

United Nations Development Programme

Република Србија
МИНИСТАРСТВО ЗА ЕВРОПСКЕ
ИНТЕГРАЦИЈЕБр. Ч01-00-15/2022-07
БЕОГРАД

Country/Region/Global: Serbia

Initiation Plan

Project Title: Supporting Serbia's EU Accession Negotiations

Project Number: 00147447

Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s): All people benefit from effective governance and meaningful civic engagement

Expected CPD Output(s): Output 1.1: National and local mechanisms and capacities for good governance improved

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: December 2022 – December 2023

Implementing Partner: UNDP

The Initiation Plan ("IP") will kickstart UNDP support to Serbia's EU Accession Negotiations as coordinated by the Ministry for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia ("MEI").

In its first phase, the project will focus on the application of the new enlargement methodology as a priority. In particular, the IP will enable the development of the Roadmap for functioning democratic institutions as one of the requirements under the new methodology. Additional activities and outputs will be developed and added during implementation.

This IP will also act as a resource mobilization vehicle for further developing of the project, at which point a full Project Document will be developed (within the forthcoming 12 months).

Programme Period:	2021 – 2025	Total resources required:	\$ 8,780.75
Atlas Project Number:	00147447	Total allocated resources:	\$ 8,780.75
Atlas Output ID:	134065	• UNDP	
Gender Marker:		• Other:	
		○ Government	\$ 8,780.75
		○ Donor	
		○ Donor	
		Unfunded budget:	_____
		In-kind Contributions	_____

DocuSigned by:

Anas Fayyad Qasim

14-Dec-2022

Agreed by UNDP: _____

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Agreed by Ministry of European Integration: _____



I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Background

Accession negotiations are based on Article 49 of the Treaty of the European Union and take account of all relevant Council conclusions, in particular those of March 2020 endorsing the enhanced enlargement methodology, the renewed consensus on enlargement agreed by the December 2006 European Council and the conclusions of the 1993 European Council in Copenhagen.

Enhanced Methodology

The Enhanced Methodology was developed to strengthen the EU accession process. It aims to make the enlargement process more credible, predictable, dynamic and subject to stronger political steering. It aims to reinvigorate the accession process and make it more effective, enhancing credibility and trust on both sides. The conditions to join the EU are set out in the Treaty on European Union and by the Copenhagen criteria, which are very clear, and do not change.

The revised enlargement methodology builds on four main principles

- *Credibility*: Candidate countries need to deliver on the reforms they promised, and EU needs to deliver when they do.
- *Stronger political steer*: Engaging with the candidates at top level through regular summits and ministerial meetings. Member States involved more strongly and have better opportunities to monitor and review the process.
- *A more dynamic process*: Clustering chapters should allow for more thorough political discussions on thematic areas and to identify opportunities for early alignment and integration into EU policies. The cluster on fundamentals (rule of law, economic criteria, functioning of democratic institutions, public administration reform) take a central role and thus sufficient progress need to be achieved before other clusters can be opened.
- *Predictability for both sides*: Defining more clearly the conditions for candidate countries. Providing them with clear incentives if key reforms successfully implemented – closer integration of the country with the European Union.
- *Clear incentives*: supporting solid and accelerated economic development and tangible benefits for citizens in order to provide the environment that allows for the substantial reforms needed, e.g. increased investment opportunities, work for accelerated integration and “phasing-in” to individual EU policies, the EU markets and EU programmes, while ensuring a level playing field and strengthened regional integration.
- *More decisive measures sanctioning any serious or prolonged stagnation or even backsliding*: from slowing down negotiations, to adjusting funding and withdrawing benefits of closer integration.

Rule of law has become even more central to the accession negotiations, through a stronger focus on fundamentals – functioning democratic institutions, public administration reform and economic reforms. Progress on the fundamental reforms will determine the overall pace of negotiations.

Functioning of democratic institutions

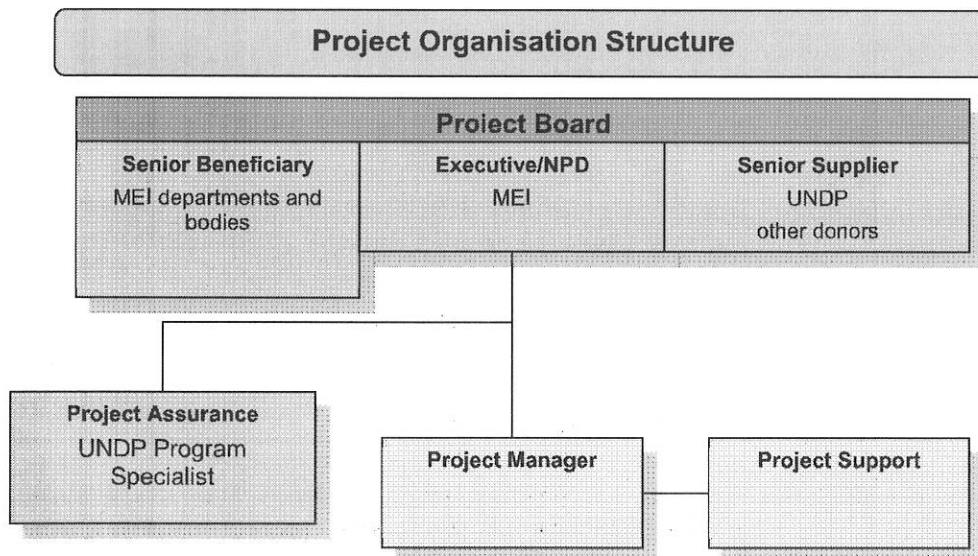
The functioning of democratic institutions is now a pillar of the so-called Fundamentals cluster. It is one of the main novelties in the 2020 enhanced methodology. However, the relevance of democracy is not new. Copenhagen political criteria stipulate that “membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities. Membership presupposes the candidate’s ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union”

Countries negotiating membership in the EU now must prepare and adopt a **roadmap for the functioning of democratic institutions**, on which the Commission provides guidance. The methodology to prepare the Roadmap is agreed between the Commission and a candidate country. This roadmap should be developed

through a transparent process of meaningful consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society. It will set out the general commitments of the country for reforms in the respective areas with a clear timetable and the key steps envisaged. Implementation of this roadmap will be constantly monitored and regularly addressed at the Intergovernmental conferences throughout the process.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Project Board will be formed with representatives of will be executed under the **National Execution Modality** with UNDP support services as required.



The **Project Board** is the group responsible for making by consensus management decisions for a project when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendation for approval of project plans and revisions. Project Board decisions should be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure best value to money, fairness, integrity transparency and effective international competition. Project reviews by this group will be made semi-annually, or as necessary when requested by the Project Manager. This group is consulted by the Project Manager for decisions when time, budget and quality tolerances are likely to be exceeded. It ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems between the project and external bodies. Should additional donor resources be mobilized in the course of the initiation plan, representatives of donors will be included in the Project Board as well.

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member, but is usually delegated. In this case, UNDP Programme Officer will perform the project assurance role. UNDP Programme Officer will support the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions thus ensuring that appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

The **Project Manager** has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Board within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

The **Project Support** role provides project administration, management and technical and financial support to the Project Manager.

All deliverables produced during the project term, will bear the **donor and UNDP logo** and, where appropriate, the standard **UNDP disclaimer**.

III. MONITORING

The project will be monitored in accordance with UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), corporate standards and requirements.

IV. WORK PLAN

Period¹: 12 months

EXPECTED OUTPUTS And baseline, indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List activity results and associated actions	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1 Roadmap for functioning democratic institutions prepared									
Baseline: no roadmap in place Indicators: 1. Roadmap developed (yes/no) 2. Number of stakeholders involved in the consultative process 3. Roadmap budget developed	1. Activity Result: Database of the EU Acquis in the area of functioning democratic institutions and baseline analysis Engagement of project team and consultants	x	x			UNDP	Government	National consultants	\$7,750.00
Targets: 1. yes 2. 300 3. 2	2. Activity Result: quality assurance and backstopping	x	x			UNDP	Government	Policy Advise & Backstopping	\$775.00
Subtotal Direct Project Costs									\$8,525.00
GMS 3%									\$255.75
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS									\$8,780.75

¹ Maximum 18 months