



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

Seasonal School on EU Accession Negotiation

26-30 October 2020 (Online)

Provisional Programme and Agenda

ReSPA activities
are funded by the
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Background

The 2020 Seasonal School on EU Accession Negotiations is hosted by the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), in cooperation with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA).

The event is a unique opportunity for teams dealing with EU accession negotiations from across Western Balkans administrations to come together, connect online, exchange views, network, share ideas, and discuss current and future challenges related to accession negotiations.

This Seasonal School happens at a very crucial momentum: in February 2020, the European Commission introduced its proposal for a new Enlargement Methodology, which aims to reinvigorate the accession process by making it more predictable, credible, and dynamic. The Methodology was approved in March 2020 by the European Union Council, while it will be applied to North Macedonia and Albania's accession process and will be optional for Montenegro and Serbia. In July 2020, the European Commission presented the Council **draft Negotiating Frameworks for Albania and North Macedonia**, laying out the guidelines and principles for their accession talks. The Commission was invited to submit these proposals in March 2020 by the General Affairs Council when it decided to open negotiations with both countries. Last but not least, in September 2020, during the **State of the Union address**, the President of the Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, reassured that the whole Western Balkans region's future lies in the EU. Besides, she confirmed that soon the Commission would present an economic recovery package for the Western Balkans, focusing on a number of regional investment initiatives.

In this regard, the specific purpose of the Seasonal School is to **improve the knowledge and professional skills** of participants (first and foremost from Albania and North Macedonia, but also from Bosnia and Herzegovina) dealing with EU affairs related to the EU Accession Negotiations process, and to provide them the opportunity to network with colleagues from the region (Montenegro and Serbia) who already developed important experiences in negotiations.

What to expect?

Besides topics of a more general character (*such as the new accession negotiations methodology, legal and political dimensions of EU enlargement, EU accession policy, the screening process, etc.*), this year Seasonal School will also focus on the content of the negotiation process for the following Chapters of the acquis: 18, 22, 23, 24 and 27.

The objectives of this ReSPA Seasonal School on EU Accession Negotiations:

- To provide the experts' analysis of the new Methodology of EU accession negotiations;
- To deepen the knowledge on the accession negotiation process and negotiation technics, and understanding of the issues covered by particular negotiation Chapters, to learn from the concrete experience of Montenegro and Serbia;

- To equip participants with concrete experience from Montenegro and Serbia with lessons learned on dealing with opening and closing benchmarks related to particular chapters;
- To provide better inside on the new EU Financial Framework for period 2021-2027, and the future Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance;
- To inform the participants on the various models of institutional organization of coordination of the European Integration and EU accession negotiations within countries of the region, and to derive common lessons from the various experiences;
- To build connections among participants for future regional cooperation, in light of the fact that the improvement of regional cooperation is fundamental to the accession process of the regional aspirants for EU membership.

As a result, the participants:

- Will have a profound understanding of the processes of change in the enlargement policy of the European Union and their implications on accession negotiations;
- Will grasp the rationale and identify the details about the experiences in Montenegro and Serbia regarding the concepts, concrete steps, political, organizational, and logistical aspects of the negotiations in particular negotiation chapters, which will facilitate their daily work;
- Will gain an outlook on the possible challenges and learn from the negotiation experiences of neighbouring countries;
- Through discussion on the common problems, they will gain various perspectives on similar situations.

Who shall attend?

This Seasonal School will bring together representatives of governmental institutions from Albania and North Macedonia, senior to mid-level professionals who will have a role in future accession negotiation processes, actively taking part in the European integration processes. Also, it is expected that participants from relevant institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina take an active role in the Seasonal School. The participants from Montenegro and Serbia will take an active part in presenting their experiences.

Joining us online

Due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, this year Seasonal School on Accession Negotiations will be organized online through the Zoom Platform.

Zoom Norms

To make the convening as fruitful as the in-person one would have been, we are hoping you will contribute by following a few simple Zoom norms:

- Find a quiet place with no distractions to participate in the sessions.
- Avoid sitting with your back to the window or having any backlights.
- Avoid the webcam looking up at you. Stack a bunch of books under your laptop until you can look at that camera directly, straight ahead.
- When joining a Zoom meeting, please use your full name and Country in the title so that speakers and other attendees can identify you easily.
- Microphones are sensitive, particularly at close range. Use the mute button if you will not be speaking for some time.
- Please use the chat function to make comments and ask questions throughout the sessions.

Confidentiality and Social Media policy

All sessions of the Seasonal School will be recorded, and specific sections might be posted online in ReSPA channels, including, but not limited to ReSPA website, ReSPA Social Media, in line with ReSPA privacy policy. Participants can share non-confidential information that was discussed during the Seasonal School, but not who shared it or who was attending the Seasonal School, in order to preserve their confidentiality and increase openness of discussion.

The same principle should extend to any social media post participants would like to make about the Seasonal School. ReSPA encourages the participants to share that they are attending this event, but we would like to ask to please refrain from sharing any confidential information that was discussed or any of the other attendees' identity.

This is where all our sessions will take place. During breaks, we will create breakout rooms to facilitate small group conversations or one-on-one meetings between participants.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY I: Monday, 26 October 2020

10.00 – 10.05 **Welcome and Introduction**

- Dragan Djurić, ReSPA Programme Manager – Coordinator
- The representative of the European Commission (TBC)

10.05 – 10.50 **Background to EU Accession Policy - EU enlargement: the legal and political dimensions**

- Juan Diego Ramírez-Cárdenas, EIPA expert

10:50 – 11:10 **Discussion**

11:10 – 11:55 **Practical Aspects of Accession Negotiations: Actors, tools, and instruments in accession negotiations**

- Wolfgang Koeth, EIPA expert

11:55 – 12:15 **Discussion**

DAY II: Tuesday, 27 October 2020

10:00 – 10:45 **Models of coordination of the European integration process - lessons learned**

- Gordana Djurović, University of Montenegro

10.45 – 11:00 **Discussion**

11.00 – 11.45 **The content of negotiations: Practical example form Montenegro and Serbia on Chapter 22**

- Representative of Montenegro (TBC)
- Nevena Marčeta, Serbia

11.45 – 12.15 **Discussion**

DAY III: Wednesday, 28 October 2020

- 10:00 – 11:00** **Accession negotiations step-by-step: The screening process and technical negotiations chapter by chapter**
- Wolfgang Koeth, EIPA expert
- 11.00 – 11.30** **Discussion**
- 11.30 – 12.15** **The content of negotiations: Practical experiences from Montenegro and Serbia on Chapters 23 and 24**
- Svetlana Rajković, Montenegro expert
 - Representative of Serbia (TBC)
- 12.15 – 12.45** **Discussion**

DAY IV: Thursday, 29 October 2020

- 10.00 – 10.45** **Substantive aspects of the negotiation: What can the EU and Candidate Country negotiate?**
- Juan Diego Ramírez-Cárdenas, expert from EIPA
- 10.45 – 11:00** **Discussion**
- 11:00 – 11:45** **The content of negotiations: Practical example form Montenegro and Serbia on Chapter 27**
- Mirjana Drenovak Ivanović, Serbia
 - Ivana Vojinović, Montenegro
- 11.45 – 12.15** **Discussion**

DAY V: Friday, 30 October 2020

10:00 – 10:45 **The preparations of administrative structures for accession negotiations: the example of Albania**

- Senida Mesi, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Albania

10.45 – 11:00 **Discussion**

11:00 – 11:45 **The content of negotiations: Practical example form Montenegro and Serbia on Chapter 18**

- Dragan Ignjatović, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
- Gordana Radojević, Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT)

11.45 – 12.15 **Discussion**

