SERBIA'S PROGRESS AND PREPARATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

2020 Assessment by the European Commission

Level of progress: Backsliding 1; No progress 2; Some progress 3; Good progress 4; Very good progress 5.

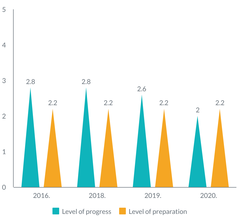
Level of preparation: Early stage of preparation 1; Some level of preparation 2; Moderately prepared 3; Good level of preparation 4; Very advanced stage of preparation 5.

****The Serbia 2020 Report covers the period between March 2019 and September 2020.***

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

POLITICAL criteria

For the first time, Serbia is **not making any progress**, while its level of preparation has stagnated since 2016.



CIVIL SOCIETY

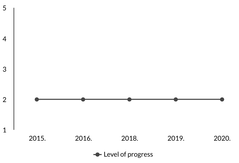
In the area of civil society, the 2020 Report states that **certain steps** have been taken in issuing guidelines and planning of consultations.

However, the Report adds that further efforts are needed to ensure systematic cooperation between the government and civil society.

It is noted that an enabling environment for the development and financing of civil society has yet to be established.

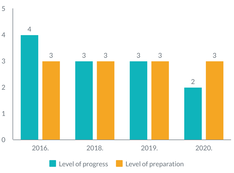
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Serbia has demonstrated **no progress** in matters of freedom of expression. Results in this area have stagnated since 2015.

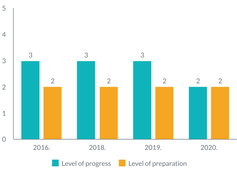


In the areas of **public administration reform, judiciary and the fight against organized crime,** a **lower level of progress** has been achieved compared to the 2019 Report!

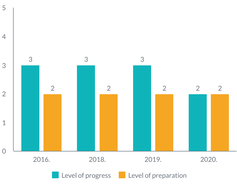
Public Administration Reform



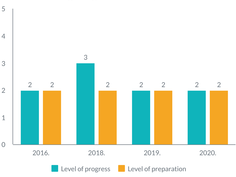
Functioning of the Judiciary



Fight Against Organised Crime

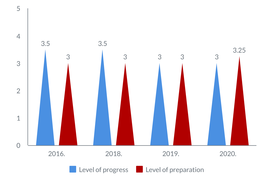


Fight against Corruption

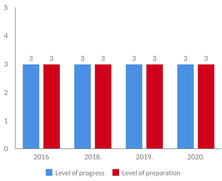


ECONOMIC criteria

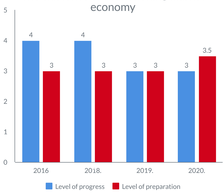
Serbia has made **a lower level of progress** compared to 2018, while the level of preparation has slightly improved in the area of a functioning market economy.



The capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the EU

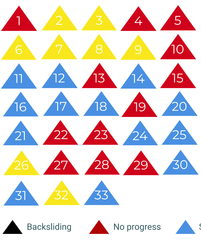


The existence of a functioning market economy



NEGOTIATING chapters

Level of progress per chapter



The European Commission introduced the "limited progress" assessment in the 2019 reporting cycle as a separate category, recognising that the existing categories "no progress" and "some progress" are not adequate to describe the situation in certain chapters. In addition, the "very limited progress" assessment is introduced for the first time in the 2020 reporting cycle. For the purposes of this infographic, the "limited progress" and "very limited progress" assessments are equated with the "no progress" category, as are methodologically closer to it.

Compared to 2019, Serbia has made the same level of progress in **17 negotiation chapters**;

In as many as **9 chapters** it has made less progress than last year;

In only **7 chapters** it has achieved more progress compared to the 2019 Report.

Chapters with the least progress

- 5 - Public Procurement *from 2019*
- 23 - Judiciary and Basic Rights *from 2019*
- 27 - Environment *from 2019*

Chapters with notable progress

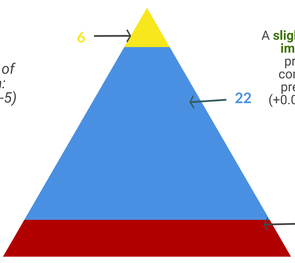
- 8 - Competition Policy
- 26 – Education and Culture *from 2019*

Chapters 5 and 23 are currently open chapters, so the lack of progress is of particular concern

Although rated as the least successful chapter in the previous evaluation, due to the lack of progress since 2016, Chapter 8 made good progress

General level of preparation

Average assessment of preparation: 3.03 (scale 1-5)



A **slight demonstrated improvement** in preparation as compared to the previous report (+0.03 index points)

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The European Policy Centre (CEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent think tank, based in Belgrade. CEP was founded by a group of professionals in areas of EU law, EU affairs, economics, and public administration reform, with a shared vision of changing the policymaking environment in Serbia for the better by rendering it more evidence-based, inclusive, and more substantially EU accession-driven. A profound understanding of EU policies and the accession process, the workings of the Serbian administration, and strong social capital combine to create a think-tank capable of not only producing high-quality research products but also of penetrating the decision-making arena to create a tangible impact.

Currently, 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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