

EXECUTIVE TRAINING AND STUDY VISIT OF MOLDOVAN CIVIL SERVANTS TO MONTENEGRO: EU Accession Negotiations in Chapters 23 and 24

3 – 6 November 2025

The European Union has entered a renewed phase of enlargement, marked by strong political momentum and a shared recognition that the accession of new members is essential for ensuring stability, resilience, and prosperity across the continent. The process has regained prominence at the highest political level, with clear commitments to support candidate countries in accelerating reforms and aligning with EU standards. It has expanded to include the regions of the Western Balkans as well as Eastern countries, which adds a new dimension to the process, including an opportunity to connect the two regions in an effort to share knowledge and experience and establish firm bonds of cooperation in EU-related matters.

The Executive Training and Study Visit of Moldovan Civil Servants to Montenegro, supported by GIZ Moldova, is organised with the assistance of the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), an international organisation headquartered in Podgorica dedicated to EU integration/ accession in the Western Balkans. The programme aims to strengthen the understanding of EU accession processes through practical exchanges with Montenegrin institutions and experts who have been directly engaged in negotiating and implementing the *acquis*. It provides the participants with an opportunity to explore the institutional, legal, and policy dimensions of EU integration, while fostering peer-to-peer learning with counterparts from the Western Balkans. The participants will delve into specific topics related to the regional context and trends related to EU accession, learn about the experience of Montenegro, which is, at the moment, among the most likely candidates to become the 28th EU Member State. Special focus of the program is given to Chapters 23 and 24, challenges in these key chapters, necessary institutional capacities, the rule of law, legislative alignment, milestones, challenges and lessons learned. The program is developed in a way to cover these topics from various perspectives, primarily as technical expertise, from civil servants involved directly in the EU accession process and other relevant stakeholders.

By combining expert-led sessions, institutional visits, and networking activities, the programme supports Moldova's ongoing preparations for EU accession and contributes to building a shared European administrative space grounded in cooperation, knowledge exchange, and mutual learning.

Draft Programme

Day 1: SUN, November 2, 2025

All day	Arrival of Participants in Podgorica, Montenegro
19.30	Dinner at the Hotel

Day 2: MON, November 3, 2025

ReSPA Premises (Bulevar knjaza Danila Petrovića 13/32, Podgorica)

08.45-09.00	Welcome to ReSPA premises Introductory Remarks by Boris Ristovic, ReSPA Country Manager for Moldova
09.00-10.30	EU Enlargement and integration in the Western Balkans: regional cooperation and its implications on the EU accession process and the Role of ReSPA and Other Regional Partners Genti Xhaxhiu, Programme Coordinator, ReSPA
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00- 12.30	Accession Negotiations with the EU in the Western Balkans: the process, the techniques, and the progress Jelisaveta Tasev, ReSPA
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13.30- 14.30	The Importance of Institutional Capacities for EU Accession Negotiations and EU Membership (with a view to the current capacities of Moldova) Csaba TÖRÖ Ph.D, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
14.30-15.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.00- 16.00	Rule of Law: State-of-play and the Way Forward ReSPA external expert
16.00	<i>Free Time</i>

Day 3: TUE, November 4, 2025

ReSPA Premises/ Premises of Host Institution

09.00-10.30	Montenegro's Institutional and Strategic Framework for EU Accession Visit to the Ministry of European Affairs
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00- 12.30	Chapters 23 and 24: The experience of Montenegro- toward reaching the big milestones Visit to the Ministry of European Affairs
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>

13.30- 15.00	Chapters 23 and 24: The experience of line Ministries as members of the Working Groups Ministry of European Affairs Ministry of Justice Ministry of the Interior
15.00-17.00	<i>Free Time</i>
17.00	Culture Program and Networking Departure to Cetinje Guided Visit to Njegoš Museum Billiards Culture Program and Dinner at Gradska Kafana Cetinje
21.00	Departure to Podgorica

Day 4: WED, November 5, 2025

Premises of Host Institution/ ReSPA premises

09.00- 10.30	IPA Funding and Coordination of Financial and Technical Assistance in Chapters 23 and 24 Ministry of European Affairs
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00- 12.30	The Alignment with the EU acquis as the pillar of EU Accession Talks Ministry of European Affairs
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00- 15.00	Peer-to-peer exchanges: Chapters 23 and 24 in the context of EU Accession Negotiations Today - Exchange with civil servants from the WB region Adnan Tatar, Office of FBiH Government for European Integration Miodrag Lazic, Deputy Head of Negotiation Group for Chapter 24, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia North Macedonia, TBC
15.00-15.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.15-16.15	Peer-to-peer exchanges: Chapters 23 and 24 in the context of EU Accession Negotiations Today (part 2) - Exchange with civil servants from the WB region Adnan Tatar, Office of FBiH Government for European Integration Miodrag Lazic, Deputy Head of Negotiation Group for Chapter 24, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia North Macedonia, TBC
16.15	<i>Free Time</i>

Day 5: THU, November 6, 2025

Premises of the Municipality of Bar and the Old City Bar

09.00	Departure to Bar: study visit to the local government
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10.00- 12. 00	Visit to the Municipality of Bar: The role of local authorities in the EU accession process and the use of EU funds for local development and cross-border cooperation Ana Zivanovic, Head of Project Management Department, Municipality of Bar
12.00-13.30	<i>Lunch Break at the Old City Bar</i>
13.30- 15.30	Visit to the House of Olives and the Old City of Bar, the restoration of which has been financed from EU funds
15.30	Closing session and awarding of Certificates of Participation Departure to Podgorica

Day 6: FRI, November 7, 2025

All day	Departure of Participants
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