



2017 through our perspective

Annual Report



**GRAĐANSKA
ALIJANSA**

Civic Alliance - Aleanca qytetare

2017. through our perspective



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Annual Report

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Introduction

Darko M. Ivanović
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Dear friends,

The report you are reading is a set of texts that personally, professionally and emotionally marked the year behind us. Working hours that we spend in offices and in the field, these eight hours we dedicate to work is for us, and it should always be noted, more than just administration, letters, conversations with citizens ... for us, this is a part of life and a way of life.

Thus, in the five programs, we have placed everything that is necessary for Montenegro to feel our contribution, our desire to create a society of equal opportunities and rights for all. The impact that we have in Montenegro, however, is not measured only by public recognition, the uncompromising position in the NGO sector and the breaking of monopoly in the NGO field, and the credibility that we have amongst our partners- but the fact that- outside the programs, areas covered by donations, reports, public policy and democratic processes analysis - we continued to work with citizens, who are the root of all processes and changes - and their ultimate outcome.

Our activities in the year 2017 were not limited to donations, but as in previous years- we were the starting point for all those who asked for help or advice and were ill-treated by the system. We were the channel towards institutions and media- for all those who were unhappy and who recognized us as those with enough expertise and ready to help

Judiciary and fundamental rights, and then justice, freedom and security - chapters that are crucial to Montenegro will be in our focus in all programs, and we will use the experiences we have gained in direct contact with citizens.

We will try to justify our name in the seventh year.

And clearly show that Civic, Citizen and CA became our Family, Friends and Business.

Therefore, friends - we continue at the same pace.

Strategy
Programes
Administration
Communication



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The year of temptations and the struggle against irregularities in the system: uncompromisingly following fulfilment of our mission

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The year behind us is one of those in which the principles of democracy, the rule of law and guaranteed human rights and freedoms were being tested, not only in Montenegro, but also in countries with longer democratic experience and countries whose successful models we want and apply to our system. And everyone had a different attitude towards these temptations. We can not say that Montenegro handled it brilliantly, but hope remains that as a society we will learn some lessons.

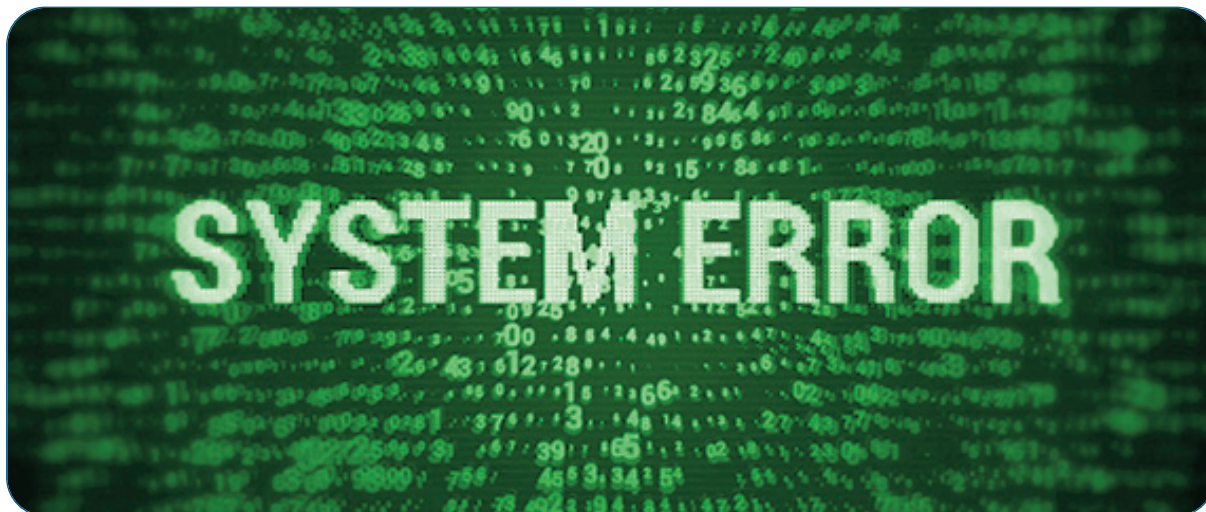
Therefore, the Civic Alliance pointed to systemic problems, called for dialogue and promoted long-term and sustainable solutions. That is why the Civic Alliance in a wider context initiated and participated in initiatives that pointed to violations of human rights and freedoms and insisted on building of a more just and more peaceful world. The civil sector has a significant control role in the democratic system - we believe that our work in 2017 strongly contributed to the public recognizing the importance of such a role.

Citizens as a pillar of the social community and the bearer of the right to create a social environment - are the main focus, the target group, the beneficiary and the main partner of the Civic Alliance. Informing, pointing to problems, finding constructive solutions, dialogue, promoting basic human rights and freedoms are just some of the activities we have undertaken.

The results are visible, although the circumstances are becoming more and more difficult for principled action, opening of taboo topics, civic activism, freedom of speech and long-term and sustainable solutions in the public interest. We therefore remain convinced that it is necessary to continue and even more urgently demand from all actors on the public scene, including the civil sector, to take responsibility for their (un)doing and (un)competence in any situation where the public interest is violated and when citizens are manipulated and cheated.

In the next year there is another check to see if we are on the right track - analysing what has been done and achieved, as well as the analytical view of the changed social context. We regularly are undergoing introspection, and the Council of CA and the Supervisory board are important parts of this process, and we plan future path of action in the long terms. Direct contact with citizens, citizen associations, organizations and institutions, experts from the areas that are in our focus, as well as cooperation with stakeholders from the countries of the region, Europe and the world, enable us to objectively set priorities and act adequately in accordance to resources and expertise. At the end of 2017 we can freely say that a lot of work is waiting for us to come closer to the vision:

Montenegro is a civil and democratic society based on the rule of law. Montenegro is developing as a society of active and informed citizens, while state institutions function in accordance with positive legal regulations in order to achieve public interest.





With new challenges towards common goal: accession chapters as a priority

Boris Raonić

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Last year has fulfilled all our expectations. All programs have reached their set goals, and all the employees in the Civil Alliance have shown a high level of commitment through all the activities that have been implemented.

The approach we nourish for years: to realize activities based on the needs of citizens, and issuing requests to institutions on the basis of intensive communication with people in need has proven to be successful in the year behind us. In this way, we avoided the trap of an elitist approach in the work of civil society organizations. Institutions recognized this and reactions were generally positive for all the changes that we wanted to achieve. Where we found inertia, ignorance or bad intent in the institutions, we resorted to methods of public pressure.

Full energy of the organization and the confidence that we have earned from all partners in the next year will be dedicated to accelerating the process of negotiations with the European Union, and especially in chapters 23 and 24, in the hope that we can bring to an end the longest democratic transition in all the countries of the South-Eastern Europe.

We will continue to react to problems in a timely manner, irrespective of project support. In addition to our regular program activities, we will deal with the ambience of work for non-governmental organizations, but will also participate in humanitarian and similar activities.

We promise, as before, that in the coming period we will act as before: unburdened and reasoned, with honesty, principle, persistence and culturally.

We remain open to all ideas and joint actions with all those who want to accelerate the transitional and integrative processes in Montenegro.





Good planning and a strong team - fulfilled goals

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Since the start, the Civic Alliance has been focused on teamwork, good planning and efficient program management. Thanks to these values from year to year we have gained the trust of donors and thus have been provided with stable financing. CA and its members revenues in 2017 remained at a similar level as in the previous years, which points out to two constants: stability and recognition of our work.

CA and its members had 12 permanent employees in 2017. With some twenty external collaborators engaged in projects, as well as four interns, and taking into account the representation of all social segments, we made a strong and dedicated team that fulfilled this year's goals. Quick response, transparency and accountability as fundamental values- construct a reliable basis for success in everyday work.

During 2017, CA and its members implemented more than 30 projects, making us one of the most active non-governmental organizations in Montenegro. This year we also implemented a series of philanthropic and volunteer activities and events, regardless of the projects. And those were the most loved activities if you surveyed the entire team. As always, we tried to make a modest contribution to help people in difficult life situations.

We would especially highlight activities on Human Rights Day, which we traditionally organize in cooperation with partners. One of the activities is a humanitarian futsal game, and funds from those activities were donated to the Equestrian club "Buducnost" for hypo-rehabilitation treatment for children with developmental disabilities. We continue to cherish the tradition of giving and helping those who are in need, so our little fund often brings smile to the face of socially disadvantaged people.

With a new year there are new challenges- we are ready to face them!





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Our programmes

Progress in combating all forms of discrimination and neglect of citizens' rights

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Human Rights Program Coordinator CA

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During 2017, we dealt with the anti-discrimination and protection of dignity of persons deprived of their liberty, the rights of minorities, people with disabilities and issues of reconciliation. This year we also organized and supported the celebration of the most important dates in the field of human rights. We have continued good cooperation with non-governmental organizations and institutions that deal with human rights: the Protector of human rights and freedoms, the Ministry of human and minority rights, Parliamentary Committee on human rights and freedoms, as well as numerous international organizations and institutions.

Milan Radovic, Human rights program coordinator, participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program in the United States from 5 to 22 September. The United States Government was the program sponsor within the Program for International Visitors (IVLP), on the topic "NGOs and civic activism".

Monitoring of the respect of rights in institutions of closed type

We continued our activities on monitoring the respect for the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty and the conditions in which they reside. We implemented a training for police officers and ZIKS (Correctional facility in Spuz) on topics: prevention of torture and inhumane treatment, treatment of minors, ethical behaviour, etc. In this area, we also cooperated with the Committee for prevention of torture during their visit to Montenegro in 2017.

Ineffective investigations and slow court proceedings on serious allegations of torture and ill-treatment continue to be a problem. We have described the results of this research in a report you can download at:

<http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/ljudska-prava-lica-lišeenih-slobode.pdf>

The report is part of the monitoring of the state of respect of human rights in this area within the project: "Reform of the system of execution of Criminal Sanctions" implemented with the support of the Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy.



**Bijelo Polje, Training of the employees of ZIKS-a and police force*

Monitoring of respect of minority rights

Fund for protection and implementation of minority rights

The Fund for the protection and implementation of minority rights has remained in our focus in 2017. The proceedings brought by the GA against the Fund's decisions on the allocation of funds are before the Administrative Court. During 2017, we filed four new lawsuits against repeated unlawful decisions. The procedure for selecting new bodies of the Fund has started, after the amendment of the Minority rights and freedoms act, and CA will continue to monitor the work of this institution. The public was introduced to problems in the functioning of the Fund, among which were- the conflict of interest and illegal allocation of funds among the main stakeholders present in the Fund. Reports of State audit (DRI), international organizations, NGOs and the media- are confirming our claims of irregularities.

Together for rights of Roma and Egyptian rights

In 2017, we became part of the coalition "Together for the inclusion of roma and egyptians through transparent and sustainable public policies", which besides the CA, is composed of the Center for Roma initiatives, Roma youth organization "Phiren.Amenca", Center for democratic transition and Young Roma. The project is funded by the Open Society Fund in Budapest.



**Podgorica, session of the coalition "Together for inclusion of the Roma and Egyptians through transparent and sustainable public policies"*

The project plans to monitor the process of Roma and Egyptian involvement in Montenegrin society, especially in terms of the effectiveness of the measures taken so far, their transparency, and the transparency of budgetary allocations at the local and national levels. Coalition members will publicly advocate the increasing of the allocation of budget funds for programs targeting Roma and Egyptian populations, increasing transparency, more efficient work of institutions and organizations, reducing potential misuse of funds, and including measures related to Roma and Egyptians in all national policies. By monitoring budgets and the sector of social protection, education, employment, housing, will also contribute to the mapping of key obstacles on the way to the successful inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegrin society.

The european court of human rights confirmed the discrimination in Alković case

The European Court of human rights has issued a verdict in the Alković case against Montenegro. The court confirmed that Rizo Alković and his family were discriminated against and that their right to private and family life was jeopardized.

In this case, GA, in cooperation with lawyer Azra Jasavić, provided free legal aid to Rizo Alković in front of the Court for human rights. The Court found that there had been a violation of Article 8 in conjunction with Article 14 of the European Convention on human rights, that is - discrimination based on religious and ethnic affiliation and violation of private and family life.

Research on discrimination in employment process

We presented a report on the research on discrimination in employment process- supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The aim of the research was to determine the basis and the ways of discrimination in employment, the most common forms and patterns of the occurrence of this type of discrimination in practice, the role of state institutions and other stakeholders, and the identification of key issues in this field. During the research, we found numerous examples of direct discrimination.

Discrimination in employment is present, and mostly occurs based on political belief, nationality, gender, disability and age. Discrimination occurs both during the employment in state institutions and in the private sector. The results of the survey have shown that the procedures for employment are not clear, transparent and that in most cases they do not stipulate the conditions for checking the knowledge and the scoring procedure of the submitted applications. The survey also showed that the unemployed citizens are not encouraged to submit applications and do not trust the work of competent state institutions regarding the protection of their rights.

The adoption of a whole set of measures and plans for improving the employment system in Montenegrin society is a necessity, and above all, increasing transparency and having clear procedures are essential for overcoming the current situation.

Traditional celebration of the International Human Rights Day

Together with our partners, the Ombudsman office and the Delegation of the European union, we have traditionally celebrated December 10th - International Human Rights Day.



**Podgorica, Humanitarian game on International day of human rights*

On this occasion we organized several events:

- ◆ A public forum dealing with the prevention of hate crimes and hate speech, on which 15 panelists gave their views on this highly sensitive and always present topic. Among others, Uwe Merkoter, deputy ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Robert Kucharski, Program Manager for the Rule of law and human rights program of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, MPs, representatives of the Supreme state prosecutor's office, NGOs and institutions responsible for the prevention of hate speech;
- ◆ Theatre show "On silence and other imitations of happiness", performed by students of the Gymnasium "Petar I Petrovic Njegoš" from Danilovgrad;
- ◆ Humanitarian futsal game between Montenegro and the rest of the world, and the funds collected have been allocated for the needs of hypo-rehabilitation treatments for children with developmental disabilities;
- ◆ Lecture by Mr. Maris Tebecis from the Embassy of Australia on "Youth and Human Rights" at the University of Donja Gorica;
- ◆ A discussion on the topic "A Right to a Healthy Environment" where the speakers were: Šučko Baković, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, HE. Aivo Orav, EU Ambassador to Montenegro, Jovana Janjušević, Executive Director of the NGO Bird Protection Center ;
- ◆ Competition for high school students "Human Rights Quest". The winners of the competition are teams from high schools from Podgorica, Danilovgrad and Tivat. These three teams won a study trip to Berlin next year; and the award was provided by the EU Delegation in Podgorica;
- ◆ In cooperation with the public service RTCG we have broadcasted the show "Okvir" on the topic: "The state of human rights in Montenegro";
- ◆ We also participated on a conference organized by the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th of December - International Human Rights Day - on the topic: "Rights of the Child with emphasis on the protection of children from all forms of violence" in the light of the campaign of the Government of Montenegro and UNICEF- "Stop the violence".

Holocaust Remembrance Day

In cooperation with the Program office of the Council of Europe in Podgorica and the University of Donja Gorica on January 27th, during the celebration of the Memorial Day on Holocaust victims, we organized a conference at the University of Donja Gorica (UDG). Speakers at the conference were: Sucko Bakovic, protector of human rights and freedoms, Miodrag Lekic, president of the party Demos, Bojan Bozovic, human rights lawyer from UDG and Milan Radovic, coordinator of the human rights program in CA. In the framework of the conference, Bojan Bozovic held a lecture : "Holocaust, genocide and international law".

Social protection and shelter for members of the LGBT population

The project implies adequate social protection of the LGBT population in Podgorica through the establishment and implementation of a key social service in the form of shelters. The project is being implemented in cooperation with NGO LGBT Forum Progres, with the support of the Commission for distribution of part of the revenues from lottery games.

About Human Rights Program:

"We need more similar organizations that help citizens when their rights are violated. I am pleased that with the help of Civic Alliance I managed to succeed in defending my rights. The reaction was quick and efficient. I'm referred to the right addresses and have been given help."

Miloš Vujačić,
citizen of Podgorica

"Organizations like Civic Alliance are very necessary. Without NGOs of this kind, citizens would be left to themselves when they face human rights violations. "

Miroslav Zeković,
citizen of Podgorica

Digital tools for the most vulnerable groups, a year of new experiences

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During last year, a Civic alliance Media Program was diverse and dynamic, as evidenced by various projects. Youth, media, teachers, asylum seekers, consumers, workers, patients, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ populations - were just a part of the target groups we were helping in their struggle and whose rights we were defending, using various media tools.

This year we have put special emphasis on dealing with hate related violence and hate speech, as well as defending basic human rights with emphasis on freedom of speech. We will continue with the same fervour and commitment to fight for democratic values through media programs adapted to different groups, especially those vulnerable ones.

By promoting the film "SIGEMBR", the young people showed why they want the Balkans without hatred

Regional promotion of the film "SIGEMBR" in Podgorica in February 2017 ended the project "Balkan without hatred" that arose in response to youth's hatred of diversity and others.

This ten-minute achievement deals with the issue of xenophobia, and it was done by youth workers and leaders during training in Prčanj between 19 and 30 August. Young people from seven European countries, coming from different national groups, have made a joint effort to show that they have a solution, but also an idea for a "hate-free Balkans".

The film "SIGEMBR" is the product of several months of work of several organizations: Association GEYC (Romania), Center for Youth Development - PRONI (BiH), Identities (Italy), Green spirit (Greece), Seiklejate Vennaskond (Estonia), IdejNet (Serbia) and NGO "35mm". The project is funded by the European Union within the Erasmus + Program.



* "SIGEMBR" movie recording

The main goal of the project "Balkan without hatred" was to explore how young people and working with youth can contribute to the creation of original documentaries about young people and multicultural societies in which we live. The project wanted to show that young people from different national backgrounds, who are generally perceived as conflicted, can work together and produce something worthwhile.

Civic Institute: A new platform for citizens' complaints

With the project "Marginalized by the system: No more!" member of CA NGO "35mm" - and its partners on the project - NGO "Circle of Life", Center for Consumer Protection, Parents Association, Union of the Media of Montenegro and Union of Free Trade Unions of Montenegro- managed to support marginalized groups in meeting basic human rights and freedoms as workers, consumers and patients.

The Civic institute Network has gathered four institutions and ten organizations under its umbrella in order to jointly participate in the monitoring and reporting of violations of the rights of workers, patients and consumers. During the project, the Network received 2,075 complaints from citizens whose rights were violated, resolving positively more than $\frac{1}{4}$ or 549 cases. In addition to these individual complaints, members of the Network worked on three collective cases - mothers with three and more children, employees of radio and television Atlas and RTV Budva. One of the members of the said network had complaints from patients, workers and consumers with HIV / AIDS, but they are not public because of the importance of data protection in those cases.

A mobile application "Civil Institute" is also in operation, and it has geometric reports and documentation related to violations of workers' rights, patients and consumers. The public was also



**Presentation of the mobile application "Civil Institute", EU Info Center, Podgorica*

informed about these activities through targeted campaigns and six thematic TV shows called

"The Book of Complaints", which were broadcasted on the Public broadcasting service, that facilitated the dialogue between stakeholders and citizens.

The project "Marginalized by the system: No more!" Was funded by the European Union through the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro.

Asylum in the country of persecuted

The documentary film "Asylum in a Land of Persecuted" arose as an idea of the media team to inform the Montenegrin public about the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Montenegro who sought and obtained asylum on the basis of sexual orientation. Our wish was to transfer their wishes, experiences, expectations, problems because of which they had to leave their homeland. Inserts from the documentary were broadcasted by media such as Radio Free Europe and others.

"Asylum in the country of persecuted" was created within the framework of the grant scheme, and within the project "Together for greater protection of asylum seekers, migrants and victims of trafficking", which is implemented by CEDEM in Montenegro with the financial support of the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.



**Training for peer educators, Herceg Novi*

Youth in Montenegro and the fight against hate speech and violence on the Internet

We have conducted several activities and projects with aim to support young people to create society without hatred and confront violence on internet.

At the end of November 2017, the project "Montenegro without hatred" was completed, implemented by the NGO "35mm" in cooperation with the Volunteer club of the Gymnasium "Slobodan Skerovic". Financial support to this project was provided by the Ministry of sport of Montenegro - Directorate for Youth.

A training for youth educators and the role of pupils in preventing and combating hate speech on the Internet has seen 85 pupils attend three trainings in Plav, Herceg Novi

and Podgorica. The participants of the training were high school students from schools: "Bećo Bašić", "Ivan Goran Kovačić", "Slobodan Škerović" and "Ivan Uskoković".

We presented these activities through a special media campaign on social networks and internet platforms, through four interviews during which we heard the opinions and experiences of representatives of institutions and organizations working with youth and for youth.

Based on the action plans during the project in Podgorica, Plav and Herceg Novi, activities were carried out by peer educators in order to spread the idea of a "hate-free community".

The continuation of activities in the field of hate speech prevention has also conducted through a project by the Civic Alliance in cooperation with the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, with the support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany - a public forum "Prevention of hate crimes and hate speech: effective institutions and NGO sector".

Hate crime and hate speech is a matter that concerns all of us, a social disease that requires an effective reaction of institutions and civil society, especially bearing in mind the history of intolerance in this region. In the focus of our public forum, there were relevant institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations that deal directly with the prevention of hate crimes and hate speech. We discussed the possibilities of cooperation and networking of institutions and organizations for more effective prevention. The role of young people and the impact on young people have been particularly emphasized.

With 13 panelists in three sessions - state institutions, international stakeholders and the civic sector - gave their views on the situation in this area. Hate speech is examined from the point of view of experience and practice in Montenegro, the region and Europe, with particular reference to the practice of the Human rights court in Strasbourg.

From this public forum, a documentary was born and was broadcasted on TV Vijesti, with the goal to inform the general public with the experiences, recommendations and suggestions regarding concrete solutions during the discussion, as well as the possibilities of cooperation and networking of institutions and organizations for more effective prevention of hate speech. Also, the institutional prevention of hate speech is emphasized, that is- the legal framework, practice and application.



**Training for young educators, Bar*

Through the project "Montenegro without hate", we work on raising awareness and developing the skills and knowledge needed to implement the idea of hate-free communities in cooperation with the volunteers from gymnasiums "Slobodan Škerović" from Podgorica and "25. May" from Tuzi. Project is conducted from October 2017 to April 2018.

The main goal of the project is education of young people about stigmatization and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, sex and other grounds. We wanted to explore how young people see possible solutions and who they see as "heroes" who can contribute to the fight against xenophobia - the fear of others who are different. Finally, the project will also raise public awareness of the ideas of young people on the values and challenges of life in multicultural Montenegro.

The idea is to use and share the knowledge and skills of teachers and youth workers with high school students to develop competencies for identifying and combating hate speech in a virtual (on-line) and off-line world using existing mechanisms in schools and local communities.

Through this project "Montenegro without hate" and the planned activities, we will use the knowledge, skills and experience of teachers and youth workers and combine it with the activism of young

people. In addition to collaborative work and cooperation, young people will use media tools as well as films they have created themselves to reach their peers and spread the idea of "Montenegro without hate". The project is funded by the Council of Europe.

Fairness and not bias - eradicate cronyism!

The practice of bias during the process in the allocation of jobs and other benefits to friends or



** "Fighting cronyism" training*

trusted colleagues, or cronyism, is very present in Montenegro. The long-standing experience of the NGO "35mm", a member of the CA, in the field of activism, work with citizens and institutions and the implementation of media programs has influenced our focus on this area.

The goal of the project "Fairness, not bias - eradicate cronyism!", which began in September 2017, was to establish and build the capacity of a network of non-governmental organizations, media and individuals who will be interested in researching issues related to cronyism at the local and national level and who will take a proactive role in eradicating it. It was also actively working on raising public awareness and opening a dialogue on cronyism and employment in public administration based on political and other affiliations, and not real professional qualifications.

The project "Fairness and not bias - eradicate cronyism!" Was realized within the project "Network for Responsibility, Technologies and Openness of Institutions in South East Europe - ACTION SEE" implemented by Metamorphosis Foundation, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability - CRTA, Citizens' Association Why not ?, Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), Open Data Kosovo (ODK) and Levizja Mjaft!

Untold Stories: Journalists endangered

In October 2017, NGO "35mm" started the realization of the project "Untold stories: journalists endangered" in cooperation with reputable journalists of TV "Vijesti" in order to present to the public a documentary on attacks on journalists and media in Montenegro that happened in the past years- and for which nobody was punished before law- nor perpetrators nor those who ordered the attacks.

The specific goal that we wanted to achieve with the project is to tell stories about Montenegrin journalists and their lives who are endangered only because of the profession they chose, and to create pressure in the public to launch concrete actions, protect journalists and stop violence over them.

The project is funded by the European Union through the Croatian Journalists' Association and the program "Protecting Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression in the Western Balkans".

About Media Program:

"The project "Montenegro without hatred" has provided me with many means for channeling the desire to contribute to society. Working on a movie with wonderful talented people, a trip to all parts of Montenegro to promote the film, interacting with children and adults that followed the workshops - all this made the campaign "Montenegro without hate" an experience that I will remember with a smile."

Anđela Đurašković,
student of journalism

"I, as a peer educator for "Montenegro without hate", I can tell you that passing through this training is an interesting experience, in which, besides getting to know new people, you get to be familiar with the fact that the internet has a lot of influence on people. In addition to all the good things- where the Internet serves as a source of information, if it is not used in the right way, it can have a bad influence on young people. Together with the students of high school "Ivan Uskoković" we have acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize, report and provide protection to children and youth against the hate speech of our peers in the school environment and on the Internet."

Manja Simonović,
student in gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović"

"Being acquainted with the students from high school "Ivan Uskoković ", during a two-day training, I also met with the state of things concerning the problem of hate speech on the Internet. Through discussions and team work, I raised my awareness of this topic to a higher level, as well as the willingness to act against violence. And I think that I can say that I am competent enough to help the community solve this problem."

Bojana Joksimović,
student in gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović"



A key factor of transformation of institutions into service for citizens

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For the fifth consecutive year, we are conducting research in cooperation with the Association of Judges of Montenegro and for three years with the Association of State Prosecutors of Montenegro, as one of the continuous activities foreseen in the Action plan for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights.

The survey provides information that is of importance to the people in the judiciary, state institutions as well as to the citizens themselves. It primarily contributes to a better understanding of public attitudes about various aspects of the judicial system and examines the trends of trust in institutions. On the other hand, the research provides an insight into the attitudes of judges and prosecutors, and problems in the work of judicial office are identified. Bearing in mind that some of the problems referred to by judges and prosecutors are constantly repeated since the first survey of 2013, this is also an appeal and a guide to the leading people in the judiciary to focus on solving these problems.

According to the opinion of most judges, the situation in the judiciary is generally good (73.64%), while on the other hand 47.5% of citizens have more or less negative attitude towards the judiciary, and 34.8% of citizens have a generally positive or very positive attitude about the same.

Citizens' views are also divided on the efficiency of the work of the judiciary. 57.7% of the citizens consider that the work of the judiciary is mostly inefficient or very ineffective, while 39.9% consider it to



**From the presentation of the report*

be mostly efficient or very efficient. Comparing the results of the survey from the previous two years, it is notable that the percentage of citizens who believe that the judiciary is inefficient has largely increased from 34.9% in 2013 to 42.2% in 2015, or up to 44.4% In 2017, a trend that worries and creates a grim picture of citizens' relations with judicial institutions.

More about research on the link:

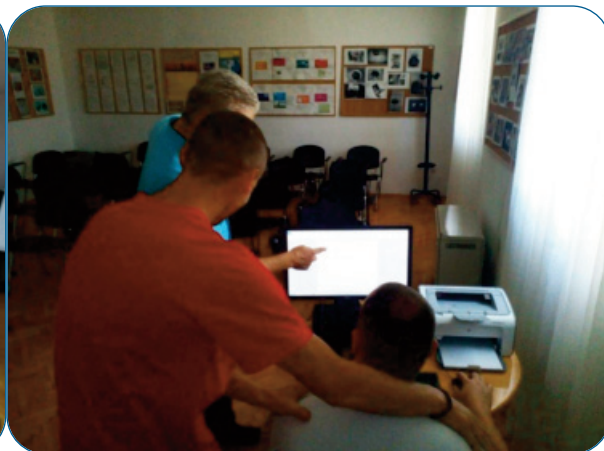
<http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/istra%C5%BEivanje-o-povjerenju-gra%C4%91ana-sudija-i-tu%C5%BEilaca-u-pravosu%C4%91e-2017.pdf>

During 2017, in cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE), we implemented the project: "Improving the Protection of human rights for detained and convicted persons in Montenegro". It was aimed at increasing the protection of the human rights of detainees and convicted persons in Montenegro in accordance with CoE standards, and in particular with the standards set by the European Committee for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.

The project improved the reintegration of prisoners with the support of civil society organisations. As part of the implementation of the project, we have signed memorandums of cooperation with the Ministry of justice, the Agency for employment, the Centre for social work and the Centre for vocational training.

Out of the planned ten candidates, seven were trained and five candidates received diplomas, which will help them in process of finding employments.

The most significant achievement of the project is that those who passed the training received certificates that are not institutionally related to the ZIKS (Institute for execution of criminal sanctions). For the first time, prisoners passed the training with licensed lecturers as we placed them in front of the commission and everything was organized as if lecturers and commission were parts of the institutions outside the prison walls.



**Training of prisoners - ZIKS*

As providers who are authorised to give this kind of service to citizens and have not had experience with this type of service so far, this was a good practice and experience for them.

At the close of the first year of the implementation of the two-year project "Reform of the System of Execution of Criminal Sanctions" CA, supported by MATRA program of Dutch Embassy with the support of experts from the United Kingdom, published a report entitled "Prison System of Montenegro from the aspect of security and procedures". This report was prepared with the intention of assisting Montenegrin institutions in the reform and modernization of the prison system in Montenegro.

The report included:

- ◆ method of choice of candidates in the ZIKS, security protocols and structures, security practice in relation to security protocols and in the absence thereof, division of duties and responsibilities among officials, with special attention to the role of the managing director of the ZIKS;

- ◆ an atmosphere of impunity for unprofessional conduct;
- ◆ informing prisoners about their rights;
- ◆ scarce public awareness of alternative punitive systems.

The report was presented at the Law faculty in Podgorica, and the report was commented by Mr. Zoran Pažin, Deputy Prime minister of the Government of Montenegro and Minister of Justice, Mr. Sladjan Raičković, Assistant director of the ZIKS and Mr. Velimir Rakočević, Dean of the Faculty of Law.



**From the presentation of the report*



***Sharing flyers on alternative sanctions*

Representatives of the GA also visited Montenegrin towns, where they informed citizens about alternative sanctions and while spreading leaflets about this topic, most directly contributed to the spread of awareness on this topic. Our information flyers were also distributed to all Basic courts in Montenegro.

All project monitoring findings were presented to the competent institutions in order to obtain their views and responses. We believe that this is a crucial part of the process of establishing trust, cooperation and correction of evident shortcomings in this field.

Our vision of Montenegro as a civic and democratic society based on the rule of law is a motive which, in the most difficult moments of struggle with the old problems of

non-transparency and inefficiency, gives us the strength to fully implement our ideas and in that manner to strengthen Montenegrin society.

Montenegro must have the rule of law at the very top of the agenda in order transforming institutions into a citizen service service.

About the Rule of Law Program:

"When I had a problem of property nature in court, and when I no longer knew who to turn to, I called the Civic Alliance to give me advice. And they really gave me some good suggestions that helped me to submit court documents. For many years in the future, I wish that you to work successfully for the satisfaction of ordinary citizens. "

**Slavko Arandelović,
citizen of Podgorica**


"My experience with your organization is great. I want to encourage others that have some problems related to the work of institutions of the state- to contact the Civic Alliance."


**Stojanka Blažić,
citizen of Podgorica**

New technologies and networking for young people, a key to the new millennium

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Civic Alliance continued to work intensively on connecting young people in the region as well as breaking the stereotypes and prejudices through the implementation of youth exchange programs and increasing mobility. Our paradigm during 2017 was that through the implementation of youth exchange programs and speaking on important topics such as dealing with the past and war crimes, we are making the first steps towards creating bridges and a better region.

In that sense, within the regional network, we implemented a series of programs in all countries where the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) holds offices, including the Zagreb Youth Summit in November, which brought together over 200 young people from the countries of the region, and also guests around the world. During the summit, the Third Assembly of the Political Youth Network (PYN), a regional network established with the help of YIHR, was attended by representatives of six political parties and coalitions. Our office implemented two youth exchange programs in Montenegro: in Rožaje in June on the topic of reconciliation and facing the past, and in Petrovac in September, on the topic of strengthening the responsibility of women and youth in political life.

We intensively continued to work on the establishment of the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation (RYCO), which officially started working in July this year, when the first regional office in Podgorica was opened. Through its member - YIHR, CA has continued and will continue to support the development of such an important initiative, of which we were, during the previous years, one of the ini-



**Zagreb Youth Summit*

tiators and active participant. In this regard, in April 2017, in cooperation with the members of the Board of directors of RYCO, we organized a round table where we informed all stakeholders about the process itself, as well as the development of the office and expectations in the following period.

GA intensively continued to work on strengthening the principles of civic participation and involving citizens in policy making, as well as monitoring the work of state institutions in creating a more responsible civil society. During the first half of the year, we worked intensively on the creation of the portal odbornik.me which, as a pilot project, was launched in cooperation with the Berane Municipality.

This portal is created and designed in such a way that members of the municipal parliament in the local parliament, as representatives of citizens at the local level, are urged to have more direct and intensive communication with the citizens. On the other hand, citizens can follow the work of their representatives with ease through this platform- and contact them through a few clicks on the portal, provide suggestions for launching specific public policies or solving specific problems they face.

In addition, the platform also enables direct monitoring of local parliament sessions through live stream links, which aims to increase the accountability and quality of the work of the local representatives themselves. This is a platform whose official realization started in cooperation with the Berane Municipality, but is the basis for further development and expansion of cooperation with other municipalities, especially through recognizing this way of working and functioning as a basis for creating more responsible local self-governments and greater involvement/participation of citizens.



**Berane, presentation of the platform odbornik.me*

**Edin Koljenovic worked as coordinator of the CA program until July 2017 and the program report refers to the duration of his engagement in the CA.*

About the Good Governance Program:

"The program of regional visits and youth exchanges is a great opportunity for all young people to hear and learn more about the current opportunities in the world, democracy and global challenges, as well as the exchange of experience and knowledge with counterparts from the surrounding countries, especially when it comes to issues of reconciliation and confrontation with the past."

Aleksandra Vukčević,
participant of the regional youth exchange program and YIHR volunteer

"The YIHR is addressing one of the most important issues for young people in the Balkans through the School of different memories, as well as similar programs. A similar program must be introduced into the education systems of all countries in the Balkans, if we truly want to advance as a society and demolish the borders between innocent young people who deserve a better life without division. I recommend to all young people to participate in similar programs, because it is an unforgettable life experience that will bring you many friends and knowledge too."

Vuk Vujisić,
participant of the regional youth exchange program and YIHR volunteer

Accession process: *Young leaders and media in focus*

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In the previous year, the School of Democratic Leadership marked 15 years of existence. In particular, it makes us proud that for already a decade we have contributed to the creation of a new, fresh democratic thought among representatives of political parties, the non-governmental sector and the media. During the transition period, which followed the SDL since its founding, it was not easy to reconcile irreconcilable, to connect differences, to sit down at the same table and initiate a dialogue. In spite of everything, we have succeeded so far, and this is especially motivating for us, in order to continue with the same mission in the coming period.

In 2018 we will start with the program for the new - the 16th generation of the School, which will be focused primarily on working with political parties and the media. Support for this year's program will be provided by our alumni, especially those who are professionally connected with the process of establishing the rule of law in Montenegro. This year's complete program will focus on various aspects of negotiation chapters 23 and 24 as the most demanding and, at the same time, the most problematic in the process of joining the European Union. The overall pace of the negotiations, as it has been emphasized several times and foreseen by the negotiating framework, will depend on the progress made in these chapters, and it is therefore particularly important that in the forthcoming period all efforts are directed towards the strengthening of the independence of institutions and the creation of preconditions for the rule of law.

In the year behind us, we implemented a program for the XVth generation of the School, which gathered representatives of the Montenegrin parliament, high representatives of political parties,

as well as editors and journalists. We have been through three modules with attendees, trying to target some of the most important problems facing our society: issues of European integration, gender equality, dealing with the past and dialogue. In the framework of the annual program for the XV generation, we organized "Dialogue with the international community", a one-day event, which was presented in the form of two panels on the topics of NATO and EU integration.



**Seminar of the XV generation of the SDL*

In order to improve and intensify cooperation with the political schools of the region, we also conducted a bilateral seminar with the political School of the Council of Europe for Bosnia and Herzegovina where the two generations of schools had the opportunity for interesting discussions, exchange of contacts and experiences. The School team also took part in the seminar of the Macedonian political school "Mother Theresa".

With the participants of the XV generation and alumni, we have traditionally taken part in the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg in 2017. This prestigious event was dedicated to the topic "Populism, media and political parties" and focused on the role of political parties and the media in the context of rising populism. The forum was conceived as a platform where over 500



**Delegation of Montenegro participates in the World Democracy Forum 2017.*

participants from all over the world had the opportunity to discuss key challenges for all democracies around the world. During this program we visited the European Human rights court and the Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe.

At the end of the previous year, we organized the IV Forum of alumni, celebrating 15 years of existence. On the same day, we also awarded diplomas to the XV generation of the School. The Forum



**IV alumni forum and marking of XV years of SDL*

was dedicated to the topic of "Integration." Dialogue. Development ", and it was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Srdjan Darmanovic. The event was held in the form of two panel discussions" The current situation - Montenegro in the integration processes " and " What is awaiting Montenegro until it reaches EU membership?". IV Alumni forum gathered over 100 alumni of the School from the ranks of political parties, media and the civil sector.

In 2017, SDL participated in the organization of the first Parliamentary forum of Southeastern Europe and within the framework of the GIZ ORF-EE project "Regional cooperation and capacity



**First Parliamentary European Southeast Forum, Vienna 2017.*

building of parliamentarians in the field of energy efficiency and climate protection in South-East Europe". The forum was held in December in the Energy community in Vienna, within the framework of the Initiative for public dialogue on sustainable energy use in South East Europe. The event was held shortly after a regular meeting of the Parliamentary plenum of the Energy community and for the first time brought together representatives of parliaments, ministries and civil society organizations from six SEE countries - to discuss energy efficiency and climate change. The Forum also served to officially introduce the new GIZ ORF-EE regional project, which will be

implemented in the next two years. The goal is to strengthen the capacity of SEE parliamentarians through a significant presence of civil society representatives. The project is being implemented in cooperation with partner political schools from five countries of the region: Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the continuous support of the Open energy efficiency fund for South East Europe (GIZ).

With the support of GIZ's Open Regional Fund for Southeast Europe - Biodiversity and in cooperation with political schools from Serbia and Macedonia, we initiated the launch of an informal green parliamentary group in order to give environmental issues a deserved priority and put them in the focus of decision-making.



For half a decade, Montenegro is in the negotiating process. The clear goal that, as a state, we want to be part of the EU community, does not seem easy to reach. EU integration remains an obligation that needs to be addressed more intensively and more strongly. This implies more serious and substantive reforms. It is now necessary for all actors on the political and social scene, led by the same goal, to join forces in order for Montenegro, as a mature society and a reformed state, to become part of the community of european nations.

Our doors are open to all of you who want to change themselves and society around them. It is an una-voidable fact that changes are absolutely necessary and therefore we should start from our-

selves. We adopt and apply democratic standards in order to make the process of democratization of Montenegro more simple and efficient, and so that the whole society finally can feel the benefits of this process.

About the SDL Program:

"The experience of the School of Democratic Leadership is very positive, primarily in acquiring precious acquaintances and business contacts. It was a good opportunity to hear the opinions of people from the world of politics and the non-governmental sector, experts and fellow journalists on interesting and current topics, as well as to visit some of the European institutions and get acquainted with the way they function. We talked about interesting topics, heard different opinions and looked at them from different aspects. I would recommend to everyone to apply for the School, because this experience can only be useful."

Nataša Radanović,
agency Mina, journalist



"As a participant in the fifteenth generation of the School of Democratic Leadership, I can say with satisfaction that I was honored with the invitation to attend the school with the officials of other parties and other personalities and actors of the public scene. I can say with conviction that for a year that I attended the school I heard a lot of new and very important information from eminent lecturers from the country and the region, that I also met a great number of wonderful people, and that I ultimately enriched my spirit of democracy, and that my attendance at the School will remain in a beautiful and indelible memory."

Stjepan Camaj,
President of the Democratic council, Democratic Montenegro

Communications and IT Sector



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During the last year the Civic Alliance's administrative and financial team had a lot of work, providing the necessary support to our colleagues dealing with program activities in the field of protection of human rights. As the reform processes in Montenegro had intensified, in the context of the turbulent political atmosphere, the scope of our activities expanded. Therefore, the need for strong internal cohesion, a positive atmosphere and an effective coordination, was enabling the organization to act as a strong collective, able to respond and assist in public, and also towards our partners and victims of human rights violations.

We managed all those administrative and financial matters, which you certainly do not read about in the exciting news articles concerning our activities or monitoring reports of our colleagues, but which were necessary for the CA to function. Translation of reports and announcements, logistical support concerning the organization of meetings and public gatherings, preparation of draft contracts all the way to the management of administrative documentation and procurement of office materials, as well as communication with the administrative and financial staff of our partners. We carried out these activities independently or in direct cooperation with colleagues from the project teams, which additionally strengthened the internal connection and atmosphere of friendship and collegial support, necessary for achieving the quality results of the organization.

IT as part of a modern citizen's newsletter

Constant advancement of IT technology and communications from allows daily improvement of the IT sector in the Civic Alliance. We have a new visual identity, which, together with the redesign of Civic alliance websites: 35 mm and the School of Democratic Leadership, with the constant placement of information through social networks, made our profiles and websites- our own media and thus makes the IT sector an indispensable factor in our everyday activities. If we add to all of this also print setup of all CA publications, graphic design and infographics for almost all activities, and then the protection of our servers, we get a picture of the GA segment that only grows in scope and importance.

Monitoring of modern technologies, updating them, procurement of state-of-the-art equipment as a basic tool for work in an increasingly challenging ambience of communications - along with all the above activities, remains our priority in the next year.



Income and expenditure

Civic Alliance

216,167.82



Income

190,038.23



Expenditure

NGO 35mm

63,366.78



Income

52,863.44



Expenditure

Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR)

61,718.20



Income

56,888.62



Expenditure

In 2017. all three organizations paid 62,056.37 EUR for taxes and contributions.

Donors and Project

- ◆ Charles Stewart Mott Foundation - "Towards Enhanced Civil Activism and Sustainable Civic Participation in Montenegro", 70.000 USD
- ◆ Council of Europe – School of Democratic Leadership, 28.856 EUR
- ◆ Embassy of Germany - “ Public Forum: Effectiveness in Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Prevention“, 7.460,00 EUR
- ◆ European Academy for Diplomacy - Conference "Fight Against Corruption", 2.634,00 EUR
- ◆ Embassy of the Netherlands - "Reform of Criminal Sanctions Execution System", 75.777,40 EUR
- ◆ Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Institutional support, 120.000 USD

Significant contribution had our members NGO “Youth Initiative for Human Rights” (YIHR) and NGO “35mm”, whose project activities were supported by donors as follows:

- ◆ The European Commission Regional Exchange Program
- ◆ Council of Europe (EYF) – Let’s Create Montenegro Without Hate (Montenegro without hate)
- ◆ NGO “Human Rights Action” in cooperation with NGO Anima – Center for Women and Peaceful Education and Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC), with the support of the European Commission – “Library Worthy of People”
- ◆ Open Regional Fund for the South East Europe Energy Efficiency (ORF-EE), Deutsche Gesellschaft fürInternationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Public Dialogue on Efficient Use of Energy at the South East Europe (IV phase)
- ◆ Open Regional Fund for the South East Europe – Biodiversity, Deutsche Gesellschaft fürInternationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ◆ Commission for Allocation of Funds from the Lottery, Coalition for the Contribution to Respect of Rights and Needs of Persons with Disabilities
- ◆ Council of Europe, Resocialization of prisoners

- ◆ EACEA, Erasmus +, “Balkan Without Hate”
- ◆ European Commission – “Marginalized by the System: No more!”
- ◆ Council of Europe (EYF) – Let’s Create Montenegro Without Hate (Montenegro without hate)
- ◆ Ministry of Sport – Youth Directorate – Montenegro Without Hate
- ◆ Rockefeller Brothers Foundation in cooperation with NGO “CEDEM” – Asylum in the Land of Exiled
- ◆ European Commission in cooperation with Croatian Journalists’ Association – Untold Stories: Journalists in Danger
- ◆ European Commission (Action SEE) in cooperation with NGO Metamorphosis and Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) – Fairness, and not bias – Eradicate Cronyism!
- ◆ Embassy of Australia - (Un)Represented in Media

Partners

LOCAL PARTNERS

- ◆ EU Info centre
- ◆ Media Trade Union Montenegro
- ◆ NGO 4 Life
- ◆ NGO ADP-ZID
- ◆ NGO Alfa Center
- ◆ NGO ArhKomuna
- ◆ NGO Association of Egyptians
- ◆ NGO Association of Entrepreneurships
- ◆ NGO Association of Paraplegics of Montenegro
- ◆ NGO Association against AIDS (CAZAS)
- ◆ NGO AISEC
- ◆ NGO Better Life
- ◆ NGO Circle of life
- ◆ NGO Center for Children's Rights
- ◆ NGO Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM)
- ◆ NGO Center for Democratic Transition (CDT)
- ◆ NGO Consumer Protection Centre Montenegro (CEZAP)
- ◆ NGO CRINK
- ◆ NGO ELSA
- ◆ NGO Green home
- ◆ NGO Forum MNE
- ◆ NGO Fund for Active Citizenship Fakt
- ◆ NGO Hand of Friendship Montenegro
- ◆ NGO Human Rights Action
- ◆ NGO Institute for Social Inclusion
- ◆ NGO LGBT Forum Progress
- ◆ NGO Luka Berane
- ◆ NGO Monitoring group Ulcinj- MogUL
- ◆ NGO Our action
- ◆ NGO Ozon
- ◆ NGO Paraplegic Association Podgorica
- ◆ NGO Parents
- ◆ NGO ROM "Step with us - Phiren Amenca"
- ◆ NGO Rose
- ◆ NGO Safra
- ◆ NGO Young Roma

- ◆ NGO Women's rights centre
- ◆ Program for hypo-rehabilitation for children with difficult development, equestrian club Budućnost
- ◆ The Union of Free Trade Unions of Montenegro
- ◆ Volunteers club of gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović"
- ◆ Volunteers club of gymnasium "25 May"
- ◆ Youth alliance of Montenegro

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- ◆ Association GEYC (Romania)
- ◆ Association of Jewish Film Festival Zagreb
- ◆ Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture (ARCT)
- ◆ Association of Schools of Political Studies
- ◆ Centre for Youth Development - PRONI (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- ◆ Council of Europe (CoE)
- ◆ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- ◆ European Academy of Diplomacy
- ◆ European Anti-racist Movement (EGAM)
- ◆ FARE network
- ◆ French and German Office for Youth Cooperation (OFAJ)
- ◆ Green Spirit (Greece)
- ◆ IdejNet (Serbia)
- ◆ International Rehabilitation Council for the Victims of Torture (IRCT)
- ◆ NGO Identities (Italy)
- ◆ NGO Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- ◆ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- ◆ Seiklejate Vennaskond (Estonia)
- ◆ European Network Remembrance and Solidarity

INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ Administration for Inspection Affairs
- ◆ Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information
- ◆ Clinical Center of Montenegro
- ◆ Constitutional court
- ◆ Directorate for Youth and Sport
- ◆ Faculty of political sciences
- ◆ Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS)
- ◆ Inspection Directorate
- ◆ Ministry of Interior
- ◆ Ministry of Justice
- ◆ Municipality Berane
- ◆ Police Directorate
- ◆ Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro
- ◆ Supreme State Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ Special psychiatric hospital, Kotor, Dobrota

CA team

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