

UPGRADING MONTENEGRO'S MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE WITH VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (VTMIS II) & NATIONAL MARITIME SINGLE WINDOWS (NMSW)

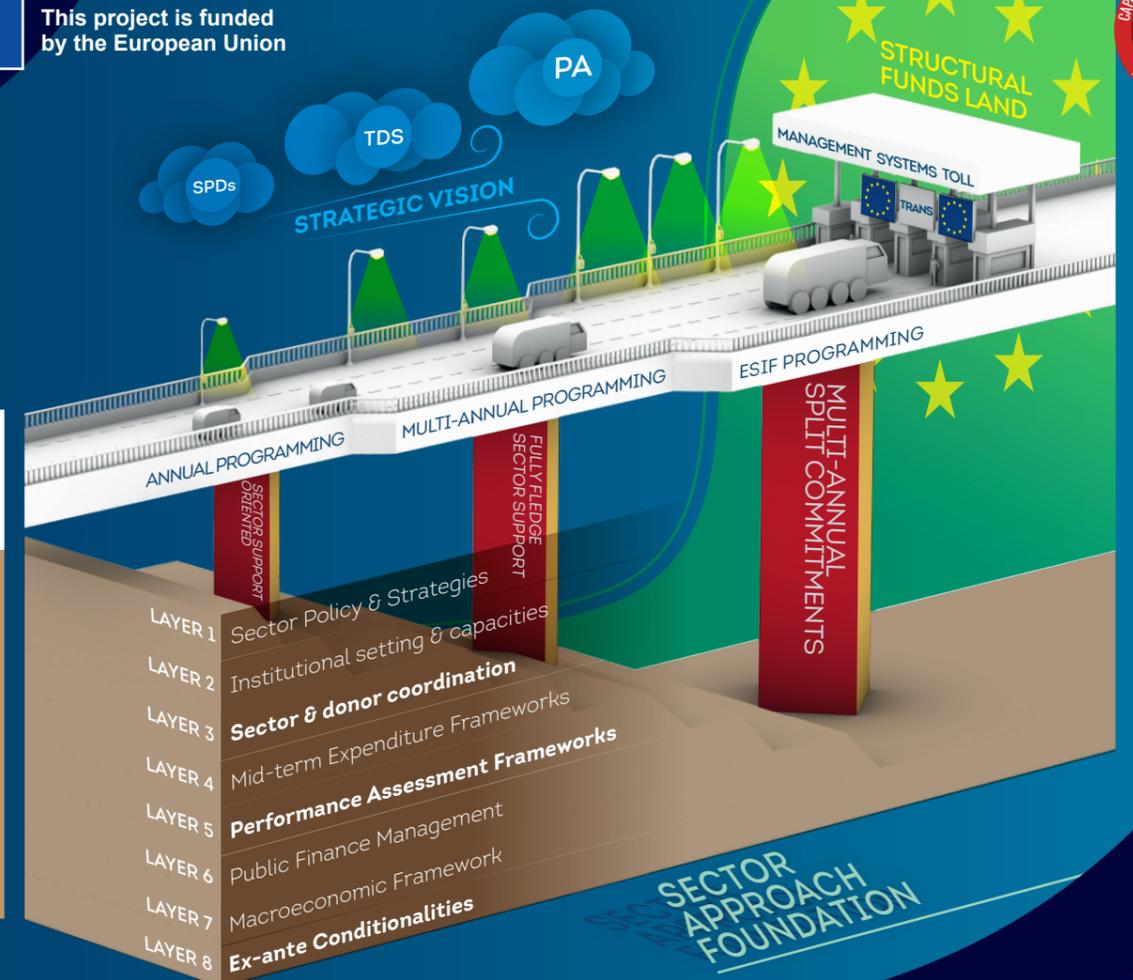
SUCCESS STORY (3/3)



- PROBLEM:** Montenegro's existing maritime traffic management system was both outdated and inadequate, compromising the safety and efficiency of operations in the Adriatic Sea. Concurrently, the country's maritime administration system was fragmented and inefficient, hindering maritime trade and inflating business costs.
- SOLUTION:**
 - VTMIS II Project:** Implement a modern system featuring real-time tracking, AIS data integration, and incident management capabilities.
 - NMSW Project:** Establish a unified platform to streamline maritime administration procedures, reducing business costs and bolstering competitiveness.
- IMPLEMENTATION:**
 - VTMIS II Project:** Successfully navigated through obstacles to achieve a pass on the factory acceptance test (FAT), equipment ready for installation.
 - NMSW Project:** Finalized the analysis and design phases, currently procuring and installing necessary equipment as part of the implementation phase.
- FUTURE STEPS:**
 - VTMIS II:** To obtain environmental approval, initiate civil works, install and test equipment.
 - NMSW:** Finalize system setup, train users, monitor and fine-tune system performance.
- OUTCOME:** The VTMIS II Project elevates maritime safety, environmental protection, and vessel traffic management efficiency while mitigating accident risks. Simultaneously, the NMSW Project decreases business costs, amplifies competitiveness, and enhances maritime administration. Collectively, these initiatives significantly contribute to the sustainable development of Montenegro's maritime industry.

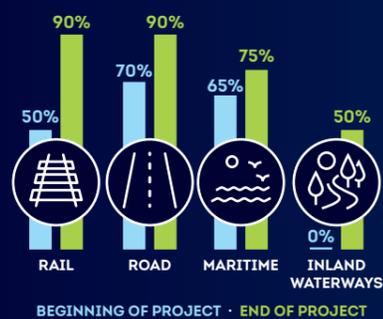


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VISUALIZING PROGRESS

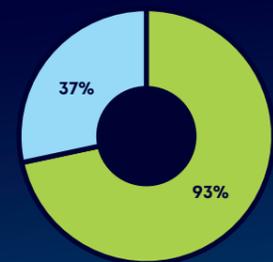
A GRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATION OF MONTENEGRO'S TRANSPORT SECTOR



STATISTICS COMPARING THE PERCENTAGE OF TRANSPOSITION OF EU ACQUIS INTO THE MONTENEGRIN LEGAL SYSTEM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TA PROJECT VS. AT THE END OF THE TA PROJECT



RESULTS OF EVALUATIONS FROM TRAINING/WORKSHOPS ON A SCALE 1-5, WHERE 1 IS LOWEST SCORE AND 5 HIGHEST SCORE



COMPARISON OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ON THE TOPIC OF THE TRAINING CONDUCTED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOW AN INCREASE OF 56%

CONTACT DETAILS

GOPA Partners in Action for Change and Engagement (GOPA PACE)

Boulevard de la Woluwe 2, 1150, Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel. +32 2 89767 00 | info@gopa-pace.com



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DRIVING MONTENEGRO TO THE EU SUCCESS

TRANSPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT AS A MEANS OF FACILITATING MONTENEGRO'S FUTURE EU MEMBERSHIP

WHAT WE PRESENT TO YOU

Our project, the "Technical Assistance for Capacity Support to the Transport Sector and EU Acquis Alignment in Montenegro," began on 9/12/2019 and is scheduled to conclude on 9/12/2023. The primary beneficiaries are the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs (MTMA), Capital Projects Administration (CPA) and the Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro (RIOM).

The overall objective of this project is to facilitate progress in the Montenegrin transport sector's EU integration process by aligning the national legislation with the EU transport *acquis* and enhancing the capacities for its implementation.

The purpose of this Technical Assistance (TA) is to accelerate Montenegro's integration into the EU within the transport sector. This will be achieved by harmonizing national legislation with the EU transport *acquis* and strengthening the Montenegrin transport administration. Specifically, the TA aims to assist the Beneficiaries with formulating the national legislation and strategies in alignment with the EU *acquis* for Transport, while enhancing the planning and management capabilities of institutions responsible for executing transport policies.



WHAT WERE THE KEY RESULTS

RESULT 1

ALIGNMENT OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION WITH THE EU TRANSPORT ACQUIS ENSURED

Aligning Montenegro's transport legislation with the European Union laws unlocks a plethora of benefits for our citizens and businesses. It paves the way for the implementation of modern standards, thereby catalyzing the evolution of integrated, high-quality transport networks. This alignment fuels fair competition, cultivating an environment ripe for business growth and innovation. It guarantees the citizens dependable and superior quality transportation services. More significantly, it creates opportunities for job creation and bolsters connectivity within Europe, thereby encouraging personal, educational and professional mobility.

WHY ALIGNING MONTENEGRO'S TRANSPORT SECTOR WITH THE EU ACQUIS IS IMPORTANT?

- 1 Harmonized transport legislation and high-performing institutions are key to enhanced transport performance and efficient mobility.
- 2 The EU *acquis* harmonization guarantees improved safety, efficiency and sustainability within the transport sector.
- 3 The EU *acquis* alignment integrates modern standards, fostering the growth of integrated, high-quality transport networks. The EU support bolsters connectivity and propels economic development in Montenegro.
- 4 The alignment with the EU transport *acquis* guarantees high-quality, reliable transport services and safeguarding passenger rights for our citizens.
- 5 Harmonizing Montenegro's transport sector with the EU *acquis* bolsters environmental protection, stimulates fair competition and business innovation and also enables job creation and enhanced connectivity.

OUTPUTS RESULT 1

- **ROAD TRANSPORT EU ACQUIS TRANSPOSED:** Tachographs, driving and resting times of drivers, public service obligation and passenger rights, Transport of the dangerous goods, the Mobility Package, Access to the market, Access to the profession, Vehicles' weights and dimensions, the Roadworthiness Package, Technical harmonization of motor vehicles (e.g. tractors, motorcycles, quadricycles...).
- **ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE EU ACQUIS TRANSPOSED:** ITS, Technical requirements for roads, including technical conditions for the design and construction of bus stop, determining and marking school zones and measures for improving the safety of children in school zones, traffic regulation in the zone of works on the road and conditions that must be met by roads from the aspect of road safety.
- **INLAND NAVIGATION EU ACQUIS TRANSPOSED:** Draft Inland Navigation Law.
- **MARITIME EU ACQUIS TRANSPOSED:** Law on Ports, Law on fight against the sea pollution, Maritime Single Window, VTMIS, Recognized Organizations, Maritime accident investigation, Surveys and inspections.
- **RAILWAY EU ACQUIS TRANSPOSED:** Draft Railway Law, Draft Railway Safety and Interoperability Law, Public service obligation and passenger rights in railway transport, State aid.

SUCCESS STORY

FACILITATING THE EU ACQUIS ALIGNMENT IN MONTENEGRO'S TRANSPORT SECTOR

- **PROBLEM:** Our Technical Assistance (TA) Team's gap assessment identified incomplete EU *acquis* transposition into Montenegro's transport sector legislation.
- **SOLUTION:** An in-depth gap analysis led to prioritized transposition topics, supplemented with trainings, workshops and study visits to the EU Member States.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Comprehensive support encompassed legislation analysis, act drafting and practical on-the-job training.
- **FUTURE STEPS:** The Beneficiaries should prioritize adopting and implementing the newly drafted laws and rulebooks. Further trainings and workshops will be needed particularly in road transport enforcement. Other critical steps include personnel retention and designing programmes that would allow to train and retain new staff in the transport sector, for example through fostering closer cooperation between the University of Montenegro and the transport sector.
- **OUTCOME:** The TA project significantly boosted institutional capacity, achieving up to 90% transposition rate in transport sector, making Montenegro a frontrunner in the Western Balkans' EU *acquis* harmonization process.



RESULT 2

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES THROUGH SECTOR APPROACH METHODOLOGY

Capacity strengthening played a pivotal role in our project, particularly as we navigated future programming and the strategic utilization of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds.

A robust administrative and institutional capacity development support provided through the TA was crucial in ensuring the current and future financial aid received is strategically and efficiently allocated for maximum impact. Furthermore, the capacity-strengthening activities had a ripple effect, strengthening the fabric of the institutional structures. These activities equipped the Beneficiaries with the necessary skills to navigate and adapt to evolving transport policy landscapes. In addition, it enhanced the ability of the beneficiary institutions to strategically plan, manage, and control complex projects. As we look towards the future, the capacity-strengthening activities implemented as a part of this project will continue to serve as a foundation for sustainable growth and development in Montenegro.

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- In the scope of the project, we conducted 52 comprehensive training sessions for approximately 900 personnel from the Montenegrin transport administration, complemented by numerous workshops and two enriching study visits to the EU countries. Our capacity-building strategy integrated personalized mentoring, on-the-job support, and individual and group coaching.

SUCCESS STORY (1/3)

ENHANCING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING PROCESSES THROUGH THE CAPACITY BUILDING

- **PROBLEM:** Our gap assessment identified a lack of experience and knowledge in ex-post control of public procurement and irregularity identification.
- **SOLUTION:** We designed a training program with practical case studies, focusing on enhancing understanding of ex-post control, irregularity management and proper reporting within the AFIS-IMS system.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Beneficiaries received a practical on-job training, discussing real cases and potential solutions, with an emphasis on quality control methods, such as the '4-eye principle verification'.
- **FUTURE STEPS:** To sustain the benefits gained from this project, the Beneficiaries need to continuously disseminate and upgrade the experience gained, establish a proper retention and motivation policy that reduces the turnover of experienced staff.
- **OUTCOME:** These activities significantly enhanced the efficiency of the Beneficiary institutions, providing better conditions for Montenegro's overall development and increased absorption of the EU funds.



SUCCESS STORY (2/3)

RAILWAY INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- **PROBLEM:** The current condition of Montenegro's railway system revealed significant gaps and a lack of alignment with the EU standards, hampering efficient functionality and preparation for the EU membership. The analysis showed a discrepancy between the planned activities and their realization, in need of reform.
- **SOLUTION:** We proposed strategic enhancements to the railway's institutional framework and emphasized the need to align Montenegro's Railway Transport sector with the Transport Community Treaty's Annex I.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** A comprehensive evaluation of each railway company's activities, organizational capacity, budget, revenues and financial status was conducted. A SWOT analysis for each company was performed. The transposition and implementation of the EU legal acts were identified as a key reform area.
- **FUTURE STEPS:** Two crucial legislative proposals—the draft Law on Railways and the draft Law on Railway Safety and Interoperability—are in the final stages of approval, with the adoption planned for 2024.
- **OUTCOME:** The project laid the foundation for improving the efficiency of Montenegro's railways, preparing them for the future EU membership.

