

Annual report

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Crnogorska panevropska unija
Montenegrin Pan-European Union
Paneuropaea Montis Nigri

Moskovska 89/15
81000 Podgorica
www.panevropa.me
cpaneu1@gmail.com

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I Activities on the implementation of the Smart Balkans project: „Advantages of the Berlin Process in relation to alternative regional initiatives: Recommendations for Montenegro“, september 2023 - august 2024.

Montenegrin Pan-European Union implements the project, "Advantages of the Berlin Process in relation to alternative regional initiatives: Recommendations for Montenegro," with the support of the regional program SMART Balkans Project and the Government of Norway.

The period of project implementation is from **September 1st 2023. to August 31st 2024.**

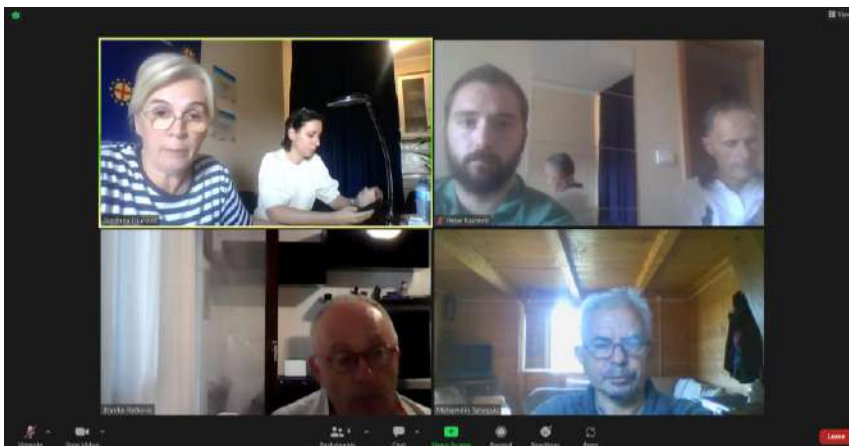
The general goal of the project is to assess the advantages of the Berlin process in relation to alternative regional initiatives (political aspect, economic, security, impact on the dynamics of EU integration, connection with EU pre-accession support, especially with the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the Connectivity Agenda, etc.) and **making recommendations to policy makers** and other interested parties in Montenegro and the region.

1. The first online meeting of the research team within the Smart Balkans project: „Advantages of the Berlin Process in relation to alternative regional initiatives: Recommendations for Montenegro“

At the meeting held on 13.10.2023. in a hybrid format, Prof. Gordana Đurović, Assistant professor Dr. Milica Muhadinović, Dr. Martin M. Bojaj and Petar Raičević were present live, while the other members of the team, Prof. Dr. Mehmedin Tairović, Prof. Dr. Milan Marković, and Prof. Dr. Rade Ratković, participated online.

Professor Gordana Đurović, the project coordinator, presented in detail the research goals and activity plan, as well as the expectations from the researchers and their involvement in the thematic workshops and the planned final conference. The discussion focused on the integration of different perspectives, a multidisciplinary approach and research methodology, where the team members exchanged information on the available literature and determined the key objectives of the first phase of the research.

The second regular meeting of the research team of the SmartBalkans project is planned for December 28, 2023. at 5:00 p.m., with the aim of evaluating the current progress in research by thematic areas, and defined the final structure and subtitles of the study, with special reference to the identification of potential challenges and opportunities in the context of the research part of the project.



2. Lecture at the Faculty of Political Sciences on regional economic integration

At the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Montenegro in Podgorica on December 12, 2023, a thematic lecture by Professor Gordana Đurović was held on the subject Montenegro and the European Union. The lecture was devoted to the topic "Regional economic integration and the importance of the Berlin process".

Professor Đurović started the lecture with an analysis of regional economic integrations, their motives, drivers, levels and effects. She emphasized the importance of cooperation between the countries of the region in order to achieve common economic goals and improve regional stability. In this context, she emphasized the key role of the Berlin Process in promoting dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the Western Balkans.

The Berlin process, as the professor emphasized, represents an important framework for strengthening political stability, economic development and intensification of regional cooperation. Through the analysis of concrete initiatives and projects within the Berlin Process, master's students gained insight into the concrete steps that are being taken to improve the connection and integration of the countries of the region within the initiatives of the Berlin Process.

The discussion that followed the lecture provided an additional understanding of the importance of regional economic integration and the role of the Berlin Process in that context.

3. Lecture at the Faculty of Political Sciences on regional initiatives and European integration

On December 13, 2023, a thematic lecture on regional economic initiatives was held at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Montenegro. The specific goal of this lecture was to raise the

level of knowledge among students regarding regional economic integration and dynamism of the EU integration path of Montenegro.

In order to achieve a specific goal, the percentage of increase in knowledge and understanding of regional economic integration and the EU integration process among students was set as a successful indicator. The measurement was carried out through pre-testing and post-testing of this topic in written form. Students presented their answers to a series of questions, the aim of which was to assess their understanding and knowledge at the beginning and after the end of the lecture.

The specific goal is defined by setting the target values of the indicators. The goal was to increase the number of correct answers on the post-test by 30% compared to the pre-test. This value is set as a realistic indicator of the improvement of students' knowledge after the thematic lecture.

The lecture was organized and structured in order to provide students with basic information about regional economic initiatives and the dynamics of the EU integration path of Montenegro. Through interactive presentations, case studies and discussions, students were encouraged to think about concrete examples and problems related to the topic.

After the lecture, a post-test was administered, which included the same questions as the pre-test. The results showed an increase in the number of correct answers among students compared to the pre-test. The total increase was 34%, which exceeded the set goal of 30%, thus confirming the effectiveness of this educational initiative.

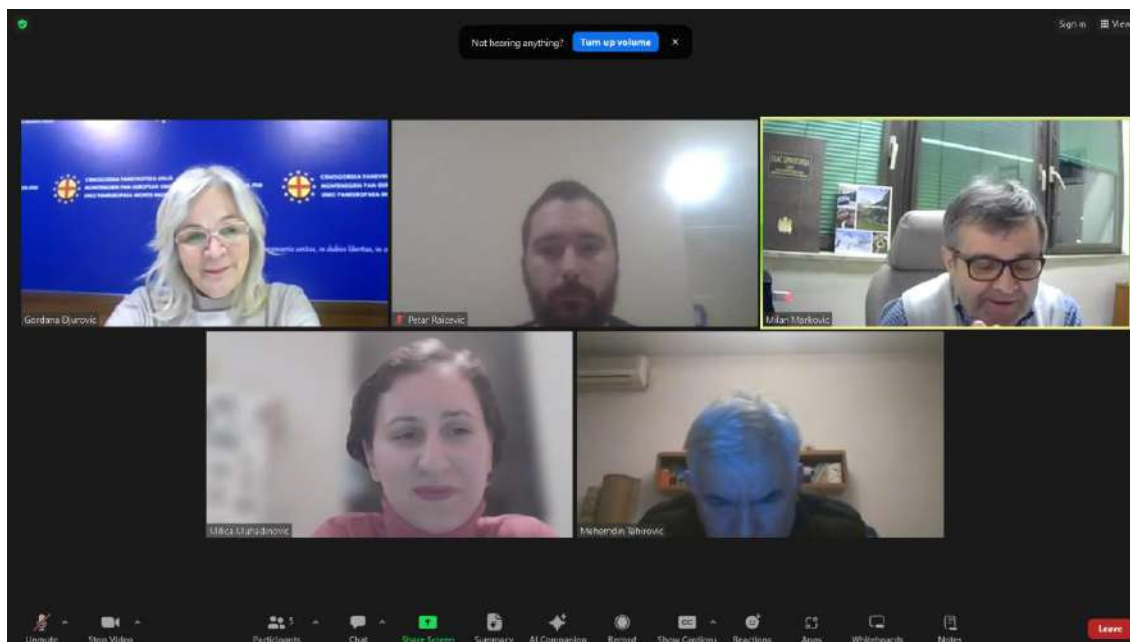
4. The second online meeting of the research team within the Smart Balkans project: „Advantages of the Berlin Process in relation to alternative regional initiatives: Recommendations for Montenegro“

At the second meeting of the research team held on 28.12.2023. in online format, attended by Prof. Gordana Đurović, Assistant professor Dr. Milica Muhadinović, Prof. Dr. Milan Marković, Prof. Dr. Mehmedin Tairović, and Petar Raičević.

Professor Gordana Đurović opened the meeting, focusing the conversation on the author's ideas related to the structure of the chapters, titles of subtitles and general writing style.

The authors then presented their ideas within their areas of research, focusing on the literature they had collected from their specific fields. Different theoretical and methodological approaches are discussed, as well as how to integrate these perspectives in the final study.

One of the key segments of the meeting was a discussion on the challenges faced by researchers, especially related to data privacy in certain sectors. This problem is identified as a potential barrier to in-depth research and analysis, and strategies are proposed to overcome it.



5. Dissemination of project activities

At the beginning of the project, the Montenegrin Pan-European Union adopted a plan for dissemination of project activities and regular public informing of the public and all interested groups about project activities and results. All information related to the project was available on social networks and the **MPEU website (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn)**.

II MPEU organized the international conference: “Improving climate resilience: connecting the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans through the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators”



The Montenegrin Pan-European Union organized the international conference “Improving climate resilience: connecting the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans through the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators” on May 19. in the CUE hotel in Podgorica.

The conference was organized with the support of the Central European Initiative (CEI), and was also supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Embassy of France in Montenegro.

Among others, the president of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović (<https://youtu.be/rkXOERrXShw>), Ranko Lazović from the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism (<https://youtu.be/LxEJbszLrOc>), Head of the Office for Sustainable Development at the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro Aneta Kankaraš (https://youtu.be/F20QtXa_CpA), Ambassador of Germany in Montenegro Peter Felten (<https://youtu.be/Dvd3YPkLms4>), Ambassador of France in Montenegro Christian Timonije (<https://youtu.be/N-DCQq6DrQo>)

It was announced from the conference that Montenegro will continue to make efforts to remain ambitious in the fight against the negative effects of climate change, in order to ensure prosperity for current and future generations.

The President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Gordana Đurović, assessed that climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme climate and weather events that affect all countries in the world. For this reason, according to her, building climate resilience by integrating strategies and action on climate change is of utmost importance.

III Seminar of the MPEU and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation: "Let's talk about Europe"



The Montenegrin Pan-European Union, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organized the seminar "Let's talk about Europe: political, economic and security challenges" in Petrovac from 26-28. May 2023.

At the opening, the head of the KAS Office in Montenegro, Sanija Šljivančanin, the president of the Pan-European Union, Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, and then Biljana Jovičević, a long-time journalist and lecturer at the seminar, also spoke.

On the second day of the seminar, Professor Đurović lectured the participants, and she spoke on the topics of the future of Europe as well as the European and regional integration of Montenegro. The lecture was also held by Milan Jovanović, an analyst at the Digital Forensic Center, who spoke about the impact of disinformation on democratic processes in Montenegro.

The participants of the seminar were young people from political parties, members of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, as well as KAS scholars.

IV Seminar of the MPEU and the Hanns Seidel Foundation: "Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and Montenegro: Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the European integration process"



The Montenegrin Pan-European Union, in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, organized the seminar "Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and Montenegro: Achieving the UN's sustainable development goals in the context of the European integration process" in Petrovac from May 31. – 02.06.2023.

21 young participants (undergraduate and master's students at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, members of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, representatives of state institutions) had the opportunity to bond, expand their knowledge and discuss the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and climate change.

Dr. Klaus Fisinger, Regional Director of the Hanns Seidel Foundation for Southeast Europe, spoke at the opening. Dragan Đukanović from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, and prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, president of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union.

The last session of the third day of the seminar was led by Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, who spoke on the topic "The European Green Deal: adapting to the goal of reducing emissions by 55%", where she discussed the challenges and strategies for reducing emissions in accordance with the European Green Deal.

The seminar ended with an evaluation session to gather feedback from participants and ensure continuous improvement for future events. Participants were also awarded certificates.

Overall, the seminar was educational and a good opportunity for the participants to gain insight into the European Green Agenda, the philosophy of sustainable development and climate action. Presentations and discussions contributed to their understanding of the challenges and opportunities in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the green agenda in Montenegro and the wider Western Balkans region.

More details at the link: <https://panevropa.me/odrzan-seminar-cpeu-hanns-seidel-zelena-agenda-za-zapadni-balkan-i-crnu-goru-ostvarivanje-ciljeva-un-odrzivog-razvoja-u-kontekstu-procesa-evropskih-integracija/>

V OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Thematic lecture: Montenegro's accession to the European Union - the role of youth and NGOs in the process of accession negotiations with the EU

On February 14, 2023, Professor Gordana Đurović held an educational workshop for young people on the topic: Montenegro joining the EU, in the context of the EU corner in the North project, for the NGO MMNE. About 25 young people attended the workshop, among them were members of the EU Council and high school students from Bijelo Polje.



The journalist from TV Vijesti Alisa Hajdarpašić was the moderator at the event.

At the very beginning, Đurović explained to the young people what the EU is, how it was created, and then she referred to terms that, as she said, seem to be mixed up a bit, she talked about the European institutions and

explained their importance. Also in her presentation, she said what is currently holding Montenegro back in the EU accession process.

"The European Union is not ideal, it is not a fairy tale, we need the European Union first of all to preserve peace, because we are the unstable area, but also for many other reasons such as migration, energy, markets, education and all other segments. But we must know that the European Union is not only a benefit for us, but we also have to give something", said Đurović and added, "Currently, we are stalled for Montenegro's entry into the EU, but when the well-known issue, which is the election of constitutional court judges, is resolved, then we can continue where we left off".

The "EU corner" project is supported by the program of CSOs in Montenegro - from basic services to policy formulation M'BASE, which is implemented by the Center for Civic Education (CGO) in partnership with the German foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the NGO Center for the Study and Protection of Birds of Montenegro (CZIP) and NGO Politikon network.



The project is financed by the European Union in Montenegro.

Retrospective of the educational lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwiB5TgI6fM>

2. Conference "Independent, Sovereign and United Europe"



The President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, participated in the conference "Independent, Sovereign and United Europe" in Strasbourg, organized by the French Pan-European Union. During the conference, she spoke about the importance of energy autonomy and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans as a roadmap for strengthening regional energy autonomy in the European context. Representatives from 10 European countries attended the

conference, including the President of the International Pan-European Union Alain Terrenoire, the President of the German Pan-European Union and long-time member of the European Parliament, Bernd Posselt, the President of the French Pan-European Union, Éric Campion, the President of the Croatian Pan-European Union, Prof. Dr. Pavo Barišić the Honorary President of the Croatian Pan-European Union, Academician Mislav Ježić, the President of the Pan-European Union of Romania, Alexandru Nazare, and many others.

After the conference, an extended meeting of the Presidency of the International PEU was held, which was attended by Prof. Đurović, who is a member of the Presidency, and Petar Raičević, a member of the MPEU Youth Presidency. The Declaration of the International PEU was adopted at the meeting, which, among other things, calls on the Montenegrin Parliament to establish the functionality of the Constitutional Court in full capacity as a necessary step in resolving the deep political crisis in order to hold the presidential elections in March 2023 in accordance with the law and to continue an inclusive political dialogue on the upcoming parliamentary elections. The Presidency wishes success to Montenegro in the next phase of accession negotiations, as well as to accelerate the European integration of all countries in the region.

The International Pan-European Union was founded in 1922 and marks a century of existence and the fight for a united and sovereign Europe.



3. President of MPEU, Prof. Gordana Đurović, attended the 16th Meeting of the EU-Montenegro Joint Consultative Committee



For the 16th time, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Montenegro held the Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) in Brussels on 2nd March 2023. The JCC is a civil society platform established between the EESC and Montenegrin civil society. It complements with a civil society point of view the EU institutional framework related to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Montenegro. This joint institution allows civil society organisations on both sides to monitor the country's accession negotiations. It is also a platform to discuss issues of common interest and to inform the public at large on the challenges ahead during the accession period. Prof. Đurović is in her second two-year term, one of two members of the JCC in front of the civil sector in Montenegro, and in this term she is the chairperson of the Montenegrin side of the JCC.

This 16th JCC was held in Podgorica and dealt with issues such as:

- Current state of EU-Montenegro relations, including the 2022 Report on Montenegro
- Revised enlargement methodology - Cluster 1: Fundamentals of the accession process, with a special focus on the judiciary and fundamental rights and the functioning of democratic institutions
- Revised enlargement methodology – Cluster 1: Fundamentals of the accession process, with a special focus on justice, freedom and security
- Overview of the civil society situation in Montenegro

A joint declaration was adopted at the meeting and will be distributed to all relevant EU institutions, as well as to the Montenegrin authorities.

You can find the announcement and the joint declaration at the link: <https://panevropa.me/saopstenje-sa-sastanaka-zajednickog-konsultativnog-odbora-civilnog-drustva-evropske-unije-i-crne-gore-vratiti-crnu-goru-visoko-na-agendu-prosirenja-eu/>

4. International conference 'One Hundred Years of the Paneuropean Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina'



The international conference of the Paneuropean Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on 10.03.2023, entitled "One Hundred Years of the Pan-European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina", which marks the century of existence and activity of the International Pan-European Union. The conference was attended by representatives of Pan-European members from several European countries, as well as representatives of BiH institutions. On behalf of MPEU, Prof. Gordana Đurović and Petar Raičević attended the conference.

In the panel devoted to the analysis of the relationship between the EU and the region in the context of current processes, Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union also attended.

Key message: Europe is united in its condemnation of aggression and support for Ukraine, and special attention of the EU is also necessary towards the Western Balkans region and the acceleration of the accession process of all the countries of the region to the European Union. Support for European integration of all countries in the region is strongly promoted by the Pan-European community, which is active in 28 European countries.

5. Member of MPEU Youth Presidency Radovan Ognjenović participated in EU TASC0 P2P Forum



On 30-31 March 2023, a regional EU TACSO P2P event was held in Tirana, Albania, on the topic of exchanging experiences as regards the role of CSOs in the European Integration process, attended by representatives of the civil society and relevant state institutions from Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia and Albania.

Radovan Ognjenović, a Member of the MPEU Youth Presidency, took part at the panel discussion on situation in Montenegro, alongside colleagues from the Ministry of EU Affairs, the Centre for Civic Education and the Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations.

6. Panel discussion "The road to membership of Montenegro in the EU - challenges and opportunities"



The fifth ALPI module in Montenegro was held on April 8, 2023. in Budva (Pržno). The module started with a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of Montenegro in the process of European integration, which the participants had the opportunity to discuss with Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, president of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union and professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro.

7. Panel discussion "How to achieve sustainable development - policy and practice in the region of the Western Balkans"



In the period from April 18 to 22, 2023, a series of events dedicated to sustainable development called "Sustainability Week" (Agenda) was held at the Faculty of Economics.

On the second day, April 19 at 10:00 a.m., a panel discussion "How to achieve sustainable development - policy and practice in the Western Balkan region" was held in the Mediteran hall. The moderator of the panel discussion was Dr. Milica Muhadinović (Faculty of Economics), while the panelists were: Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović (Faculty

of Economics), Dr. Dragan Hajduković, MSc Milan Lakićević (World Bank Montenegro) and Biljana Braithwaite (Sustineri Partners).



Professor Gordana Đurović, professor of the Faculty of Economics, presented the obligations of Montenegro, which joined the UNFCCC and ratified the Paris Agreement, through the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Western Balkans region, with the aim of reducing GHG emissions in several sectors.

Professor Đurović also showed how the 17 Goals of Sustainable Development (UN Agenda 2030) and negotiation chapters (EU Agenda) are connected and how we can monitor the realization of these development agendas in Montenegro, using the National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030. She pointed to the evident stagnation of the European integration process in the last few years, but also which proposed investments the EU plans to support in the Western Balkans region, in the energy sector, through the IPA program.

8. Ms. Teodora Lađić, member of the MPEU Presidency and the Secretary of MPEU Youth, participated in the high level study visit to Brussels within GLOBSEC Central & Eastern European 'Her' Initiative



GLOBSEC's CEE Her workshop, held in Brussels for the first time, brought together a group of women professionals from the Western Balkans. The new edition of the workshop took place between April 24 and 26, 2023. Over the three days, women experts and professionals from North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania engaged in dynamic discussions about women's role in the broader security and foreign affairs fields.

The three-day event aimed to provide the exceptional group of women from Western Balkans a platform to engage in policy debates, share own experiences with the Brussels stakeholders and find means for future personal growth.

More details at the link: <https://www.ceeher.org/women-in-security-security-for-women-in-the-western-balkans-and-the-cee-region-CEE-her-in-brussels/>



9. Debate with alumni of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Montenegro "Effects of the war in Ukraine on the economies of the Western Balkans - Montenegro"



On April 27, 2023, Unter Uns was held with KAS scholars on the topic: "Effects of the war in Ukraine on the economies of the Western Balkans - Montenegro", and the lecture was given by Professor Gordana Đurović.

This was an opportunity for the scholars to become better acquainted with the current geopolitical situation, and to exchange opinions on its reflections on the Western Balkans, with a focus on Montenegro.



10. Panel discussion "Sustainable development and migration - a dynamic approach"



The Committee for Economic Sciences, Demography and Anthropology of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts organized on April 28, 2023. panel discussion on the topic: "Sustainable development and migration - a dynamic approach"

The panel discussion was opened by academician Veselin Vukotić, president of the Committee for Economic Sciences, Demography and Anthropology.

The moderator of the panel was Prof. Dr. Igor Lukšić, University of Donja Gorica.

The panelists were:

- Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, University of Montenegro, Faculty of Economics, "UN Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development, Integration and Migration";
- Mr. Goran Bošković, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro, "Migration: Montenegro and the regional context".

11. Meeting of the Regional Thematic Group on "European Integration and Accession"



ReSPA organized a meeting of the Regional Thematic Group on "European Integration and Accession", from 30 to 31 May 2023 in Tirana, Albania.

The purpose of the meeting was to encourage dialogue and exchange of experiences on the initiation of EU accession in ReSPA members, the institutional architecture of EU integration coordination and the current state of the art in relation to IPA III. He also dealt with the decision-making process in the EU, the new EU enlargement methodology and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the discussion on gradual integration between the EU and the Western Balkans, etc.

The planned activities of ReSPA in the domain of EUI were presented, and the participants identified the needs for future perspective activities of building regional capacities in the domain of EUI.

Professor Gordana Đurović traditionally visited the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) and took part in the first meeting of the Regional Thematic Group, during which she presented the research "New EU Enlargement Methodology and Green Agenda for Western Balkans in Relation to the UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

12. Conference "Directive on services - challenges and opportunities for Montenegro"

The Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism in cooperation with EPRD through the project "Increasing the capacity of institutions for harmonization and implementation of the EU acquis in the area of competitiveness and innovation", financed by the European Union within the framework of the IPA program for strengthening competitiveness and innovation, received support for the implementation of activities on establishing a Single Point of Contact for services.

On this occasion, on June 5 and 6, 2023, a conference was held in Budva on the topic: "Directive on services - challenges and opportunities for Montenegro".

Topics discussed at the conference:

- Economic benefits of the implementation of the Directive on services for Montenegro;
- Challenges in the implementation of the Services Directive;
- CEFTA Additional Protocol 6 in the context of the Services Directive.

Additionally, on June 6, 2023, an automated data entry system was introduced at JKT.

Professor Gordana Đurović took part in the panel: CEFTA Additional Protocol 6 in the context of the Services Directive.

13. Participation of MSc Rajko Uskoković, Vice-President of the MPEU, at the thematic videoconference organized by the French Pan-European Union on the topic: "France, infiltration tous azimuts"

The Vice-President of the MPEU, MSc. Rajko Uskoković, made a significant contribution to the thematic videoconference called "France, infiltration tous azimuts", organized on June 8, 2023. by the French Pan-European Union. This conference was dedicated to discussing complex issues related to security challenges and infiltration tactics within France. MSc Uskoković, through his presentation, emphasized the importance of transnational cooperation in the fight against these challenges, emphasizing the key role that PEU members play in this context. His participation further strengthened the ties between the MPEU and the French Pan-European Union, contributing to a better understanding and more effective addressing of these issues at the pan-European level.

14. Workshop „Multi-Level Governance, Strengthening the role of local actors in Energy Transition, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation planning and implementation at different scales“

The President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Professor Đurović, participated in the workshop entitled "Multi-Level Governance, Strengthening the role of local actors in Energy Transition, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation planning and implementation at different scales", held in Podgorica on June 29, 2023. The workshop, organized by GIZ as part of the Open Regional Fund for SEE - Energy, Transport and Climate Protection (ORF ETC), focused on the importance of multi-level management in the process of energy transition and adaptation to climate change, with special emphasis on the role of local actors. Professor Đurović spoke on the topic "New enlargement methodology and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in relation to UN Agenda 2030 and SDGs", focusing attention on key aspects of decarbonization and its application in the context of Montenegro. Her presentation was key to understanding how new approaches to enlargement and the Green Agenda can contribute achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable energy policies in the Western Balkans.

15. Member of the MPEU Youth Presidency, Radovan Ognjenović, participated in the international seminar of European studies on the topic of European integration of the Western Balkan countries



Ognjenović, held a presentation on the current key challenges of the accession negotiations process of Montenegro.

In the period 3-5. In July 2023, in Shkodër (Albania), an international seminar of European studies on the topic of European integration of the Western Balkan countries was held, organized by the Movement of Christian Workers (Movimento Cristiano Lavoratori - MCL) and The European Centre for Workers' Questions (Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen - EZA).

On that occasion, the member of the MPEU Youth Presidency, Radovan

16. We write project, WeConnet – JUMBO Meeting



President of MPEU, Prof. Gordana Đurović attended the meeting that was an opening event for the project “WeLead: EU Scheme for Young Professionals in the Western Balkans”, a four-year multi-beneficiary project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the CEF held from 4th to 5th July 2023 in Ljubljana.

The meeting brought together young leaders from the Western Balkans and their supporters to engage in lively discussions and develop innovative leadership visions. The meeting highlighted the importance of building relationships based on trust, and encouraged curiosity, empathy and creative thinking, crucial skills when leading others through complexity. It opened a space for dialogue, seeking answers to questions like: What kind of leadership is required when leading in complexity? How can we lead with meaning and purpose? How can we overcome intercultural differences anchored in history? How can we accelerate the joint development of the region? What is needed to build sustainable and inclusive societies?

More details at the link: <https://www.cef-see.org/weconnect-jumbo-meeting-by-invitation-1679303533>

17. Ms. Teodora Lađić, member of the MPEU Presidency and the Secretary of the MPEU Youth, participated in the Sweden Alumni Network Montenegro



Ms. Teodora Lađić, member of the MPEU Presidency and the Secretary of the MPEU Youth, participated in the Sweden Alumni Network Montenegro action that joined the global community of the Swedish Institute alumni networks in going plastic free combining jogging - plogging!

Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. The Scandinavian spirit on the Montenegrin soil was promoted through the activity to advocate for a more friendly approach towards our environment as Scandinavian countries are known as eco pioneers admirable for their achievements and standards.

The activity was supported by Zabljak Municipality, NGOs & eco activists in realizing the event in Zabljak, where on September 20, 1991 the Declaration was adopted making Montenegro the first ecological state in the world. The vision of Montenegro as an ecological state remains firm today as a guide towards its attainment.

18. Panel at the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro International conference: “Sustainability of European Integrations and the Prospects of EU Membership”

The Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro organised the traditional international economic conference titled The Economic Perspectives of the Region on October 11-12, 2023 in Budva.



The last panel of the Conference was devoted to the topic “Sustainability of European Integrations and the Prospects of EU Membership”.

Panellists were: Gordana Đurović (professor at the University of Montenegro and President of Montenegrin Pan-European Union), Goran Svilanović (consultant and ex-Secretary General of Regional Cooperation Council), Dragana

Đurica, (Secretary General, European Movement Serbia), Leposava Ognjanoska Stavrovska (Prespa Institute, North Macedonia) and Daliborka Uljarevic as moderator (The Center for Civic Education, Montenegro).

Within the topic of the sustainability of European Integration, an important part was focused on the Berlin Process, the Open Balkans initiative, and preparation for the EU budget/Cohesion policy. Critical analysis of the Berlin process is one of the active projects of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, which is supported by @SMARTBalkansProject.



Professor Gordana Djurovic assesses that Montenegro lives “in the phenomenon of delayed EU accession” which is characterized by the openness of our market, exposure to the European companies’ competition, and the absence of expected EU investment and structural funds.

The whole program of day 2 is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjZygI4RD8s>.

19. President of MPEU, Prof. Gordana Đurović, participated in the International conference within the project „Polish experience in combating disinformation – inspiration for the Western Balkans“



President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, prof. Gordana Đurović, participated in the international conference within the project "Polish experience in the fight against disinformation - inspiration for the Western Balkans", held on October 18, 2023. at the University of Donja Gorica.

During the conference, she spoke about the risks and challenges facing Montenegro on its way to membership in the European Union. "Integration is a space for all of us, and it does not represent a loss of identity. Integration should be the foreign policy focus of our political elites, not only declarative and populist, but essentially with a clear concentration of the limited resources we have at our disposal and that as a function of time. Agenda 2030 is very close, it should not be understood as a message of disappointment, but as a challenge for all of us to fulfil it. There is a lot that we need to collect, take away, go through the integration SWOT and always

observe where the interest of Montenegro is in each year of integration and how to achieve it ", said professor Gordana Đurović.

20. Panel at the International Scientific Conference Petrovac Discourses 2023: "Results of the Berlin Process Summit in Tirana"



Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, participated on October 26, 2023 in the international scientific conference Petrovac discourses 2023, where she shared her observations through a panel discussion on the key messages from the Berlin Process Summit in Tirana, emphasizing the importance of the integration of the region, the process of European integration and regional cooperation in light of the challenges the Western Balkans are facing today.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation - office in Belgrade, in partnership with the Humanities Studies of the University of Donja Gorica and the Center for Foreign Policy from Belgrade, organized the VII session of the international scientific conference Petrovac Discourses, with the theme: "The Western Balkans and Montenegro between Europeanization and Russian influence", which was held from October 25 to 27, 2023 at the "Palas" hotel in Petrovac.

This year's conference aimed to initiate a discussion on key issues concerning the future of the process of Europeanization of the Western Balkan countries in the era of

increasingly obvious Russian influence in the Balkans. Also, a special focus of the meeting was placed on the discussion on the new approach of the European Union to the Western Balkans, as well as on the results and challenges of the Berlin Process so far.

The conference traditionally gathers numerous representatives of academic and scientific associations, universities, the diplomatic corps, state institutions, non-governmental organizations, the media, as well as civil activists and students.

21. Participation of MSc Rajko Uskoković, Vice-President of the MPEU, at the thematic videoconference organized by the French Pan-European Union on the topic: „Le conseil National des Greffes des tribunaux de Commerce: le droit, l'entreprise, l'Europe“

On October 26, 2023, MSc Rajko Uskoković, in his capacity as the vice-president of the MPEU, actively participated in another important videoconference organized by the French Pan-European Union. The theme of the conference "Le conseil National des Greffes des tribunaux de Commerce: le droit, l'entreprise, l'Europe" dealt with issues of law, business and their impact on European legislation and practices. MSc Uskoković provided key insights on the importance of the legal framework for fostering business innovation and integrity within Europe. His expertise and insights contributed to a rich discussion on how legislation and business practices can shape a better and more sustainable future for the European business environment.

19. International Conference "Peace in Europe and the World"



From October 27 to 29, 2023, the International Pan-European conference "Peace in Europe and the World" was held in Zagreb and Banja Luka.

The conference, which gathered more than 70 participants from 16 European countries, was organized by the Croatian Pan-European Union in cooperation with the Pan-European Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Pan-European Union.

The first part of the conference took place in Zagreb on Friday, October 27, 2023, in the Croatian Pan-European Union, starting at 5 p.m, and the second in Banja Luka, on Saturday, October 28, 2023, in the European Center for Peace and Cooperation "Marija Zvijezda" at 2 p.m.

Among others who spoke at the conference were: **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice President of the European Commission; **Gordan Grlić Radman**, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia; **Franjo Komarica**, Bishop of Banja Luka; **Karlo Ressler**, Member of the European Parliament; **Davor Pranjić**, Vice President of B&H entity Republika Srpska; **Davor Ivo Stier**, representative in the Croatian Parliament; **Alain Terrenoire**, President of the International Pan-European Union; **Pavo Barišić**, President of the Croatian Pan-European Union; **Mislav Ježić**, Honorary President of the Croatian Pan-European Union; **Franjo Topić**, president of the Pan-European Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as representatives of Pan-European organizations from Austria, Montenegro, France, Italy, Kosovo, Hungary, Germany, Romania, North Macedonia, Slovakia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, a session of the Presidency of the International Pan-European Union was held in Zagreb.

At the meeting, president **Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović** and member of the MPEU Youth Presidency **Petar Raičević** spoke on the behalf of MPEU.

22. Lecture on the second ALPI module: "Obstacles on the road to the integration of Montenegro and the skills of negotiating membership in international organizations"

In Tivat, in the period 4-5 November 2023, the second ALPI module was held with participants of the fifth generation from Montenegro. The panelists were the newly elected Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Filip Ivanović, and the President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Prof. Dr. Gordana Đurović, who spoke about the challenges on the way to Montenegro's EU membership. Professor Đurović was also a trainer during the two-day module on negotiation skills.



23. Member of the MPEU Youth Presidency, Radovan Ognjenović, participated in the International seminar „Dignified work and economic development“



The Movement of Christian Workers (Movimento Cristiano Lavoratori - MCL) and The European Centre for Workers' Questions (Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen - EZA), in the period 6-8. november, organized another in a series of international seminars of European studies, this time on the topic of dignified work and economic development. The seminar, which gathered participants from seven European countries, was organized in Marsala (Sicily - Italy).

On the second day of the seminar, Radovan Ognjenović, member of the MPEU Youth Presidency held a presentation entitled "Il Dialogo Sociale per un Lavoro Dignitoso" ("Social dialogue for dignified work"), providing the attendees with a concise overview of the general

situation in the field of social dialogue in Montenegro, with a special focus on contemporary problems faced by Montenegrin workers.

24. Panel discussion "EU integration: Back on track?"



Prof. Gordana Đurović participated in the panel discussion "EU INTEGRATION: Back on track?", organized on 21.11.2023. by the Center for Democracy and Human Rights and the Embassy of Italy in Montenegro as part of the project "Vox populi - It concerns all of us", supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

In addition to the assessment of the rule of law situation, the panel also discussed the EU's New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, as well as mobility agreements and new initiatives within the Berlin Process.

🔊 Part of the speech is available at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDDKV2UQ6_4 MINA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N96lYmX5ZZ8> Media Biro



25. Conference: “Balkan Economic Horizons through Regional Integrations”



On November 23, 2023, a conference titled “Balkan Economic Horizons through Regional Integrations” was held, organized by the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES). The conference focused on regional integrations in the Balkans, with a special emphasis on the Open Balkan initiative.

Participants in the conference included: Dejan Molnar, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, and Director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN), Belgrade; Predrag Bjelić, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade; Gordana Đurović, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics in Podgorica; Irena Kikerkova, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics in Skopje; Bojan Stanić, Director of the Strategic Analysis Sector at the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia; Tatjana Dinkić, Head of the EU and EFTA Group at the Ministry of Internal and External Trade and Secretary of the National Trade Facilitation Body.

This was an opportunity for Prof. Gordana Đurović to present the first results of the research being carried out in the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, which is implementing the project "Advantages of the Berlin Process in relation to alternative regional initiatives: Recommendations for Montenegro", with the support of the regional program @SMARTBalkansProject.

26. Seventh Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee



For the 17th time, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Montenegro held the Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) in Brussels on 7 December 2023. The JCC is a civil society platform established between the EESC and Montenegrin civil society. It complements with a civil society point of view the EU institutional framework related to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Montenegro. This joint institution allows civil society organisations on both sides to monitor the country's accession negotiations. It is also a platform to discuss issues of common interest and to inform the public at large on the challenges ahead during the accession period.

Main topics of the 17th meeting of the EU-Montenegro JCC were:

- Current state of play in EU-Montenegro relations: 2023 Enlargement Package and Montenegro Report, overview of the developments within the Berlin process
- Cluster 1: The Fundamentals of the Accession Process – state of play of remaining unmet obligations, with a specific focus on Public Administration Reform (PAR)
- Overview of the civil society situation in Montenegro, including social dialogue

The meeting was the first since the election of the new EESC president, Oliver Röpke, and his initiative to open the doors of the EESC to candidate countries and involve their representatives in the work of the Committee.

Welcoming this EESC decision, in line with the new enlargement methodology, Gordana Đurović, co-chair from the Montenegrin side said: The EU-MNE JCC lives with the challenges of the European integration of Montenegro and contributes to the strengthening of public debates with key stakeholders inclusively and transparently. The Montenegrin members of the JCC look forward to participating in the EESC's "Enlargement Candidate Members (ECMs)" initiative – an important step forward in including the vibrant civil societies from the enlargement countries, which are the beating heart of the EU integration project.

27. Other projects

- Djurovic G., **Varieties of Democracy, V-dem project**, Measuring Degrees and Types of Democracy, A few surveys related to Measuring Degrees and Types of Democracy in Montenegro, for Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, January 2023;
- Djurovic G., Contribution to the World Bank Group's B-READY project - **Trade Regulation for Goods' questionnaire & Trade Regulation for Services' questionnaire** (September – November 2023);
- Djurovic G., regional project **Promoting Media Information Literacy and strengthening independent media in the Western Balkan**, Montenegro Media Institute, Albany Associates, London, UK, & Mediacentar Sarajevo, B&H, three lecture blocks for three training cycles for media, master's students, NGOs and civic activists, on the economic aspects of foreign malign influence in Montenegro (october – december 2023);
- Djurovic G., Regional Comparative Study: **“Comparative study on linking a new EU enlargement methodology, implementation of SDGs, Agenda 2030 and Green Agenda for Western Balkans”**, for Open Regional Fund for SEE, ORF GIZ, - Promotion of EU integration, February 2023;
- Djurovic G., Analysis: **Mapping of synergies and links between EU accession areas and SDG targets in Moldova**, UN Moldova – WFO, Chisinau, Moldova, December 2023.

28. Current (other) projects

- Gordana Djurovic, project member - **“Strengthening of the Montenegrin Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and transparency adjustment actions through the Transparency Capacity Building Initiative – CBIT**, supported by Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, GEF and implemented by Ministry for urbanism, spatial planning and state property (February 2023 – July 2025); expert for climate financing;
- Policy Paper Writing Projects, Powered by Mentoring, (WeLead project, **We Write** subproject component), Centre for Excellence in Finance, CEF, Ljubljana, Mentor on writing policy paper, to Mentee from Ministry of Finance - **Reform of the EU's own resource allocation mechanism from the perspective of candidate countries, with the primary focus on Montenegro** (May 2023 – June 2024);
- Djurovic G., Raicevic P., Analysis: **Analytical framework and mapping of the potential for the development of the manufacturing industry in Montenegro**, Ministry of Economy (July - December 2023).

29. Publications

1. Đurović, G. (2023). **The Perception of the European Union and Its Policies: A View from Montenegro**. In: Uvalić, M. (eds) Integrating the Western Balkans into the EU. New Perspectives on South-East Europe. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-32205-1_16, (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-32205-1_16);
2. Proceeding „Polish Experience in Combating Disinformation – Inspirations for the Western Balkans“, prepared and scheduled for publishing by December 2023, editor prof Artur Adamczyk, publisher Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, Warsaw, Poland, 2023; Chapter, Gordana Djurovic, „**EU Integration SWOT in a New Enlargement Framework**“, pp. 143-163.
3. Djurovic G., Muhadinovic M., Raicevic P. (2023). **Localizing SDGs in the Western Balkans Green Agenda Context**, Book of abstract, International Conference on Economics and Business „Sustainable Development: Transition to Green Economy“, 25-27 May 2023;

30. Media

TV interviews and debates

National television:

- 28/10/2023, Gordana Đurović, Darko Šuković, Drugačija radio veza, topic: "What is the future of Montenegro - the EU or the roundabout at the entrance to Brussels?", available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miutG8fxLSM>
- 01/11/2023, RTCG, Morning show, topic: „Visit of Ursula von der Leyen to Montenegro“, available at : <https://fb.watch/oCG3iq1gTv/>, <https://rtcg.me/vijesti/politika/483106/posjeta-fon-der-lajen-imala-jasne-poruke-naredni-izvestaj-o-napretku-kao-proslogodisnji.html>, further disseminated through: <https://www.cdm.me/politika/fon-der-lajen-imala-jasne-poruke-izvestaj-o-napretku-kao-proslogodisnji/>, <https://www.portalanalitika.me/clanak/durovic-fon-der-lajen-imala-jasne-poruke-naredni-izvestaj-o-napretku-kao-proslogodisnji>, <https://www.dan.co.me/vijesti/politika/durovic-fon-der-lajen-imala-jasne-poruke-naredni-izvestaj-o-napretku-kao-proslogodisnji-5205818>, <https://radiotitograd.me/titogradske-vijesti/djurovic-fon-der-lajen-imala-jasne-poruke-naredni-izvestaj-o-napretku-kao-proslogodisnji/>
- 08/11/2023, TV E, TV debate, show „Odgovor“, topic: „Montenegro Report 2022 – European Commission“, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syZZRp3n_94, further disseminated through: <https://www.portalanalitika.me/clanak/durovic-ovo-nije-izvjestaj-o-zemlji-koja-je-u-finishu-pregovora-uljarevic-pokazatelj-posvecenosti-bivse-vlade-eu-integracijama>
- 10/11/2023, TV CG, TV debate, show „Okvir“, topic „Montenegro Report 2022 – European Commission“, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugZ00sK-KAA>, further disseminated through: <https://rtcg.me/vijesti/ekonomija/486312/prvo-ispunjenje-uslova-pa-400-miliona-iz-evropskih-fondova.html>, <https://www.dan.co.me/vijesti/politika/milioni-pomoci-iz-eu-ako-budemo-radili-na-reformama-5207632>, <https://rtnk.me/ekonomija/prvo-ispunjenje-uslova-pa-400-miliona-iz-evropskih-fondova/>, <https://press.co.me/prvo-ispunjenje-uslova-pa-400-miliona-iz-evropskih-fondova/>, <https://www.pobjeda.me/clanak/pare-idu-vladi-da-ih-trosi-kako-hoce-ali-nema-brzih-kola-i-skupih-sampanjaca>

Interviews and comments for the portals:

- 17.10. Pobjeda – Đurović: Montenegro has the most to lose, available at: <https://www.pobjeda.me/clanak/crna-gora-najvise-na-gubitku>, further disseminated through: <https://crnogorskiportal.me/sadrzaj/12702>

V. Closing remarks

The Montenegrin Pan-European Union continues to work on its key purpose, which is **to implement European standards and promote European democratic values in Montenegro**. The Montenegrin Pan-European Union is one of the youngest member organizations of the International Pan-European Union that works to promote and achieve objectives outlined in the Strasbourg Declaration of the International Pan-European Union of 1974 and 1995. MPEU aims to preserve and improve good neighbourly relations with the countries in the region, as well as to develop friendship and cooperation with the EU Member States and other countries. Also, MPEU works towards enhancing the cultural, scientific, technical and economic cooperation and exchanges between Montenegro and other countries.

The organizational structure of the MPEU consists of the Presidency and the Youth Presidency which meet on a quarterly basis to discuss past activities and make plans for the coming period. At the same time, the MPEU holds the door open for all people willing to help work and achieve the goals of the MPEU through their **volunteer engagement**.