



2019 through our vision

Annual Report



**GRADANSKA
ALIJANSKA**

Civic Alliance - Aleancia Qytetare

2019 through our vision



www.gamn.org

Annual Report

Podgorica, February 2020



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2019 – A YEAR EATEN BY DIVISIONS



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It has been another year in Montenegro that we spent on increasing political and ethnic differences, without a significant shift in democratic maturation and internal consolidation. Strong nationalisms still dominate the political space, while the response from the corpus of civil values disappears into the deafening echo of ethnic divisions and hypocritical avoidance of leading representatives and activists to perceive numerous social and economic problems from the perspective of standards and genuine needs of Montenegrin political community, instead of personal and collective interests. In this distribution of forces - as civil forces are moving away from ordinary citizens, nationalists are approaching them, offering repacked political formulas, but with the same values that pushed Yugoslav community 30 years ago into wars, robbery of social resources and time of collapse of ethical values.

Formal indicators, in addition to the deafening noise and divisions that is the best environment for ethnic entrepreneurs, clearly indicate a decline of citizens' support to the EU membership, as one of the few remaining oases of normality (which alone is the indicator of severity of the problem), as well as increase of ethnic distance. This clearly indicates the direction of political campaigns and debates. Political leaders understand that a dialogue and compromise are not appreciated, and that in times of economic hopelessness and growing inefficiencies of judicial sector, clientelism of public sector, and political divisions - the loudest ones appear to have the most advantage.

This is the environment where we end 2019 and start 2020 - the election year.

A number of affairs marked 2019, and failing to solve them had been lost in a stream of formal statements that only few people noted and less people understood. Civil protests clearly indicated that a good portion of citizens wanted changes, but they made it clearer that there was no political movement capable of turning it into a sustainable political platform that would become the center of gathering of citizens who do not perceive nationalism and worn-out political elites as the solution of the problems. Civil sector pays more attention to relations with institutions than to citizens, and rare exceptions can hardly fight for their space.

Paradoxically, we are entering the third decade of 21st century at the height of projected modernization, with a fact that we receive more meaningful comments on social problems from the church than from the academic community that “sleeps the sleep of the dead”, tucked away in their sinecures and budgetary calculations.

Do you think all this is bad? Well, get ready, the election year has just begun.

"What to do," an Eastern-European thinker asked himself more than a hundred years ago, confronted with numerous social problems, to which the existing political structures could not respond, but only produced grandiose theories and ideas which they did not try to put into practice.

The answer is simple - to fight. To gather like-minded people who perceive Montenegro as a truly civil society pervaded by cultural diversity, where the society draws strength to organize its relations and affairs in a fair manner, with the efficient use of national natural resources for the benefit of all.

Someone has to set up an alternative to the frowning ethnical and concerned budget entrepreneurs.

With everything that Civic Alliance has done and with everything that CA plans to do – we are ready to form a partnership with such corps.



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING WITH THE RENEWED TEAM

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Our organization has finished a successful year, with good projects, events, initiatives and gatherings. Therefore, administrative and financial operations have registered positive results. Through the team work and striving to better results, we strengthened the capacities of this sector of Civic Alliance. The strengthening is reflected through engagement of new members in our team, successful fight with new challenges, improvement of skills and adoption of the new ones, and improvement of standards for report development.

Like in previous years, we worked consistently and in line with principles, and gained trust and support from important donors such as UNHCR, UNICEF, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Government of Montenegro, USA Embassy in Montenegro, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Royal Norwegian Embassy and many others. The support of donors has been reflected in the form of significant institutional grants, various partnerships, and projects that have contributed to implementation of important activities for our organization, society and international community.

We have adopted best practices and improved professionalism of our staff, while achieving outstandingly transparent level of work. Our audit reports are public, and the Supervision Board did not have objections to our work. All audits were completed successfully and with no significant challenges.

Humanitarian dimension of our staff has been reflected in existence of the joint fund that collects donations of employees, aiming to provide help to the most vulnerable groups of our society or individuals who need help. Within our capacities, we also provided support to individuals who asked for our help.

Professional improvement of our team members was one of the main goals; therefore we organized a series of trainings and courses in 2019. Attending seminars and trainings organized by other institutions was important as well.

For years, Civic Alliance has recognized the importance of teamwork, confidence and individual development, which gives us the right to look forward with hope and confidence to even greater success.



RIGHT OF CITIZENS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES

Milan Radović
CA Program Director

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Through its program – *Human Rights and Justice, Media Program and School of Political Studies*, Civic Alliance contributes to development of the civil Montenegrin society, where the rights of citizens are respected. CA focuses on European integration process and Chapters 23 and 24. Our work is based on cooperation with institutions, partner NGOs, and international organizations, primarily through communication with citizens.

In the framework of the program *Human Rights and Justice*, CA worked on studies about the status and exercising of rights to housing of Roma and Egyptians in 2019. We educated civil servants about the rights of LGBT population and researched the manner in which vulnerable categories use the right to free legal aid. We also provided free legal aid to refugees and other citizens. CA also monitored the rights of convicted and detained persons and dealt with the process of their resocialization and reintegration. We supported a dialogue between ethnical and national communities with the aim to promote differences as the cultural wealth and diminishing of ethnical distance. In 2019, Civic Alliance worked on its constant activity – dealing with the past. So, we initiated the process of establishment of the Research and Documentation Center, in order to collect all evidence and information about war crimes in one place.

Through *Media Program* we examined the way in which Montenegrin media wrote about the European integration process, educated journalists and organized the national conference “Principles of Media Ethics in Media and Public”, which gathered the most important decision makers in this

field. We continued to participate in the process of adoption of the Media Law. Hence, we participated in the Working group whose duty was to propose the new legal solution for the public service broadcaster. Civic Alliance participated in the work of the Committee for comprehensive reform of electoral and other legislation, related to the Working Media Committee.



Our *School of Political Studies* involved in its work NGO leaders, politicians, journalists, representatives of religious and trade union organizations in 2019. With the new, XVII generation, which started in September 2019, the focus was on journalists from the most prominent media in Montenegro. Participants had the opportunity find out about the rights of minority population, challenges in achieving standards in Chapters 23 and 24, and fight against corruption. In March 2019, SPS alumni had the opportunity to visit Oslo, and get acquainted with the work of its institutions, while members of XVII generation participated in the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg, in November 2019.

Most of our activities were not covered by projects. Through these activities, we reacted on violation of human rights, bad decisions and processes in the framework of the EU integrations, we monitored the work of institutions, provided free legal aid to citizens, celebrated significant dates related to human rights, organized humanitarian activities and worked on regional networking in the fields from our scope of work.

Civic Alliance also wishes to thank NGO “35mm” on successful and good cooperation during 2019.

The following pages will describe more about the concrete projects we implemented in 2019.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Conferences



Seminars



Beneficiaries of free
legal aid

4880

Participants



Panelists



OF IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

Prominent officials



Trainings



Publications



Video materials



Media statements





HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE PROGRAM

Zoran Vujičić

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In 2019, this program united two naturally connected programs – human rights and the rule of law. In this manner we additionally empowered and focused the work of these programs. A year behind us was full of challenges, because we were partners with UNHCR for the first time, in the part related to legal protection of asylum seekers and persons in the integration process.

CA also implemented projects supported by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, which for the first time since 2019 have implemented the model of empowerment of institutions of the system to finance NGO projects. In cooperation with the Association of Judges we implemented the seventh survey about the confidence of citizens in judiciary as the part of the Action Plan for Chapter 23.

A year ahead brings new challenges and obstacles in the accession negotiation with the EU. We will try harder and with more energy to indicate all anomalies in our society, aiming to better society for all of us.

Next pages describe projects implemented within the Human Rights and Justice Program.

JOINTLY FOR PROGRESS IN CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

Recognizing the importance of fulfillment of requirements for access to the European Union, or to be more precise – Chapters 23 and 24, Civic Alliance worked on improvement in the mentioned chapters with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund. We monitored the processes at courtrooms at eight courts in Montenegro (almost 300 criminal and civil cases). CA also monitored work of three relevant parliamentary boards for the EU integrations, judiciary and human rights (almost 50 sessions). Four events were organized – for information, education and a dialogue by the School of Political Studies, with almost 120 alumni from political, media and civil sector; which resulted in recommendations of Civic Alliance. Monitoring identified problems through comprehensive advocacy campaign. Civic Alliance closed the project with the final conference attended by 100 key actors, about the manners towards sustainable achievement of standards from chapters 23 and 24.



Within this project, Civic Alliance signed Memorandums on Cooperation with three relevant parliamentary Committees - Legislation Committee, Committee for Human Rights and Committee for European Integrations.



Conferences

2

Seminars

3

Participants

300

Media
statements

5

Publications

2

- ◆ Court processes monitoring in **8** Basic Courts in Montenegro (almost **300** criminal and civil proceedings)
- ◆ Monitoring of three relevant parliamentary Committees for the EU integrations, judiciary and human rights
- ◆ Civil informative events

School of Political Studies organized four seminars within its program, with topics about the achievement of goals from Chapters 23 and 24. Seminars took place in Podgorica, Miločer and Bar, while one seminar took place in Oslo – Norway. Seminars were attended by 85 participants and 44 panelists. Four editions of Bulletin of School of Political Studies were published, which were developed by SPS alumni and participants of XVII generation, with the focus on Chapters 23 and 24 and progress in accomplishing standards within these chapters.

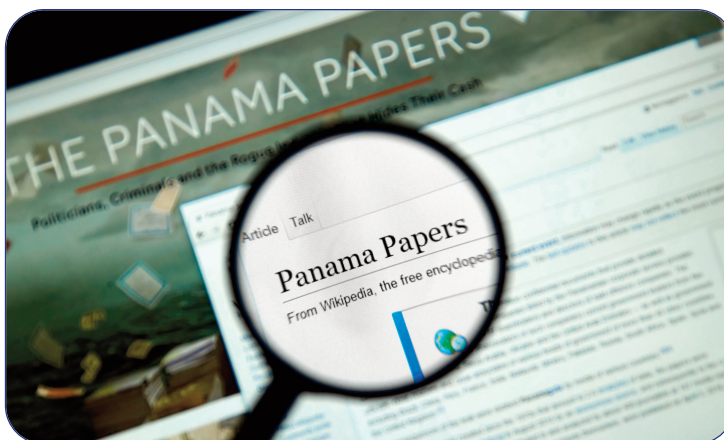


SUPPORT TO THE EU INTEGRATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

The project implemented with the support of the Rockefeller Brother Fund had more aspects. We implemented and published five investigative stories through the media aspect. These media products revealed the scope of the problem and created the grounds for citizens who require accountability, with key actors to initiate concrete changes, in order to ensure that justice mechanisms provide benefits and are not abused.

We have conducted a survey on justice. Civic Alliance monitored basic courts in Montenegro with a network of local monitors. Monitoring focused on: accountability and transparency, independence and impartiality, efficiency, financial management, equality in rights and accessibility and application of codes of ethics in practice.

During 2019, Civic Alliance monitored parliamentary committees. According to quarterly reports we developed after monitoring, we influenced on provision of the key information to stakeholders and citizens on issues that Montenegro has been facing on EU integration, under negotiation chapters 23 and 24. This is, above all, poor awareness of citizens on work of the parliamentary committees, the lack of interest of key actors to increase the transparency of the work of the committees themselves. The role of the Parliament in the EU integration process is passive and it is essential to support the political dialogue of the main actors as the first prerequisite for strengthening of confidence in democratic processes and the rule of law.



CA implemented the seventh survey. In cooperation with the Association of Judges of Montenegro, Civic Alliance conducted the survey as one of the continuous activities, foreseen in the Action Plan for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (clause 1.1.5.6).

Key research objectives included:

- ◆ Measuring of the views of judges and citizens about the situation in judiciary;
- ◆ Measuring of the efficiency of judicial proceeding from more aspects;
- ◆ Defining priority measures to strengthen public confidence in the justice system
- ◆ Measuring problems in judiciary by specific indicators;
- ◆ Measuring the level of information of citizens about their rights in court proceedings.

The survey conducted a five-member monitoring team of Civic Alliance, during the period from December 1 until December 25.



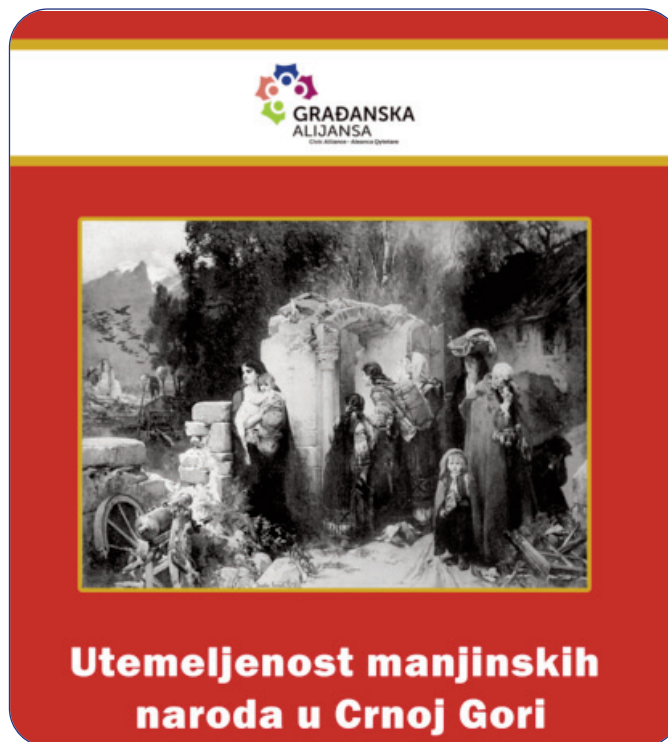
GROUNDENESS OF MINORITY POPULATION IN MONTENEGRO

We promoted constitutional and adopted international standards in the field of protection from discrimination, culture of minority population, coexistence and diminishing of ethnic distance through introduction, dialogue and tolerance of all people and national communities in Montenegro. We published “Groundedness of minority population in Montenegro” with active participation of 12 authors and experts from various minority communities and fields such as culture, art, etc. Our organization also organized presentation of the Study in five municipalities in Montenegro: Podgorica (publication was distributed to citizens), Bijelo Polje (publication was presented in the Culture Center Bijelo Polje), Ulcinj (the publication was presented at the seminar of XVII generation of School of Political Studies), Tuzi (publication was distributed to citizens) and Pljevlja (publication was also distributed to citizens).



Presentation of the study was followed by an online and media campaign and we distributed the publication in more than 30 elementary and high schools and libraries. The project was implemented with the support of Fund for Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights in Montenegro.

Civic Alliance issued the publication with **12** articles; the publication was presented at five events; almost **500** copies were distributed to schools, libraries and citizens in Montenegro.



Participants
400

Publication
1

Conference
1

Panelists
6

Media
statements
5

Seminar
1

LANGUAGES OF MINORITY POPULATIONS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – BETWEEN THE LAW AND PRACTICE

In the framework of this project, funded by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, we did the intensive research of harmonization between legal provisions and practice, regarding the use of minority languages at the national level and level of four selected municipalities (Podgorica/Tuzi, Ulcinj, Kotor and Pljevlja). We used questionnaires, document analysis, and Law on Free Access to Information as the methods of work. Results of the research were presented in the final phase of the project in the form of the report with recommendations for solution of identified problems. We also created a Guide for local municipalities for implementation of legal provisions.



Report
1

Guide
1

Media
statements
5

JOINT SUPPORT TO ROMA INCLUSION

Within this project that was supported by Open Society from Budapest, we performed a study of the policy for resolving the housing issues of people from the Roma settlement Rakonja in Bijelo Polje. After the activities and research were completed, we developed the report with recommendations about solving the housing issues of people in this settlement. In addition, we created two videos and report on analysis of the TV Show in the public service broadcaster RTCG in Roma language, which was dealing with problems of Roma population in Montenegro.

A competition for investigative journalism in the field of Roma employment was announced, and the best story will be awarded in 2020.



GRADANSKA ALIJANSA
Civilna Alijansa - Građanska Alijansa

NVO Mladí Romi

**KONKURS ZA NAJBOLJU ISTRAŽIVAČKU
PRIČU U OBLASTI ZAPOSŁJAVANJA
ROMA I EGIPĆANA**

Zainteresovani novinari/ke treba da objavljene tekstove, TV i radio priloge dostave Građanskoj alijansi na email adresu office@gamn.org sa naznakom za konkurs.

Prijavni paket možete preuzeti na sajtu www.gamn.org, a za dodatne informacije možete se obratiti na mlan@gamn.org.

Konkurs traje od 13.12.2019. do 29.02.2020. godine

Nagrada za prvo mjesto: 800 Eura
Nagrada za drugo mjesto: 500 Eura

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LGBTI PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

During this activity, we have directly approached unequal and uneven capacity development of police officers and prosecutors in Montenegro, who work with LGBTI people. Primary focus of the project was on decentralization, i.e. on work in six Montenegrin municipalities, two from each region: Bijelo Polje and Pljevlja from the north, Cetinje and Niksic from the central part and Bar and Herceg Novi from the south. The project was implemented in partnership with NGO LGBTIQ Social Center, with support of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.



Publications

2

Trainings

11

Media
statements

3

Participants

64



- ◆ Capacity building of police officers and prosecutors in six local governments for work with LGBTIQ people.
- ◆ Establishment and strengthening of cooperation with local governments.
- ◆ Police and prosecution cases analyzed and processed - increased visibility of LGBTI people in Montenegro.
- ◆ Conducted regular monitoring of police and prosecution work through regular monitoring of operation of institutions in the domain of LGBTIQ cases.
- ◆ Created professional manual for work with LGBTI people at local level.
- ◆ Public informed about the rights of LGBTI people.

WITH JUSTICE TOWARDS EQUALITY

Civic Alliance analyzed implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid, with special focus on trends and recommendations of surveys conducted by Civic Alliance in cooperation with NGO CEDEM and with support of UNDP (September 2013).



With representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Judiciary, which supported this project, we did a public consultation process aiming to define final recommendations for further improvement of implementation of free legal aid institute.

Civic Alliance also organized a public campaign in order to promote the key rights and duties arising from the Law on Free Legal Aid.



We also organized the workshop with the staff of Department for free legal aid at Basic Courts.



LEGAL AID TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MONTENEGRO

Jointly with UNHCR, Civic Alliance implemented the project aiming to provide free legal aid to foreigners who file the request for international protection, asylum seekers and foreigners with subsidiary protection.

- ◆ Through the multifunctional team established by UNHCR, we provided free legal aid to foreigners who filed the request for international protection and people who received international protection, in order to deliver efficient access to statutory rights;
- ◆ We provided access to asylum procedure to people who decided to ask for international protection in the country. We accomplished this by everyday visits to camps, delivering legal information and counseling people who expressed intention to file the request for international protection and persons who filed the request for international protection.



The successful cooperation with UNHCR on this project will be continued in 2020.

Free legal aid provided to refugees who expressed intention, asylum seekers and persons who received protection in more than **4880** cases.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN WITH FOCUS ON ACCESS TO FREE LEGAL AID

We have conducted analysis of the relevant legislation whereby a number of professionals were included, who provided their practical experience and knowledge in the subject area-20 informants (court presidents, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, court experts, as well as victims, witnesses and their parents/legal guardians as a separate target groups) from Ulcinj, Podgorica, Rozaje and Niksic. Three focus groups have been organised in the North, Central and South of Montenegro, whereas 200 children and parents have been directly informed through individual interviews. Analyses findings were presented to courts (10 judges and 10 prosecutors), employees in free legal aid offices, centres of social work, lawyers, NGOs, UNICEF and citizens through the press conference. The project was financially supported by UNICEF.



CONTRIBUTION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR EXECUTION OF CRIMINAL SANCTIONS 2017-2021 THROUGH STRENGTHENING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS AND RESOCIALIZATION OF PRISONERS

Monitoring of public institutions' work, which are obliged to promote and protect human rights, is one of the key program activities of Civic Alliance, with a clear goal to document the gap between regulation and practice, provide constructive criticism of failures and promote good practices, aiming to strengthen a dialogue with public sector, to solve problems of the system and to support the citizens.



In this regards, CA implemented this project with support of the Ministry of Justice, through the following activities:

- ◆ Support to the reform process in the field of implementation of alternative sanctions and measures;
- ◆ Strengthening the rehabilitation process and resocialization of prisoners;
- ◆ Strengthening cooperation between public and civil sector.

Trainings
3

Participants
30

Media
statements
1

Video
material
1

- ◆ Documented situation related to implementation of alternative measures and sanctions within Montenegrin judicial and execution of criminal sanctions system.
- ◆ Documented situation within the Bureau for Execution of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS) in terms of professional rehabilitation of prisoners, with set of recommendations for improvement and strengthening the capacities, better use of existing or creating new resources, and the model of cooperation with Employment Bureau in terms of defining deficitary professions on the market and development of corresponding programs for the training of prisoners.
- ◆ Improved cooperation between institutionalized partners, including judicial bodies, Ministry of Justice, ZIKS, ZZZCG and NGO sector.

STRENGTHENING OF PROBATION AND ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS IN MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA

Within the project *Strengthening of Probation and Alternative Sanctions in Montenegro and Serbia*, supported by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Civic Alliance created the report “Probation and System of Alternative Sanctions in Montenegro”. The Report covered legislative framework and implementation of the institute itself in practice. The report is at the same time a guidebook for institutions of the system, and for the others, who want to know more about alternative sanctions. One of the recommendations stated that it was important to strengthen the cooperation between ZIKS and Probation Service with the Employment Bureau of Montenegro and Center for Professional Development. Cooperation should be established and strengthened in the field of provision of information on professional deficit at the labor market on one side, and practical training for the missing professions. In this manner, convicted persons could be qualified for certain professions directly before leaving prison, in order to recruit and obtain the source of income after serving the prison sentence.



HUMAN RIGHTS OF PRISONERS WITH MENTAL DISORDER IN MONTENEGRO

With the support of Civil Rights Defenders, Civic Alliance worked on the research on situation of human rights of convicted persons with mental disorder, aiming to improve implementation of human rights standards in prisons, prevention of violation of human rights and improvement of treatment of convicted persons with mental disorders. In the framework of the project, CA drafted the Report on human rights of convicted persons with mental disorders in Bureau for Execution of Criminal Sanctions for Montenegro. The report was part of the regional report with the same topic.



ENHANCING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION FOR DETAINED AND SENTENCED PERSONS IN MONTENEGRO

This activity is the result of joint efforts by the Action “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro” and national civil society organization in achieving one of the goals of the action – enhancing rehabilitation programs in enclosed institutions in Montenegro. This particular activity is related to CPT (European Committee for Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishing) recommendations to Montenegro, where the Psychiatric Hospital in Dobrota was mentioned. Among other issues, it also stated that “offer of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities - which constitutes a major pillar in the implementation of any individual treatment plan - was extremely limited”. This activity was implemented with the support of the Council of Europe.



Video
material
1

Seminars
2

participants
10

Panelist
1

Media
statements
1

Four groups of patients and hospital staff were trained to use the equipment adequately and to develop their skills in a view of rehabilitation of detained and convicted persons in Montenegro.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

CELEBRATION OF 10 DECEMBER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Podgorica, 6-10 December 2019



Friday, 6 December

10:00 Competition for high school students: Human Rights Quest

Welcome note

H.E. Alvo Orav, Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro

Venue: EU Info Centre

16:15 Presentation of awards to the winners of "Human Rights Quest"

The awards will be presented by:

H.E. Alvo Orav, Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro
Ms. Zoja Bojanić - Lalović, headmistress of the high school „Slobodan Škerović“
Mr. Milan Radović, Civic Alliance

Venue: High school „Slobodan Škerović“ (assembly hall), Podgorica



Saturday, 7 December

14:00 Humanitarian football game: Montenegro vs. the rest of the world

Funds raised will be donated to the NGO "Zračak nade" from Pijevlja

Venue: Football hall "Mladost Lješkopolje", Donja Gorica



Ministarstvo vanjskih i evropskih poslova



Zastupnik Evropske unije u Crnoj Gori



Delegacija Evropske unije u Crnoj Gori



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



GRADANSKA ALIJANSA

* Funds raised will be donated to NGO "Zračak nade", for working with children with disabilities.



Monday, 9 December

10:00 – 13:00 Moot Court Competition for Law students

Opening notes

Ms Mladenka Topić, Programme Manager for Human Rights and Democratisation
Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro
Ms Ljiljana Ivanović, University of Montenegro

Venue: Faculty of Law, University of Montenegro

19:00 – 20:00 "Vaclav Havel" Human Rights Award Evening

H.E. Karel Urban, Ambassador of Czech Republic in Montenegro
Ms. Aleksandra Vuković, VHR Program Director
Participants: Alumni of School of Political Studies

Venue: Jazz Club "Sejdefa", Podgorica



19:05 Show "Argumenti", national broadcaster TVCG

Topic: State of play concerning human rights in Montenegro

Tuesday, 10 December

Conference

Respect of rights of persons with intellectual disabilities

Venue: Hotel "Podgorica", Podgorica

10:00 – 10:30 Introduction notes

Mr Mehmed Zenka, Minister of human and minority rights of Montenegro
H.E. Alvo Orav – Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro
Ms Zdenka Perović, Acting Ombudsperson of Montenegro
Ms Anjet Lanting, Human Rights Adviser, UN Coordination Office

Moderator: Mr Milan Radović, Civic Alliance

10:30 – 11:30 Panel discussion

Mr Milivoje Radžić, NGO "Zračak nade"
Ms Svetlana Dujović, NGO "Zračak nade" and Day Center Pijevlja
Mr Željko Darmanović, Director of Public institution "1 Jun"
Mr Vaseļ Dušaj, Director of Public institution "Komanski most"
Ms Danijela Brajković, Adviser in the Ombudsperson Institution of Montenegro
Ms Martina Marković, Social worker, NGO Human Rights Action

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Popović, Adviser in the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro

11:30 – 12:00 Questions / discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Visit to the Centre for children 1 June Podgorica

13:00 – 14:00 Theatre play for children "If I am someone who rules the planet", the author

Venue: Centre for children 1 June, Podgorica



We organized a competition for high school students: The quest for human rights.



We organized an evening dedicated to Vaclav Pavel Prize together with the Ambassador of Czech Republic to Montenegro.



We participated in a TV show "Arguments" on the occasion of Human Rights Day.



We organized the conference "Respecting the Human Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities".



We played a humanitarian football game: Montenegro - Rest of the World.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

In the spirit of New Year's holidays and in celebration of International Migrants Day, Civic Alliance organized a workshop in December 2019 with the youngest members of migrant and refugee families currently residing in Montenegro.



We marked International Migrant Day, December 18, together with colleagues from UNHCR Montenegro and Red Cross of Montenegro, by socializing and conversation with migrants and refugees located in Montenegro.





MEDIA PROGRAM

Tanja Pavićević
CA Media Coordinator

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The main objectives of Media Program include improving the process of information exchange between citizens and institutions, which will contribute to increased democratization of entire society. We accomplish them through implementation of project activities, which include educating journalists, promoting ethics in journalism, and producing socially engaged video materials. Our particular focus is on public accountability and transparency of the Government and their institutions, with the inevitable freedom of speech of citizens.

During 2019, we were particularly concerned with the principles of media ethics, improving investigative journalism, as well as improving media literacy and critical thinking, whereby we were especially focused on journalism students, their education and capacity building with a purpose to raise the standards of professional journalism in Montenegro.

The projects that we have implemented under this program are presented below.

PROFESSIONAL, ETHICAL, TRUSTWORTHY

With support of Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, we have worked to improve the conditions for quality journalism, including modern/innovative approaches to improving the quality and credibility of investigative journalism – daily newspapers Vijesti, in cooperation with the portal and partners of TV Vijesti and NGO Civic Alliance. One of Civic Alliance's main activities was monitoring of printed media with a focus on EU-related texts. The aim of the monitoring was to contribute to public dialogue in the EU accession process.



Improved capacities of daily newspapers Vijesti, TV and portal for investigative reporting, improved public comprehension of media ethical principles and journalists and increased public awareness of EU accession.



ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL REPORTING FOR STUDENTS

In the second half of 2019, we initiated activities on the project to improve media literacy and critical thinking through contributing to professionalism and capacity building of final year journalism students, with the aim to improve the standards of professional journalism in Montenegro. The project is implemented with support of the US Embassy in Montenegro. The purpose of the project is achieved through active work – organization of trainings for students of the final year of journalism, who are also the target group of the project. In these trainings, experienced journalists from the printed media, radio and TV present how to write different journalistic forms (news, report, article, interview, analysis, comment) in different media, how to differentiate information from disinformation, how to build a story, investigate, document and formulate stories, as well as how to present them to the public. In the coming period, we will also organize a promotional campaign on media literacy and objective reporting. One TV spot will be produced to inform the public about the problem of reporting in journalism, and the end of the project will be organisation of a round table discussion where all relevant actors on the media scene will discuss current situation in Montenegrin media in relation to students and their knowledge upon graduation.





SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Jelena Ristović
SPS Coordinator

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School of Political Studies (SPS) remains one of the leading projects for educating actors of social changes and political processes in Montenegro on practical skills and topics which are not covered by the existing education system, and which are necessary to improve the work of politicians, journalists, NGO activists and public officials in terms of a better understanding of European integration process and formulating sustainable models for the application of European standards within Montenegrin legal framework and institutional practice.

Simultaneously, SPS has been continuously evolving as a key national platform for dialogue and joint cooperation of the aforementioned socio-political actors, in terms of educational goals of the School itself and its proclaimed mission to contribute to social cohesion and improvement of reform process by achieving synergy between different sectors and political options.

Last year, a program for the new XVII generation of the School of Political Studies was implemented. This generation gathered journalists from the most important media outlets in Montenegro. We went through three modules with the participants, which dealt with current topics such as minority rights in Montenegro, fight against corruption, challenges of our country on its path towards the EU, political communication skills. With participants of this generation, we have traditionally participated in the World Forum of Democracy held in Strasbourg in November 2019. This prestigious event was dedicated to information and democracy and the theme of the forum was "Is democracy

in danger in the information age?" During their stay in Strasbourg, participants had the opportunity to visit the Embassy of Montenegro at the Council of Europe.

In September 2019, the School of Political Studies organized a public discussion on sustainable urban mobility within European Mobility Week. The public discussion was held as part of a regional project implemented by GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe - Energy Efficiency (GIZ ORF-EE), funded by the German Government. Participants in this public discussion received basic information on sustainable urban mobility, why it is needed and how different it is from traditional traffic planning, the sources and mechanisms for the preparations and implementation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, as well as the aspect of gender equality in this field.

As part of the same project, representatives of the School of Political Studies, with MPs and parliamentary staff from Montenegro, participated in Urban Mobility Training held in Tirana in April. In the period from 10 to 13 December 2019, MPs and parliamentary staff of Montenegro together with SPS representatives participated in the fourth South-East Europe Parliamentary Forum on Energy Efficiency (EE) and Climate, held in Moldova, which was also focused on sustainable urban mobility. Projects implemented within the School of Political Studies are presented below.

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

We worked on regional networking of parliamentarians, which is one of the main goals of this project. The project was supported by GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Energy Efficiency (GIZ ORF-EE), funded by the German Government. The project was launched in 2017, and the network of Schools of Political Studies, through regional and national activities, will contribute to the process of strengthening parliamentarians' capacities in the Southeast Europe countries in shaping decision-making processes in the field of climate change and energy efficiency.



- ◆ Parliamentary hearing was held in the first quarter of last year - a consultative hearing of the Committee for Economy, Finance and Budget, organized by SPS for several previous years in order to strengthen responsibilities of the Directorate and Ministry in the process of adopting legislation and implementing political documents in this field.
- ◆ We have created a Policy Paper in collaboration with the NGO Biciklo.me, which provides basic information on sustainable urban mobility and traffic situation in Podgorica, as well as on specific steps that need to be taken to improve the current situation.
- ◆ European Mobility Week was held, during which SPS organized a public discussion on sustainable urban mobility in front of parliamentarians, members of the Women's Political Network, members of the councilors' clubs.
- ◆ A seminar was held in Oslo with alumni of the School of Political Studies in March 2019, whereby part of the lectures was devoted to energy efficiency.
- ◆ Training on sustainable urban mobility was held in Tirana on 23 April for members of Montenegrin Parliament, members of the Green Parliamentary Group and staff of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- ◆ In the period between 10 and 13 December 2019, MPs, staff of the Parliament of Montenegro and SPS representatives participated in the fourth South-East Europe Parliamentary Forum on Energy Efficiency (EE) and Climate in Moldova, which was also focused on sustainable urban mobility.

Trainings
2

Seminars
2

Video
materials
2

SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES – MINORITY RIGHTS IN MONTENEGRO

We have worked to achieve full equality for members of minority people and other minority communities in all areas. We have achieved this by informing and educating social actors on the position of minorities in Montenegro, and by promoting the essential participation of minorities in public and political life. At the same time, through work with the media representatives and their education, we have made an impact on the change of discriminatory reporting patterns and avoiding stereotypes about minority peoples. The project was supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro.



- ◆ Improved level of knowledge of about 40 local and national decision makers and journalists on the need to improve the position of minorities in Montenegro, minority rights and participation in public and political life.
- ◆ Informed interested public about the results so far, obstacles and ways of overcoming them in this field.

Seminars

2

Participants

50

Panelists

20

Publications

2

Media
statements

6

Video
materials

3

VISIT OF ALUMNI TO STATE INSTITUTIONS IN OSLO

A seminar called “The Importance of Strong Institutions”, which was held in March 2019 in Oslo under the auspices of the Council of Europe, brought together alumni of the School of Political Studies, who had the opportunity to visit the Norwegian Parliament, state institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, trade unions, representatives of political parties and the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



SEMINAR OF XVII GENERATION OF SPS

The first seminar of XVII generation of the School of Political Studies (SPS) was held in Bar, from September 27 to 29, 2019. The seminar entitled "Montenegro in Fight Against Corruption" was also supported by the Council of Europe. In addition to the new generation participants, seminar was attended by alumni of the School - representatives of political parties, media, trade unions and state institutions. The topics covered by this seminar are the following: challenges of Montenegro on its path to the European Union; role of the Assembly in addressing key issues in the integration process; challenges that Anti-Corruption Agency is facing; independence and proactive nature of institutions in fight against corruption; fight against high corruption and financial investigations; public administration reform; challenges for journalists in anti-corruption topics.



FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY IN STRASBOURG

The World Forum for Democracy was held in Strasbourg from 6 to 8 November, 2019. Participants of XVII generation participated in this prestigious event, which brings together more than two thousand people from more than a hundred countries. The forum was dedicated to information and democracy and the topic of the forum was “Is democracy in danger in the information age?” During this study visit the participants had the opportunity to visit the Council of Europe's Embassy of Montenegro.



POLITICAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the School of Political Studies operates within the European Network of Schools of Political Studies, with the aim of linking politicians, civil servants, journalists and NGO representatives through practical educational programs. There are very important parliamentary elections in 2020, which brings to light the importance of communication between media representatives and politicians, and the way the media cover political debates and campaigns.



Therefore, at the end of December 2019, at the seminar “Political Communication Skills” in Budva, we gathered politicians and journalists from Montenegro, as well as people from public relations and diplomats who exchanged experiences and opinions in a non-partisan atmosphere about key issues of political communication in Montenegro. The seminar brought together about 20 participants and eight lecturers. The seminar participants acknowledged the potential for reducing tension and working together in a constructive political environment.

YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Aleksandra Vukčević
YIHR Program Director

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 [Aleksandra Vukcevic](#)



There are three goals that define Youth Initiative for Human Rights are clear: facing the past, youth and activism and human rights monitoring program. At the Initiative in Montenegro, we constantly work on the process of dealing with the past, which is often a difficult job because this tendency does not coincide with state policy that rather resorts to attempts to cover up and ignore such events in our territory. Citizens of Montenegro need to be aware of what was happening in our country and in the region countries during the 1990s, so in the previous year we started the project "No impunity for the past!" by which we wish to improve the process of dealing with the past by establishing a Research and Documentation Center and seeking the initiation of procedures for determining responsibility for war crimes that occurred in the territory of Montenegro during that period.

Like in the past, we have worked to empower young people to work on promoting and protecting human rights and democratic principles.

Through the Human Rights Program, we have endeavored to advance the process of protecting victims of human rights abuses and establishing the rule of law. The focus of the research are the cases of police torture, politically motivated violence, discrimination and minority rights. The Initiative informs the public about the extent of human rights violations in the area of torture by periodic reports and, where appropriate, public announcements, thus protecting the victims of torture themselves.

We also monitor the European integration process, especially by participating in the Chapter 24 Working Group.

VÁCLAV HAVEL PRIZE

In October 2019 Regional Network of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights became the winner of prestigious Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize, which has been awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2009. The Vaclav Havel Prize has been awarded to organizations and individuals for outstanding contributions in the field of human rights in Europe and worldwide, in memory of the former President of Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic.



FOOTBALL AGAINST RASISM

On October 17 Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) organized a #FootballPeople match, with the aim to overcome discrimination and prejudice against minority communities, and to promote social inclusion through football. The participants were members of minority communities, NGO activists, representatives of political parties, MPs and asylum seekers in Montenegro.



Participants

5

Video
materials

1

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

In addition to program activities, our team is also active in terms of following the Human Rights and Freedoms Committee, as well as other parliamentary committees. By participating in the Chapter 24 Working Group, we are particularly involved in monitoring European integration process.

Additionally, President of Civic Alliance Boris Raonic was a member of the Ethics Committee of the Police Directorate and Committee for Further Reform of Electoral Legislation of the Parliament of Montenegro during 2019, and since December 2019 he has been a member of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media of Montenegro.

Executive Director, Edina Hasanaga Cobaj, is a member of the Patient Protection Council at the Special Hospital for Psychiatry in Kotor.

Program Director, Milan Radovic, is a member of RTCG Council and the Working Party of the National Preventive Mechanism set up by the Ombudsman.

Human Rights and Justice Program Coordinator Zoran Vujicic is a member of the State Election Commission.

YIHR Program Director, Aleksandra Vukcevic, is a member of the Working Group for Chapter 24.

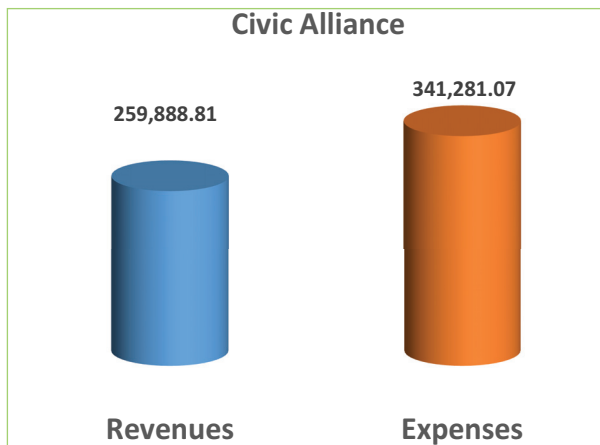
DONORS

- ◆ USA Embassy in Podgorica
- ◆ Civil Rights Defenders
- ◆ Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro
- ◆ Fare Network
- ◆ Open Society Foundation
- ◆ Fund for Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights
- ◆ Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- ◆ Internews
- ◆ Ministry of Justice of Montenegro
- ◆ Ministry of Sports and Youth of Montenegro
- ◆ Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro
- ◆ The Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Energy Efficiency (ORF-EE), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ◆ Council of Europe
- ◆ The Balkan Trust for Democracy / German Marshall Fund
- ◆ The Netherlands Helsinki Committee
- ◆ UNHCR Representation in Montenegro
- ◆ UNICEF Montenegro

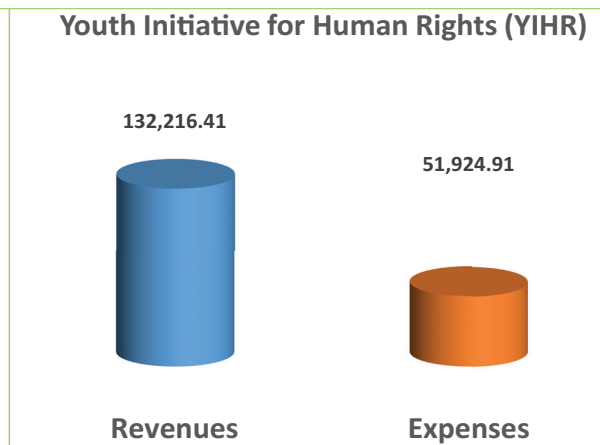


TOTAL STATISTICS: REVENUES, EXPENSES

Civic Alliance (CA)



Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR)



In 2019 both organizations paid EUR 68,197.15 for taxes and contributions.

CA TEAM

STAFF

- ◆ Boris Raonić, President
- ◆ Edina Hasanaga Čobaj, Executive Director
- ◆ Milan Radović, Program Director
- ◆ Zoran Vujičić, Coordinator of the Program for Human Rights and Justice
- ◆ Jelena Ristović, Coordinator of School of Political Studies
- ◆ Tanja Pavićević, Coordinator of Media Program
- ◆ Aleksandra Vukčević, Program Director of YIHR
- ◆ Dušica Merdović, Legal Advisor
- ◆ Amina Murić, Financial Manager
- ◆ Aleksandra Srbljanović, Program Assitant
- ◆ Vojo Đuranović, Program Assitant
- ◆ Zoran Zola Vujačić, Office and IT Manager
- ◆ Muhamed Hassan, Translator
- ◆ Sonja Radulović, Translator
- ◆ Bojan Andrejević, Accountant
- ◆ Anđela Stešević, Volunteer
- ◆ Lidija Cerović, Housekeeper



MEMBERS OF CA COUNCIL

- ◆ Gordana Đurović
- ◆ Nebojša Vučinić
- ◆ Džemal Perović
- ◆ Branislav Radulović
- ◆ Olivera Komar



