



2014 through our perspective
Annual Report



Gradanska alijansa
Civic Alliance - Aleanca qytetare

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Annual Report

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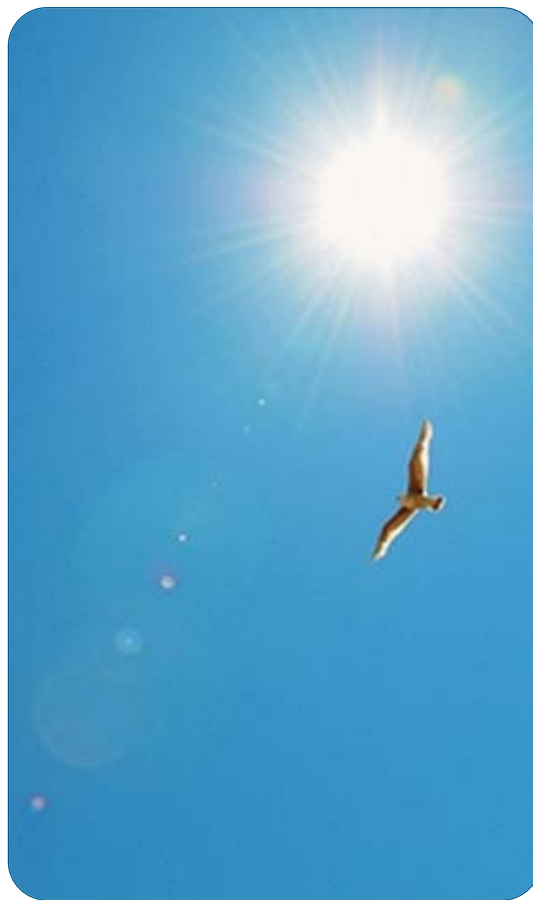
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Dear friends,

This is the review for 2014, created by employees in Civic Alliance, organization that invests a lot of efforts in transparency of its work and good communication with all partners.

Our greatest achievement is success to survive as sustainable, professional, objective and principles based team, notwithstanding the society weighted by a number of lines of divisions and economic crisis. We also did not assume partisan position towards those divisions and managed to endure as the one of the largest NGOs in the country.

At the same time, we managed to support number of partners out of the Capital City, by several activities, and also achieved a lot of regional contacts and projects. To the best possible extent, we respected principles of work of Green office, and were also relevant speaker in media, averagely almost three times per day.

Common denominator of all of our activities and programmes has remained the Citizen. We were devoted to protection of its rights, helped in resolving everyday life problems, especially those that are not rare and deriving from difficulties to follow the pace of changes of Montenegrin legislation and institutional framework within integration with the EU principles.

The review related to 2014, will not cover all that we did last year, but only emphasize some key achievements, aiming to follow up on concrete examples to demonstrate commitment to our mission, mandate, and Strategic plan and that we did not stroll in areas where donor and media interests existed, and for which we do not have necessary expertise.

For almost all of our programmes, year 2014 entailed expansion and progress. You can read this on following pages. Sometimes, there have been so many things we worked on, but we could only provide the formal account. So, the report would contain factography that diverts attention from key achievements. What you will not find in this report is what cannot be written on the paper – emotions we see in the eyes of people, who, due to our efforts, fulfilled their fundamental human rights, embracing CA as the symbol, warmth, as a person. As the team that acts as one.

Thus, the year behind us was the year of the Team who united many people, and assembled them all over one goal. The goal was to create the society of equality and wellbeing in an ambient of human rights respect, conjoined life and progress.

For all the people who feel and live it - is not unreachable.

Sincerely,
Team of Civic Alliance



Gradanska alijansa

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Strategy
Programmes
Administration
Communication

Year of affirmation, cooperation and growing



Boris Raonić
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For Civic Alliance, 2014 was the year of full affirmation. It was devoted to our contribution to faster reforms, successful work of all institutions and European integrations. Programme Coordinators were recognized in public as inevitable partners in areas they deal with. We have presented how to act and use arguments accordingly, think in original terms and cherish fundamental values on which is grounded the idea on European integrations.

Our representatives in RTCG Council, Commission for attacks on journalists, Ethical Board of the Police Directorate, Operative Body for implementation of Communication Strategy of European integration, number of Work groups for drafting of laws, Parliamentary Boards, showed how the situation can be improved and how to act in principal manner. We are especially proud because in 2014 we established the Council, composed of the most prominent professionals from areas we deal with, people of integrity, which will additionally make our excellent planning easier and implementation of activities.

We are proud of additionally improved relations and constructive cooperation with public institutions with whom we share the same standpoints in work, with all political parties andpart of civil sector. Citizens recognized our access even in 2014, so we had higher number of citizens who addressed us to be mediators in resolving of their problems and competent institutions.

Through this access, we have defined the position as the one of the largest and most influential NGOs in the country, according to the number of employees, public presentation, budget means, and number of recognizable people on public scene. It is our pleasure to highlight the fact that among fifteen employees, we have the structure that suits the structure at the level of the country, bearing in mind gender, ethical, religious, ideological, geographical and other affiliations. They have all been recognized as impartial and the most professional ones in their areas. Even in 2014, we defined our strategic guidelines in diversification of donors' structure, for additional defining of our neutrality. In that sense, international organizations have equal part, but also private foundations, embassies, even the country of Montenegro in one small part, although its system of financing of NGO sector is chaos, on which we often indicate.

We promise that all employees in CA will even in 2015 be bearers of public interest, initiators of establishing of practice of social dialogue, creators of positive steps for the benefit of society as a whole.



Civil society – our and your goal

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During 2014, CA developed and implemented programmes in accordance with new Strategic Plan for the period until 2016. We have been choosing priorities lead by the vision of Montenegro as an civil and democratic society, based on the rule of law, as the full member of the European Union (Strategic Plan on www.gamn.org/dokumenti.html).

So, in 2014 we worked on civil initiatives and reports related to violation of human rights, corruption and inefficient public bodies, but at the same time we worked on improving of readiness and efficiency of public bodies aiming to provide services of a good quality and processing of reports of citizens in these areas. We were specifically focused on stimulating of public dialogue and improving of professional capacities of social leaders in the rule of law leaders, human rights and democratic political culture. We worked on implementation of all strategic goals in cooperation with organizations that have similar orientation in Montenegro and the region. We are also proud of the expanded network of partners, donors and those who support our work.

Contribution to establishing of civil society we perceive in achieved results in concrete cases where cases of violation of human rights, corruption and inefficiency of public bodies were identified and then solved. We identified inefficient and disharmonized work of institutions of the system, while number of reports of citizens was evident, by which we managed to change with joint efforts,

even until then, inadequate manner of functioning of some institutions. So, in the most direct manner, we enabled citizens to meet the concept of civil society and to contribute on their own to the rule of law in Montenegro.

In Civic Alliance we also constantly work on strengthening of internal capacities for implementation of programmes in accordance with values we support, but also on expanding of the network of activists who are willing to work directly on positive changes in society. Work on improvement of personal competencies on all these fields we observe as an obligation and responsible relationship with citizens, in whose name we often act.

Significant changes are notable in all areas that are in our focus, but more on this, you may read in the chapters that follow. In future, a lot of hard work and challenges are waiting for us, in order to jointly build society to which we all strive – a lot of reasons for you to cooperate with us.



*Efficient administration, transparent finances,
humanity and philanthropy in practice*

Edina Hasanaga Čobaj
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After stable financial year, establishing of partnerships with different donors, NGOs in Montenegro and abroad, CA decided to make a step forward in implementation of its mission.

As organization that is every day in contact with people who have different problems, CA team provided assistance during the whole year, in the frame of its possibilities, to people who were in different troubles due to poor financial situation, health problems, and all the things that bother average Montenegrin citizen.

Thus, we donated several times school kits and school books to children, whose parents could not afford. CA also donated money for disabled children, sent gifts to children in Bijela, donate computer to a single mother who needed it, participate in different school and children activities, paid for the trip for treatment of a person who was not supported by our health care system, helped to Montenegrin Olympic, participated in more humanitarian activities, and provided aid to non-governmental organizations who had concrete activities that were of humanitarian and ecological character, provided aid to the Roma Camp in Konik. There is lot of examples, but we mentioned only couple of them.

In premises of CA and its everyday work we are led by so called idea on green and efficient office. Every day, each one of us makes decisions that impact on these issues. Decisions vary, and are related to paper recycling, two-sided use of paper, reuse of cartridge, until big one ideas such as purchase of heating and cooling energy efficiency equipment.

Through introducing of these ideas and habits, we work at the same time on strengthening of awareness on ecology and team spirit that encourages employees to be ecologically responsible.

During meetings that CA has on weekly basis, we came to an idea that was unanimously adopted. It was about opening of fund within the organization, where all employees would allocate specific sum of money according to their possibilities and sensibility, which would be donated in humanitarian purposes. In that manner, our mission gets the point and such a small contribution of Civic Alliance to society makes us happy.



Our programmes



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Human rights as obligation, not the privilege

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During 2014, Human Rights Programme continued to contribute to development of higher level of protection and respect of human rights. Topics that were in our focus were minority rights, protection from torture, facing past, hate speech, freedom of expression, right to peaceful gatherings, status of displaced persons, economic and social rights, monitoring of implementation of Laws and participation in its amending, monitoring of implementation of strategies and Action plans, education on human rights, cooperating and networking.

Last year, we also indicated on one of the most important problems: lack of efficient, urgent, effective and independent investigations and reactions of competent public institutions on charges of citizens. In the frame of human rights programme, through the work of CA and its member Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), in 2014 we worked on the following projects, independently or with partners:

1. Monitoring of civil society for implementation of National Strategy for integration of Roma and the Action Plan of Decade for inclusion of Roma in Montenegro, for 2012 and 2013. Project implementer was CA, and the project was implemented in cooperation with Association of Egyptians, Center for Roma Initiatives, Forum MNE, NGORuza. The project was supported by the Secretariat of Foundation of Decade of Roma Inclusion in cooperation with the programme Open Society Foundation “The best use of the EU funds for Roma”;



2. Regional project “Building free of torture and impunity societies on Western Balkan”. Project implementer is YIHR Montenegro. Partners YIHR Serbia, ARCT Albania, and IRCT Denmark-participate in project implementation. The EU supported the project;
3. “Strengthening capacities of civil society organizations for participation in UPR process”. Project implementer is NGO CEDEM and is supported by Balkan Democracy Fund.
4. “Building capacities for strengthening of Montenegrin system of asylum and migration managing”. Project implementer is NGO CEDEM with the support of MATRA Programme of Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade.

Number of activities we implemented during 2014, were not project activities. We monitored and participated in the work of Board for Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro. Traditionally, we also organized celebration of International Day of Human Rights, on 10 December 2014. Celebration was devoted to the topic “Accessibility and disabled persons”. In the frame of the agenda for celebration of this important day was the press conference at the Parliament of Montenegro, visit to the Center “1. June”, humanitarian football game between representatives of Montenegro who fight for human rights and representatives of international organizations and donated collected funds to children with disabilities for the Hypo-rehabilitation treatment, and joint action of young representatives of political parties. In the frame of our initiative, they signed the statement, which



indicated on importance of human rights in politics. Partners in celebration of International Day of Human Rights were Institution of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, Board for Human Rights and Freedoms, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and OSCE.

In its work, Civic Alliance maintained its direct communication with citizens and victims of human rights violation. Our office was at disposal for all during the

whole year, and large number of people addressed us via SOS phone line and via e-mail. During 2014, we provided free legal advices for more than hundred cases. We also visited most of them. Large number of closed institutions opened the door for us, so we talked to persons deprived of liberty, students, patients, families of victims of human rights violations, inhabitants of informal settlements, Roma and Egyptians. Information obtained in this manner we defined in recommendations for competent institutions, but we also intended to make them part of new legal solutions.

Milan Radović, Coordinator of Human Rights Programme in CA, was elected as the member of the Council of Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTCG) and was also member of the Work group established by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, which was obliged to prepare the proposal of amendments of Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms. Amendments of the Law, among other things, are related to the functioning of Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights. Proposal of the Law envisages future functioning of the Fund in legal and transparent manner without conflict of interest, on which indicated National Audit Institution, Administrative Court, some members of the Managing Board of the Fund, European Commission, NGOs, media and others.

Through Human Rights Programme, we continued active participation in UPR process on situation of human rights. Milan Radović is also member of UPR Work group, by which coordinate Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. Goal of the Work group is preparation of the report on implementation of the Action Plan defined according to recommendations Montenegro received in the second UPR cycle.

We sent recommendations related to initial report of Montenegro about implementation of International Pact on civil and political laws, in cooperation with NGO CEDEM. The Committee adopted larger part of recommendations. Recommendations delivered to the Committee indicated on importance of considering of efficiency of constitutional appeal as the mechanism for protection of constitutional rights and freedoms, and efficiency of mechanisms for protection from discrimination that still are not efficient in all cases of violation of equality. Besides, we recommended the country to file data related to processing of war crimes and protection of rights of victims of these crimes; status of detainees, especially the ones using drugs, and persons accommodated in psychiatric institutions; processing of cases of torture by police officers and processing of assaults on personality and property of journalists. We especially indicated on status of minority communities, especially Roma and Egyptian community, in relation to effective access to free legal aid, providing of court interpreter for Roma language and processing of cases related to work of children and early and forced marriages.

In cooperation with 14 NGOs from Montenegro, CA sent recommendations and information to the Committee for economic, social and cultural rights. On that occasion, CA indicated on rights of patients of the Special Psychiatric Hospital in Dobrota and we sent information about the situation in Fund for protection and exercising of minority rights. The Committee considered both questions and recommendations, adopted and accented it in its reports and defined recommendations to public institutions.

In accordance with our initiative, Constitutional court initiated the procedure for assessment of constitutionality of Provisions of Article 10, 11 and 26 of the Law on public gatherings and made decisions on ceasing of Articles to exist because they were not in accordance with the Constitution of Montenegro and the European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Opposite to the Constitution, mentioned articles limited right to peaceful gathering, above all, as they allowed to Police Directorate to prohibit peaceful gatherings, which was done more than 200 times during one year.

CA also continued and strengthened cooperation with public institutions. Among others, we cooperated with Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, Board of Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Institution for enforcement of criminal sanctions (ZIKS), Police Directorate. We also cooperated with international organizations: UN Committee for Human Rights, UN Agencies in Montenegro, European Commission, and OSCE.



The rule of law for the efficient system and satisfied citizens

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Legal security is one of the fundamental requirements of the rule of law, while law and justice are – for ordinary citizen, of essential importance, especially in interaction with public institutions. For that reason, perennial control of work of the court system results in deeper coming into the essence of the problem, with the aim to promote and help institutions do their job better, which ultimately results in having satisfied citizens. After monitoring of work of the courts, CA made a step forward and is one of the few, if not the only NGO that has attempted to enter into the core of the problem, which undoubtedly burdens judicial authorities in criminal matters, and is related to quality of adjudication, consistency of court decisions and harmonization of court practice. Project that aimed at professional public, at the same time is the parameter of confidence in the judiciary. The project team analyzed 14 decisions of Appellate court and 21 decisions of Higher courts. The report showed that, in comparison to all processed cases, majority of them were abolished due to serious violation of rules of criminal procedure, and refer to the fact that "the verdict is incomprehensible, contradictory to itself, or if the verdict has no reason at all". Also, due to the comprehensiveness of the project, we conducted a survey among various process and social actors on the degree of harmonization of court practice (judges, lawyers, prosecutors, academic sector, NGOs). The results showed the justification of this project. The survey responded 52 judges. In fact, on general question whether Montenegro had a problem of disharmonized court practice, to what extent it might affect predictability of outcome of trials and legal security of citizens, only 9.6% of judges



stated that there was no problem related to disharmonized court practice, 58% of them directly said the problem existed, almost 25% said that it largely and significantly affected the outcome of trial, while 6% respondents believed that problem existed, but only in the part related to sentencing policy.

Supreme Court should have a key role in harmonization of court practice and as such, has to be proactive, not only intangible supreme authority. However, it is equally certain that agility of courts of lower instances largely determine activity of the Supreme Court that cannot be detector of all ambiguities and dilemmas in applying of criminal law, both material and process. However, like many times before, we point out to the fact that this process does not begin with the election on judicial function, but represents continuous task of all institutions that educate staff for the justice - from universities, through informal forms of training and professional development, till daily activities of the Centre for education, bearers of judicial functions and its partners. Results of the survey can be downloaded at this link: <http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/izvjestaj-o-uskladjenosti-sudske-prakse-2014.pdf>

During 2014, we were partners in implementation of project "Characteristics of treatment in cases of organized crime, corruption, terrorism and war crimes". General impression is that the specified cases are still the challenge for Montenegrin judiciary, especially if the number of cases is taken into account, the number of abolished decisions and the backlog (which are still in a high percentage), so in the future, resources of judicial institutions should be strengthened. This is primarily due to dilemma on which body and at which stage of the proceeding has committed failure in its work and contributed to impunity or obstruction in treatment. In one of these cases, it was even more evident, when, after initiating of the entire judicial apparatus, followed lack of evidence at the trial, further prosecution was canceled. http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/karakteristike_postupanja_u_predmetima_organizovanog_kriminala_korupcije_terorizma_i_ratnih_zlocina.pdf

In 2014, Civic Alliance published the guidebook „Citizens and the system“. This publication was the guide through Montenegrin reality and reminder on time when all the people were equal, but only some of them were „more equal than others“. Cases in this publication were cases we met on



everyday basis, while the use of elementary instruments of democracy – civic activism put them in front of us. This guidebook was composed of stories that we put into insight of public, through our programmes, which indicated on violation of elementary human rights, observing reactions of the country and people in the system who make decision. <http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/gradjani-i-sistem.pdf>

In cooperation with the Association of Judges of Montenegro and for the second year in a row, Civic Alliance worked the survey of public opinion and judges on situation in judiciary. The Report is part of activities envisaged by the Action Plan for Chapter 23- Judiciary and fundamental rights - in the part strengthening of independence of judiciary, which is carried out continuously. General assessment of the

survey is that confidence in judiciary fell in comparison with the last year's survey, both in terms of citizens and judges. There is a large gap between attitudes of citizens and judges in terms of situation in judiciary. Opinions about the situation in courts, judges based on 85% positive responses. On direct question, 46.3% of judges considered that public has confidence in judiciary. When asked about attitudes of parties on courts, 44.3% of judges considered they were good. On the other hand, almost 50% of citizens had negative standpoints about judiciary. What is even more worrying is that 48% of citizens believe that judges never or almost never judged by the law. Abolition of judgments in the most important cases before instance higher courts, inconsistent case practice, absence of vertical communication in one hand, and critical relations of media, lack of knowledge about the process rules on the other hand partly influenced that this year mistrust and pessimism are the main characteristics of the study results. Study can be viewed on this link: <http://www.gamn.org/images/docs/cg/izvjestaj-sudski-sistem.pdf>

All monitoring projects findings were represented to competent institutions, aiming at collecting of their standpoints and responses.

Zoran Vujičić, Coordinator of the Rule of Law Programme, was elected last year as the member of Ethical Board of the Police. Even after a year from the adoption of the Action Plan for Chapters 23 and 24 all the weaknesses of the system showed up. Delays in the adoption and implemented measures for 2014 showed the lack of vertical and horizontal communication between various and the same government bodies – on which we have indicated for years. Lack of qualified and professional staff, which is improvised, is poor and is wrong way for the system to become better. In the previous period, political parties were not able to rise above the interests of parties, so significant laws or election of key persons in judiciary were often subject to obstruction, which additionally slows down the road of Montenegro towards the EU.

There are enormous challenges for the country in the future. Unless we start with fundamental changes in access to the problem, or unless we activate the awareness that all we do is for our well-being and to improve the rule of law in the country (and not to act as bad students who do only what we are told to do, without any initiative) road towards the EU will be the tunnel with no light. Civic Alliance will follow the road towards the EU, and with recommendations and knowledge will try to continue with the policy of open arms to institutions, so that these challenges would be properly overcome in future.



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Media Programme: *Support of citizens, pioneer effort*

Nine years ago, started the TV project "Robin Hood", with a new approach to TV expression. Under the slogan "Your first media assistance", our media team successfully performs mediation between institutions and citizens, for years, and in a very practical manner puts the media at the service of those who need it most, enhancing civic activism. Our motto is that institutions have to function more transparently and correct mistakes on which their citizens indicate. Without big words, simply, we opened the door to citizens and provide them an opportunity to create a TV show and to be its editors directly. We constantly maintain high ratings and confidence of viewers. The contract between Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTCG), and the agency Media N Gage allows us to work on one more season of this popular TV programme within the programme guidelines in production of the Public Service, which is proof that we are on a good way for years - our work is dedicated to citizens and is recognized citizens. The pleasure is greater as our authorship Public Service recognized for the third year in a row.

Last year, the team of "Robin Hood" put in the public focus almost 150 reported problems of citizens of Montenegro. We took care for almost twice as much problems to find solution, which stayed unpublished. So far, 60% of cases were successfully solved, while we continue to monitor remaining cases until final solution. So, we persistently remind institutions to conscientiously carry out their work, we seek concrete answers and accountability in the given cases. During 2014, most of the complaints we received from the North of Montenegro - even 40%, while 30% of problems come from the Capital. Each third reported and dissatisfied citizen is from the South. Over the last year, our diaspora addressed us, which proves that we are watched via satellite. Complaints were received also by e-mail and letters.



For higher interaction and presenting as many initiatives, during the TV show we have introduced direct communication via social networks with citizens, where viewers can participate in the programme without censorship, using the twitter hashtag [#robinhud](#).

Over time, the TV project included the expanding range of social issues, so, we have decided on a new step - creating of online platform www.erobin.me.

In this manner, we have strengthened mechanisms to ensure better involvement of citizens and to actively influence on institutions to operate more efficiently and transparently, on behalf of all of us. At the moment, it has approximately 1,500 cases presented for the nine years period, with geo-mapped locations on interactive map of Montenegro. Soon, we will join them many others, including documentation related to responsible institutions. Citizens, by registering and creating

their own accounts can, in this way, report their problems with the institutions of the system. In this way, we want to put to the public insight results of our activities, and to enhance transparency of national and local authorities, agencies, inspections, medical, judicial and other sectors.

During 2014, the platform was very well visited, especially during October, and more than half of visitors have returned to this page - 58.4%, while there were 43.6% of new visits.

Online media part of the programme of Civic Alliance, portal E-Balkan, for almost four years persistently supports critical thinking on current events and future, as well as regional reconciliation and cooperation. Portal already has profiled audience, who regularly visits pages of online newspaper and profiles on social networks -Twitter and Facebook. Each year, new young investigative journalists who are not afraid to write about any system deficiencies, join us in our way of critical thinking. So, this year we animated a lot of young journalists and caricaturists, who enriched the pages of our website with new ideas.

Our team also researched how often young people were topic in print media in Montenegro, and up to which extent media actually respect the presumption of innocence. Results indicate that the coverage of children/young people was marginalized in four dailies. Topics relating to children/young people were considered less interesting to reading public, were marked as irrelevant because they receive less newspaper space. Inappropriate reporting about children was reflected in the fact that most of published articles covered the eighth part the page, and that, out of reviewed 997 articles, 48% of them were about this topic. What also supports the thesis that reporting about children/young people is on the margins is the fact that small number of articles were on front pages. In only 5% of cases, texts on children/youth in this period were on the cover page and mostly in negative context.

One of the most popular shows of the season, which moved rush of reactions was dedicated to infected babies in Bijelo Polje Hospital, with one baby who died. Research and information that we published for years, and were related to the alarming situation in the health sector, have found their origin in the health-care scandal, which was largely raised through our initiative.

In addition to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Union of Free Trade Unions, it is expected signingof similar initiative with the Bar Association, whose members will significantly help



us to overcome the legal uncertainty we often face with while solving problems of citizens. Lawyers also expressed their willingness to provide free legal aid for all those that had befallen injustice, and live below the poverty line and therefore are not able to receive proper protection at court.

Darko Ivanović, Communication Director in Civic Alliance, is an active member of "Commission for monitoring of competent bodies in investigating cases of threats and violence against journalists, murders of journalists and attacks

on media property". In partnership with the Commission we implement the project "Endangered Journalism: React!". Within the project, we will strengthen capacities of all members of the Commission, and through numerous media tools we will animate citizens to join the campaign. At the end of 2014, Ivanović was elected as the member of the Council of Agency for Electronic Media.

Robin Hood Team is particularly active in managing and control structures of the Tarde Union of Media, which is practically the only support to disempowered Montenegrin journalists, especially if we take into account the fact that the financial situation of media in Montenegro is getting worse, that large number of media have debts and are facing bankruptcy, and that the burden of crisis shifts to employees, who got fired or their earnings are reducing, unannounced and without explanation.

In 2014, media team of CA was supported by the group of young volunteers who are very devoted to our editorial board and are involved in all segments of our work.

Even United Nations in Montenegro emphasized in the report "Mapping of mechanisms for participatory monitoring of public policies in Montenegro," Robin Hood as the show that was example of good practice for using of media for citizen monitoring. By all that is said, even in this season we were strong partner of citizens and institutions of the system. On almost daily basis, we were the alarm for official bodies, which warns them that they should not be late with implementation of specific measures, while we sent citizens directly to the ones, who should solve their problems. We went to the terrain and stayed in almost every corner of the country, listening about hard human destinies, pointing out finger on inefficient institutions, involving them in the process of identifying and solving problems. The social component of our work meant that after the broadcasting of our show, community should contribute by reacting, humanitarian engagement, and thus help the most vulnerable people. On our nine-years road of transparency at all levels, in the previous season, Robin Hood stomped boldly and without fear, political influence and filtering topics. For that reason, we are recognized by citizens and key European bodies as the media programme that has played an important role in the process of democratization and development of Montenegrin society.



*Good governing - efficient, responsible,
transparent - regional connection*



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Even in 2014, Civic Alliance continued promoting of principles of responsible and good governing of public resources through monitoring of work of institutions and public functionaries. Responsible, transparent and efficient governing of resources is one of the goals recognized through our mandate and mission, while, thorough the good governance programme we want to contribute to its accomplishing by implementation of different projects.

We worked on strengthening of capacities and education of key social groups – bearers and creators of decisions and policies through School of Democratic Leadership programme.

Like in previous 12 years, in the frame of the School we continuously and intensively worked with participants of new generations, but also with alumni. During 2014, XII generation of SDL, which gathered for the first time only young leaders, representatives of media and civil sector – successfully

finished planned programme. Participants of XII and new XIII generation had the opportunity to meet with good examples of European practice through the module organized in Norway. Visiting Lillehammer and Oslo, School participants were introduced with the functioning of their political system, at the local and national level, and the overall society, as well. Like in previous ten years, recognizing the importance of SDL programme in transitional process and the process of building of democratic society, SDL was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

In 2014, School launched XIII generation. Its programme was devoted to different aspects of European integration. Except modules that were devoted to challenges in the process of establishing of the rule of law and the European integration process, participants of this generation participated in the World Forum for Democracy. Through six-day visit in Strasbourg, participants of the School had the opportunity to meet with the work of international institutions such as Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights, Mission of Montenegro to Council of Europe, but also to make contacts with representatives of other political schools, which function in the frame of the Network of Schools of Political Studies of Council of Europe.

Strengthening of alumni network was one of the priorities of our activities during last year, as our goal was recognizing of our alumni as initiators of changes and positive moves in activities of their own parties, NGOs, media and other institutions they were active, for the benefit of our society as a whole. In accordance to this, team of the School initiated Bulletin of Democratic Leadership last year, intending to open additional space for expressing of personal standpoints on all relevant topics and problems our society and the country face with. (http://www.sdr.gamn.org/index.php/mne/?option=com_content&view=article&id=92:bulletin-of-democratic-leadership&catid=30:bilten-demokratskog-rukovodenja&Itemid=101).

During 2014, through School of Democratic Leadership, Civic Alliance successfully conducted the programme of II Generation of Regional Academy for Democracy (RAD) in cooperation with six political schools from the region, with the support of the European Union. Programme of II Generation of RAD was focused on problems related to respects of human and minority rights and gathered almost fifty representatives of political parties and public institutions from the region countries. Through this programme, political schools from the region make a lot of effort in order to impact on strong political figures for the purpose of strengthening of actual democratic processes, and their rising above national and political interests, in the spirit of regional cooperation and reconciliation on Balkan.



Last year, SDL continued implementation of the project “Public dialogue on energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy at the South-East Europe”. SDL continuously implements this project for almost fourth year in a row, in cooperation with six Schools of Political Studies from the region, with the support of German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ) and its Open Regional Fund for Energy Efficiency. Through this project, Civic Alliance, implements different activities for couple of years, with the aim to rise social awareness and concrete knowledge on principles of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy, through creating of constructive dialogue among key target groups, recognized through this project. Specific focus of activities, last year, was on strengthening of capacities of civil society organizations, but also wider public, for monitoring of work of competent institutions in this area. As the crown of these activities, in the middle of March 2014, CA initiated organizing of consultative hearing on topic “Efficient use of energy, situation in Montenegro with specific review on Draft of the Law on efficient use of energy”, in cooperation with Parliamentary Board for Economy, Finances and Budget.



Implementing this programme, in cooperation with six partners of Schools of Political Studies from the region, we influenced on intensifying of public dialogue on energy efficiency and rising of awareness on its importance. Achieved results and experiences showed that it was important to work in that direction, but also that current activities required upgrading and further support. So, agreement on future of this project was achieved last year. By signing of Memorandum on Cooperation at the beginning of December 2014, between representatives of seven Schools of Political Studies from the region, Open Regional Fund for Energy Efficiency of GIZ, Federal German Foundation for Environment and SDL, officially started the third phase of the project that will be directed towards strengthening of capacities of civil sector in parliamentary processes.

We perceive democratic responsible society with strengthened and independent civil sector that would be able to act easily and implement project activities by indicating on failures, and also, to fasten processes of social reforms by providing expertise. In that regard, in 2014, CA continued to

work on strengthening of capacities of local offices of civil sector, both through its administrative and technical support and strengthening of its expertise. Previous years, Civic Alliance established the network of partners of local civil sector offices. This network was established with the special attention to coverall Montenegrin regions, especially vulnerable ones, when it comes to civic activism and functioning of NGOs, but also involving of civil society organizations of different character and missions that will implement activities in mutual cooperation, and provide expert and any other assistance to members of the network in programme and project activities. CA provided assistance in organizing of different events and encouraged civic participation – especially at the local level, starting from cleaning of offshore and illegal waste dump in Ulcinj, rising awareness on security in traffic, rights of citizens in Nikšić, until fight against violations and irresponsibility in health care system. Part of activities in the frame of the Good Governance Programme we devoted to the matter of gender equality and problem of representation of minorities in executive authorities.

Cooperation with Youth Initiative for Human Rights offices in the region, whose member is Civic Alliance, continued, through its establisher and member Youth Initiative of Human Rights in Podgorica. In cooperation with YIHR offices, in 2014 CA worked on implementation of project “Youth Who Network for Change”. Through this project, we worked on strengthening of capacities of youth in the region and on rising of awareness on models of civic participation through the use of modern technologies. After organized camp in Sarajevo, for attaining knowledge and skills, each country/office continued to work on implementation of regional youth projects, with young team of people. With its young people, Montenegro created online portal for youth www.ibalkanyou.com, whose goal is to serve to young people from Montenegro as the space for expressing of standpoints through writing of articles and encouraging online discussions, which portal enables through its connection with the most popular social networks Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Regional cooperation of youth, aiming at reconciliation and adequate facing the past, were also in focus. Last year, we especially dealt with the idea on establishing of regional office for programmes on youth exchange, inspired by the model of French-German Youth Office. CA implemented these activities in coordination with partnership offices of YIHR in the region, and at the beginning of 2015, we will officially start to work on the project Regional Program of Exchange of Youth supported by the European Commission.



Through the partnership network of YIHR offices, in 2014, Civic Alliance accomplished the idea on establishing of the regional Political Youth Network (PYN). PYN was created at the founding conference, which took place in Zagreb. PYN accessed 22 most significant parliamentary political parties from the region. Specific success of this network is that it is founded on idea on mutual cooperation of young politicians and formal youth party organizations, notwithstanding often divided political standpoints and distanced ideological positions. Goal of PYN is to show that the future of the region is in mutual cooperation, but also to indicate that young people can uncompromisingly cooperate and be agreeable about universal values and ideas such as respect of human rights. During 2014, the Network started with its first activities, such as celebrating of International Day of Human Rights at the regional level, through several simultaneous activities, organized in all countries.

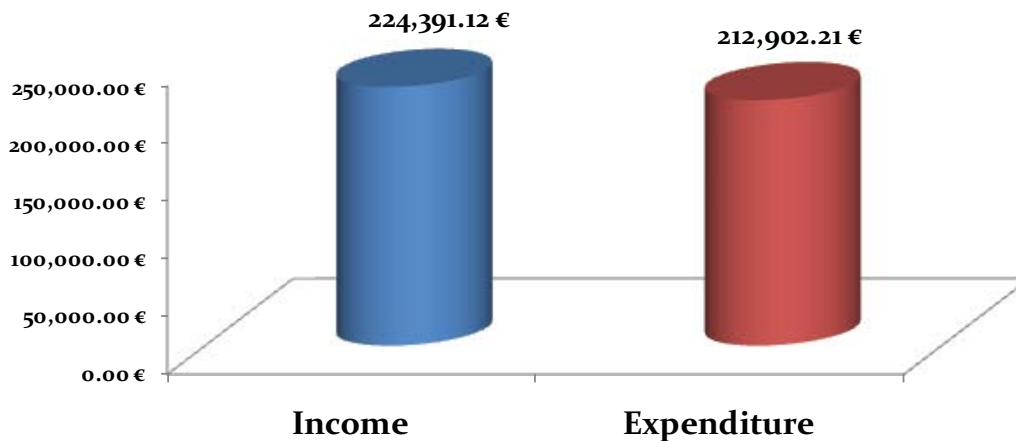
Civic Alliance indicated on recognized problems in the area of financing of nongovernmental organizations from national funds. Basing its argumentation on clear documents such as the Report of National Audit Institution, verdict of Administrative court and the European Commission Report on Progress of Montenegro, indicating on failures and providing constructive suggestions, we tried to impact on final regulation of situation in this area. The key problem is lack of respect of legislation, or Law on Nongovernmental Organizations, where, as the consequence occurs hybrid implementation and financing of NGOs in Montenegro. As we recognize this as one of the key problems in civil sector, CA will intensively work on monitoring of reform in this sector and will still advocate good solutions and invite on responsibility as we did earlier, through public events, media appearances and by organizing of consultative hearings of competent institutions at the Parliament of Montenegro.

During 2014, we monitored development of e-democracy and possibilities of electronic or online participation in Montenegro. The Government of Montenegro showed its feelings and recognized the need for developing of online tools and platforms that would provide and make participation easy, but also transparency of media. Large part of them unfortunately did not survive, or had practical failures the Government failed to remove. CA especially monitored development of online platform for submitting of electronic petitions Voice of citizens, and the platform at the web site of the Government for reporting doubts in violation of use of official vehicles, but also portal e-uprava (e-administration), especially in the part that provides direct participation through online participating in public debates and submitting of reports in different areas. Number of failures in implementation of this project was noticed. Thus, at the end of 2014, CA started to analyze these tools. Results of analyses will be officially published at the beginning of 2015.

Edin Koljenović, Coordinator of Good Governance Programme was elected last year as the member of Governmental Operational Body for Implementation of Communication Strategy on European Integrations, which provided participation in developing of the Action Plan in this area for 2015.

Income and expenditure

In 2014, total income was 224,391.12 EUR, while expenditures were 212,902.21.



Donors

- ◆ Royal Norwegian Embassy
- ◆ Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- ◆ Royal Netherlands Embassy
- ◆ Balkan Fund for Democracy
- ◆ Council of Europe
- ◆ Decade Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation
- ◆ EGAM
- ◆ UNDP – Montenegro
- ◆ Commission for allocation of part of funds from the lottery
- ◆ OSCE
- ◆ Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- ◆ Criminal Justice Civil Society Program – State Department, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, USA Embassy in Podgorica
- ◆ Employment Agency of Montenegro

Partners

LOCAL NGO PARTNERS

- ◆ NGO CEDEM
- ◆ NGO ADP ZID
- ◆ NGO CDT
- ◆ NGO FAKT
- ◆ NGO CRINK
- ◆ NGO Association of Egyptians
- ◆ NGO RUZA
- ◆ NGO Forum MNE
- ◆ NGO Union of Association of Paraplegics of Montenegro
- ◆ NGO Association of Paraplegics Podgorica
- ◆ NGO 4 Life
- ◆ NGO Institute of Social Inclusion
- ◆ NGO LGBT Forum Progress

INTERNATIONAL NGO PARTNERS

- ◆ NGO YIHR Serbia
- ◆ NGO ARCT Albania
- ◆ NGO IRCT Denmark
- ◆ Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

CA team

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Gradanska alijansa

Civic Alliance – Aleanca qytetare