



ATLANTIC COUNCIL  
OF MONTENEGRO

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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# IMPRESSUM

## Atlantic Council of Montenegro

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PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends of the Atlantic Council,

Taking into account all the activities organized, as well as the progress made by our organization, with great pride I announce that 2016 was more than a successful year for the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. Following the trends from the previous years, we have sustained our long-term partnerships and, together with them, successfully implemented numerous activities. The people from the Atlantic Council of Montenegro have continued to be devoted to the idea of Euro-Atlanticism and their perseverance in carrying out various projects and in promoting the idea of NATO Integration was more evident than ever.

The year 2016 was remarkable both for the Atlantic Council of Montenegro and for Montenegro itself. It was a year of celebration. Having been founded in 2006, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro has come a long way and its progress has been pointed out and reflected upon at the celebration of its 10 year anniversary in December. Additionally, Montenegro was also celebrating 10 years of its renewed independence and its development during these years has been manifested through the ever-closer NATO membership Montenegro has been striving to get. Year after year, Montenegro is becoming more important and it is starting to play a more noteworthy role on the international scene. With this role comes more responsibility.

And Montenegro is ready for that responsibility. It has been ready for a while and now it has a chance to prove its readiness, as well as its commitment to the idea of NATO Integration.

Bearing in mind the above-mentioned, we must be aware that there is a lot more to be done and further domestic reforms to be pursued. With the ratification of the Protocol coming to a close, Montenegro's preparations for the membership are all the more intense and the people in ACM are increasingly hardworking and diligent. Expectations and hopes that this process will end by spring 2017 are rather high, which is why we are looking forward to this new year. Hopefully, it will be a year of notable success and major changes for the better, changes which will ensure a more secure future of Montenegro and lead to the stabilization of the region.

There is a significant year ahead of us and we are optimistic that the 7th "To Be Secure" Forum, organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro on 11-13 May, will be remembered as our first Forum in Montenegro as a full-fledged member of NATO. I would also like to use this opportunity to show my sincere appreciation to all of our partners and employees for all the hard work done and the outstanding results achieved in 2016, as well as to express hopes that the years ahead of us will be more fruitful and more prolific.

# ABOUT

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro (ACM) was founded in 2006 and since then it has been a preeminent institution devoted to promoting Euro-Atlantic values and international security. The Atlantic Council of Montenegro was admitted into membership of the Atlantic Treaty Association at the General Assembly held in Athens in 2006.

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century.

The Atlantic Council stimulates dialogues and discussions on critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate and promoting consensus on appropriate responses in the Government, the corporate and non-profit sectors, and the media in Montenegro and among the leaders in Europe and the USA. At the same time, important contributions by the Atlantic Council include identifying and shaping responses to major issues facing NATO and transatlantic relations, as well as building consensus among political parties towards NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The objective of the Atlantic Council is to actively shape the security and international policy discourse in Europe and beyond by fostering dynamic involvement of Montenegro and South East Europe Region in international affairs. The Atlantic Council is the main organizer of the To Be Secure (2BS) Forum, the largest politico-security conference in South East Europe.

# MISSION AND GOALS

**Vision:** Ensuring Montenegro's full membership into NATO as well as the EU.

**Mission:** The Atlantic Council of Montenegro is engaged in implementing all the necessary measures and activities, including lobbying, educational programs and security sector reform, influencing decision makers, as well as academic community which will lead to the overall social level changes that are required for Montenegro's full membership into NATO and the EU.

Besides this, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro aims to:

- stimulate dialogue and discussion about critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate
- conduct educational and exchange programs for successor generations of Montenegro leaders so that they have the knowledge and understanding necessary to develop effective policies
- engage students from across the Euro-Atlantic area in the processes of NATO transformation and enlargement

## GOALS

- Raising public awareness on NATO and Euro-Atlantic ideas and values
- Emphasizing the role and the importance of small countries, such as Montenegro, which can be a place for debates and discussions on global issues
- Promoting Euro-Atlantic integration in Montenegro and within the region
- Improving the collective security system
- Strengthening regional cooperation
- Conducting youth educational and exchange programs

# ACTIVITIES

## MARCH 31, 2016 – YATA VISITS THE INSTITUTION FOR EXECUTION OF CRIMINAL SANCTIONS (ZIKS)

Members of YATA Montenegro visited the Institution for Execution of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS) on March 31, 2016. The visit was opened with the presentation of the Chief of the ZIKS Education Centre, Milan Radović. During the presentation the YATA members learned about the organization of ZIKS, the number of prisoners, the protection of human rights, as well as alternative punishments, such as: house arrest and community service work. After the presentation, Chief Radović showed them the premises of



ZIKS, including a pavilion for female prison inmates, workshops in which prisoners are engaged, a pavilion for men inmates and the new kitchen which will soon start functioning. The YATA members were assured that the reforms our country is conducting down this euro-atlantic path improve the human rights protection of prisoners in ZIKS.



## APRIL 4, 2016 – NATO DAY ROUND TABLE

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro, in cooperation with NATO and the NATO Membership Council's Communication Team, organized a round table entitled Perspective of the Armed Forces of Montenegro within NATO Structure. The round table gathered relevant military and political actors, as well as experts from the country and abroad in order to discuss further steps of Montenegro and its Armed Forces that are important for NATO integration. At the round table, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro presented the results of research entitled Citizens' Attitude on Military Service in Montenegro. Taking into account the poll results, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro supports the introduction of voluntary military service for a period of minimum three months.

### Link to Research:

[http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/stavovi\\_gradana\\_o\\_vojnom\\_roku\\_u\\_crnoj\\_gori\\_finalna.pdf](http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/stavovi_gradana_o_vojnom_roku_u_crnoj_gori_finalna.pdf)

### Link to photos:

<http://ascg.me/en/foto/round-table-perspective-armed-forces-montenegro-within-nato-structure>



## MAY 5-7, 2016 – TO BE SECURE FORUM

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro, under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro and with the support of NATO, U.S. Embassy Podgorica, as well as the Municipality of Budva and the Marshall Fund/Balkan Trust for Democracy, organized the sixth 2BS (To be Secure) Forum in Budva, held May 5-7. Under the title “Global security at stake - challenges and responses”, the sixth 2BS Forum dealt with some of the most significant issues of international relations and security, such as ISIS, migrant crisis, Russia-West relations, as well as U.S. elections and its impact on U.S. foreign policy.



Speakers at this year's Forum praised the progress made and the fact that Montenegro received an invitation to join NATO, and also pointed out that a lot of work is still ahead, especially in the field of the rule of law. One of the conclusions was that security is a precondition for overall progress and development, as well that solution is not in closing the borders, but in

handling the migrant crisis better. Discussing Russia-West relations, it was stated that NATO is not seen as a mechanism which can help Russia with its foreign policy challenges, although they have common interests and similar goals, the main of which is stability. Building capacities is an important factor of pursuing stability and combating terrorism. It was concluded at the Forum that we need a long-term strategy, otherwise we are going to fight terrorism forever.

**Link to photos:** <http://ascg.me/en/foto/2bs-forum-2016>

**Link to Summary:** [http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/2bs\\_forum\\_2016\\_-\\_summary.pdf](http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/2bs_forum_2016_-_summary.pdf)

## **SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2016 – 33RD WORKSHOP OF THE PFP CONSORTIUM STUDY GROUP “REGIONAL STABILITY IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE”**

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Directorate for Security Policy at the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, the Austrian National Defence Academy in Vienna and the Pfp Consortium, organized the 33rd workshop of the Pfp Consortium Study Group “Regional Stability in South East Europe”, entitled “Montenegro’s Upcoming NATO Membership – Internal, Regional and International Implications”, in order to discuss and to analyze the latest developments in the region of the Western Balkans and to provide recommendations.

The workshop was held September 22-25, 2016 in Budva, Montenegro. A number of academics and experts from NATO, USA, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria, Turkey, Russia, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro took part at this workshop. The workshop was held under Chatham House rules and it was closed for the media.

### **Link to photos:**

<http://ascg.me/en/foto/33rd-workshop-pfp-consortium-study-group>

### **Link to policy paper:**

[http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/policy\\_paper\\_33rssee\\_montenegro\\_2016.pdf](http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/policy_paper_33rssee_montenegro_2016.pdf)



## NOVEMBER 17, 2016 – PUBLIC TALK WITH DAMON WILSON

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro had the opportunity to host Damon Wilson, the Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council of the United States of America. This public talk was held on November 17th in hotel Hilton and it was in the form of a conversation and a lively discussion on the topic entitled 2016's "Leap of Faith" – NATO Role. The moderator was Dr. Savo Kentera, the president of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro.



**Link to photos:** <http://ascg.me/en/foto/public-talk-damon-wilson>

## DECEMBER 4-6, 2016 – WINTER SECURITY WORKSHOP



The Atlantic Council of Montenegro organized the Winter Security Workshop (WSW) Montenegro in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association and with the support of the U.S. Mission to NATO and the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica. WSW was in Hotel Hilton and it addressed several key issues relevant to regional and international security with the aim of advancing NATO's role in the SEE. The primary focus of WSW was to address how NATO-Russia relations impact the Balkans after the Warsaw Summit,

both in terms of political and security challenges as well as economic challenges and chances. Participants received an in-depth introduction to a specific topic by experts working in this sector and they were given a chance to meet and network with high officials, policy makers, Government representatives and experts in the field, since WSW gathered key state authorities, business leaders, NGOs, and academics to provide them with the opportunity to address relevant security issues in SEE after Montenegro's accession to NATO. Policy Recommendations reflecting the findings of WSW focusing on the topic of NATO-Russia relations were provided and distributed to decision makers in SEE and the International Community.

**Link to photos:** <http://ascg.me/en/foto/wsw-nato-russia-relations-balkan-implications>

## DECEMBER 12, 2016 – 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ACM

On December 12, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro celebrated 10 years of its existence, hard work and dedication to the open and dynamic dialogue on Euro-Atlantic integration, security and international relations. During this celebration, the future work of ACM was presented, together with a view to become a leading think-tank in the region, within defence and security area. The celebration was attended by a large number of officials both from Montenegro and abroad, such as ministers, ambassadors, MPs, as well as representatives from the NGO sector, media outlets, etc.

**Link to photos:**

<http://ascg.me/en/foto/celebrating-10-year-anniversary-atlantic-council-montenegro>



## SECURITY MAGAZINE – 10TH ISSUE

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro publishes the Security Magazine. In 2016 we published the 10th issue of this Magazine.

**Link:**

[http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/securitymagazine\\_final.pdf](http://ascg.me/sites/default/files/securitymagazine_final.pdf)



# PARTICIPATION

**FEBRUARY 2-3, 2016 – GERMIA HILL**

The president of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr Savo Kentera, participated at the conference entitled “Security in Southeast Europe in the Light of Broader Regional Challenges”, which was held in Pristina today.

During the panel “Fight against terrorism”, Dr Kentera pointed out the necessity of changing laws in every European state, which would grant more authorizations to the Prosecution and to the services handling the fight against terrorism. More authorizations would enable these institutions to act more promptly and more efficiently than it is the case now, all with the aim of preventing terrorist attacks more efficiently. Also, he emphasized that this a very delicate issue, and that a justified fear of authorization abuse is present, whereby it is very important to pay special

attention to the control of the implementation of authorizations and to the necessity of respecting human rights. In his speech, Dr. Kentera also commented on the situation in Syria and on the necessity of involvement in the fight against ISIL. Concluding his statement, Dr Kentera reminded that, in order to successfully implement



strategies for fight against terrorism, we have to understand the goals and strategies used by terrorists, especially the way violence helps them in their activities.

## **MARCH 1, 2016 – BRIEF THE BRIEFERS**

The President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera, took part in the “Brief the Briefers” workshop organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association on the “Agenda of the Warsaw Summit” in NATO Headquarters. This program aims to keep influential ATA members up-to-date and to give them detailed information on NATO’s most pressing issues.

## **MARCH, 14-19, 2016 – ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE IN OHRID**



Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Stefan Laković and Milica Adzić participated in a five-day Advanced Training Course in Ohrid 14-19, February 2016, where the main topic was Countering the South-East European Terrorist Threat.

The main goal on course was to promote regional cooperation between NATO and partner countries in developing resilient responses, effective prevention of terrorist activities, and significant counter radicalization processes in the South-East European Region. The hosts on this advanced training course were Professor Travis Morris from Norwich University in United States and Professor Metodi Hadji-Janev from the Military Academy “General Mihajlo Apostolski” from Skopje, Macedonia.

The opening statement at the conference was given by the dean of the Military Academy “General Mihajlo Apostolski” from Skopje, Macedonia, Professor Orce Popovski. After his statement, the first lecture was given by Professor Travis Morris, who spoke about the phenomenon of contemporary terrorism: current trends, while Professor Metodi Hadji-Janev spoke about the terrorism and the South-East European Countries: contemporary trends and challenges.

During the five-day advanced training course, Members of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro attended a lot of lectures, among which was the lecture of professor Olivera Injac from University “Donja Gorica” from Podgorica, Montenegro, which has drawn attention to participants on the relationship between social conditions and terrorism in South-East Europe. Another interesting lecture was given by Jason Wisemen, Secretary General of ATA in Brussels, who talked about Terrorist Strategies and Tactics in SEE.

After five day of hard work, all the participants were issued a certificate for participating in the Advanced Training Course, which was entirely sponsored by NATO.

## **MAY 2, 2016 – STUDENT SIMULATION “NATO IN THE EYES OF THE WARSAW SUMMIT”**

The president of YATA Montenegro, Milena Savović, as representative of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, took part in a student simulation organized in Skopje, Macedonia. This simulation was hosted by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, which provided the students with an opportunity to see how decisions are actually made in the North Atlantic Council of NATO.



It was opened by the president of YATA Macedonia, after which a video call was organized with Mr. Zsolt Rabai and the representative of NATO’s Department for Public Diplomacy. Together with the president of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, Ismet Ramadani, many more gave their speeches on this occasion. In the simulation itselfm Robert Ivitsa Shushich had the role of the Secretary General of NATO, while Milena Savović was a representative of Italy. The simulation was closed by the US Ambassador in Macedonia, H.E. Jess L. Bailey, who issued certificates to all the participants.

## **MAY 19-22, 2016 – 32ND WORKSHOP OF THE PFP CONSORTIUM STUDY GROUP “REGIONAL STABILITY IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE”, ENTITLED “SOUTH EAST EUROPE’S CONSOLIDATION IN LIGHT OF THE EU CRISIS, REFUGEE INFLUX AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM”**

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro participated in the 32nd workshop of the study group “Regional Stability in the South East Europe”, entitled “South East Europe’s Consolidation in Light of the EU Crisis, Refugee Influx and Religious Extremism”. This workshop was held in Austria. The speakers of the panel discussion for the Refugee Crises and the details of the Balkan route were Aya Fukuda (Group 484), Sasha Gosich, border police inspector of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Serbia, and Jasmin Redzepi, president of the NGO Legis, Macedonia. Other topics were covered by other experts, professors and diplomats, as well as members of the Austrian Army.



## **MAY 30, 2016 – BRIEF THE BRIEFERS**

A representative of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Azra Karastanović, attended the “Brief the Briefers” workshop organized in Brussels, in the headquarters of NATO. This workshop was organized in the form of meeting with heads of sectors of NATO and the discussion about the most pressing issues.

## **JULY 7-9, 2016 – WARSAW SUMMIT (NATO FUTURE LEADERS SUMMIT AND EXPERTS’ FORUM)**

A representative of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Azra Karastanović, took part in the **NATO Future Leaders Summit**, which is organized within the Warsaw NATO Summit. It explores wide-ranging and forward-looking security challenges.

The President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera, and a representative of the Council, Azra Karastanović, participated in the **Experts’ Forum** entitled “*NATO in Defence of Peace: 2016 and Beyond*”. This Forum was held on the margins of the NATO Summit in July. This is the official conference organized by the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) and GLOBSEC, in partnership with the Atlantic Council, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the German Marshall Fund of the US.

# GENERAL OVERVIEW AND CHANGES

The importance of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro is more and more visible and evident from year to year. During the 10 years of its existence, ACM has built many friendships and partnerships and the number keeps increasing. ACM's cooperation with many significant institutions and organizations is becoming even closer and stronger. Furthermore, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro has two very significant programs which provide opportunities for individuals, as well as corporations, to be more involved in global issues, while achieving their own goals. Of course, we cannot but mention the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association of Montenegro, which is an important part of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. Another thing worth mentioning is that ACM decided to redesign its logo as a form of its 10-year anniversary celebration.

## PARTNERSHIPS

As it was already mentioned, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro collaborates with many significant institutions and organizations, both in the country and abroad. Some of its closest partners in the country are the Government of Montenegro, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, the Police of Montenegro and municipalities across Montenegro.

When it comes to ACM's partnerships abroad, needless to say that they are also very highly valued and treasured. Some of those partners are the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Atlantic Treaty Association, the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica, as well as many other embassies, the Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), the George C. Marshall – European Center for Security Studies, the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, the King's College in London and many more.

## **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

ACM's individual membership program provides an opportunity for individuals committed to the Atlantic community, and its leadership in tackling global challenges, to be more directly involved with the Council's activities and network. By joining the Atlantic Council, members help support our work and new initiatives, while joining a broad community of influence dedicated to promoting US and European leadership around the world.

Currently, the individual membership program includes nearly 50 individuals with diverse perspectives, bound by a common interest in transatlantic cooperation, including ten sitting ambassadors and five chief executive officers, as well as numerous foreign and Montenegrin government officials, senior military leadership, academics, journalists, and leaders in the business, legal, financial, and nonprofit sectors.

## **CORPORATE PROGRAM**

The Atlantic Council's corporate program engages the private sector as a crucial partner. Through substantive partnerships, networking opportunities, event sponsorship, and corporate membership, the program provides partners with unique opportunities to achieve their business and corporate responsibility goals.

Companies have the opportunity to form strategic partnerships with the Council that can focus on substantive areas of mutual interest and include corporate sponsorship and/or membership. We work with our partners to help build consensus on critical global issues by leading well-balanced discussions and developing innovative solutions to meet global challenges. What distinguishes us is the individual attention we pay to our partners and the effort we put into customizing programs to fit their varied priorities. They value the Council's remarkable convening power, our ability to contribute to their thought leadership on crucial issues, and our flexibility and rapid response.

## **THE YOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION – YATA**

The Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) Montenegro is a very important pillar of the Atlantic Council, with its young members who participate in many activities in the country and abroad, including various visits to relevant institutions, meetings with ambassadors, attending schools and seminars, and participating in international conferences.

YATA Montenegro is very active in promoting Euro-Atlantic ideas and values among Montenegrin society. This is very important, bearing in mind that Montenegro will soon become a member of NATO. The Atlantic Council of Montenegro is educating YATA Montenegro members in order to create a team of young people who can contribute to these activities as well as who can participate in international activities. YATA Montenegro contributes and works together with YATA International in order to raise youth's interest in issues of great importance for the world at large.

## NEW CORPORATE DESIGN

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2016. This celebration was organized in hotel Hilton in Podgorica as a gathering of many influential individuals and organizations representatives who wanted to congratulate the ACM on its magnificent progress.

ACM has decided to mark the first 10 years of its existence by introducing a change in the design of its logo. This shows that the Atlantic Council of Montenegro not only understands that changes are necessary in any aspect of politics, or even life, but also that it is itself ready to contribute to those changes. The new logo of ACM might just predict a new future for Montenegro and the Montenegrin society as a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

As it might be seen from the above-mentioned, the Atlantic Council of Montenegro has significantly improved and continues to improve. Its significance is undisputed. However, this significance further grows due to the development and progress of this very organization, but also due to the fact that Montenegro is now closer than ever to becoming a member state of NATO.



# PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro has a long list of activities and projects that will be implemented in 2017. The ACM will continue to implement projects aimed at promoting Euro-Atlantic Integration in Montenegro, as well as youth activities which are very well accepted. Bearing in mind the various activities planned for this year, here we will only list the most important ones.

## **2BS FORUM**

The 2BS Forum is a constructive element of the most important meeting of influential international and Montenegrin representatives, who discuss essential questions of international security and security in SEE. This Forum aims to encourage significant discussion regarding the most important dilemmas in the field of international security. 2BS Forum 2016 will address some of the major challenges of the decade. Through discussions, 2BS Forum aims to analyze these modern challenges, risks and threats and explore policy responses. The seventh 2BS Forum focus will continue to be global security, the future of Southeast Europe integration and chances are great that it will be organized in Montenegro as the 29th member state of NATO.

## **THE “SECURITY” MAGAZINE PUBLICATION**

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro plans to continue publishing the “Security” magazine, considering its importance, significance and contribution to the security processes in the region. The “Security” Magazine is an independent, interdisciplinary and international magazine dealing with security issues in a broad sense, following the current topics on global, regional and national levels. Immediately upon issuing the first edition in 2007, this magazine was recognized by many senior executives from Europe and across Atlantic as of high quality and as a valuable contribution to security.

## **WINTER SECURITY WORKSHOP**

Winter Security Workshop is organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association and with the support of the US Mission to NATO and the US Embassy in Podgorica. The Workshop will be held in December, 2017. WSW addresses several key issues relevant to regional and international security in order to advance NATO’s role in SEE. It was organized in 2016 for the first time and the Atlantic Council of Montenegro plans to continue to organize it annually and to establish it as a traditional event.



ATLANTIC COUNCIL  
OF MONTENEGRO

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