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ANALYTICAL SUPPORT TO THE EU NEGOTIATION

- The role of research community-

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Analytical support

- What is analytical support
 - Basis for creating data based policies
 - A mean to understand facts and events from the past
 - Support for assessing the impact of improving public policies
- Why is it necessary?
 - To identify potential problems in the process of negotiating and introducing EU acquis into the legal system of Serbia
 - To facilitate the preparation of analytical documents for the needs of negotiations
 - To ensure that the documents are accurate, precise and timely prepared
- Who needs it
 - Negotiating team
 - Ministry of European Integration
 - Wider audience

Identified issues

- The EU accession negotiation structure in Serbia is acting separately from the national planning system.
- The process for adopting the EU acquis is conducted without a systematic comparison of the coherency between the national and the EU priorities.
- Serbia lacks a system for the development of policy options and their impact assessments in order to identify the most sustainable option for Serbia.
- Capacities are lacking for analytical support.

Project goals

- *Analysing the position of analytical support in the EU negotiations and defining future framework of work*
- *Specific objectives*
- *Review of relevant documents and projects*
- *Raising awareness of the importance of the Analytical Support System*
- *Inclusion of the Ministry of Education, Science and TR in the system of analytical support*
- *Forming an expert team for support – individuals and institutions*

Activities

1. *Research activities* and producing a Comprehensive review.
2. Field research
 - ☐ Interviews with relevant actors
 - ☐ Focus group with a research community
 - ☐ Panel conference for wider audience
3. Policy Brief and Power Point Presentations on the basis of the Comprehensive review.
4. Drafting a framework for system support
 - ☐ Support MEI (SEIO)
 - ☐ Support of the Negotiating Team
 - ☐ Support to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

The research process



Comprehensive review

- The methodology of the Report is based on a qualitative approach, where data was collected through desk and field research.
- The research was initiated with the review and analysis of available documentation, national strategies, public policies, and legal acts that regulate the field of EU integrations and analytical support. Review of related documents of selected countries was conducted and is to be used in a form of the best practices.
- Along with the desk analysis, interviews and focus group with relevant civil servants were held. The aim of interviews was to collect information, a detailed description and a deeper understanding of the problems and limitations, as well as possible solutions and improvements in the analytical support system.

Comprehensive review

- content

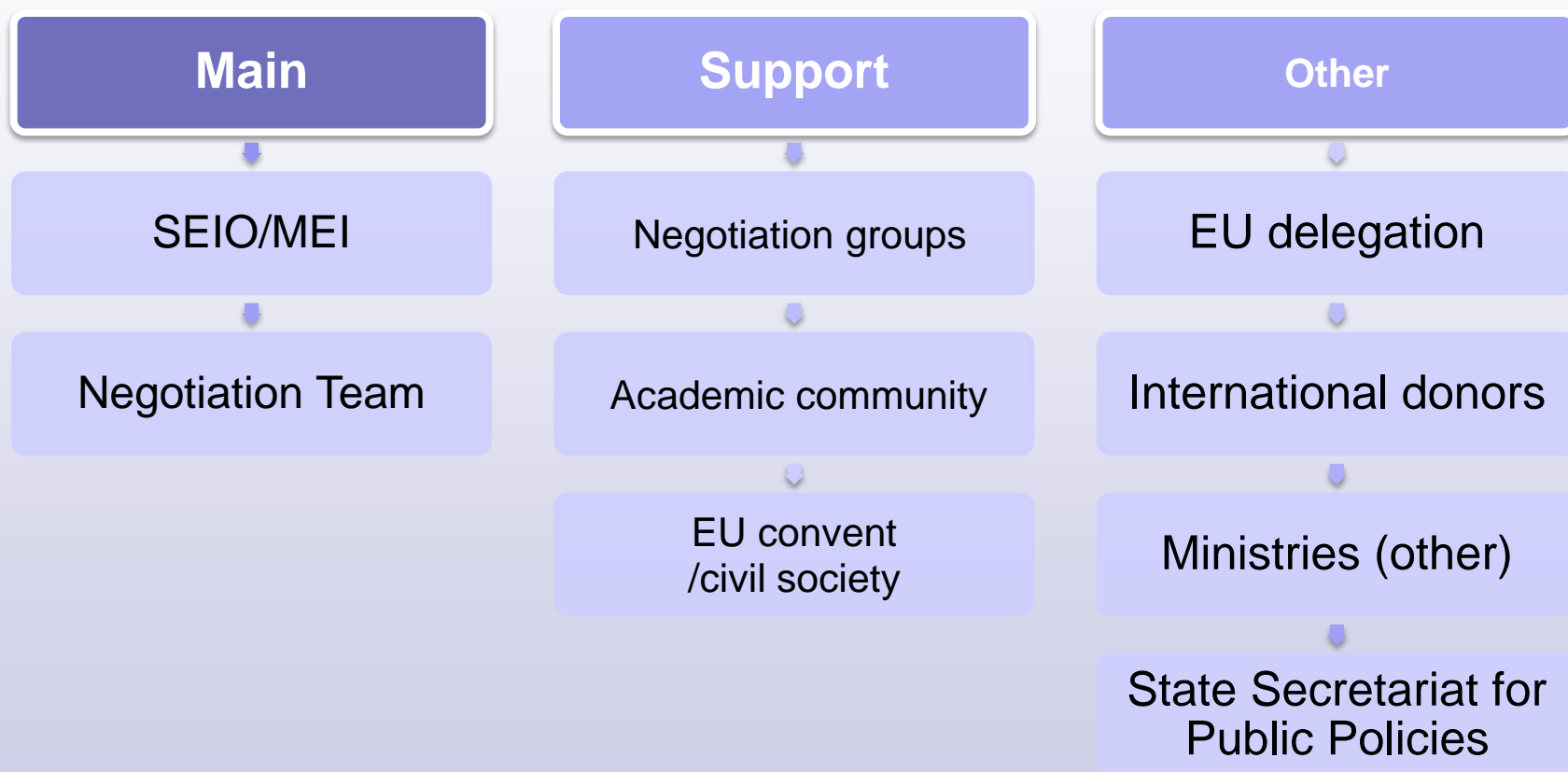


1. Research methodology, the process of European integrations and the function of analytical support, system of policy analysis in the context of ongoing processes of EU integrations
2. Strategic and regulatory framework (Approximation, Negotiation, Policy coordination, Programming documents, Specific documents sector related to the sector of science and research)
3. Review of pilot activities to analytical support system
4. Brief description of other projects related to the analytical support
5. The role of academic community in the process of analytical support
6. Mapping formal institutional settings for analytical support
7. Recommendations

Field research

- More than 30 individual interviews
- Group interviews were held on two occasions. The goal of group interviews was to gain information from direct participants in the negotiation process on their experiences in using analytical support system.
 - SEIO employees
 - Members of the CNT and secretaries of the NG
- Focus group with an aim to assess the opinion from potential actors in future system for analytical support on how they see the function of MESTD and academic community
 - Academic community

Who did we talked to



Recommendations

- General recommendations to the process:
- MEI (SEIO) has a key role in coordinating and supporting the Government during the EU accession process. It is highly recommended to create **a flexible Department/Unit for Strategic Support** for EU accession negotiation that would create a core for analytical support.
- It is necessary to introduce **centralized system of document management (IT tool)** that could facilitate the process of communication and coordination between MEI (SEIO), Core Negotiation Team and Negotiation Groups and make it more efficient. Beside the system for document management, the Platform should include a database of existing studies and data base of local experts.
- Recommendations for defining/improving connections with the academic community:
- It is necessary to establish an **institutional and legal framework** supporting involvement academic community.
- **Raise awareness** among academic community about the possibilities to get involved in the process of EU integration.
- Establish a **Centre of Excellence** for analytical support
- Establish joint **Fund for Analytical Support** (FAS) by MEST and the MEI (SEIO)
- Make system of analytical support **flexible** in such a way for it could be further enlarged by introducing other interested Ministries.

Challenges

- Changes occurred in the governmental structure - Law on Amendments to the Law on Ministries
- Main beneficiary changed, SEIO → Ministry of European Integration
- Low level of interest from the main stakeholders
- Short period of time
- Low awareness and response from academic community

Q/A



■ Your experience...