



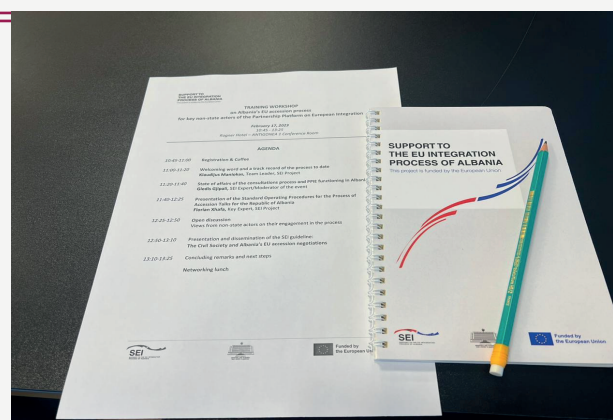
EU - SUPPORT TO THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS OF ALBANIA

WE SUPPORT ALBANIA



IN ITS PATH TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The Republic of Albania became a potential candidate country for EU accession following the Thessaloniki European Council of June 2003 and in June 2014, Albania was granted candidate status. With our project in Albania we helped the institutions to advance the European integration through the preparation towards the accession negotiations, preparation for the bilateral screening with the EU, especially in the cluster of fundamentals, by improving the preparatory tools and capacities, in order for institutions get equipped with necessary skills and ways to walk on this path.



WE DID WHAT WE PROMISED

The project's input was translated into its main desired target, namely, the initial phase of the bilateral screening phase of negotiations (fundamentals) completed and European integration progress in Albania recognized.

We delivered more than planned in conducting simulation exercises which proved to be the most demanded form of assistance in the latest stage.

Concrete steps in the field: Around 140 presentations from Albanian Institutions were reviewed and around twenty simulation exercises were held, which helped to successfully complete the exercise (final bilateral screening in the cluster of fundamentals in the area of democratic institutions), which was positively evaluated by the EC services; Alignment of Albanian legislation with the acquis progressed from moderate to, in some cases, good level, as evaluated by the 2022 annual progress report of the EC services; Eight bilateral screening meetings were successfully held, as targeted; Preparatory meetings with the participation of civil society were held in chapters 18, 23, 24, and 32; the cumulative number of trained members of relevant institutions was much higher than foreseen (853 instead of 200, not counting on-line participants) due to a focus on capacity building during the last stage of the process.

We have completed/prepared - Quality check; Law harmonization methodology and trainings; Institutional capacity assessments and costing; Partnership Platform; Sectoral facility to work on missing ToCs, LGAs, IAGAs, legal drafting, advice on implementation and enforcement; Horizontal advice and trainings on negotiations; Further improvement of bilateral screening tools: LGAs, IAGAs, and implementation data in particular; Trainings and advice for bilateral screenings (19 MoCK exercises on the preparation of bilateral screening presentations and respective information; emphasis on capacity mapping and building).

We have supported - preparation of the Albanian version of the Acquis; institutional structures and management (Methodology for Management Information System (MIS); preparation of the Albanian version of the Acquis (assistance in approval of the DCM); institutional structures and management (Preparation of the flowchart enabling the set of the software for Management Information System (MIS); negotiating positions (support to bilateral screening presentations and the rule of law, PAR and FDI road maps); SAA facility (through monitoring implementation).

BILATERAL SCREENING PREPARATION



We dealt with the tools, particularly assessing and improving Legal Gap Assessments and Institutional and Administrative Gap Assessments, and prioritization of further alignment with the EU standards. In addition to the regular tools, we aimed at focusing attention at the implementation and its record, and to the data attesting to it. Our focus was the capacity building for the conduct of the bilateral screening in the cluster of fundamentals. Several sectoral interventions were conducted, all to advance implementation of the National Plan for European Integration.

SECTORAL FOCUS



While our substantial focus initially agreed went beyond the cluster of fundamentals, and the quality check as well as improvement of tools was undertaken in 11 chapters, on the later stage the project has focused on the cluster of fundamentals, including previously excluded areas of (the non-numbered chapters of the Acquis), such as Functioning of Democratic Institutions, Economic Criteria and the Public Administration Reform.



WE SUPPORT



TO EDUCATION REFORM IN SERBIA

The Strategy for Education Development in the Republic of Serbia by the year 2030 is a sectoral and national public policy document which will lay foundation for further development of pre-university and university education in line with the 21st century education goals as well as the development of a knowledge-based society and state.



SUPPORTING EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS

The new Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2030 with the accompanying Action Plan (2021-2023) was adopted in June 2021. A new Action Plan covering the period from 2023-2026 is pending for adoption. These documents were developed in line with an inclusive, participatory process which is based on the good practices and will lay foundation for the development of education during the ongoing decade.

REDIS 2030 played important role in reformatory processes and policy development on all educational levels: in pre-university education, standards of achievements based on the newly introduced competence-based concept were developed and are pending for adoption; in university education, documents aimed at achieving an increased level of compliance of NAB quality assurance documents and procedures with relevant EHEA and ENQA requirements, standards and guidelines, respecting the specifics of the socio-cultural national context were developed. Those documents will be used as the basis for further negotiation with ENQA panel on regaining the full membership in ENQA, which Serbian National Accreditation body lost in 2018.



FACILITATING EDUCATION POLICY DIALOGUE AND INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION

Three high level policy dialogues with the participation of all line ministers, EUD ambassador, educational institutions, other donors and stakeholders were organized to monitor educational reforms in line with the respective annual EU Progress Reports and implementation of Sector Budget Support (SBS) provided by EUD, as well as to discuss the basis for further donors' support.

Support provided to the strengthening of intersectoral cooperation by establishing intersectoral groups dealing with the educational topics which were recognized as priority: school sports, prevention of dropouts at preuniversity and university level. The results of this facilitated cooperation were several bylaws and documents aimed at improving the existing procedures and practices.



THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SPORTS

The First National Conference on School Sports organized with more than 100 participants. Apart from the ministers in charge of education and sport, various experts spoke from different angles about the importance of school sports in education, as well as about the next activities aimed at development of school sports in line with the Education Strategy 2030.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FUTURE WORK

2719 participants from Ministry of Education, educational institutes and school teams, as well as other line ministries and agencies attended the various trainings and workshops organized within the scope of the project. 75 trainings covered miscellaneous topics aimed at all educational levels and aspects: intra and inter sectoral cooperation, external evaluation, standards development, quality standards in higher education and reviewers' training, communication trainings, policy making for local community actors, etc.

The comprehensive communication campaign was implemented with the goal to improve public information and deepen the public understanding of the effects of education reform and the process led by institutions in Serbia, as well as the EU support in this area. The campaign focused on actual, real-life people, some of which are engaged in the education sector, and their stories. Main slogan of the campaign was: Znanjem menjamo sve(t) / With knowledge, we change everything (the world)

Click to watch our campaign videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Ministarstvoprosvetenaukeitehnolo%C5%A1kogradvoja/videos>