

The Region and the Serbia's EU Accession Negotiations

Roundtable Summary

The Council for Inclusive Governance (CIG) organized a new session of the Regional Forum¹ on September 24, 2014 in Belgrade. The session was devoted to Serbia's EU negotiation process and how local communities can be included and contribute to the process. Several Forum members recommended using the Forum as a platform for introducing the process to local communities and to offer them possibilities for their proactive engagement that could contribute to the work of Serbia's EU negotiation team.

CIG invited Serbian Government officials to inform the Forum on the current stage in the process of European integration and to offer their view of the ways in which local communities, CSOs, and individuals from the Region could contribute to the process.

The roundtable was a part of a project supported by the Open Society Foundation in Belgrade.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Participants offered the following conclusions and recommendations:

- The Forum should launch a local debate about the profiles of local experts that will be needed in the region after the EU membership. Also, there should be an initiative to start education programs in those areas.
- It was recommended that the Forum should become the initiator of a local initiative for monitoring of the implementation of adopted legislation to fulfill the EU accession standards.
- It was recommended that the Forum should start a spin-off economic project that will initiate cooperation in the economic field with the aim of attracting EU funds.
- It was recommended to invite representatives of the Regional Development Agency for Eastern Serbia (RARIS) to inform members of the Forum about their experience and methods in attracting EU funds.
- One of the recommendations was to organize a meeting between the newly elected representatives of the Bošnjak National Council (after the October 26 elections) and members of the Serbia's negotiation team for the EU accession negotiations.

¹ Municipalities of Nova Varoš, Novi Pazar, Prijepolje, Priboj, Raška, Sjenica, and Tutin.

List of Participants

Zora Čelović, Director, NGO Woman initiative, Priboj
Aida Ćorović, Member of Parliament of Serbia, Democratic Party
Branislav Dilparić, President of the Municipal Assembly of Nova Varoš, Socialist Party of Serbia
Esad Džudžo, President of the Bošnjak National Minority Council in technical mandate
Enis Imamović, Member of Parliament of Serbia, Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak
Semiha Kačar, Director, Sandžak Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, Novi Pazar
Stanko Kijanović, President of the Municipal Board, Socialist Party of Serbia
Fahrudin Kladinčanin, program coordinator, Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar
Šemsudin Kučević, Mayor of Tutin, Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak
Srdan Majstorović, Acting Director, Office for European Integration, Government of Serbia
Fahrudin Mekić, Head of the Mayor's Cabinet, City of Novi Pazar, Sandžak Democratic Party
Fahrudin
Darko Milutin, Lux Development, Belgrade
Hazbo Mujović, Mayor of Sjenica, Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak
Zibija Šarenkapić, Director, NVO Cultural Center Damad, Novi Pazar
Ahmedin Škrijelj, Legal Advisor of the parliamentary group of the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak
Ignjat Rakitić, Mayor of Raška, Serbian Progressive Party
Lazar Rvović, Mayor of Priboj, Serbian Progressive Party
Teo Taranis, Research Coordinator, Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar
Samir Tandir, Vice President, Bošnjak Democratic Community of Sandžak
Sulejman Ugljanin, Member of Parliament of Serbia, President of the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak
Srdan Đurović, Program Coordinator, Open Society Foundation
Shpetim Gashi, Vice President, Council for Inclusive Governance
Alex Roinishvili Grigorev, President, Council for Inclusive Governance
Jadranka Jelinčić, Director, Open Society Foundation
Igor Novaković, Representative in Serbia, Council for Inclusive Governance
Aleksandra Šanjević, Program Coordinator, Open Society Foundation