



August 5, 2016

Dr. Vujica Lazovic
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications
Government of Montenegro

Dear Minister Lazovic,

The Support Unit welcomes the Government of Montenegro's continued participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now includes 70 countries that are implementing ambitious commitments to promote transparency, public accountability, civic participation and innovation.

As you are most likely aware, your country's 2016-18 National Action Plan was due on July 1, 2016, and is now therefore more than a month late. This is the third consecutive year in which Montenegro has not submitted an Action Plan to the Support Unit on time. Montenegro is currently under review by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee.

Montenegro's first Action Plan was a strong foundation with concrete examples of open government commitments. Four commitments in the 2012-13 action plan were recognized as 'starred commitments' by the Independent Reporting Mechanism for demonstrated relevance to OGP values, high potential impact and a substantial degree of completion. Additionally, Montenegro's commitment to creating a fairer business environment by engaging citizens in reporting unregulated economic activity was honored at the 2014 United Nations General Assembly with the second place prize in the Open Government Awards.

At a regional exchange of Western Balkans countries in Belgrade this past May, a representative of your government presented a draft Action Plan which we understand was developed with civil society and addresses a number of key open government areas. Finalizing this plan together with representatives of Montenegrin civil society would demonstrate a serious commitment to move Montenegro forward towards a more transparent, accountable and participatory future. As your country continues on the process of European Union accession, I encourage you to look towards your neighbor Croatia which has used open government reforms to complete the EU accession process. OGP can be a tool to help Montenegro complete its own process of joining the EU.

I strongly encourage you to work with your colleagues in government and civil society and finalize the Action Plan so that Montenegro can once again show leadership on the issue of open government. We are looking forward to seeing you at the OGP Global Summit in Paris December 7-9 2016, where you can

showcase your Action Plan and exchange ideas with other governments from the open government community.

Thank you again for your continued participation in the Open Government Partnership, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Pradhan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" that loops around the first part of the name.

Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership

cc: Srdjan Kusovac, Head of the Public Relations Bureau and Advisor to the Prime Minister, Government of Montenegro