



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

3rd Meeting of the EU Integration Network

“Development and co-ordination of Human
Resources in the EU integration framework”

Danilovgrad (Montenegro), 19 – 20 March 2013

Discussion paper and provisional programme

Background

ReSPA has created the EU Integration network at the regional level dedicated to European Integration. The network serves as the platform that brings together the most important and relevant stakeholders of the Western Balkan countries dealing with various aspects of the EU integrations. It is an opportunity for the senior level civil servants and practitioners working in the same policy area in the region to have regular network meetings for with the aim to exchange experience amongst them and their counterparts from the last EU entrants.

The first regional meeting of the managers of European Integration affairs in the Western Balkan countries was held from 7-9 July 2011 at the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), Danilovgrad, Montenegro.

The second Meeting of the EU Integration Network took place on 30 - 31 October 2012 at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb and brought together 14 participants. Nearly 80% of participants in their daily work are directly involved either in EU integration policy co-ordination or Human Resource development.

Concluding the 2nd event the participants have highlighted significant value of bringing together people from the entire region who deal with similar issues. As an overall leading principle evolved from the presentations and discussions was “catching” the ideas for structuring of the overall concept and related categories of the EU integration process and identification of thematic areas related to HR development and Institution reorganization as potential topics for the upcoming meetings and related activities.

Objectives

The purpose of this paper is to provide a basis for discussion among the members of the EU integration network on some of the topics chosen for the third Meeting of the EU Integration Networks.

The 3rd EU Integration Network event in Danilovgrad (Montenegro) on 19 – 20 March 2013 has three main objectives. The first objective is to outline the various aspects of EU integration policy co-ordination functionality and focus on particular aspects related to legal approximation in the National Program for Adoption of Acquis context, EU accession negotiations aspects related to the particular role of public participation, dialogue with the society groups and the role of EU integration co-coordinating offices in defining national interests. The second objective is to have a debate on the ways the Human Resource Development and Training could most efficiently support the European Integration Policy co-ordination and implementation with a special focus on best practice of efficient implementation and link to the National Program for Adoption of Acquis. The third objective is to discuss the potential topics for comparative studies related to the EU integration functionality in the Region.

The EUI event will also address the major issues that the acceding country should be aware such as the process of shifting policy co-ordination to the EU membership mode. Discussions are foreseen on the best practice for dialogue with the society groups and their contribution to national interests setting during the EU accession negotiations process and preparation of a number of EU integration co-ordination related comparative studies. Due to this, the participation and contribution of Croatia's experience will be highly valuable.

Content

Efficient European integration policy co-ordination requires set of knowledge and skills that civil servants must have when dealing with general and crosscutting co-ordination on a domestic level (strategy management and inter-institutional co-ordination, legal approximation and policy impact assessment, technical assistance co-ordination, human resource development policy); external dialogue with the EU (negotiations, lobbying, relations with the Member States); raising awareness with the civil society and consulting with the society groups in the decision making process and institutional reorganization (preparing a co-ordination model for the accession mode and the establishment of national EU policy). One of the main challenges for the EU integration co-coordinating institutions is to ensure that the relevant civil servants are getting the right training to facilitate EU integration policy co-ordination and implementation.

At the same time some of the New Member States have experienced both success and failure when ignoring the role of EU integration co-ordination and its link to the wider national policy context. The successful transition from accession country to member-state in respect to managing European Affairs and European agenda is largely dependent on the EU integration coordination mechanism that was put in place. Especially it is relevant for the countries that are approaching the EU accession negotiations and later membership phase when they have to consider their new co-ordination model and elaborate their national EU policy.

Therefore the first day of the networking event is devoted to the selected aspects of overall EU integration co-ordination functionality. In particular the working sessions will look at overall scope of EU integration co-ordination functions and practical challenges of legal approximation and implementation and related human resource development in the National Program for Adoption of Acquis (NPAA) context, issues for public dialogue during the EU accession negotiations and best practices for Human Resource training strategies/programmes on the EU Affairs. Representatives of Montenegro Government will also share their success, lessons learned and the new framework of EU accession negotiations.

The second working day envisages to finalize discussion on the questions remained from the day one. The remaining part of the day will be devoted to presentation of pre-questionnaire results and discussion of initial ideas for the comparative studies on EU integration co-ordination aspects in the Western Balkan countries. The Day will be finalized with the wrap – up and agreeing on the context for the next EUI networking event.

The participants will be provided with the pre-questionnaires and request for preparation of the short presentations on their countries' experience. Methods of presentations, case studies and group works will be applied during the working session.

Workshop experts

Mr. Ivo Rollis (Latvia) has 13 years of professional senior management level experience in transitional public administration and international consultancy in working as international long –term and short term expert and Team Leader with different aspects of EU integration of the NMS, SAP and ENP countries and donors - EU, WB, UNDP, USAID and EU member states financed projects. He has been one of the main framers of present EU Integration Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the author of the future EU integration co-ordination model in the Government of Ukraine. He has extensive experience in carrying out in-depth functionality reviews of EU integration co-ordination systems in Latvia and comparative experience in 7 other NMS, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*¹, Ukraine and Moldova with applying different methodologies of good governance. In Latvia, for several years he was the Deputy Head and later also acting Head of the Office for European Integration of the Latvian Government. In that position, he was responsible for the design, scheduling and monitoring of all activities in the country's EU accession process, including substantive input for the communication aspects. In his position he had to deal also with public administration reform issues in the framework of European integration perspective.

Mr. Primoz Vehar (Slovenia) started his career as Legal Advisor in Slovenian Public Administration from 1994 till 2005 working in Governmental Office of Legislation on legal drafting and legal harmonization issues and in National Parliament as senior legal advisor and Secretary of Parliamentary EU Committee. He was a lecturer on the Administrative Academy in Slovenia on EU and Constitutional law.

Since 2005 Mr. Vehar has been working as Team leader and/or Legal Advisor within numerous of EU funded projects in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina dealing with EU Integration process and above all legal harmonisation issues and has vast experience in the region with the EU Integration process and connected public administration reform.

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1- 19 March 2013

9.00-9.15	Registrations
9.15-9.45	Introduction Welcome address by ReSPA representative and the representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro Introductory presentation on the Program , <i>Goran Pastrovic ReSPA Training Manager</i>
9.45-11.30	1) EU integration co-ordination² and critical implications to its functionality during negotiations and challenges for the post accession phase (<i>presentation by Ivo Rollis</i>) 2) Challenges of legal approximation and implementation and related human resource development and training in the context of National Program for Adoption of Acquis (<i>presentation by Primoz Vehar</i>) 3) Discussion by participants (<i>moderated by Goran Pastrovic</i>)
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45-13.30	1) Montenegro: Success, current situation, lessons learned, new framework EU accession negotiations - content and main challenges in respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Importance of legal harmonization (in each government department)- Cooperation with public, civil society organizations, NGOs, media, individuals, in respect to accession negotiation process- Cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro, as well as the other authorities (<i>presentation</i>) 2) Questions and discussion (<i>moderated by Goran Pastrovic</i>)
13.30-14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>

² EU integration thematic areas encompassing aspects of Internal operational functionality related to EU integration, Institution reorganization, external dialogue with EU and consulting with civil society and awareness raising

14.30-15.45	<p>EU integration co-ordination, and cooperation with public, civil society organizations, NGOs, media, individuals and critical implications during the EU integration and EU accession negotiations process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sharing of experience from Latvia, Slovenia and Croatia and discussion on critical aspects for co-ordination (remarks from Ivo Rollis, Primoza Vehar, representative from Croatia) 2) Questions and discussion (<i>moderated by Goran Pastrovic</i>)
15.45-16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00-17.00	<p><i>Human Resource training strategies/programmes on the EU Affairs – best practice of efficient implementation and link to the National Program for Adoption of Acquis</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Introductory remarks on the best practice and pre-requisites for good implementation (Ivo Rollis and Primoz Vehar)</i> 2) <i>Brief presentation of countries' representative's on their main success and gaps on implementation of their trainings programs of civil servants on the EU affairs and link with the NPAA (max 5 min each country on key points)</i> <p><i>Discussion (moderated by Goran Pastrovic)</i></p>
17.00	<i>End of Day 1</i>

Day 2 – 20 March 2013

09.00-09.15	Introduction to the Day
09.15-10.30	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Finalization of discussion on Human Resource training strategies/ programmes on the EU Affairs – best practice of efficient implementation and link to the National Program for Adoption of Acquis2) Discussion on other questions remained on the Topics from the Day 1
10.30-10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.45-13.00	<p>Comparative studies on the EU integration aspects in the Region - results of pre-questionnaire and proposed topics, discussion in the Groups and Plenary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Brief presentation by Goran Pastrovic (<i>with contribution from Ivo Rollis and Primoz Vehar</i>)
13.00-13.15	Wrap-up and discussion of provisional topics for the next EUI networking event
13.15-14.15	<i>Lunch</i>
14.15	End of Day 2