

CEP research

Performance Audit and Policy Evaluation: On the same or parallel tracks?

The project aims to analyse the relationship between performance audit and policy evaluation and to define conclusions based on comparative practices. In order to do so, the performance audit and policy evaluation will be examined in Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, together with comparative practices from six EU Member States. The final product of the research will be a study containing conclusions and recommendations that will aim to promote good governance principles - rule of law, accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency.

The research project is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is being conducted by CEP together with [TEN](#) partners: [European Policy Institute \(EPI\)](#) from Skopje and [Institute Alternativa](#) from Podgorica, in the framework of the [Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans \(RRPP\)](#).



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Impact of EU Accession Process on Strengthening the Human Resources in Public Administration: Towards the Merit-Based Recruitment System

Do Serbian civil servants have adequate capacities for the tasks related to EU integration and membership negotiations? To what extent can the recruitment process of new civil servants contribute to a better performance in the accession process, and then EU membership? In light of the ever increasing importance being placed on a substantially enforced public administration reform as a *conditio sine qua non* in the accession negotiations, European Policy Centre – CEP, supported by the French Embassy in Serbia, tries to answer these questions in a joint research project. The goal of this research is to analyse the Serbian civil service recruitment system as one of the aspects of the creation of a merit-based civil service, to highlight the possibilities of its improvement in the context of the accession process, to demonstrate its importance with respect to the overall functioning of the state and thus to instigate future research and engagement on this topic. The research findings will be presented in Belgrade at the end of November in a joint conference.



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CEP monitors

Progress Report and EU Enlargement Strategy – Public Administration Reform as a Pillar of the Enlargement Process

If we analyse this year's [Progress Report on Serbia](#) and [EU Enlargement Strategy](#), perhaps the biggest surprise is the attention given to the theme of Public Administration Reform (PAR). Namely, the Commission has never before placed such emphasis on the link between PAR and the success of the accession process in its reports. The Strategy states that public administration reform, together with rule of law and economic governance, is a pillar of the enlargement process and that progress in these closely linked, cross-cutting areas will determine the readiness of candidate states for EU membership.

Even though there have generally been positive developments in the area of PAR in Serbia, it is emphasized that the recruitment process of civil servants, which lacks transparency and is susceptible to political influence, remains an issue of serious concern. Besides this, the strengthening of administrative capacities is highlighted as a need under the analysis section for 16 negotiation chapters (while in last year's report this was the case for 12 chapters) – spanning from the areas of economy, transport, agriculture, justice, to internal affairs, finance, science etc. Hence, as the report states, it is necessary to undertake substantial reforms in order to establish a merit-based public service recruitment and promotion system.

European Policy Centre welcomes the strong focus the European Commission has placed on the question of PAR. From the very beginning, CEP has maintained that without the implementation of PAR, Serbia will not be a functioning state, capable of taking on the rights and obligations of EU membership. In the hope that the conditions imposed by the EU with regards to these questions will contribute to the effective implementation of PAR in Serbia, through its research and studies, which cover different aspects of PAR, CEP remains engaged in the debate and activities in this area.

- ⇒ [Policy Making and EU Accession Negotiations: Getting Results for Serbia](#)
- ⇒ [Getting Results in Public Policy: Monitoring and Evaluation with Evidence Supplied by the Civil Society](#)

CEP becomes a member of SCSO consortium for Public Administration Reform

Sectorial Civic Society Organisations - SCSO, is the consultative mechanism established by (SEIO) for the purposes of cooperation with civil society organisations in planning, programming, monitoring and reporting on EU funds and development assistance.

Leading organisation in this SCSO consortium will be European Movement in Serbia, while other members of the consortium alongside CEP are Belgrade Open School, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence and European Project Centre.

SEIO is coordinating the work of SCSO.

The Economic Potential of Natural Resources

Researcher Ksenija Simović on economic relations between Serbia and Nordic countries, for "BIZ Life" newsletter.

Is GDP an Adequate Measure?

Ksenija Simović on country development indicators for "Nova ekonomija".

CEP events

Presentation of Study on the Free Movement of Goods in the Context of EU Membership

The Study, "[Free Movement of Goods in the Context of EU Membership](#)", will be presented on Monday October 27th at Hotel "Park". The goal of this study is to help increase understanding of this area, especially among the general public, with the aim of supporting the economic sector, which has been identified as the sector requiring the most reforms in this area, as well as to examine and propose mechanisms to improve the performance of relevant ministries.

On the same occasion, the first meeting of the Working Group I, National Conventional on the European Union – Free Movement of Goods will be held, which CEP is coordinating, along with the Working Group on Consumer and Health Protection. The theme of the event will be the improvement of the transposition and implementation of legislation in the area of free movement of goods.



Measuring Public Sector Performance in Serbia: Why – How – for Whom?

CEP and Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN) organized a public debate regarding this theme on 23rd September, which gathered 130 public and civil sector representatives, members of the academic community, as well as diplomats, foreign donors and media. The organizers presented a policy study, "Getting the Results in Public Policy: Monitoring and Evaluation with Evidence Supplied by the Civil Society", as the result of the research project conducted by CEP and FREN, with the aim to indicate the possibilities of engaging civil society in monitoring and evaluation processes in Serbia.

The first panel discussion was opened by Kori Udovički, Deputy Prime Minister in the Government of the Republic of Serbia and Minister of Public Administration and Local Government, and Oscar Benedict, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. They discussed the challenges of measuring public administration performance in Serbia and the necessity to monitor the results of accession negotiation with the EU. The participants in the second panel discussion included Sonja Licht, President of Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Matt Dann, Secretary General at think tank Bruegel from Brussels and Sirpa Kekkonen, Head of Policy Analysis Unit at the Prime Minister's Office in the Republic of Finland.



CEP recommends

Book “The World Financial Crisis: Dilemmas and Solutions”, Slaviša Tasić, Službeni glasnik, 2012.

This book discusses the global economic crisis, the eurozone crisis, theoretical battles surrounding these topics and in particular, the clash between Keynesianism, monetarism and Austrian economics since the 1930s to today. Using a very simplistic style of language, that is understandable to non-economists as well, the author examines complex existing macroeconomic theories and economic policy recommendations, drawing his proper conclusions about their validity.

[European Parliament Think Tank](#)

If you wish to stay informed regarding political developments in the European capital, or regarding European policy developments, this link provides excellent document briefs, which can serve as a basis for further research.

Impact Assessment and Strategic Assessment of Environmental Impact:

view the [video presentation](#) and [episode](#) CEP has prepared on this topic!

[37 days, BBC2](#)

This excellent series provides a new perspective on the final days leading up to the beginning of World War I. Looking back to the beginning of the 20th century allows us to better understand the present day.

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:

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