



LAW AND ORDER BEYOND THEIR OWN RANKS?

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) invites Trade Union of Police Directorate to observe the Law on Free Access to Information and to provide the public with answers to questions related to the number and name of the police officers, whose costs of staying on the mountain or at sea in Montenegro were fully covered or subsidized through the trade union programmes, in the period from June to August 2010.

In addition, CCE believes that the public needs to know who are the officers of the regional unit Podgorica who got financial support for 2010 and in which manner it has been paid, in cash or through bank account. It remains unclear also what recommended some officers of the Police Directorate in Podgorica, who already have regulated their housing issue to receive funding based on the adaptation of houses compared to those who do not have it at all.

CCE is trying, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Free Access to Information, for a long period of time, to get this data and has reasonable doubt that these decisions are not made on the basis of valid criteria. However, the Trade union of the Police Directorate does not respond to requests, which only reinforces the assumption that there are irregularities in these activities undertaken.

CCE believes that, at this stage, the Police Director Veselin Veljović must interfere and within the limits of his powers try to exercise influence for the sake of the legal work of all bodies affiliated to the Directorate, including the Trade union, as the representative of the employees at that institution.

Bearing in mind the role of the police in the fight against organized crime and corruption, it is a special responsibility and obligation of all levels of the police structure to show that it is ready for this challenge and that it will not tolerate it, especially within its own ranks. Hiding information does not contribute to public confidence in the police or its credibility in relation to different social groups in the country and abroad.

Snežana Kaluđerović, Legal Advisor