

**The Role of Civil Society in the EU Accession  
Negotiation Process: learning exchange  
between CSOs from Montenegro and Serbia  
with CSOs from Albania and North Macedonia**  
*30th and 31st of March, 2023, Tirana, Albania*

**Obren Tijanić**, Independent Advisor III, Directorate for  
Alignment with EU Acquis

**Ivana Čvorović**, Chief of Division for Coordination and  
Planning of Translation Process, Directorate for the  
Preparation of the Montenegrin Version of the Acquis

NGO and civil society representatives formally and legally involved in the work of:

- Negotiating structure – negotiating working groups for chapters of the Acquis
- Rule of Law Council
- Joint Consultative Committee between Montenegro and the EU (representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Union of Employers and two trade union associations, representatives of two NGOs from Montenegro)




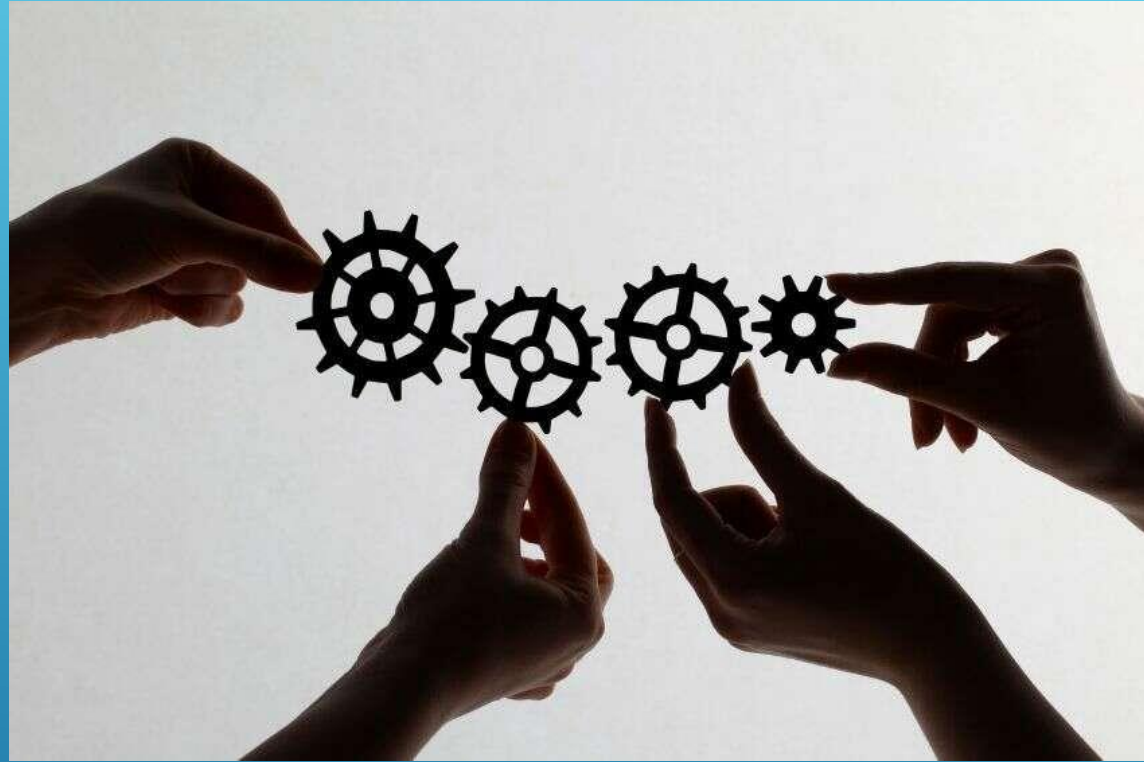
## Legal base for their involvement:

Decree on election of representatives of non-governmental organizations in working bodies of state administration authorities and conducting public discussions related to preparation of laws and strategies (adopted in 2018)



*All members of working groups have the same status, as determined by the Rules of Procedure of working groups, which is adopted by all members of working groups, and therefore there is no difference between members who come from state administration bodies and CSOs*

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## Law on Free Access to Information

- more efficient access to information
- better monitoring of the work of the state administration
- better reporting
- proactive access to information
- applicant cannot be charged costs for information whose publication is mandatory according to law

Open Data Directive (32019L1024)

Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (32001R1049)



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## IPA III Perspective

- 2021-2023 Civil Society and Media Instrument programme:

EUR 93.75 million allocated for the Western Balkan countries and Turkey;

- Project Strengthening Civil Society to Support Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Montenegro (January 2023-June 2025)



Project Strengthening Civil Society to Support Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Montenegro (January 2023-June 2025)

- youth employment
- strengthening digital skills
- non-formal education and vocational training
- local participation of young people in dialogue on important issues
- support to development of small businesses and cultural and tourism initiatives







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