



National Convention on the European Union

FOSTERING DIALOGUE SINCE 2006.

National Convention on the EU (NCEU) is the largest organized EU supporter in Serbia. NCEU is a comprehensive platform of civil society organisations, strongly advocating for the accession of Serbia to the EU. At the same time, we are raising awareness on the benefits of Serbia becoming a member state of the EU. This unique platform is closely monitoring the EU accession process and advocating for European values in Serbia since 2006.

NCEU as a unique and organic civil society platform made the EU integration process more transparent and responsive to the needs of the society.

NCEU gathers more than 750 CSOs (NGOs, trade unions, representatives of the academia, the media, business associations, etc.) with relevant experience in addressing issues from all the 35 negotiation chapters. So far we established 25 working groups covering all the chapters, while some of the working groups follow multiple chapters. Additionally, we recognized the need to follow cross-cutting issues steaming from the negotiation chapters which is why five multisectorial working groups were established.

HISTORY

From 2006 to 2012, six working groups followed the negotiation and implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (Political criteria and domestic institutions, Regional cooperation, Justice, freedom and security, Capital and services, Goods, Agriculture). Working groups gathered civil society organizations and conducted a dialogue with representatives of the government and parliament on obstacles and problems on the path of Serbia's integration into the EU.

From 2014 onward, the structure of the National Convention changed to follow the negotiation process in all 35 negotiating chapters. Later, National Convention formed five cross-sectoral working groups in charge of monitoring the negotiation process in multisectorial areas of importance (Freedom of expression and media, Political criteria, Berlin process, Economic reform program, the cross-sectoral working group on sustainable development).

Since the very beginning, the dialogue has been based on discussions between working groups and government representatives. Based on such structured dialogue, recommendations are formulated for the improvement of government policies in certain areas.

National Convention is part of regular procedures in the most important aspects of the EU accession process. The procedures enforced by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the National Assembly, guarantee that National Convention is included in evaluating and assessing the quality of the negotiation positions for each negotiation chapter. Also, procedures oblige the Ministries in charge of technically guiding the negotiation process in each chapter, to involve the representatives of the National Convention in all the relevant activities. Additionally, when it comes to assessing and commenting on the action plans for different chapters, our contributions have been recognized both by the national authorities and the EU institutions.

In the year 2018, the National Convention was registered as an independent organization.

≡ 2006 to 2012 ≡

 **6 WORKING GROUPS**

≡≡≡ 2021 ≡≡≡

25 WORKING GROUPS
&
5 CROSS-SECTORAL WORKING GROUPS

 **35**
NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Enable dialogue between the representatives of the Government and the civil society in the negotiation process;
- Support Serbia's accession to the EU;
- Actively support and contribute to improving the negotiation position of Serbia through recommendations;
- Advocate for broad consensus on the importance of Serbia's accession to the EU;
- Inform the public on all aspects of membership in the EU, both benefits and costs;
- Keep the public and the media informed about the European integration process;



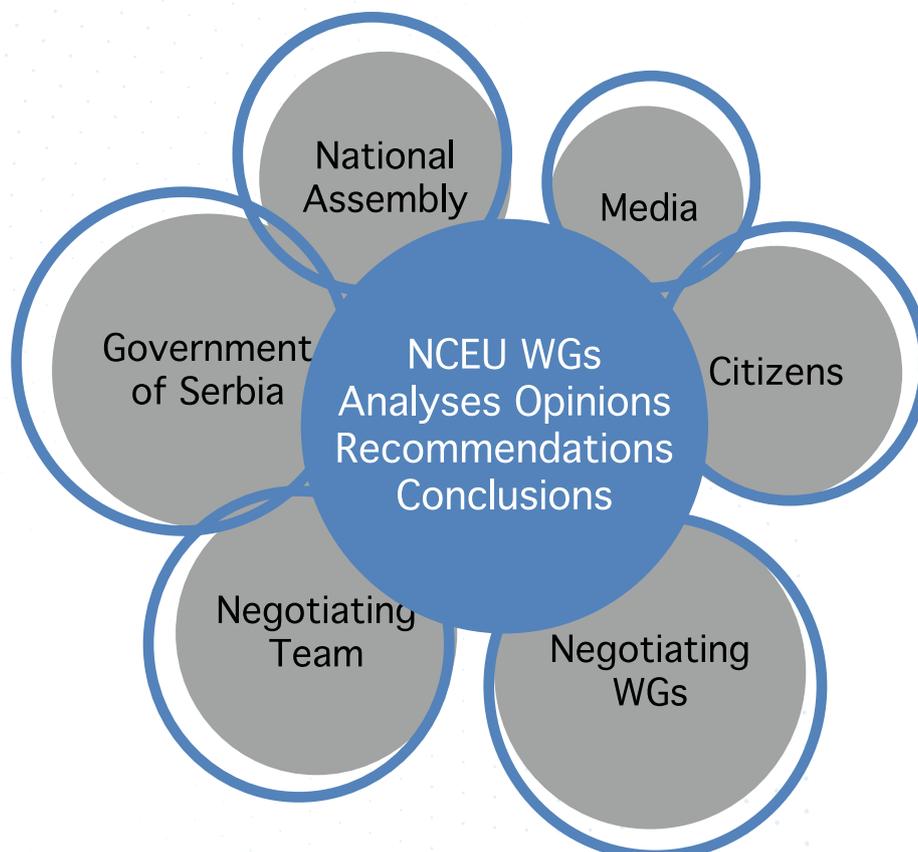
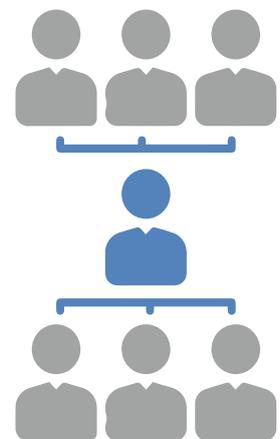
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Program Council gathers representatives of civil society who coordinate the work of the working groups.

Working groups gather civil society organizations with relevant expertise in particular negotiation chapters.

Cross-sectoral working groups follow and evaluate the progress in different areas of importance to improve democracy and society's modernization.

Secretariat provides administrative, logistic and technical assistance to the Program Council and working groups.



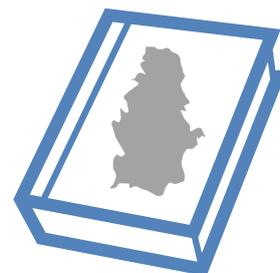
EVENTS

Each of the working groups holds at least two regular meetings per year. More than 250 working group meetings were held in the period 2014-2020. Additionally, two plenary sessions are held every year, aiming to gather all stakeholders in the negotiation process and present the recommendations prepared by the Working groups.

250
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

THE BOOK OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Book of Recommendations is a unique and invaluable tool for all the actors in the EU accession process because it offers a track record of all the recommendations our members ever gave on different chapters. Through the Book of Recommendations, NCEU and the interested public can easily observe and measure what changes have been made and where Government needs to keep working. Ever since the establishment of the Convention in 2006, working groups have regularly prepared the recommendations for each chapter they followed.



RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED

The number of accepted recommendations of the civil society organizations by the Government in charge of the EU negotiation process has been increased by 20% on average, in 2019.

About 75% of recommendations made by the Cross-sectoral Working Group for the ERP (Economic Reform Programme) have been accepted by the Ministry of Finance and have been presented to the European Commission as an Annex.

75%
✓



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