

CEP research

Achieving Effective Policy Monitoring & Evaluation through Evidence Supplied by Civil Society

What are monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and how can these functions contribute to a more transparent and effective decision making? This research project aims to demonstrate the significance of M&E by analysing the current state of play of civil society organisations' (CSOs) involvement in the sectors of public administration and social policy and employment in Serbia. Moreover, it seeks to analyse the capacities of the ministries and governmental institutions in charge to perform the M&E tasks. In addition, the project examines good practices and examples in EU countries, to provide ideas and suggestions for a more constructive and significant CSO engagement in the M&E of governmental policies, especially bearing in mind the nature of the accession process. In the following months, the research results will be disseminated to the relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, training activities will be organised in order to embed the M&E culture and cooperation between the state and civil sector in that respect. This project is realised together with the Foundation for Advancement of Economic Sciences (FREN), with the support by the European Union and the Office for Cooperation with CSOs of the Government of Serbia.



Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment implementation in Serbia

Well-preserved, healthy and enjoyable environment is an ever-lasting aspiring goal. At the same time, citizens tend to complain about the pollution of environment, health problems and depletion of scarce natural resources. Therefore, it is clear that Serbia needs a policy which ensures a successful environmental protection. What does it mean in reality? The project "Think-Act-Impact" approaches this issue from the perspective of the implementation of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA). It deals with the measures which ensure that development project proposals as well as plans and programmes, undergo EIA and SEA procedures respectively, thereby alleviating negative implications for the environment. The project aims at clarifying the state of play with regards to implementation of the mentioned procedures, contributing to increased citizen activity and providing recommendations for improvement of policies in this field. Successful implementation of EIA and SEA not only contributes to better environmental protection, but also to the EU integration process, bearing in mind high EU standards in this field. CEP is implementing this project in cooperation with Ecological Centre "Habitat" and Serbia on the Move. The project is financed by the Kingdom of Norway.

Free Movement of Goods | Designation of geographical indications origin

What might be the potential problems in the area of free movement of goods during the ongoing accession negotiations? What are the designations of geographical indication and how can the Serbian economy benefit from the EU accession process in that respect? CEP researcher Ksenija Simović will conceive these two studies in the framework of the Think Tank Young Professional Development Program of the Open Society Fund. The two studies have as a main goal to provide an analysis and overview of the possible options for ensuring a better position of Serbian agricultural and industrial products on the European Single Market.

TRAIN Programme 2014: Improving Policy Dialogue in the Western Balkans

In contemporary democratic societies, civil society is increasingly gaining the role of driving critical thinking and citizen activism. The Policy Brief “CSO Involvement in Policy Making in Serbia – What are the Options?” aims to examine the selected examples of good cooperation practices between the public and civil sector in Serbia, as well as the available mechanisms of CSO involvement. The study pays particular attention to the initial phase of the policy making cycle – policy formulation, so as to provide an assessment on success factors and give recommendations for optimal use of the available human, financial and institutional resources. The example of Croatia will be examined by embracing a comparative method in order to convey lessons and experiences. The research results will be communicated in Berlin in mid-June, while the Policy Brief will be finalised by November so as to be presented in Brussels to the relevant stakeholders at the EU level. Dissemination of results in Serbia will be conducted by the end of the year. CEP researcher Amanda Orza is engaged on the project and the production of the Policy Brief.

CEP monitors

Republic Secretariat for Public Policies

The new Law on Ministries which was adopted on 26 April 2014 introduced the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies (Article 33), a special organisation with the purview to *inter alia* coordinate the work of the ministries and other governmental bodies and to ensure coherence and hierarchy between the strategic documents of the Government. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Government and the Minister for Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Kori Udovički, will coordinate the work of this organisation.

The necessity for better coordination of state institutions in the ongoing EU accession process represents a strong incentive to improve the current policy planning practices in Serbia. The founding of such an organisation is an encouragement and a signal that the Serbian political elites became aware of the importance of establishing a policy planning system in the context of policy making reforms and public administration reforms in general.

CEP addressed this topic in its study “[Policy Making and EU Accession Process – Getting Results for Serbia](#)” and demonstrated the significance of evidence based policy making on the examples of four EU member states.

State does not take advantage of EU integrations to conduct reforms

Conversation with Nebojša Lazarević, CEP Director, for “Danas” daily newspaper. „EU accession negotiations are not seen by the state as a mechanism to perform the necessary reforms, but superficially as a mere project which aims to bring Serbia into the EU. Entire interview [→](#)

System with barely implementable laws

Op-ed by Nebojša Lazarević in “Politika” daily on the policy making system in Serbia.

„It is evident that the new government will have a strong president, but this does not necessarily imply a strong centre of government and sound coordination of public policies.“

To improve public administration capacities

CEP researcher Sena Marić comments on the current state of civil servants competences in light of accession negotiations with the EU for the “Danas” daily.

CEP events

Upcoming

14, 15 & 16 May –
Round tables in Novi
Sad, Belgrade and Užice
on the topic
“Environmental Impact
Assessment and Strategic
Impact Assessment in
Serbia – 10 Years Later”



29 May – Round table in
Belgrade gathering
representatives from
CSOs and public
administration regarding
models of CSO
involvement in
governmental M&E and
good practices.

Study “Policy Making and EU Accession Negotiations” presented in Brussels

CEP participated in the policy dialogue organised in cooperation with the Brussels-based think tank [European Policy Centre \(EPC\)](#) on the topic *Serbia’s Accession Process: Sound Policymaking for Sound EU Membership*, on 31 March in Brussels.



Alongside Milena Lazarević, CEP Senior Programme Manager, who presented the study “Policy Making and EU Accession Negotiations”, the dialogue featured Lazar Krstić, Minister of Finance of Republic of Serbia, Srđan Majstorović, Deputy Director of the Serbian EU Integration Office, Jean-Eric Paquet, Director in DG Enlargement of the European Commission, Tibor Draskovics, Team Leader of the project Policy Coordination Reform at the Centre of Government financed by the EU. The debate was moderated by Corina Stratulat, EPC Policy Analyst. For more details please follow the arrow [➤](#)

CEP recommends

Blog “European Politics and Policy“ of the London School of Economics

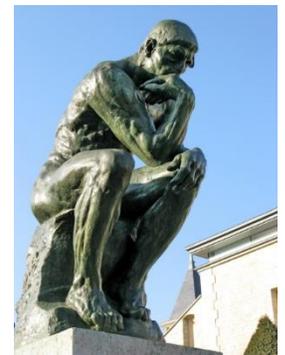
This academic blog addresses various current topics related to EU policies. The posts are made interesting for the wider interested public as the authors manage to present the complex analyses and studies in a comprehensive and attractive fashion.

Book “Global Think Tanks: Policy Networks and Governance (Global Institutions)”, James McGann, Routledge, 2011.

Very thorough analysis on the influence that think tanks have on policy making in today’s global circumstances, as well as on their potentials and limitations in the future. The book also provides an overview of different types of think tanks and their activities. Thus, it is a useful manual which provides ideas to think tanks regarding a strategic planning of their engagement.

Informative series “Sa Evropom na Ti“, Radio Televizija Srbije

Overview of the EU accession process and negotiating chapters from the everyday, practical perspective. The series tend to familiarise the public with concrete implications of Serbia’s membership in the EU by introducing various public policies together with celebrities and renowned public figures.



European Policy Centre (CEP)

European Policy Centre is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent think-tank, founded in 2011 by a group of professionals in the area of EU law, EU affairs, economics and public administration reform, with a shared vision of changing the policy making environment in Serbia for the better – by rendering it more evidence based, more open and inclusive and more substantially EU accession driven. Visit us at:

www.cep.org.rs , www.facebook.com/EuropeanPolicyCentre, www.twitter.com/CEPBelgrade.

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