the strength, power and perseverance to fly towards its Europe, its new life?*

The Commission proposes new rules
for confiscation of property acquired through crime

Hit them where it hurts



On 12 March the European Commission has proposed new rules for more effective confiscation of funds and other property acquired through crime. This will enhance the ability of Member States to confiscate assets that have been transferred to third parties, whether family members or fictional owners. It will make it easier to confiscate criminal assets even when the suspect has fled and will ensure that competent authorities can temporarily freeze assets that risk disappearing if no action is taken. Sums confiscated by EU authorities are often modest compared to revenues from organized crime. It is estimated that illicit sales of drugs alone bring EU's criminal organisations 100 billion euros per year. According to EC's report, hundreds of billions of euro flow directly into the pockets of the criminal gangs and mafia every year, and that in spite of all efforts a lot of money remains in the hands of the criminals. "We need to hit criminals where it hurts, by going after the money, and we have to get their profits back in to the legal economy, especially in these times of crisis. Law enforcement and judicial authorities must have better tools to follow the money trail. They also need greater means with which to recover a more significant proportion of criminal assets," said **Cecilia Malmström**, Commissioner for Home Affairs. The existing legal framework is judged to be insufficient and unevenly applied

across member states. The reports on its implementation published by the European Commission demonstrate that the regulations differ significantly from one EU member to the next and that substantial differences in formulations among the member states impede confiscation and restitution of property acquired through criminal activities. The Commission warned

The proposal also suggests allowing confiscation of assets where a criminal conviction is not possible because the suspect is dead, permanently ill or has fled. A similar measure enabled Italian authorities in 2010 to freeze assets worth at least 700 million euro.

that profitable illicit activities and investment of illegally acquired funds into the legal business distort the single market and undermine trust in the economy, with a negative impact on investment and growth. The report reminds that confiscated funds and property can be used to serve the needs of the society. The proposal lays

Commission suggested that, for example, the French authorities can ask their Swedish counterparts to temporarily freeze property of the suspects even before the trial is completed

out clearer and more efficient rules for the so-called "extended" confiscation. This allows the state to confiscate not only property acquired through the activities the person has been convicted for, but also assets not directly linked to a specific crime, but which clearly result from similar criminal activities by the convicted person. EU legislation already contains this possibility, and the new proposal only specifies the existing regime further, but ensuring a common regulatory minimum. Members of organised crime networks often transfer their assets to a third person, usually a relative, or another person

who serves as a “front man” to avoid confiscation. EC’s aim is to strengthen the regulation for third-person confiscation where the assets have been transferred to another person. The proposal also suggests allowing confiscation of assets where a criminal conviction is not possible because the suspect is dead, permanently ill or has fled. This measure is expected to deliver

The member states are expected to manage the frozen assets so that they do not lose economic value before they are eventually confiscated

a particularly strong blow to organised crime. A similar measure enabled Italian authorities in 2010 to freeze assets worth at least 700 million euro. The 2008 law prohibited the heirs from access to the frozen property of the deceased businessmen who was suspected of serving as a front window for an important criminal gang. The businessman was convicted for membership in a criminal organization, but had appealed. His relatives could not explain the origin of property, or the large difference between reported income and the value of frozen assets. Italian authorities confiscated 136 apartments, 11 warehouses, 75 landholdings, 8 shops, 2 villas, 51 garage, as well as frozen company shares and bank accounts, all worth between 700 million and 2 billion euro. The proposal also urges precautionary freezing, ensuring that prosecutors can temporarily freeze assets that risk disappearing if no action is taken, subject to confirmation by a court. Malmström explained that the proceeds of organised criminal groups are increasingly invested outside their home country, which is why the Commission suggested that, for example, the French authorities can ask their Swedish counterparts to temporarily freeze property of the suspects even before the trial is completed, if there is a risk of assets disappearing. The new regulations should also enable the police to continue investigation after the suspect is convicted in order to fully implement the confiscation ruling. The member states are expected to manage the frozen assets so that they do not lose economic value before

they are eventually confiscated. EC insists that actions taken to freeze and confiscate assets are balanced by strong measures to protect fundamental rights, in particular to ensure that individual's right to a presumption of innocence and the right to property are respected. According to the UN estimates, the total amount of criminal proceeds generated in 2009 may have been approximately \$2.1 trillion, or 3.6 per cent of global GDP in that year. While most of this dirty money is laundered and reinvested into the legal economy, currently less than 1% of the proceeds of crime are frozen and confiscated, warned EC. The Commission has no information on the total revenues from criminal activities in EU, but suggests these might be substantial. For example, EU sales of illicit drugs generate an estimated 100 billion euro per year, and corruption costs the Union around 1% of its GDP every year. In Italy the proceeds of organised crime are estimated at 150 billion euro yearly. In 2009, the Italian authorities temporarily froze criminal assets worth around 800 million euro. In the Unit-

In Germany in 2009, 113 million euro were seized from organised crime. This sounds impressive, but is less so when you consider that the estimated profit that went to the criminals in these cases amounts to some 903 million

ed Kingdom in 2006 organised criminal revenue was estimated at 15 billion pounds. In the same year, 125 million pounds were recovered by the state. In Germany in 2009, 113 million euro were seized from organised crime. This sounds impressive, but is less so when you consider that the estimated profit that went to the criminals in these cases amounts to some 903 million. In the United Kingdom in 2006 organized criminal revenue was estimated at £15 billion. In the same year, £125 million were recovered by the state. In Germany in 2009, €113 million were seized from organized crime. This sounds impressive, but is less so when you consider that the estimated profit that went to the criminals in these cases amounts to some € 903 million.

Information through torture?



Piše: Radoš Mušović

The author is a volunteer in the CGO

Research conducted as part of the project “Monitoring of the state of human rights in closed detention institutions in Montenegro”, financed by the European Union Delegation to Montenegro and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Podgorica, found that 79% of the citizens believe all forms of torture should be forbidden, and consider torture to be immoral and a violation of human rights. The study was conducted by Human Rights Action in cooperation with the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), Centre for Anti-Discrimination EKVISTA, Safe Women’s House, Human Rights Centre from Belgrade and Centre for Human Rights from Latvia. The survey was conducted by telephone with 807 randomly selected participants in the period from 18 to 21 March 2012.

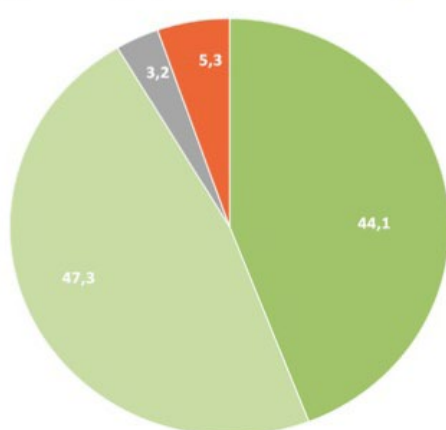
result places Montenegro very close to the attitudes of the citizens of France, UK and Spain, and makes its citizens 26% more liberal than those of the USA, a country considered to be the cradle of democracy.

There are, however, large differences between men and women, and between citizens with different religious and educational profiles. Among those who approve torture of terrorists, 44% insist that torture should be forbidden in all other cases (8% of the total population). **In other words, 8% of Montenegrin citizens approve of torture as means of obtaining information in the case of terrorism**, while considering it inadmissible in all other cases, which suggests that the same percentage considers terrorism to be a serious crime and a threat to general security.

What about cases that have nothing to do with terrorism? Do you think there should be rules that prohibit torture in all other cases and do you think that governments should generally be allowed to attempt to obtain information through abuse?

Base: Those 18% of the target population who justify torture as a means of combating terrorism

- % Maintain a clear policy on the prohibition of torture in all other cases
- % There should be a prohibition but also there should be exceptions
- % I don't know
- % Governments should be allowed to apply abuse

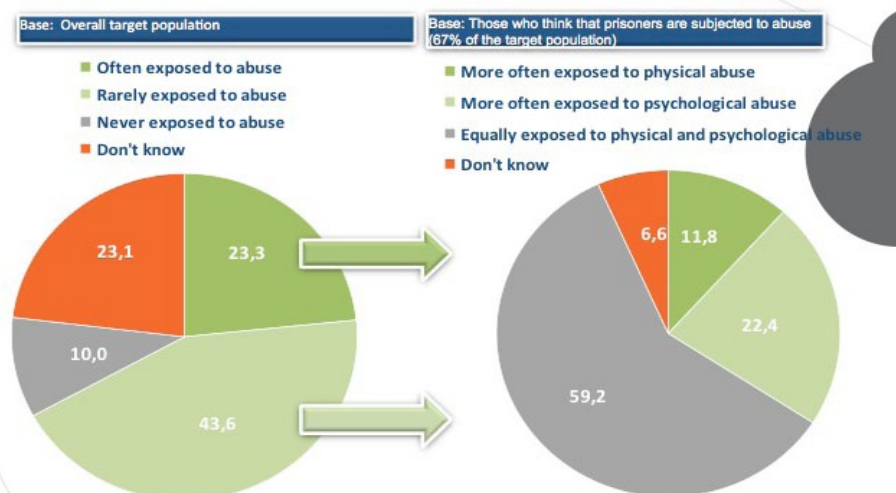


On the other hand, 47% of those who approve torture against terrorists thinks that in case of other crimes there should be a general ban on maltreatment, but also exceptions (8% of the total population), while another 5% think that the governments should have a recourse to torture regardless of the nature of the crime. Some 10% of the population supports mistreatment, in specific cases or in general. This result places Montenegro close to Egypt, North Korea, Iran, Russia and Nigeria, which is a fairly worrying result for a future member of EU.

Asked which other crimes, in addition to terrorism, should qualify as allowing torture in order to obtain information, 14% of the respondents listed state security/security of citizens, an even number choose violence against minors and a smaller percentage opted for sexual violence. Less than 1% of the respondents opted for genocide. When it comes to the mistreatment of prisoners, the highest percentage of Montenegrin citizens shows understanding for

79% of the respondents said any kind of torture should be forbidden, while 18% think that terrorists constitute an extreme threat and that the governments should be allowed to use some forms of torture in order to obtain information that might save the lives of other people. This

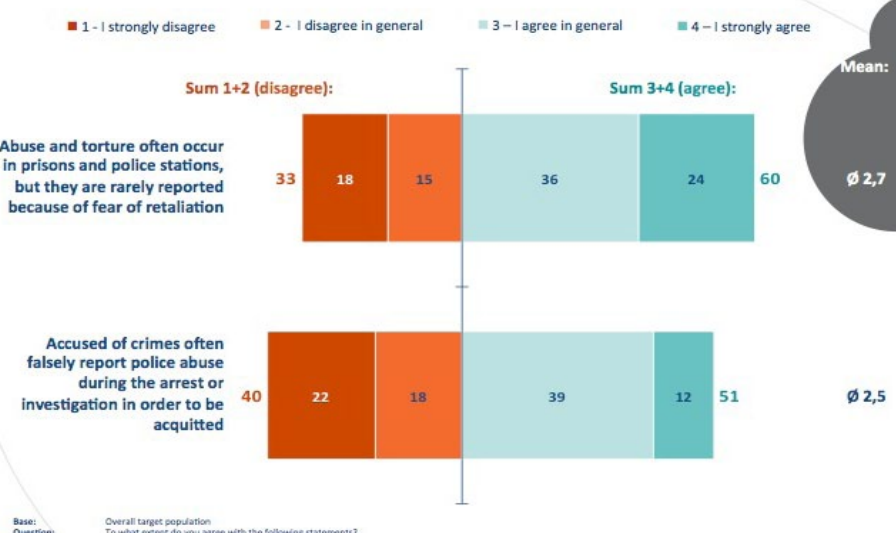
Do you find that prisoners in Montenegro are ...



while 10% considers torture to be justified if ordered by a high authority, 8% approves of it if the victim is not a citizen of Montenegro. It is worrying that the youngest population (aged 18 to 29) is more inclined to approve mistreatment: they frequently opt for more conservative and rigorous statements than their older country mates.

More than 2/3 of the citizens believe that the prisoners are exposed to some forms of torture. 44% believe **torture is rare, but exists**, and 23 believe the same for mistreatment. **Only 10% of the citizens think that the prisoners are never subject to mistreatment.** Those who think otherwise most frequently argues that the prisoners in Montenegro are equally exposed to physical and psychological mistreatment (59%). Physical mistreatment is stressed by 22%, while a relatively small percentage (12%) think torture is only related to physical violence.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



The study showed that some of the citizens believe that certain human rights should be “sacrificed” in order to obtain information, and that the citizens believe torture is present in Montenegro's detention institutions.

such treatment in case of multiple offenders, i.e. repeating offenders: 39% of the population considers torture to be generally or entirely justified in such cases. One third of the population approves of torture against prisoners sentenced for very heavy crimes, or those who attacked a warden. A slightly smaller percentage approves of mistreatment in extraordinary circumstances (17% in case of war and 9% in case of internal political instability) or in order to extract information or confession (16%). Hard core authoritarian and nationalist attitudes are displayed by a relatively low percent of the population:

In the midst of the economic crisis,
China is making inroads in the Western Balkans

“The Silk Road” in the Balkans



Beijing is “intent on using the business potential of the Balkan peninsula through its strategic investments in Greece and long-term plans for a contemporary Silk Road across Eurasia”, says Central Europe Watch.

in Romania and in Albanian mines, while negotiating special trade arrangements with Turkey. According to a 2011 study, the turnover of Chinese capital in Romania was 2.6 billion euro, 1.1 billion in Croatia and 630 million in Bulgaria. Central Europe Watch said the Chinese expansion in the Balkans was a way of “tracing” long-term plans for a contemporary Silk Road across Eurasia.

In the 1970s China made the first contacts in the Balkans through an agreement with the Albanian government, at the time under the first secretary of the Albanian Worker's Party Enver Hoxha. After Hoxha's break-up with China, Beijing continued to develop economic and political relations with the former Yugoslavia and Romania. China today is an economic and military power, but its interest in South-East Europe continues. Its strategy, however, is today focused on expansion of influence through trade and incipient political agreements for closer cooperation with governments and business establishments in the entire region, and through Chinese language instruction in the Balkan schools.

China is an active investor in the work markets even in the midst of crisis. In spite of a degree of slow-down, the second largest economy in the world expects to grow by 7.5% in 2012, which is well above the average of the world economy. Its tentacles reach far. Chinese capital is invested in the power plants in Serbia, in the Bulgarian car factory, business enterprises

During the recent reception for Chinese authorities, the Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha expressed readiness to “support a free investment zone for a free investment zone for China, which could then use Albania's favourable position for a breakthrough into European markets”

In Albania, the authorities organised a special “Beijing Night” reception for Liu Qi, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Secretary of the Municipal Committee of CPC in Beijing. During his visit on 18 March, Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha met Liu to discuss cooperation on development of harbour infrastructure, energy, mines and tourism. Berisha expressed readiness to support “establishment of a free investment zone for China, which could then use Albania's favourable position for a breakthrough into European markets”.

The Chinese official confirmed that a group of 100 companies will soon visit Albania, where Chinese is already well established as the second foreign language in schools. "It is extremely important to have Chinese as the second foreign language in our schools", said Berisha on 15 February, discussing the new law on secondary education. **Edlira Prenga**, spokesperson for the Chamber of Trade and Industry in Ti-

On 14 March Serbian Minister of Education **Željko Obradović** and Chinese ambassador to Serbia **Zhang Wanxue** signed the Memorandum on Cooperation concerning Chinese language classes for 2.462 Serbian pupils in primary and secondary schools



rana told SETimes that she considers China a serious, long-term partner for Albanian entrepreneurs, and that such partnership will be "supported by the government". Prenga confirmed that the Chamber had extensive meetings with the potential investors from China, who are interested in sectors such as electronics, machinery, energy and automobiles.

Growing interest on the part of China is linked to the economic crisis in several countries. Serbia is also strengthening its relations with China, especially in the light of their similar political views – China has refused to recognise Kosovo's independence. On 14 March Serbian Minister of Education **Željko Obradović** and Chinese ambassador to Serbia **Zhang Wanxue** signed the Memorandum on Cooperation concerning Chinese language classes for 2.462 Serbian pupils in primary and

secondary schools. "The goal of this project is to introduce Serbian students to Chinese tradition and culture. Chinese language is also important for economic reasons", Obradović said. The classes already started in 31 primary and secondary school in Serbia. According to Zhang, 14 teachers from China will be giving lessons to the Serbian students. They are volunteers, chosen to give two lessons per week. Teacher **Mengsuan Guo** told Chinese news agency Xinhua that the lessons are meant to offer an introduction to Chinese culture, tradition and language. She said that her first lesson was attended by 20 to 300 students. "They were eager to learn, which made my job much easier than expected", Guo said. Although China still opposes Kosovo's independence, Chinese

Kosovo doesn't have a trade agreement with China, but 9% of all goods in Kosovo are imported from China

entrepreneurs in Kosovo are doing extremely well. According to the Kosovar Ministry of Trade and Industry, 454 Chinese enterprises are active in Kosovo. **Arta Istrefi**, political advisor of the Minister for Trade and Industry **Mimoza Kusari-Lila**, said that Kosovo doesn't have a trade agreement with China, but that 9% of all goods in Kosovo are imported from China. "Exports in 2011 exceeded 28 million euro, which is a 90.8% increase compared to 2010. Imports from China, on the other hand, are above 169 million euro, or 25.8% higher than in 2010", Istrefi said.

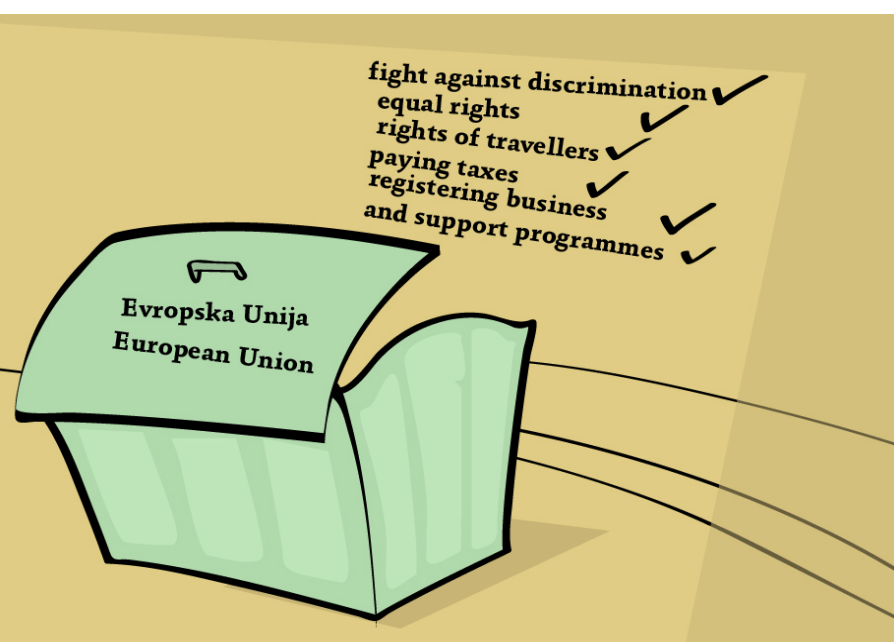
Linda Karadaku
(SETimes.com)

What we need to know before we decide to join European Union

EU for citizens

Directives, regulations, *acquis communautaire*, Council of EU, chapters, screening... How many citizens of Montenegro, or for that matter of most countries which aspire to become EU members, or are already in EU, understand this terminology? In effect, the questions which really matter to European citizens, much more than familiarity with these omnipresent bureaucratic terms, are those that relate to the working conditions in EU, prices, the size of fruit, driving licences, schools... this is why European Pulse decided to publish answers to the questions important for our everyday lives, answers that should bring EU closer to the citizens of Montenegro.

ligion, disabilities or sexual orientation, protection of personal data, right to asylum, as well as important social rights such as protection from unlawful dismissal and access to social security. EU also fights discrimination by financing projects in support of human rights protection. Between 2007 and 2013 1.1 billion euro was earmarked for these purposes via the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EDIHR) as well as close to a quarter of the 743 million euro budget administered by the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS. In addition to this, as a global actor the EU assists persons across the world to protect and promote their human rights. One of the mechanisms promoting this aim is a special clause in trade agreements with third countries, which requires them to protect human rights and stipulates sanctions for the failure to do so. To date the EU concluded 120 such agreements. Decisions concerning human rights policy are taken by the Council of Ministers and require unanimous agreement.



Per capita GDP in EU member states (2008) ranged between 28% of EU-average in north Bulgaria to 343% in inner London.

How does EU fight discrimination?

European Charter of Fundamental Rights is part of the Lisbon Treaty, and thus legally binding. This means that every law proposed by implemented by EU has to take into account the rights listed in the Charter. This includes equality before law and protection against discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, re-

Do all citizens of EU have the same rights, and are there exceptions?

All EU citizens have the same basic rights. One exception is the free movement of workers, i.e. right to work in another EU member state and the related rights. Individual member states can introduce transition periods, i.e. restrict temporarily, for a few years, the access to their labour markets for citizens of other EU member states.

What does EU mean for travellers and service providers in different areas of transportation?

EU's regulations regarding transport guarantee safety and protection of rights of travellers and service providers, e.g. drivers. Travellers by air, rail or sea enjoy a number of rights, such as the right to be informed about reasons of delay, right to compensation in case their journey is cancelled, right to special assistance for those with restricted mobility etc. Thanks to the EU funds it is possible to monitor and manage marine transport, its safety and competitiveness of harbours. Also, by opening the market for service providers from other EU countries, which was usually subject to temporary restrictions for the new member states, resulting competition lowers the prices and raises quality of services for travellers.

If a person gets a job in another EU country, where does he or she pay taxes?

There are no universal rules of taxation within the EU, and each member state sticks to its national laws or bilateral or multilateral agreements. However, most of the national legislation on taxation in EU stipulates that taxes are paid in the country of employment. Also, if an EU citizen does not live permanently in an EU state, but spends there more than six months per year, the country where he or she is employed can be considered the resident country. In this way, the citizen can become a taxpayer in this country, bound by its taxation regulation. In this case, the citizen in question will have the same rights and tax obligation as any other citizen of this country.

How can I register a company in EU?

EU-wide companies can be registered under the same terms as trade companies or self-employed persons who are citizens of the country where they wish to register. More information about the registration procedure should

be sought in the country where one wishes to start the business.

After obtaining recognition of professional qualifications in another member state, a person can also use the academic titles acquired in his or her home country.

What forms of support are there for small and medium companies?

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is an EU programme intended to promote competitiveness of European companies. For the period 2007-2013 the programme was allocated 3.62 billion euros. It is divided into three components financing respectively entrepreneurship and innovation, information and communication technologies, and energy and energy efficiency. The funds are distributed via application calls administered by the European Commission. Contact point for the programme in each member state is the Enterprise Europe Network.

Can a citizen of one member state vote in another state and be appointed Member of Parliament in another EU member?

Citizens of an EU member state living in another member state can vote and be elected in local elections, but not in the elections for the national parliament. This right is still considered to be "reserved" for the nationals of each member state. However, in addition to the local elections, EU citizens can also vote every five years in the elections for the European Parliament in any member state, as long as they are registered as voters in that country.

Source: "101 question on EU's influence on the lives of citizens", published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations of Croatia – www.mvpei.hr

Management of EU-financed projects

In cooperation with SIPU international, and with support of the European Union, TACSO office in Montenegro organised training in management of EU-financed projects, which took place between 9 and 11 March and between 16 and 18 March in Bečići. The goal of the project is to strengthen civil society for participative democracy, and to encourage the environment, enhance the capacities and responsibility of civil society organisations in the countries beneficiaries of Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA). TACSO trainers were **Ana Novaković** (CDNGO) and **Daliborka Uljarević** (CCE).

The participants had a chance to improve their project skills, as well as to get some advice on and gain insight into the application procedure, administrative requirements and criteria that the project must meet in order to be approved. Also, the participants learned something about partnership building with various actors. Trainees came from non-governmental organisations from across Montenegro, and from a wide range of fields. Among them **Nikola Đonović**, CCE programme associate, who successfully completed the training.

Cooperation between Government and non-governmental organisations in Montenegro

On 30 March 2012 in the PR Centre in Podgorica, Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) organised a round table “*Cooperation between Government and non-governmental organisations in Montenegro*”. The event represents the conclusion of the project “*Active involvement of civil society in the creation and implementation of public policies*”, which CDNGO implemented in cooperation with the Centre for information, cooperation and development of NGOs from Slovenia, with support of the European Commission. The goal of the round table was to inform representatives of the state and non-governmental sector, as well as the general Montenegrin public, about the most recent changes in the environment in which the NGOs operate in Montenegro. The new Law on non-governmental organisations, as well as the Directive on the manner and procedure for cooperation between public administration bodies and NGOs and the Directive on the manner and procedure for conducting public debates were also among the subjects of discussion. It was concluded that the changes in the legal framework changed the possibilities for NGO financing from public funds. Speakers at the round table were: President of the Government of Montenegro **Igor Lukšić**, head of the European Union Delegation in Montenegro **Leopold Maurer**, president of the Council for Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and non-governmental organisations **Mirsad Bibović**, numerous representatives of the NGO sector, public administration, as well as members of the working groups which drafted the above mentioned legal acts. Among the participants were Daliborka Uljarević, executive director of the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and **Damir Nikočević**, CCE’s PR/Programme Associate.

Start of the XIII generation of Human Rights School

Human Rights School (XIII Generation), organised in Montenegro by CCE, opened its doors to new students. In 2010 the School became part of the Regional programme for human rights education in the Western Balkans, which is organised in cooperation with the Norwegian Human Rights Committee, with support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The first part of the programme took place between 15 and 18 March in Bečići, as a four-day seminar. The participant had a chance to learn about human rights-related problems in Montenegro, the very notion of human rights, respect for LGBT rights, rights of persons with disabilities, women's rights, rights of addicts, the importance of prevention and (re)socialisation, rights of the Roma minority, institutional mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and the process of confrontation with the past. Through workshop and forum theatre activities, the participants explored prejudices and stereotypes, the relation between religion and human rights, tolerance, conflicts and their causes, as well as the ways to overcome them. Among the lecturers were many renowned professors, NGO representatives, directors and psychologists. 26 participants of various profiles attended the School.

The need to fact the past

Brussels and Hague, 26.02-02.03.2012

35 activists from the West Balkan region who met in Brussels and Hague between 28 February and 2 March 2012 agreed that the initiative for RECOM is an important mechanism for transitional justice on the territory of former Yugoslavia. Representatives of organisations members of the Coalition for RECOM from Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo, together with their colleagues from similar NGOs, visited European institutions and met with MEPs. The visit was organised as part of the project *Contribution of the civil society to justice and reconciliation in the Western Balkans*, in the framework of the European Commission "People to People" programme.

Pier Mirrel, head of the EC Directorate General for Enlargement for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, talked to the participants about the issues concerning confrontation with the past from the standpoint of NGOs, and about the challenges in this process and plans for future activities. Furthermore, the guest had a chance to discuss with EC and EP experts in several meetings, as well as to exchange their own experiences through workshops and group work. Delegation of each country also met the responsible official for that country in DG Enlargement.

Another important event was the visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in the Hague, where the participants had a chance to talk to the court's representative **Peter Finci**, port-parole **Nerma Jelačić** and the head of the transition department in the prosecutor's office, **Aleksandar Kontić**. They also attended part of the trial of **Radovan Karadžić** during interrogation of the witness General **Manojlo Milovanović**.

Among the participants from Montenegro was **Mirela Rebronja**, CCE programme coordinator.

DAAD Scholarships for Postgraduate Courses with Special Relevance to Developing Countries

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provides scholarships in Germany for international students for a range of postgraduate courses at German Universities, which aim at providing academically educated young professionals from developing countries with further specialized studies. These degree courses, which consist of one to two years of concentrated study, provide academically-trained young professionals in leading positions from developing countries with the opportunity to engage in postgraduate education and training in their particular field or profession.

Postgraduate courses are offered in the following fields: Economic Sciences / Business Administration / Political Economics; Development Co-operation; Engineering and Related Sciences; Mathematics; Regional Planning; Agriculture and Forest Sciences; Environmental Sciences; Medicine and Public Health; Veterinary Medicine; Sociology and Education

The DAAD will pay a monthly award of 750 euros. In addition, the DAAD generally will pay an appropriate flat-rate travel allowance, unless these costs are covered by the home country or by another funding source. Furthermore, the DAAD will also pay a study and research allowance.

Deadline: 31 July 2012

For more information, please visit: <http://www.mladiinfo.com/2012/03/07/daad-scholarships-for-postgraduate-courses-with-special-relevance-to-developing-countries/#ixzz1pZVzoF76>

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