

# European pulse

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Foreword: **Road to unknown**

Vladan Žugić

Not only has the European Commission decided to use Montenegro as a guinea pig for its new approach to membership negotiations – opening first and closing last Chapters 23 and 24, the most painful ones for the Western Balkans – now the Government is also testing a new approach. The innovation mainly consists in shedding the venerable habit of keeping the citizens at least scantily informed of what may lie ahead. Instead, the Government seems to have decided to keep the experts and the laymen alike in the complete dark. For instance, they first announced that the screening reports for chapters 23 and 24 will be published in September, then they were expected to appear together with the progress report in early October, but the date came and went and the reports are stubbornly refusing to materialize. So the first unanswered question is when we might finally see the screening reports, which were also partly authored by Europol. In other words, when will the public find out what it is the European Commission wants us to change in the domains of judiciary, human rights, border controls, asylum policy, law enforcement, corruption and crime? The second question without an answer is the sequence according to which the Government assembles working groups for negotiations. Is it a reflection of their own hopes and guesses, or have they received some instructions from Brussels? Only a few months ago the representatives of both sides have been announcing that soon after chapters 23 and 24 Montenegro will open the chapters on agriculture and environment, also considered to be extremely demanding, but now they seem to have abandoned the idea. Both issues are of huge importance for those who are trying to participate in the process of Montenegro's integration into EU, and to those who are failing to keep up with this process because of the shroud of secrecy that surrounds the selection of participants in the working groups for negotiations. Above all, they are of huge importance for the citizens. Citizens, to whom nobody of those whose job it would be and who are being paid from the public coffers to do so has deigned to explain the tough-to-process new notions: screening (bilateral or exploratory), inter-governmental conferences... Probably the whole government was just too busy with the elections, down to the last clerk who must worry if he'll keep his job if another minister comes. It is then a small wonder that the support for EU membership among the citizens of Montenegro is at a record low. It's not all because of EU's own political and economic crisis. Among the top priorities for the new Government should be to bring the EU closer to the citizens. And for the citizens, the least important aspect of EU is precisely the one the Government is only willing to talk about: protocol meetings between officials.

## Calendar

- 5 September **Urgent constitutional changes for judiciary independence** / Montenegro is facing a new, demanding phase of reforms in the process of European integration, and among the most urgent is the question of constitutional reform to strengthen independence of the judiciary, and step up the fight against corruption and organised crime, said the European Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** after a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations **Nebojša Kaluđerović**.
- 12 September **Negotiating structure well planned** / Montenegro's technical preparations for negotiations with EU are going well, and Brussels is satisfied with the structure of the negotiating team, said **Stefano Sanino**, head of DG Enlargement after a meeting with the President **Filip Vujanović** at the International Peace Conference in Sarajevo.
- 25 September **Screening for Chapter 25** / Meetings for the bilateral and explanatory screenings on Chapter 25 – Science and Research – have taken place in Brussels. During the bilateral screening, members of the Montenegrin Working Group presented “the extent of harmonization of Montenegro's legal system with EU acquis in the fields of science and research”, while at the explanatory meeting representatives of EC directorates offered an “analytical overview of EU acquis in the fields of science and research”. The meeting was opened by Montenegro's chief negotiator **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović** and advisor for Croatia, Montenegro, Turkey and Iceland in DG Enlargement **Marta Garcia Fidalgo**.

## For a federation of nation states



Jose Manuel Barroso

The European Union continues to be in crisis. A financial and economic crisis. A social crisis. But also a political crisis, a crisis of confidence. Why? Because time and again, we have allowed doubts to spread. Doubts over whether some countries are really ready to reform and regain competitiveness. Doubts over whether other countries are really willing to stand by each other so that the Euro and the European project are irreversible. On too many occasions, we have seen a vicious spiral. First, very important decisions for our future are taken at European summits. But then, the next day, we see some of those very same people who took those decisions undermining them. And then we get a problem of credibility. If Europe's political actors do not abide by the rules and the decisions they have set themselves, how can they possibly convince others that they are determined to solve this crisis together? Since the start of the crisis, we have seen time and again that interconnected global markets are quicker and therefore more powerful than fragmented national political systems. The reality is that in an interconnected world, Europe's Member States on their own are no longer able to effectively steer the course of events. But at the same time, they have not yet equipped their Union - our Union —with the instruments needed to cope with this new reality. We are now in a transition, in a defining moment. Globalisation demands more European unity. More unity demands more integration. In Europe today, this means first and foremost accepting that we are all in the same boat. And when the boat is in the middle of the storm, absolute loyalty is the minimum you demand from your fellow crew members. To get out of the crisis, we need growth. But we can only maintain growth if we are more competitive. At the national level it means undertaking structural reforms that have been postponed for decades. At the European level, we need to complete the single market, to create genuine mobility and a European labour market. We have to be much more ambitious about education, research, innovation and science. We must complete the economic and monetary union. And now we also need a banking union. The crisis has shown that while banks became transnational, rules and oversight remained national. And when things went wrong, it was the taxpayers who had to pick up the bill. Getting the European supervisor

in place is the top priority for now, but European oversight means that we also need a fiscal union. The case for it is clear: the economic decisions of one Member State impact the others. So we need stronger economic policy co-ordination, a stronger and more binding framework for the national decision making in key economic policies, as the only way to prevent imbalances. But ultimately, for it all to be functional we need a political framework and legitimacy. This is why further economic integration raises the question of a political union and the European democracy that must underpin it. Let's not be afraid of the words: we will need to move towards a federation of nation states. This is what we need. This is our political horizon. This is what must guide our work in the years to come. Today, I call for a federation of nation states. Not a super-state. Creating this federation of nation states will ultimately require a new Treaty. We are all aware how difficult treaty change has become. It has to be well prepared: we must not begin with treaty change. We must identify the policies we need and the instruments to implement them. Only then can we decide on the tools that we lack and the ways to remedy this. And then there must be a broad debate all over Europe, before any decision is taken. Nothing will happen overnight. We should start by doing all we can to stabilise the euro area and accelerate growth in the EU as a whole. The Commission has prepared all the necessary proposals, in line with the current Treaty provisions. Secondly, we should work on a deep and genuine economic and monetary union, including the political instruments, which is also partly possible within the current Treaty provisions. Finally, where we cannot move forward under the existing treaties, the Commission will present explicit proposals for the necessary Treaty changes ahead of the next European Parliamentary election, including elements for reinforced democracy and accountability. This is our project. A project which is step by step but with a big ambition for the future with a Federation as our horizon for Europe. Many will say that this is too ambitious, that it is not realistic. But let me ask you - is it realistic to go on like we have been doing?

*Excerpts from the speech at the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, 12 September 2012*

Euroscepticism is on the rise in Montenegro

## With stamps against crisis in EU



Damir Nikočević

A new stamp and a new logo aren't enough. It turns out communication with the citizens is a long-term, demanding investment, which requires continuous work and dedication, says Professor Dr. Gordana Đurović

In a little over a year the support for EU membership in Montenegro fell by more than 10% and now stands at the record low of 59.9%. Although most people are still in favour of membership, the fact that this drop in support had been recorded in September, only two months after Montenegro made a successful breakthrough with the opening of accession negotiations is a cause for worry. According to the experts, part of the reason lies with the EU, where the crisis has shaken the Union to its very foundations. The other part, however, is in Montenegro itself. Former Minister of European Integrations Prof. Dr. **Gordana Đurović** thinks the falling support can be explained by a number of factors. Among them is the entry into the new, more complex and demanding phase of integration, which, according to her, requires investment into people, their knowledge and competences, investments in new institutions, but also major capital investments. According to Đurović, economic and the debt crisis in the EU has “undermined the myth of an economic integration idyll – that all we need to do is join the EU to enter an age of economic prosperity and generous support through structural funds”. The former minister warns that “even Slovenia, so far the only bright example of the former Yugoslav republics, has asked for help from the European crisis funds”. “Barely a month passes without some major “strategic decision” by the EU political leaders, a decision that is meant to usher consolidation of the Union, only to be replaced by another a month later”, she says. All of this, according to Đurović, is causing worry and confusion among the citizens of the Western Balkans. She also sees the fall in support as a



Nada Vojvodić, senior advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, says that the citizens' support for EU membership has remained quite stable. “Citizens are largely aware of the benefits that follow accession to EU. Of course, they are also aware that before that we must implement profound reforms and transform our whole society to bring it in line with the European values and standards. This is a realistic approach, based on a balance between hopes and responsibilities that accompany the membership.

reflection of the diminishing communication with the citizens, who ought to be monitoring the process. By contrast, **Nada Vojvodić**, senior advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, says that the citizens' support for EU membership has remained stable and that a recent CEDEM poll shows that two thirds of the citizens see their future in the European Union. “Citizens are largely aware of the benefits that follow accession to EU. Of course, they are also aware that before that we must implement profound reforms and transform our whole society to bring it in line with the European values and



Stevo Muk, president of the Board of Directors of Institute Alternative: “It is possible that citizens are under the impact of the economic crisis which has even made EU’s future uncertain, but also the unhappy reality of some countries that recently became members”.

standards. This is a realistic approach, based on a balance between hopes and responsibilities that accompany the membership”, Vojvodić said. President of the Board of Directors of Institute Alternative, **Stevo Muk**, thinks that initial levels of support were unrealistically high. “The reason was the early optimism in the new country, at the time of the economic boom, and this is what informed our citizens’ opinions over a long period. From the moment they began to feel the consequences of the economic crisis, this optimism faltered. This is evident from the number of those who think that the country isn’t on the right track, which for the first time this year is nearly equal to the number of those who think things are going in the right direction”. According to Vojvodić, the communication strategy aimed at informing the citizens about European Union and Montenegro’s preparations for membership in the period 2010-2014 is an

expression of “commitment and dedication” of the Government to inform the citizens about European integration. She also stressed the positive relations with the NGO sector. “As in the previous years, we continued to work with our partners from the NGOs, organising numerous activities which aim to bring the European Union closer to the citizens, inform them about all aspects of the accession process, about the rights and responsibilities of membership, and encourage them to actively participate in this process”. She stressed that in this year alone the Ministry organised or participated in numerous round tables, conferences and panel discussions, in cooperation with the EU Delegation with Montenegro or with the partners from the NGO sector, business and academic communities, local governments and the media, and its representatives gave countless interviews about the process. “In the context of celebrations of the Day of Europe, we set up information points where the citizens could find out all about European Union and Montenegro’s preparations for membership. We also introduced a new logo for the European integration process” Vojvodić said. Stevo Muk disagrees. He thinks the Government didn’t implement any particular strategy in this regard “although it did adopt a document with that name”. He warned that for a while the Government reports basically consisted of activities organised and implemented by the NGO sector, while the government refrained from any spending on information about EU and European integration. The Government communication strategy should be based on truth, reality and objective facts, he said. “A better approach would be to scrap the proclamations that “we’re practically on EU’s doorstep”, which has recently become a favourite among the public officials and representatives of the ruling parties, and start pointing out the good, as well as the bad sides, warning about the potential losers and explaining that Montenegro’s membership is still far in the future and not at all certain. An approach like



that would show respect for the public and refrain from inciting unrealistic expectations that are bound to be disappointed”, Muk said. Professor Đurović also thinks that the level of communication has deteriorated, and that the citizens ought to be able to follow and understand this process. “A new stamp and a new logo aren’t enough. It turns out communication with the citizens is a long-term, demanding investment, which requires continuous work and dedication. The current trends show that in the future it will be necessary to intensify communication with the key target groups in the country”, she said. Some support for her words comes from the elimination of the separate Ministry of European Integration that used to be in charge of the whole process. While Nada Vojvodić from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration thinks that the merger has been a good think and “the most efficient way to combine existing capacities to achieve Montenegro’s foreign policy goals”, professor Đurović disagrees. She cites the 2011 European Commission progress report, which said, among other that “elimination of a separate Ministry of European Integration had a negative impact on administrative capacities for coordination of European integration, instead of strengthening them further”. According to the former Minister of European integration the new organisational

Gordana Đurović: During 2011, much of the MEI staff left after the ministry was integrated into MFAEI. A good part of a well-conceived coordination team left, some new people came, and this also meant the loss of the part of institutional memory and many previously planned activities”

scheme of the MFAEI brought a “major change” – limiting the use of experts in the Government. She explains that “the new organisational principle required all persons in leading position to have passed a diplomatic exam, with the result that the former leading figures from the MEI found themselves “downgraded”, irrespective of their expertise, because of a mere formality – lack of diplomatic experience”. All this, according to her, resulted in an “unclear coordination model, lack of leadership, weak communication strategy, and an abrupt shift from the “Slovenian” to “Croatian” organisational model, and generally led to an approach of muddling-through”. By contrast, Nada Vojvodić maintains that the results to date have confirmed that Montenegro has prepared excellent foundations for future negotiations. “At the very beginning of the process we organised broad consultations with all social structures to select the best cadres through a high-quality internal dialogue”. Vojvodić added that the negotiating process is a very dynamic and demanding one. Deceitful representation of the European values, occasional statements by some European leaders that EU is in no mood for further enlargements, and a lack of long-term strategy have all undermined trust in a system which, in spite of all advantages, is currently living a profound economic crisis, further intensified by ideological clashes among the members. Nevertheless, it seems the main cause of the falling support for EU membership isn’t EUs own economic and financial crisis, or even its reflection in Montenegro, but the way Montenegro as a society, and especially its government, treats its European “homework”.

Attack on the director and actor in the video “We’re part of the team”  
a proof of intolerance

## Skipped lessons on human rights



Neđeljko Rudović

Although after Croatia completed its membership negotiations Montenegro is the only West Balkan country that is effectively in the process of accession to European Union, much waters will flow down its mountain streams before the country truly becomes ready to join the family of European nations. One precondition for this big step will be to shed its prejudices, which show that Montenegro is yet to understand the meaning of discrimination and the degree to which it is incompatible with the proclaimed European futures. And while Montenegrin citizens still have to learn that human rights mean equality of all, regardless of how their expression might grate on one’s tastes and worldviews, their political representatives also need to understand and accept the things they’ve been parroting as the inherent part of modern Europe. Until then, our everyday human and political hypocrisy will weigh like a millstone around the neck of the small Mediterranean country that dreams to join the company of the powerful and prosperous. In the night between 9 and 10 September in the Novak Milošev street, in Podgorica, a group of supporters of the football club Budućnost, the so-called “Barbarians”, brutally beat up **Danilo Marunović**, **Todor Vujošević** and **Mirko Bošković**. Marunović is the director of the video “We’re part of the team”, meant to promote the rights of the LGBT community. Vujošević was an actor in the same video, and Bošković is a friend of theirs, a journalist in RTCG. “I wasn’t even part of that video, and here’s what I got. What does it tell you? I was with two friends who support an idea, whatever that idea might be, and here’s what happened to me. You know what I thought reading all that today? Many people read the paper and visited the website of “Vijesti”... and now imagine how many, and that’s the real question, how many people in Montenegro thought: “That serves them right!” That’s the real question”. His words are the best illustration of the sad situation in Montenegro which still doesn’t allow anybody to escape the mould that is considered to be the only acceptable one. It is considered a it a heresy that somebody born in an orthodox household should follow the



religion he or she considers most suitable, or go to a church his or her parents and cousins dislike. It is also considered a crime to be of a different sexual orientation or to support such people. This makes it clear how far we are from Europe, where individual freedom is considered sacred, where nobody is afraid to show their political opinions or their sexual preferences. Once again we have shown that we are hostages to a spirit of provincialism. That we are ready to keep silent about everything that goes on around us because it should “stay in the family”, ready to agree with someone in private but to condemn them in public because the “community” expects it from us. How ready we are to poison the youth, to set them like angry dogs at those we dislike, without a moment’s willingness to understand. This is why Marunović, Vujošević and Bošković got beaten up in the centre of the capital city. But the main problem is that sooner or later this will also happen to another Marunović who dares to express solidarity with his fellow citizens who feel different and hope for freedom. And so on and so forth, until those who think of themselves as the spiritual and political guardians of the nation do not admit that they never adopted, and probably never even tried to learn, the contemporary lessons of human rights.

Tanja Fajon, European Parliament rapporteur for visa liberalization, says that reintroduction of visas is legally impossible for the time being, but warns

## Don't stray from the road map



The negotiations on the clause that would enable temporary suspension of visa liberalization are still under way. However, once it is adopted certain members of the Union could in principle resort to it if they find that the number of false asylum seekers increased significantly

European Parliament Rapporteur for visa liberalization **Tanja Fajon** warned the authorities in all countries in the region which already benefit from visa-free travel with EU to adhere to the commitments from the road maps in order to prevent any revision to EU's decision to lift visa requirements. She also explained that for the moment such revision isn't legally or formally possible.

"The negotiations on the clause that would enable temporary suspension of visa liberalization are still under way. However, once it is adopted certain members of the Union could in principle resort to it if they find that the number of false asylum seekers increased significantly. I would therefore like to warn once again all governments in the region to do all within their powers to inform their citizens to prevent abuse of the freedom of movement in EU, and adhere to their commitments from the roadmaps for visa liberalization", Fajon said.

» *What should Montenegro do to convince the EU that it has made a significant progress in fighting crime and corruption? Should it go after the "big fish"?*

Any progress should be measurable and absolute. In this context that means that it isn't



enough to just adopt some laws, but it must be clear that these laws are also being implemented. This can be judged on the basis of the implementation of the whole process – identification of criminal activities, investigations, arrests and verdicts. All such cases should be concluded with a verdict, which can then be analysed and used to judge the effectiveness of efforts undertaken to fulfil EU requirements.

If we take a close look at the region, probably the strongest criticism is that the trials and verdicts are never finalized. This undermines the trust in system's institutions.

» *Do you mean especially "high level corruption"?*

This is a term often used in the context of political corruption, abuse of power for private benefits of directors, or high-ranking civil servants of state or local administrations.



The key element in this form of corruption is a conjuncture between relevant public powers and the interests of capital, often in connection with organised financial and public-financial crime. High level corruption is a problem in all West Balkan countries, and it must be fought: by strengthening an independent judiciary and doing everything to follow the cases through.

» *Your colleague from the EP, Ulrike Lunachek recently said that a change of government could speed of European integration of Montenegro. What is your take on this?*

I don't know in what context she said that and so I cannot really comment on her words. But I would like to stress that it's very important that the new Government should be set up as soon as possible and get to the concrete tasks. There should be a full consensus on the EU agenda among all political fractions in the country.

Montenegro clearly demonstrated its commitment to the process of EU accession by getting the date for negotiations, which makes it the most advanced country of the region in this process.

If we take a close look at the region, probably the strongest criticism is that the trials and verdicts are never finalized. This undermines the trust in system's institutions.

» *It is a widespread opinion in Montenegro that the new government has to face many challenges, such as the fight against crime and corruption. Do you think that a Government that would consist of the same old parties has a capacity to face these challenges?*

I expect the new government to manage the European accession with strength and courage. This is important for Montenegro, and for the whole region. If these parties win and are able to form the Government, it means that the voters trust them to do so.

If in the midst of the worst economic and social crisis in Europe since the World War II are willing to re-elect the people from the previous term, it means that they believe that this coalition can take them forward. Only time can show whether the new government can fulfil the promises it gave to its citizens with regard to accession to EU and NATO.

» *Would the return of the former Prime Minister Milo Đukanović to the helm of state slow down Montenegro's accession to EU, as suggested by some local analysts?*

The voters are always right, and the main task is to elect those political forces which are sure to continue the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

If the commitment to reforms is maintained, if the European accession process is not obstructed by some internal political conflicts or other changes, if the results are tangible and the negotiations successful, I see no reason why the return of the former Prime Minister Đukanović would slow down the process of European integration of Montenegro.

V. Žugić



### Hungarians like European production

Most EU countries respect the regulations regarding the share of European production in the TV offer, and only in three countries the share of such content is below the stipulated minimum, finds the European Commission. The EU requires at least 50% of the broadcast to originate on the European continent. Recently published figures for 2009 and 2010 show this percentage has been well exceeded, with an average of 65% of European content. Only three countries – Ireland, Slovenia and UK, failed to observe European broadcasting quota in 2010. In 2010, the lowest shares of European production were found in Slovenia and UK (47.4%), and the highest in Hungary (81%). In 2009, Hungary had a record 83% of European production, while Ireland had the least, 44%. However, Commission also highlighted a negative aspect of the report: in 2010, the “European content” of the broadcasts originated predominantly from local and national programmes. Only 8.1% of the programme came from other European countries.



### Airlines saving fuel

The attempts of the airlines to lower costs by reducing the amount of fuel on the carrier to the bare minimum in order to reduce weight could turn out to be very dangerous for the passengers’ safety, warns the trade union of European pilots. The issue gained much press after three pilots of the low-cost airline Ryanair asked for emergency landings because they were running out of fuel. Without naming the airlines, the president of the trade union Nico Voorbach said the pilots are being offered bonuses if they can lower the amount of fuel spent. He added that because of the austerity measures the number of inspections controlling for the implementation of EU regulation in transport safety has been reduced.

### EU worried about match fixing



Match-fixing in Europe has become a serious problem especially in football, and is widespread in the majority of EU member states, as well as in the candidate countries, warns the report on fraud and match-fixing prepared by the European Parliament’s Special Committee on Organised Crime Corruption and Money. The Parliament is to discuss the report in October. The report, written by the Dutch MEP Emine Bozkurt, says that “strong ties have been detected between the football establishment and criminal organisations especially in Eastern Europe and the Balkans”. “In these and many other countries such as Germany, Italy, and Turkey, criminals have influenced players and referees to fix outcomes of matches by convincing, bribing and threatening them”. According to Bozkurt, there is a severe corruption risk in sport because of the lack of regulation, widespread networks of internet betting and direct links to organised crime. Moreover, since there are sizeable differences in fines among the EU members, match-fixing usually takes place in countries with lower fines. As a result, in 19 out of 27 EU members, as well as Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey, there are detected cases of match-fixing, while in other countries the question remains whether there is really no match fixing, or whether none could be detected so far.

EC report shows that more and more children are learning foreign languages, and starting at an increasingly early age

## The more languages, the more English

A report published by the European Commission in honour of the “European Day of Languages” (26 September) shows that more and more children in the European Union are learning foreign languages, and that language learning starts at an increasingly early age. However, the report also shows that English is becoming more widespread, while other languages are lagging behind. From 2005 to 2010, the percentage of students enrolled in primary education in a European school and learning a foreign language rose from 67.5% to

79.2%. Students are on average between 6 and 9 years old when they start learning a foreign language, but many countries have in recent years introduced reforms which begin foreign language classes at an earlier age. In Belgium, children begin learning their first foreign language in pre-primary education from the age of three. In the majority of European countries, a second foreign language becomes mandatory in the later years. On average, 60.8% of students enrolled in lower secondary education in Europe were learning two or more foreign languages in the school year 2009/10 compared to 46.7% in the year 2004/05. As a result of this emphasis on foreign languages, just over half of Europeans (54%) are able to hold a conversation in at least one additional language, a quarter are able to speak at least two additional languages, while 10% are conversant in at least three. According to this year’s poll by Eurobarometer, almost all respondents in Luxembourg (98%), Latvia (95%), the Netherlands (94%), Malta (93%), Slovenia and Lithuania (92% each), and Sweden (91%) are able to speak at least one language in addition to their mother tongue. Moreover, more than two thirds of respondents in Slovenian (67%), Netherlands (77%) and Luxembourg (84%) said they can have a conversation in at least two foreign languages. However, the knowledge of foreign languages varies from one country to another: the worst situation is in Ireland, Portugal, UK and Hungary, where more than 60% of the citizens cannot speak any foreign languages. However, the most striking finding of the report is the enormous dominance of English. In 2009/10, 73% of students enrolled in primary education in the EU were learning English, and in secondary education the percentage exceeded 90%. In most European countries, English teaching is followed by either German or French as the second most widely taught language, after which come Spanish and, more rarely, Italian. Russian is the second most widely taught foreign language in Latvia and Lithuania where large communities of Russian speakers live, while Swedish is mandatory in Finland and Danish in Iceland. Apart from these exceptions, however, the percentage of

Percentage of citizens who know some foreign language		
Member state	English	Second most popular
EU	38%	12% (French)
Austria	73%	11% (French)
Belgium	38%	45% (French)
Bulgaria	25%	23% (Russian)
Cyprus	73%	7% (French)
Czech Rep.	27%	15% (German)
Germany	56%	14% (French)
Denmark	86%	47% (German)
Estonia	50%	56% (Russian)
Spain	22%	11% (Catalan)
Finland	70%	44% (Swedish)
France	39%	13% (Spanish)
Greece	51%	9% (French)
Hungary	20%	18% (German)
Ireland		22% (Irish)
Italy	34%	16% (French)
Latvia	38%	80% (Russian)
Luxembourg	56%	80% (French)
Lithuania	46%	67% (Russian)
Malta	89%	56% (Italian)
Netherlands	90%	71% (German)
Poland	33%	19% (German)
Portugal	27%	15% (French)
Romania	31%	17% (French)
Sweden	86%	26% (German)
Slovenia	59%	61% (Croatian)
Slovakia	26%	47% (Czech)
UK		19% (French)
Source: Eurobarometer		

students learning languages other than the most common five was less than 1% in most countries. The research also shows that the number of people who know some other foreign language is drastically smaller than the number of people who know English. Besides, the choice of the second most popular languages varies tremendously from one country to another, with marked differences between the old and new member states. Citizens of the old member states are more likely to know French or Spanish, while in the new member states German and Russian are more widespread. Unlike the knowledge of English, however, familiarity with other languages is even decreasing. The proportion of respondents able to speak German decreased by 19% in Luxembourg, 13% in the Czech Republic, 11% in Denmark and 10% in Slovakia, while the number of those who speak French also declined, especially in Luxembourg (10%), Portugal (9%), Romania (7%) in Bulgaria (by 7%, falling to the mere 2%). The advantage of English has long irritated the French, and increasingly also the Germans, especially in the context of governance of European institutions. Although all employees of the European Commission have to speak at least two European languages, and must learn third, or even a fourth, in order to earn a promotion, it is a public secret that English has become the working language of the Commission. Nearly all documents are first drafted in English, and only then translated to other languages. Recently in a press conference after the meeting on the banking union the Commission representatives distributed the conclusions of the meeting in English, while

the translations in other languages only followed after a few hours. This infuriated the French journalists, who say this practice gives the British media an enormous advantage. In their defence, the Commission employees argued it was simply a matter of pragmatism: although some of them speak French or German better than they speak English, English is simply the language that most people speak. This doesn't mean it is useless to learn other languages: precisely because it is so widespread, English is now viewed as a "basic skill" in the labour market. To have any kind of advantage, you must know another language. However, this advantage is largely symbolic: Eurobarometer survey shows that most Europeans use their knowledge of foreign languages to watch television, read books, use internet or communicate with friends – only 27% of those who speak some foreign language say they regularly use it in their work. Between the ideal of a multi-lingual union and the pragmatic need to understand each other, European citizens are ready to pay for the translation of thousands of official documents rather than to admit the defeat. But the "price of democracy" as it was dubbed by the former commissioner for languages, or "the price of national pride", as the enormous European translation machinery is known among some others, is anything but symbolic. If it weren't for this symbolism, then, the EU could have perhaps found a better way to invest this billion euros every year - including thirty million for translations to Gaelic, which in addition to translator can be understood by at best some 80 000 people, all of whom anyway speak English.

### Foreign languages in Montenegro

On average some 26% of Montenegrin citizens say they speak English, which is well below the European average, but approximately equal to other East European countries, such as Slovakia, Romania, Hungary or the Czech Republic. The more worrying figure is the fact that knowledge of foreign languages is extremely unevenly distributed: more than 33% of the people in the coastal region speak English, while their share is 28% in the central region and only 16% in the north of the country.

Language learning in Montenegro is more or less in line with European practices, although the students start a little later than in other European countries: the first foreign language begins at 9, the second and 12 years of age, but some schools have begun offering optional English classes from the first grade. Nearly all secondary school students learn English, while among other languages the most widespread are Italian and Russian (30%), followed by French (22%), and German (11%), while less than 1% of the students learns Spanish.

# Ticket for a better future



Marta Četković

The author is a student at the Faculty of Arts of University Donja Gorica and a volunteer in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE)

When I was little, I always used to ask my parents, “But aren’t we already in Europe”? Every day you would hear on the news that we are to become part of Europe, but in geography classes I was told that we are already there. It took a while until I grew up and realised the difference between our country and the countries of EU. It’s not that they are more beautiful or happier, but their citizens have better conditions for a good life, education, employment, and a chance to pursue their personal ambitions. A few years ago, one of my schoolmates visited Germany. When we asked about his impressions, he first started to talk about cars, houses, living standards, how the things we consider to be “wow” are perfectly average for them. Most people come back with such stories. Similar stories, and the same wish – to leave here and do the same work in EU – for a lot more money. EU is interested in encouraging cultural cooperation and mutual acquaintance between different cultures. This is why since 2000 European students are free to study in any member state. During high school, I had a desperate desire to go somewhere else, to broaden my horizons, meet people of my age who did not grow up in the same environment and with the same worldview. But I didn’t get the chance – I was not eligible for 95% of exchange programmes I found. This alone puts our education in an inferior position to begin with. EU members have an incredible sense of social responsibility towards young people and invest a lot in their future. As if they really believed that “the young will inherit the world”. We don’t seem to. Even the labour market is unwelcoming for young people, and is far from the EU standards. We deserve better than the uncertain future that awaits once we get our degrees. Generations of young people in these countries aren’t just any young generation. We grew up with wars, sanctions and transition. Many of us have suffered discrimination, false values and false patriotism. We need to join the EU, because we desperately need some changes, but our country isn’t capable of making them. The young people end up

frustrated and, naturally, in some cases decide to leave and seek their fortunes elsewhere, where they will be valued for what they are. Under the EU laws, you will get punished for hate speech. Here you might get applause. I deeply believe that if the people here lived better, they would forget their prejudices, because most of the intransigent attitudes are anyway founded on false values. EU, of course, has a special method for taking care of such problems – intercultural dialogue. Intercultural dialogue is a process which



is based on interaction and exchanges between individuals, groups and organisations that hold different views on the world. The goal is to develop understanding of different perspectives and practices, to stimulate participation, freedom and ability to make informed choices and spread equality. This is just another advantage of EU that could help the younger among us shed the prejudices they inherited from the older, embittered ones. If they could meet their peers who are different in many ways, but nevertheless share their interests and values, they would realise that all those markers and labels we put on people really mean nothing at all. EU membership is an opportunity which we, the young people, deserve to have. Our ticket to a better future, better work and living standards. A way to pave the road to peace and equal chances for our children.

Overview of the structure of the first working groups for negotiations with EU

## Too many officials, too few experts

In anticipation of the screening process, and even ahead of the official beginning of negotiations with EU on 29 June this year, the Government of Montenegro began preparing for the accession talks, establishing working groups for a number of chapters. In addition to the working groups for chapters 23 and 24, which the European Commission announced will be the first to be opened, over the summer the Government put together another five working groups. These are: working group for Chapter 3 (Right of establishment and freedom to provide services), Chapter 5 (Public procurement), Chapter 6 (Company law), Chapter 25 (Science and research) and Chapter 26 (Education and culture). In the seven working groups most members are representatives of the Government and public institutions, with more than 60% of all members on average. These are mostly officials, advisors in the ministries and other institutions. The only exceptions are the

working group for Science and research, where most of the members come from the academia, and the group for the chapter on the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, with the representatives of professional and business associations (44%) slightly outweighing the share of government representatives. Around 13% of the members so far come from various professional and business associations (such as chambers of commerce, engineering and crafts, bar association, employers' association etc), most of them from the Chamber of Commerce and Montenegrin Employers' Federation (with 6 members each). This group also includes 5 representatives of Montenegrin trade unions. The third most numerous category are the representatives of the academic community, with approximately 10% of total membership. These high numbers are, however, mostly due to the fact that Chapters 25 and 26 directly concern education and science: in all other

Chapter	Head of the working group	No. of members	% Government and public institutions	% women
3 Right of establishment and freedom to provide services	Pavle D. Radovanović, Chamber of Commerce	32	40%	62%
5 Public procurement	Ana Ivanović, Ministry of Finance	26	80%	65%
6 Company law	Goran Nikolić, Ministry of Economy	27	61%	37%
23 Judiciary and fundamental rights	Branka Lakočević, Ministry of Justice	49	73%	73%
24 Justice, freedom and security	Dragan Pejanović, Ministry of Interior Affairs	40	82%	35%
25 Science and research	Smiljana Prelević, Ministry of Science	26	23%	46%
26 Education and culture	Mubera Kurpejović, Ministry of Education and Sports	41	56%	56%
<b>Total</b>		241	60%	55%

groups their number is mostly symbolic, and there is not a single representative of academia in the working groups on public procurement and justice, freedom and security. Even more striking is the very low number of representatives from the judiciary branch. Although at least three of the seven chapters in question explicitly concern the judiciary and legal matters (e.g. Judiciary and fundamental rights; Justice, freedom and security, Company law), and judiciary plays a key role also in the matters of public procurement and rights of establishment, only 9 of the total of 241 members of the first seven working groups come from this branch of government. Even in the chapter on judiciary and fundamental rights, only 4 out of 49 members come from the courts and prosecutors' offices, with another two representing the Bar Association and Magistrates' Association. The Parliament of Montenegro is also relatively underrepresented, with around 5.8% of total membership. Moreover, of the ten persons representing the Parliament in the various working groups, four are involved in more than one of them, indicating the lack of capacities and excessive burden on the Parliament's administration. Finally, among the members of the working groups are also 15 representatives

of the civil society organisations, most of them in the chapters on education and culture (5), judiciary and fundamental rights (4), and science and research (3). NGO representatives are so far only missing from the chapters on the rights of establishment and company law. The first seven groups have a fairly balanced gender ratio. Four out of seven heads of working groups are women, as well as around 55% of the total membership in working groups. However, the gender balance varies tremendously from one chapter to the next: for instance, in the working group for the chapter on judiciary and fundamental rights nearly three quarters of the members are women, while in the working group on chapter 24 – justice, freedom and security, they barely make 35% of the membership. Interestingly enough, even in this case more than 80% of the government representatives are women, and the reason for their relatively small number overall is the strong overrepresentation of the Police Directorate, where out of 11 members only one is a woman. There are also comparatively fewer women among the representatives of professional and economic associations (30%), while on the other hand nearly all representatives of the Parliament are women.

### More about crime and corruption, less about rights

Working groups for the chapters 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights, and 24 – Justice, freedom and security, are also among the largest, with more than 40 members each. This is in itself hardly surprising since both chapters to cover a fairly broad range of issues. However, a closer look at the composition of membership gives the impression that the Government of Montenegro is mostly getting ready for tough negotiations on crime and corruption. The chapter on judiciary, which nominally also covers the areas of fundamental rights, only has one single representative from the Ministry of Human and Minority rights, and not a single representative of, for instance, the office of Ombudsman. On the other hand, of the 18 representatives of various public institutions and independent agencies 16 come from the bodies which in this context obviously represent the anti-corruption structures: such as the Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interests, Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, Tax Administration, State Audit Institution or the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative. The situation is fairly similar in the chapter on Justice, freedom and security, where “security” dominates, with 19 out of 40 members coming from the Police Directorate or the Ministry of Interior Affairs. Although “freedom” comes before “security” in the title of the chapter, there are no representatives of Ombudsman in this group either, or any from the Council for the civic control of police.

## CCE asks for inquiry into constitutionality of the Law on Misdemeanours Thousands of verdicts under question mark



On 20 September in Podgorica, Centre for Civic Education organised a press conference to present its **Initiative for assessment of constitutionality of the Law on Misdemeanours**. CCE submitted the Initiative for assessment of constitutionality of the Law on Misdemeanours to the Constitutional Court, because 68 judges in Montenegro have been appointed by the Government of Montenegro, contrary to the Constitution and ratified and published international agreements and widely accepted principles of the international law. The initiative warns that a number of provisions of this law are unconstitutional, because they have been applied to the new Law on Misdemeanours and other related acts in a way that violates constitutionally guaranteed rights of the citizens. The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the new Law on Misdemeanours, introducing new categories and a new system of sanctions relative to the previous Law on Misdemeanours from 1994. However, the new Law does not stipulated the mode of organisation and jurisdiction of the courts responsible for the procedures on misdemeanours. It only says that until the day the law comes into force the organisation and jurisdiction will be decided based on the provisions of the previous

law, which remains valid until the coming into force of the new law. This definition, which had been in force for a little over a year, violates the Constitution of Montenegro, because thousands of citizens who appeared before these courts charged with misdemeanours have been tried by the executive – or rather, by the judges appointed and dismissed by the executive powers, i.e. the Government of Montenegro. The novelty of the Law on Misdemeanours is the very notion of misdemeanour which the new definition brings closer to a criminal act, and definitely and finally removes them from administrative proceedings. In this way, it becomes possible to include jail among the sanctions for misdemeanours. Thus according to the Law on Misdemeanours a judge can send the defendant to jail or proclaim very serious protective measures, such as mandatory medical treatment of alcoholics or drug-addicts, confiscation of possessions, ban on economic activity. All this confirms that the new law has done much to make the definition of a misdemeanour closer to that of a crime, and separate them from administrative proceedings. Consequently, the judge in charge must not be appointed by the Government, and the Constitution stipulates that judges in Montenegro are exclusively appointed by the Judicial Council. However, public institutions cannot put a reservations on the Constitution, the highest legal act of the country, which in this case clearly prescribes that “Everyone has the right to just and public trial, within reasonable time and before an independent, impartial and legally established court”. This should be enough to declare here specified provisions of the Law on Misdemeanours unconstitutional. The current procedures violate the constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens to trial before an independent court, with the consequence that a yet unknown number of them had been sent to jail, psychiatric treatments or subjected to other procedures by judges appointed by the executive powers. At the press conference, the Initiative was presented by **Danilo Ajković**, programme coordinated and **Snežana Kaluđerović**, legal advisor.

EC report shows enormous variation in the cost of study in Europe

## Generous public support

The cost of higher education for students varies dramatically in Europe, according to a new report issued by the European Commission on 10 September. Tuition fees are highest in England, where students pay up to £9 000 (around €11 500) per academic year, while nine countries (Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Malta, Norway, UK (Scotland) and Sweden) do not charge fees in most cases. The Nordic countries tend to be the most generous, although Finland and Sweden recently joined Denmark in introducing fees for international students. All countries, except Iceland and Norway, now charge non-European students. Many of the non-charging countries, such as Austria, UK (Scotland) and the Nordic countries, also provide generous student support such as maintenance grants and loans. Information on tuition fees and support is now readily available online for students who want to compare the cost of their education in different European countries. "I hope the fact that it is now easier for students to compare the cost of education in different countries will lead to increased student mobility and allow students to choose the course that is best for them" said **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth. She added that the report was both timely and important, as it "reminds us that modernised education and training is the bedrock of long-term prosperity for Europe and key for overcoming our economic difficulties." The report highlights that major differences also exist with regard to student support, which is generous in Germany, the Nordic countries and the UK, while students in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania receive only limited financial support. There are also significant differences as to who is entitled to support: subsidies can be distributed on a needs-only basis or be readily available to all. Family allowances and tax benefits to parents of students are a significant element of the overall package of student

The highest fees are charged in the UK (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Until 2012 they were set at £3 375 per year for bachelors' courses. As of September 2012, this level increased in England to a new basic tuition fee of £6 000 and a maximum of £9 000. Students in England receive a loan to pay the fees and do not have to re-pay this until they are in relatively well-paid employment.

support in around half of the countries, finds the report. The highest fees are charged in the UK (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Until 2012 they were set at £3 375 per year for bachelors' courses. As of September 2012, this level increased in England to a new basic tuition fee of £6 000 and a maximum of £9 000. Students in England receive a loan to pay the fees and do not have to re-pay this until they are in relatively well-paid employment. In Wales,

All countries, except Iceland and Norway, now charge tuition to students from outside EU or the European Economic Area

however, the additional cost of tuition fees for Welsh domiciled students will be met by the Welsh government, even if they study outside Wales. Meanwhile in Northern Ireland, fees will rise only in line with inflation at £3 465 in 2012/13. At the other end of the scale, there are 9 countries where students are not charged fees, at least at the bachelor level, but this doesn't apply to students from other EU countries or to members of the European Economic Area. In Germany, for the new academic year 2012/13, two Länder (Bavaria, and Lower Saxony) charge fees, while the other 14 do not. The proportion of students who pay fees in each country ranges considerably. In a number of countries all students pay fees, and this is the case

in Belgium (Flemish Community), Bulgaria, Czech Republic, England, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Turkey. The report was prepared for the Commission by the Eurydice network, which specialises in providing information and analyses on educational systems and policies in Europe. It consists of 38 national units based in the 34 countries participating in the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme. The network consists of EU Member States, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. For students coming from outside the European Union, fee levels tend to be higher. They are generally set by higher education institutions themselves, although in some countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Romania) there are central-level regulations governing fee levels. In 6 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein and Norway) students from outside the European Union are treated in the same way regarding fees as those from within the European Union. Fees levels tend to be higher for Masters' level than for bachelors' level, and fees are also charged to more students. In Greece, Cyprus, Malta and UK (Scotland), fees are charged in the second cycle but not in the first, while higher levels of fees are typically charged at Masters' level in Ireland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Student support takes different forms and aims to meet different needs from country to country. However, the most common forms of support are grants and loans, which sometimes operate in conjunction and sometimes separately. All countries, with the exception of Iceland and Turkey, provide some types of grant to at least some students. In Turkey there are fee reductions for some students, but no grants. There is a wide range of situations in other countries regarding the likelihood of receiving a grant. In Denmark, Cyprus and Malta all students receive grants. In Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) the majority of students receive grants. In the

Family allowances and tax benefits to parents of students are a significant element of the overall package of student support in around half of the countries. The EC report shows that family allowances and tax benefits play a significant role in student support in Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, France, and Lithuania

vast majority of countries - Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, UK (Scotland), Slovakia, Spain - only a minority of students receive grants. The proportion varies from 1% of the student population in Greece to around 40% in Hungary. While it may be theoretically possible for students to take out loans in all countries, they are considered as a main feature of student support systems if more than 5% of the student population takes out such a loan. This is the case in 16 countries: Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the UK (all parts), Iceland, Norway and Turkey. Student support systems may consider the student either as an individual or as a member of a family that may need support. In the Nordic countries, in particular, the student is considered as an individual, and it is the individual who receives support. However, in many other countries, support may depend on overall family circumstances, and some forms of support may be channelled to other members of the family rather than the student. Family allowances and tax benefits play a significant role in student support in a number of countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia (tax benefits only), Greece, France, Ireland (tax benefits only), Italy (tax benefits only), Latvia (tax benefits only), Lithuania, Malta (tax benefits only), Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia (tax benefits only), Slovakia and Liechtenstein (tax benefits only).

Health and safety laws in the region are in line with European standards, but situation on the ground is quite different

## A healthy, safe worker is a benefit for both employer and the state



Turkey has the highest rate of workplace accidents among European countries. A report issued in September by the Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers, said about 172 accidents occur each day at work sites in Turkish workplaces, and that 12,868 workers died between 2000 and 2012.

On October 6th, an employee at Montenegrin state electric company Elektroprivreda died while working on a power grid in Berislavci, near Podgorica. "We heard that Tomo died because somebody from the base didn't shut down the electricity. Two years ago, a similar thing happened," a colleague, **Ljuban Aćimović**, told SETimes. Many tend to blame workers' lack of attention to safety procedures for the accidents, but officials said employers' protection of workers in many instances is lacking. Officials at the Republic Administration of Inspection Activities in Republika Srpska, BiH, said that employers are still giving insufficient attention to safety at work, even though the penalties range from 500 to 7,000 euros. "In the first six months of this year, we investigated 3,546 cases and found 339 irregularities. During this period,

four people lost their lives at their workplaces," said Dušanka Makivić, administration spokesperson. The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work said that 35 percent of the workers in the European countries feel that the work they do has a negative effect on their health. Moreover, the new technologies, biological hazards and the work on complex machines increase workplace risks and require even higher work protection standards. Turkey has the highest rate of workplace accidents among European countries, a recent report found. The report, issued in September by the Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers, said about 172 accidents occur each day at work sites in Turkish workplaces. The report also said 12,868 workers died between 2000 and 2012. "The lives of our workers are not worthless, and we know very well that no punishment or no legal provision can ease totally the pains of widows and orphans of the deceased workers," said **Turkan Dagoglu**, AK Party deputy and vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Health. Turkey adopted a new Occupational Health and Safety law on June 30th, in line with the relevant European directive and International Health Organisation conventions. The new codes oblige the employers to hire an occupational safety specialist and a workplace doctor. In the rest of the region, such laws are in place, but are poorly implemented, officials said. "Today it is important to preserve pay, jobs and

pensions -- protection at work is one of the last points. Employers are looking for cheaper ways, and state institutions often keep their eyes closed to this issue," Novosel told SETimes. **Emre Gurcanli**, a scholar at the civil engineering faculty at Istanbul Technical University, agreed. "There are plenty of laws, regulations and directives," Gurcanli told SETimes. "The main challenge comes from the inexistence of legal sanctions for the companies to implement them." "As long as occupational health and safety is considered by the companies as an additional cost instead of an obligation with dissuasive penalties, this approach will continue as such," Gurcanli said. Experts cite the need to establish a supervisory authority endowed and to increase the number of work labour inspectors. When it comes to the unsafe sectors in Turkey, about one-third of all workplace accidents occur in the construction sector, followed by transportation and mining, according to the report. Construction is the one of the most dangerous professions in Serbia as well. Every year approximately 40 people are killed and another 25,000 are injured on construction sites. The Serbian Administration for Work Safety and Health adopted a special decree for safety on construction sites last year, introducing a requirement for investors to put work safety coordinators at these locations. Fines for not complying with the strict rules ranges between 8 000 and 10 000 euros. **Zoran Reuf**, 38, a miner from Bor, east Serbia, said that he feels relatively safe on the job, but that he always proceeds with caution. "The problem is that the protective equipment is often very old and worn, and hardly can protect you if an accident occurs. Because of the specificity of mining, one rescue unit is always present in the mine in case accident happened, but still, injuries and deaths are happening. That's the way our job is," Reuf said. Civil groups in the region have called for an increase in awareness to the problem. Officials of Serbian Association for Occupational Safety and Health -- an NGO that deals with safety of workers -- said there is no doubt that the laws are "European," but said that the situation in the field is a totally different story. "There are

The employer should care for protecting the worker - not just because he is scared of inspections and punishments. If the worker is well protected, we will see multiple benefits. First, he is healthy and capable. Second, there is benefit for the company since the worker can work and fulfill its assignments. Third, there is a benefit for the state also, because work injuries tend to cause losses in the state budget as well," says president of the Macedonian Construction Union Pavel Trendafilov

some good employers. But there are those who do not realise that they will increase their profits if their workers are safe at work. If the employee feels safe, he will do much better work than when he is afraid of losing his leg, eye, even his life. It takes a lot of education to raise the security on ideal level," says **Dragoslav Tomović**, president of the association. Turkey recently took on a greater role in increasing awareness in the public, as well. Established in 2011, the Istanbul Occupational Health and Safety Assembly has been tracking the workers' problems. Their findings are reported in periodic e-bulletins and monthly press statements focusing on the major accidents that occur each month. "In the short term, our assembly is targeting to be transformed into a specific institute and to fill a big gap in Turkey regarding our struggle for better conditions in workplaces," Gurcanli said. Things are no different in Macedonia, where according to the World Health Organisation in 2010 44 workers lost their lives, and another 85 were injured in the workplace. The numbers issued by the Macedonian Ministry for Labour and Social Policy appear to be lower, but they also confirm that in many cases authorities establish that the company is not compliant with the country's workplace safety laws. Five years ago, parliament passed a law for workplace safety, according to European standards -- but in many companies employees continue to work below the compulsory safety criteria according to the law. Accidents are most frequent in the

construction, mining and textile manufacturing sectors. The Construction Union has been appealing to the government for some time. It is not enough to have European laws for work safety in Macedonia, they say, companies must also implement them. "There are nearly 4,000 construction companies in the country, and many - especially the smaller ones - fail to comply with regulations, Construction Union President **Pavel Trendafilov** told SETimes. "The employer should care for protecting the worker -- not just because he is scared of inspections and punishments. If the worker is well protected, we will see multiple benefits. First, he is healthy and capable. Second, there is benefit for the company since the worker can work and fulfill its assignments. Third, there is a benefit for the state also, because work injuries tend to cause losses in the state budget as well," Trendafilov said. Employers also agree that it is important to implement and further build upon the standards for workplace safety. But the implementation of these standards, which are higher than in some European countries, is too big of an expense for many Macedonian companies, says president of the Organization of Employers **Dimitar Stojanovski**. "The expenses for risk accession are same for everyone, regardless of

Serbian Administration for Work Safety and Health adopted a special decree for safety on construction sites last year, introducing a requirement for investors to put work safety co-ordinators at these locations. Fines for not complying with the strict rules ranges between 8 000 and 10000 euros.

the industry concerned. The work protection measures are same for all job posts, regardless the specific risk on some of them. On one hand, we have to detail measures even where there is no real need for that. On the other hand, we have examples where omissions are allowed even in the most sensitive places," Stojanovski said. The focus of the work protection should be on the most dangerous professions that carry a real risk potential, he said. Trendafilov does not agree that the measures might be too costly for the employers. "Is there anything more valuable than human life? If the standards are over expensive for someone, maybe he should consider not entering the business at all."

Source: SETimes.com

### Bulgaria is a bright example

Bulgaria is one of the rare countries in the region that has registered a decrease in workplace accidents. A total of 2,752 workplace accidents were registered in Bulgaria in 2011, down from 3,025 a year earlier, according to the National Social Security Institute in Sofia. The number of fatal injuries at work also fell -- from 94 in 2010 to 86 in 2011. Under the country's Strategy for Safety and Health at Work for 2008-2013, authorities succeed in creating a better working atmosphere than in other regional countries. A system to assess health risks was introduced, as well as series of new institutions. A National Council of Working Conditions and Working Conditions Fund was established, and special labour medicine services are built up as a relevant infrastructure for healthy and safety work conditions. "With the introduction of an obligatory licensing regime for all construction companies, the control over their work, including their compliance with the safety rules, was stepped up," Evtim Rangelov, owner of a Sofia-based construction company, told SETimes. He added that he spends much of his time trying to make sure that none of his employees is working without the required safety belt, helmet or other needed protective gear. Krassimira Ivanova, who does masonry and plastering jobs for different odd companies, remembered a case nearly a decade ago when a colleague of hers fell off a rickety scaffolding and fractured her skull. "The boss claimed that he had not hired her and got away without having to cover the charges for her treatment," she said. "This could not happen today. If an accident occurs because the employer has not secured safe working conditions, he cannot get away that easily."

## Regional Human Rights School in Koprivnica

Regional Human Rights School took place this year between 22 and 27 September 2012, as part of the programme *Education for Human Rights and Active Citizenship in the Western Balkans*. The programme is organised by five partner organisations from former Yugoslav countries, with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway. The School brought together young activists from Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo, who discussed issues of gender (in)equality in various social contexts, as well as gender-based violence. Among the participants from Montenegro were high school students **Jovana Merdović**, **Janko Bulatović**, **Andrija Klikovac** and as well as **Miloš Knežević** and **Mirha Tahirović**, students at the departments of Philosophy and Political Science of the University of Montenegro. All of them had previously completed CCE's Human Rights School. CCE's representative in the regional school was **Petar Đukanović**, programme coordinator.

## Minorities in the public sector

As part of the project "*Media monitoring of public administration*" implemented in cooperation with the German Embassy to Montenegro, weekly *Monitor* organised a round table discussion on 27 September in Podgorica, titled "*The principle of affirmative action – minorities in the public sector*". The aim of the meeting was to stimulate public discussion and contribute to transparency of this important process. The round table was opened by H.E. **Pius Fischer**, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro, followed by presentations by **Sabahudin Delić**, deputy Minister for Minority Rights of Montenegro, **Alberto Cammarata**, head of the section for European integration policy and trade in the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Dr **Siniša Tatalović**, advisor to the President of the Republic of Croatia and professor at the University of Zagreb and Dr **Đordije Blažić**, dean of the Faculty for Administrative and European Studies. Other participants in the debate were representatives of political parties, civil sector, Government and academia. Snežana Kaluderović, CCE legal advisor, participated on behalf of CCE.

## RECOM for the future

On 22 September 2012, representatives of the Coalition for RECOM organised the sending of postcards to the presidents of the former members of the Yugoslav federation to remind them that the time has come to establish a Regional truth commission for war crimes and other human rights violations on the territory of former Yugoslavia in the period 1991-2001 (RECOM). The Coalition asked the presidents to initiate procedures for the assessment of legal and constitutional preconditions for establishment of RECOM. The activity took form of a regional action and was conducted simultaneously in Podgorica, Belgrade, Zagreb, Priština, Ljubljana, Skopje and Sarajevo. Members of the Coalition for RECOM sent 100 RECOM postcards from each capital city of the former Yugoslav states to all presidents and to members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, reminding them of their duty to the families of victims, to the society and future generations, to establish the facts of the events that took place in the recent past, and to publicly acknowledge and pay respect to all victims, irrespective of their nationality or religion. The collection of signatures for postcards was very successful, and a large number of the citizens of Montenegro contributed to the process of reconciliation with the past, by signing the postcards to say it was high time for RECOM, and that for the sake of our common future all citizens of post-Yugoslav societies need this commission. The activities in Podgorica were organised by Centre for Civic Education, member of the RECOM coalition in Montenegro.

## CCE recognised as a credible provider of adult education in Montenegro

Between 11 and 14 September, CCE's executive director Daliborka Uljarević participated in the conference “*Adult Education in Europe outside the EU member states*”, organised by the European Association for Adult Education and Institute for International Cooperation of the German association for adult education (DVV International), in Kiev. The meeting brought together representatives of organisations dealing with adult education in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, as well as members of the EAEA and other experts. The goal of the meeting was to introduce European adult education policy and its programmes in countries outside EU, and to offer a framework that would articulate a clear position towards such programmes. Another element was the emphasis on importance of information sharing about the most recent European policies and programmes that could help in the exchange of experience among participating countries, as well as on the current policies, strategies, programmes and projects in EU. Among the participants were the renowned experts on adult education from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Montenegro, Moldova, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, as well as from the host country, Ukraine. CCE was recognised as a respectable partner in adult education, which had been working over a long period to make adult education an integral part of the citizens' learning process.

## Integration of minorities in South-East Balkans

On 14 and 15 September in Podgorica, COSV and Institute for Social Inclusion organised the closing event of the project “*Integration of minorities in South-East Balkans*”, co-financed by the Cooperation for Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project was jointly implemented by the Italian organisation COSV, primary school “*Božidar Vuković Podgoričanin*” and FSR (now Institute for Social Inclusion), with support of the Employment Agency and Centre for Vocational Training. The aim was to communicate the results of similar projects conducted in Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo. In Montenegro, the activities were implemented in cooperation with the NGO Foundation for Roma Stipends, and included nine courses per year, each lasting on average three months. The courses were attended by 150 children, 120 of them from the Roma communities. The project also supported three courses of basic literacy for more than 70 young adults, 47 of whom were awarded the certificate. In cooperation with the school “*Božidar Vuković Podgoričanin*”, the project also financed smaller reconstruction projects to make the school more functional. **Tamara Milaš**, CCE programme associate, participated in the event on behalf of CCE.

## Effective Online Facilitation Training

FacilitatiONline aims to support youth workers and youth leaders in designing and facilitating effective e-learning platforms, since we believe e-learning is a new and exciting field, which offers a lot of space for creativity, invention and imagination! The main aim of the training course is to support youth workers and youth leaders in designing and facilitating effective e-learning platforms. This training course is for 26 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, United Kingdom.

The training that will be held from 13 to 22 November 2012 has three integrated learning phases:

1. Introductory phase (preparation for the course) through distance e-learning, there are 4 online modules to complete starting in October till the beginning of the residential part of the training course
2. Residential training course, from November 13th to 22nd in Novi Pazar, Serbia
3. Follow-up phase through distance e-learning, starting from November 26th to December 23rd.

This project is funded by the Youth in Action Programme. According to its rules, all costs of board and lodging will be covered by the organisers. In addition, DamaD will reimburse 70% of the participants' travel costs, only upon the receipt of all original tickets, boarding passes and invoices.

Application deadline is 1 October 2012. Date of selection is set to 5 October 2012.

**For any questions which you might have, please direct to:**

Samid Sarenkapic  
E-Mail: [office@kcdamad.org](mailto:office@kcdamad.org)  
Phone: 0038162308019

For more information: <http://www.mladiinfo.com/2012/09/19/effective-online-facilitation-training-novi-pazar/#ixzz27NIV5ipT>

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**Address:** Njegoševa 36/1  
Tel/fax: +382 20 665 112, 665 327  
[ep@cgo-cce.org](mailto:ep@cgo-cce.org), [info@cgo-cce.org](mailto:info@cgo-cce.org)

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