



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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37 “PIONEERS” THE ONLY COLLATERAL DAMAGE?

Centre for Civic Education assess the situation in which we found ourselves after 37 our fellow countrymen and women, future or potential citizens of Montenegro, had to take an exam in Montenegrin language to be at best one **tragicomic farce, an offence to intelligence and dignity of all citizens of this country, but also a situation which begs the question of responsibility of the administration and individuals working in it.**

The entirely provisory price of the exam was established by fiat, upon a decree of the Director of the Testing Centre, much like the way in which the administration decided on the categories of applicants for whom a language exam is obligatory. Similarly, the whole affair is now to be temporarily “frozen” until the dust settles.

Namely, after extended deliberation between the responsible departments of the Ministry of Interior and the Testing Centre they struck upon the extraordinary wisdom that “it appears that” the requirement to pass an exam in a language they have spoken since the day of their birth will be lifted for those citizens of Montenegro who have earned their diplomas in the “former Serbo-Croatian” language (here’s the answer to the question from the previous communication from 10/09/2008). **Those 37 “pioneers” who have rushed to get Montenegrin citizenship ahead of time are of no concern to the authorities and will probably, *summa summarum*, end up as collateral damage in the process of our country’s and our society’s democratisation.**

Also due to a lukewarm reaction of the Montenegrin public, especially that portion of it which likes to think of itself as intellectual, but nevertheless safely resting on the opportunist party laurels, we have once again managed to make ourselves look clumsy and ridiculous in the eyes of any serious observer who may be interested in these incredible but true, miraculous developments in Montenegro.

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