



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL VERSION OF THE EU
ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE

Provisional Programme

26 September 2023

Address: Palace of Serbia, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2, Beograd, Serbia

ReSPA activities
are funded by the
European Union



Background

The *acquis communautaire* refers to the extensive body of EU legislation, norms, and policies that member states and candidate countries must adopt and implement to ensure a unified legal framework. These regulations cover a wide spectrum of areas, ranging from trade and competition to environment and human rights. As the EU continues to expand and diversify, ensuring accurate and comprehensive translation of this legal corpus has emerged as a critical undertaking. The translation of the *acquis communautaire* in the Western Balkans holds immense relevance in the context of the region's European integration aspirations. In the process of achieving harmonious integration in the European Union, the translation of the *acquis communautaire* plays a pivotal role.

The *acquis* translation plays a crucial role in facilitating this process and addressing several key aspects:

- *Alignment with EU Standards:* Translation of the legal framework enables the Western Balkan administrations to align their legislation with EU standards across various sectors.
- *Transparency and Clarity:* Effective translation of the *acquis* promotes transparency in the accession process. It allows citizens, businesses, and institutions in the Western Balkans to understand the rights, obligations, and requirements associated with EU membership.
- *Facilitating Cooperation and Integration:* Translation of the *acquis communautaire* facilitates communication and collaboration between the EU and the Western Balkan administrations. It enables these countries to actively participate in negotiations, EU programs, and initiatives, thus fostering closer ties and deeper integration with the European Union.
- *Enhancing Cross-Border Activities:* Accurate translations of EU laws remove language barriers and enhance cross-border activities, trade, and investments between the Western Balkans and EU member states.
- *Legal Harmonization:* Aspiring EU members must harmonize their legal systems with the EU's *acquis*. Proper translation ensures that these countries can effectively adopt and enforce EU legislation, avoiding potential conflicts or misinterpretations.

However, the translation of the *acquis communautaire* in the Western Balkans presents some challenges that require careful consideration:

- *Linguistic Diversity:* The Western Balkan region comprises of administrations with different official languages. Translation efforts must address this linguistic diversity to ensure accurate and culturally sensitive versions of the *acquis*.
- *Capacity Building:* Building translation capacities in the Western Balkans is vital to ensure high-quality and consistent translations of the *acquis*. This may involve training translators and legal experts, establishing/strengthening specialized translation units, and promoting collaboration with EU translation services.
- *Timeliness:* Timely translation of new EU legislation is critical to keep the accession process on track. Delays in translation may hinder the effective implementation of new laws and slow down the integration progress.
- *Legislative Complexity:* The *acquis communautaire* encompasses a vast and complex legal corpus. Translators must possess expertise in various fields to accurately convey the legal nuances and intricacies in different subject areas.

The Regional Conference on the "Preparation of the National version of the *acquis communautaire*" in the Western Balkans will bring together public servants from the region dealing with the translation of the *acquis*, representatives from the translation and interpretation services of the European Commission, practitioners and experts.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8:30 – 9:00	<i>Registration of the participants with a welcome coffee</i>
9:00 – 9:35	<p>Welcome and Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Tanja Miščević, PhD, Minister of European Integration, Serbia • Emanuele Giaufret, EU Ambassador to Serbia (tbc) • Christos Ellinides, Director-General (acting) for Translation, European Commission (online intervention) • Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, Director ReSPA • Representative of DG NEAR (tbc) <p><i>Online intervention:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director-General for Interpretation, European Commission - “The value of multilingualism” (tbc)
9:35 – 10:00	<p>“The journey to quality in the translation of the acquis – Sharing DGT’s experience”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online conversation with Merit-Ene Ilja, Director, Directorate-General for Translation, European Commission
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Moderated discussion: “Preparation of the national version of the EU acquis communautaire – where do we stand?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de table/panel discussion: interventions of ReSPA members representatives from Translation Units (panellists)
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Networking coffee break</i>
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Lessons learned and the day after – Croatia’s experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miljenka Prohaska Kragovic, former senior public servant from Croatia • Marija Kaluđer, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia (tbc) • Tatjana Pantić Mikulić, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia • Questions and answers, Discussions
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Networking lunch</i>
14:00-15:15	<p>Panel discussion: Challenges in preparation of the national version of the EU acquis Communautaire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mila Ćipović-Gligorić, Ministry of European Integration, Serbia • Panel discussion with a focus on quality assurance
15:30	Conference wrap up