

## CEP researches

### New programme area

In 2015 CEP opened the fourth programme area entitled **Europe&us**. Within Europe&us, CEP will research and analyse issues and problems within EU politics and institutional setup, and their influence on Serbia and its accession. Through Europe&us, CEP also seeks to picture Serbia as an EU member state already, and consequently trigger the thinking about Serbia's place and position in the EU institutions and politics, in order for Serbian public to understand what Serbia is becoming a part of.

The first paper dealing with these issues is written by CEP Researcher Amanda Orza, simultaneously introducing our new policy product: *CEP Insight*. Amanda's insight into lobbying in the EU and its significance for Serbia can be found [here](#).

### Financial supervision: analyses within *Improving accountability mechanisms in public finance programme*

This programme aims at developing horizontal and vertical accountability mechanisms in the public finance domain, for a better public finance management and reduced corruption possibilities. CEP team was engaged for the purposes of research and analyses, which resulted in the production of [two policy studies](#).

### CEP participates in a public discussion on three legal drafts concerning the environment

During June and July, consultations were held regarding the amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Nature Protection and the Law on Waste Management. The interested public, enterprises and representatives of different public administration bodies had the chance to participate in the public debates where one of the key debate topics was the reintroduction of a state fund aimed at financing environmental protection (closed in 2012), the so-called Green Fund. The Green Fund is envisioned to be a separate legal entity under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. The public welcomed the reopening of the Fund, but also criticised the decision that the fund will receive financial resources indirectly, through the budget instead of independently using those resources. The representatives of the Ministry pointed out that such a regulation at this moment would be against the existing Law on the Budget System. It was also argued that the existing reforms are limited, which signified the need for further interventions.

Within the overall process it is necessary to organise timely consultations with the public, private and civil sector, as well as coordinate with other accountable bodies and harmonize different regulations. In that sense, consultations held in June and July were for the most part a positive example. Still in the future, the consultation period should last more than 20 days, while the debates for each regulation should be differentiated. Having in mind the limited scope of suggested revisions, CEP provided written comments that focus on improving the circumstances for early and effective informing and ensuring public participation of in decision making (which is what we wrote about [in this study](#)).

### NUMBER IV SPRING/SUMMER 2015

#### CEP is looking for a Research Fellow!

Apply until July 31<sup>st</sup> and join our team. CEP is one of the think tank organisations that are invited to host and mentor a young researcher, preferably a Serbian national, under the auspices of the Open Society Foundations Think Tank Fund. More details [➔](#)

#### Problems with municipal services? Share your experiences with us

If you live in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Subotica or Leskovac, we invite you to share your views and comment on the provision of municipal services in your city. Apply soon and give your opinion about the existing mechanisms for consumer rights protection in the field of municipal services. More details [➔](#)

## CEP follows

### Serbia as a positive example in the fight against climate change

Serbia adopted a plan on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 9,8% until 2030, said Minister Snežana Bogosavljić-Bošković at the ECRAN conference on climate changes, held in Belgrade on 11 June. In this manner Serbia became the first country in the region to commit to such a quantitative goal. The minister further pointed out that, “the amount of material damage caused by extreme climate and weather conditions, exceeded 5 billion euros since 2000 while more than 70% of the losses are connected to draught and high temperatures”. The damage caused by the floods in 2014 was estimated to “over 1,7 billion euros”. This is a clear example of how vulnerable Serbia is to climate changes that are actively influenced by human factor.

It is praiseworthy that Serbia adopted the aforementioned goals as it demonstrates a commitment to the fight against climate changes, regardless of the relatively low contribution to this global phenomenon. Still, it is necessary to define in time even more ambitious goals in order to preserve the current pace. The European Union, for example, set the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 20% until 2020 (19% is already reached) and by 40% until 2030, in comparison to 1990. Serbia’s priority is the reduction of GHG coming from the industry, households and traffic. Specific technical measures are needed, as well as adequate institutions and procedures in the process of drafting planning documents and development projects that can influence the climate. In these processes effective collaboration between the public, private and civil sector is paramount.

Measures used in the fight against climate change should be aligned with the country’s currently low economic possibilities. Nevertheless, the introduction of new technologies, materials, production methods, business models and consumption should be acknowledged as they provide development opportunities. The support coming from the developed countries with a greater experience in this area is certainly valuable. Such a cooperation is best achieved within the process of European integration, given the high EU environmental standards, also in the field of climate.

### Report of the European Commission on the progress of Serbia – novelties from October

The European Commission is preparing a new methodology of drafting Progress Reports for candidate and potential candidate countries, which are usually published in October and represent the main roadmap for candidate countries in the implementation of necessary measures in order to move forward towards membership.

Even though the details and official announcements have not yet been published, it is well known that the biggest novelty will be the introduction of a mechanism through which the current state of affairs in specific areas will be comparable between countries. In this manner the Commission aims to promote a “healthy competition” among candidate countries, so as to trigger a stronger commitment to the implementation of necessary reforms.

Although the idea is in its essence brave and with good intentions, there is scepticism and fear that the new reporting system will cause a counter-effect given that it will be quite difficult to perform a sophisticated comparative review of issues in countries which are in different phases of the association and accession processes. As a result, the Commission risks to undermine complex differences between the candidate countries, which would in return discredit it in the eyes of the candidate countries, as well as in the eyes of the EU member states, to which it lost the prevailing say in leading the enlargement policy. We are eagerly awaiting the Progress Reports that are due this fall.

## CEP events

### Energy and environment – Serbia on the road to EU

CEP held a public discussion on this topic on April 29, 2015 in the Small Hall of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Among the participants were Snežana Bogosavljević-Bošković, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Tanja Mišćević, Head of the Negotiating Team for Accession of Serbia to the European Union and Stephen Tindale, researcher at the Centre for European Reform (CER) in London.



At the event, CEP presented its study on the implementation of environmental impact assessment within industrial and infrastructure projects, alongside recommendations aiming to improve the procedure in the context of accession negotiations. More details [→](#)

### How to understand the basics of public administration reform in the Western Balkan countries?



Our Senior Programme manager Milena Lazarević participated in the policy dialogue in Brussels, June 15, on public administration reforms in the Western Balkan countries, which was organised by CEP, Brussels-based think-tank [EPC](#) and the European Commission.

During the discussion, Lazarević underlined that Serbia could not afford losing as many quality human resources, especially if it wants to become competent in using structural funds upon accession and reap benefits from EU membership. Lazarević concluded that staff retention, especially in regards of those employees who work in the fields of EU integrations and IPA funds, have to be regulated through corresponding policies in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 22 - Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments. One example of a good staff retention policy is illustrated by countries that incorporate the policy of providing scholarships for public administration employees to study abroad, so as to apply the acquired knowledge in their home countries.

The Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the current Deputy Prime Minister in the Government of Serbia, Kori Udovički, and Simon Mordue from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) participated in the policy dialogue.

## CEP recommends

### Better regulation package

The European Commission has recently adopted a package of measures with the aim to improve the policy and decision making at EU level – to make them more effective, transparent and inclusive. This means emphasising the policy formulation phase, in order to reduce the risk of decisions becoming an administrative burden. In that sense, the process of analysing the influence of the regulation will be of a greater importance, and will be conducted by all three institutions included in decision making – European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Therefore, it is expected that the new approach to policy making will lead to legislation of greater quality and saving/reducing resources necessary for its creation and implementation.

The Brussel's consulting agency PACT European Affairs perfectly and simply explained in [this infographic](#) the concrete specifics of the new package and the way the policy making process and the decision making will look like. While understanding the new EU approach to policy making is useful to anyone dealing with the matters of good governance, whereas in the case of Serbia this is interesting due to the novelties introduced in the public administration reform process. The introduction of this package is yet another confirmation CEP's of arguments that the key to any successful public policy lies in the primary phases of its creation.

### EU Jargon Terms



[This humorous vocabulary](#) of EU jargon terms gives a good illustration and explanation of the everyday work and life in the Brussel's circle.

## European Policy Centre

CEP is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent think-tank, based in Belgrade. It was founded by a group of professionals in the areas 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. Profound understanding of EU policies and the accession process, the workings of the Serbian administration, as well as strong social capital combine to create a think-tank capable of not only producing high quality research products but also penetrating the decision making arena to create tangible impact.

Today, CEP organises its work into four programme areas: 1) Good Governance, with a strong focus on horizontal policymaking and coordination; 2) Internal Market and Competitiveness; 3) Regional Policy, Networks and Energy; 4) Europe&us.

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