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EU Empower ME

EU Support to Enhance Montenegro's Capacity for Accession and Reforms Implementation

Context

Montenegro has made important strides on its path to EU membership, with all negotiation chapters opened and several provisionally closed. However, the process of closing chapters, and ultimately joining the EU, remains **highly demanding and complex**. It requires continuous progress in aligning with the EU acquis and delivering tangible reform results across multiple sectors.

Despite the political commitment and positive steps forward, **the country continues to face several structural challenges**. The limited capacity of public administration, particularly in terms of expertise and coordination, slows down the pace and affects the quality of reform implementation. The process of closing chapters requires not just adopting EU laws but also having strong institutions to apply and monitor them. These tasks place **high demands on ministries and agencies**, which often lack the necessary resources and support. In parallel, the new EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans offers

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a unique opportunity for financial and technical support. However, to fully benefit from this initiative, Montenegro must demonstrate **progress on its Reform Agenda** and **strengthen coordination mechanisms** across sectors. This calls for a focused, long-term approach that ensures all relevant institutions are aligned and equipped to meet the obligations of EU membership.

Implemented by

Action's Objective

The purpose of this Action is to **support Montenegro in successfully progressing toward EU membership**. Specifically, it focuses on helping the government build the skills and systems needed to meet EU requirements, including aligning laws and carrying out key reforms effectively.



Our Approach

To support Montenegro's progress toward EU membership, the Action opted for an approach that combines **strategic advice, technical expertise, and capacity building**. This is delivered through two core measures:

The first measure is designed to **reinforce strategic decision-making within the Government of Montenegro**. High-level advisors are deployed to support the line ministries and other institutions. These advisors provide guidance on policy alignment and reform direction while working closely with institutional leadership. In addition, the Action supports the fulfilment of closing benchmarks as well as organization of regional and high-level events,

enabling constructive dialogue between national leaders, EU representatives, and other partners. These activities reinforce Montenegro's leadership capacity and its ability to manage the EU accession process effectively.

The second measure focuses on **strengthening the technical capacities of public institutions to meet EU requirements**. A detailed technical needs assessment identifies reform gaps across negotiation chapters, followed by deployment of national and international experts. These experts offer hands-on support, assistance, coaching, and knowledge transfer. The Action also helps improve coordination among institutions by supporting regular communication and joint planning between the Ministry of European Affairs and other government bodies.



Together, these measures support Montenegro's preparation for EU integration by strengthening both its institutional leadership and technical capacities, **ensuring that Montenegro is well-positioned for the final stage of EU accession**.

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