



ReSPA
Regional School
of Public Administration

ReSPA Seasonal School on Accession Negotiations (focused on Chapters 23 and 24)

Content Outline

- Location and dates: **Seasonal school will take place in ReSPA premises in Danilovgrad, Montenegro, on July 3-7 2017**
- Format: the school will be organised as seminars, combining lectures, discussion panels, workshops and keynote speeches
- Participants: up to 6 participants per ReSPA Member and Kosovo*¹ – senior to mid-level professionals with experience in EU affairs, actively taking part in the European integration processes, from: central EU coordination institutions, ministries in charge of foreign affairs, justice, internal affairs, public administration, finance, offices of Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and from the offices of Chiefs of the SAA/Accession Negotiation Teams, and others actively involved in the European Integration process;
- School's goal: ***to improve knowledge and professional skills of participants working on EU affairs related to matters covered by Accession Negotiations Chapters 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security), and to provide them with opportunity to network with colleagues from the region***
- School's objectives:
 - **To improve and update knowledge and understanding of the EU, as wider context, with a focus on the latest developments** – current debate on “new”, post-Brexit Europe, the most contended issues and policies during the process of re-defining shape of the EU, and the state of affairs regarding policy of enlargement to the Western Balkans;
 - **To deepen the understanding of the issues covered by Chapters 23 and 24** – background and finer points of the concepts, foreseeable challenges during the Chapters' negotiations and possible ways to overcome them, to learn from **experience of Croatia**, but also of **Montenegro and Serbia**

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

- To **inform the participants of the state of affairs in the region** in particular **thematic areas of Chapter 23** (judicial reform, anti-corruption policy, fundamental rights and the rights of EU citizens), and of **Chapter 24** (justice, freedom, security), and to **derive common lessons from the various experiences**
 - To **inform the participants of the efforts of the existing regional initiatives in the matters related to chapters 23 and 24** – such as police cooperation, fight against corruption, border control, migrations/asylum/visas, fight against organized crime and terrorism, judicial cooperation in criminal and civil matters, customs cooperation etc.- in light of the regional cooperation being fundamental to the accession bid of the regional EU membership aspirants
 - To increase the understanding of the participants (a) of the need to advocate for sustainable implementation of the reforms related to Chapters 23 and 24 – in order to secure the “substantial social change”, which is evaluated at the end of the process; (b) of the need to strategically communicate achievements in the process of implementation of reforms– to counterparts domestically, regionally and in the EU (especially important in view of the political nature of the criteria), as a way to help the achievement of their reform objectives;
 - **To develop professional skills of the participants** to strategize and implement communication and advocacy activities and to cooperate regionally in the matter
 - **To build connections among participants for future regional cooperation**
- School's expected outcomes:
- In result, the participants:
 - Will have **profound understanding of the processes of change in the European Union** and their implications on the enlargement policy, which will enable them to approach their assignments with a view of the wider context
 - Will **grasp the rationale and identify the details about the concepts and the particular issues comprised in Chapters 23 and 24**, which will facilitate their daily work; will gain an **outlook on the possible challenges**, and **learn from the experiences of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia**
 - Will **learn of state of affairs** regarding judiciary and fundamental rights, justice freedom and security, in each the of aspirants to EU Membership **across the Western Balkans, and through discussion on the common problems**, they will **gain various perspectives on the similar situations**
 - Will **learn in more detail on the efforts of regional initiatives**, which will enable them to **initiate and intensify regional cooperation of their administrations.**