

# European pulse

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How likely is the EU to open Chapter 26 – Education and Culture and what it means for Montenegro



## interview

British expert for Balkans,  
Tim Judah

## challenges in EU

Strict rules and complex supply chains: food safety in EU

Foreword:

## Straying



Vladan Žugić

Administrative court, the only legal instance whose impartiality was never questioned to date, rejected the appeal of the Socialist People's Party (SNP) against the decision of the municipal parliament of Andrijevisa to shorten its own term in office. The court decided not to object to the assembly's decision, in spite of the fact that it was taken on the initiative of the president of the municipal parliament and the majority which the same court had previously declared illegitimate. Next, the Supreme Court decided that the DPS candidate for President of the Republic, **Filip Vujanović**, has the right for the office again. It would be hard to find ten lawyers in the whole of Montenegro who really believe that Vujanović has the constitutional right for the third term as President, including the six judges of the Constitutional Court who made this decision. Even the three doctors of Constitutional Law from DPS (**Mladen Vukčević**, **Miodrag Vuković** and **Slavko Lukić**) have kept silent on the topic. Yet another dubious decision is the announcement of the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, signed by the Supreme State Prosecutor **Ranka Čarapić**, that the statement of the former director of the state bureau for human resources **Zoran Jelić** about preferential employment of party members "especially from DPS", contains no elements of crime. Thank you, Prosecutor. Jelić obviously wasn't calling for racial, national or religious hatred, which are the only ways for a *statement* to contain elements of crime. Instead, the point would be for the prosecution to examine whether he was talking about actual criminal activities, or only boasting to his colleagues at a DPS meeting. The most recent remarkable performance of the judiciary was the statement by **Miodrag Latković**, judge of the Constitutional Court, which disparaged on political grounds anyone who disagrees with the decision to allow Vujanović to run for another term, in a language barely appropriate for a DPS spokesman. Even for the Montenegrin judiciary, this is really too much for a single month. The Judiciary has been straying dangerously from the path that leads to EU membership, and it is high time to adopt constitutional amendments that would rein in the political influence.

## Calendar

- 08 February **More than 36.5 million in five years** / In the last five years, at least 36.5 million euro from EU funds and Montenegrin budget was invested into fight against organised crime and corruption, but there are few results to show for it, warns Centre for Civic Education (CCE).
- 17 February **EC publishes screening report** / European Commission (EC) published screening reports for the chapters 23, 24 and 25 on its website. Previously, Montenegro's chief negotiator **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović** insisted that the reports were property of EC and that the Government had no right to publish them, although the example of Iceland clearly shows that the states can decide for themselves whether to make the documents from the EU negotiation process public. CCE urged the Government to translate these reports to Montenegrin, and thus make them accessible for the public.
- 27 February **Governments can publish the reports** / Spokesperson for the EU Delegation to Montenegro **Dragan Mugoša** said it was up to the national authorities to decide whether they want to publish the reports or link their websites to the webpages where the EC publishes these reports. He explained that the practice so far was to make some parts of the screening reports public, and that negotiation framework for EU accession explicitly calls for greater transparency.
- 28 February **Drobnić: Negotiations won't be finished quickly** / Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro **Mitja Drobnić** said negotiations with the EU will not end during this Government's term: "The negotiations will go on for a while, also during the next government's term, perhaps even two terms from now. This is no official announcement, I'm only trying to dispel the illusions that everything will be over quickly", Drobnić said during the panel discussion "Montenegro's accession to EU" in Kotor.
- 28 February **Füle: EC wants full investigation of recordings** / European Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** said the EC expects Montenegrin authorities to full investigate every allegation of irregularities during the elections, which are based on recordings from the DPS meeting. "We expect the government to fully investigate all such allegations, and will continue to follow the matters carefully, especially in the context of the upcoming presidential elections", Füle said during the Brussels meeting with **Nebojša Medojević** from the Democratic Front.



Štefan Füle

The author is European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy

## Involve the Balkans in EU's economic reforms

The past year has seen major progress by a number of countries of the Western Balkans on their road towards the European Union. Croatia is a few months away from becoming the 28th member state, Serbia is a candidate country and accession negotiations have been opened with Montenegro. In 2013, it is crucial that the momentum for enlargement is maintained and that the reforms necessary for progress on the European path in the enlargement countries are pursued with vigour. Maintaining the momentum of enlargement and the momentum for reforms are two sides of the same coin. Both are crucial for the credibility of our enlargement policy. A credible enlargement policy is part of the solution to some of the problems that our continent is facing, and not – as some would argue – part of the problem. Enlargement means promoting economic and financial stability and supporting increased trade and business opportunities in the aspiring countries. At the same time, taking account of the major challenges facing the European Union, enlargement policy should reflect a prudent, cautious approach based on strict conditionality and adherence to membership criteria. Following the adoption of the Commission's Enlargement Package in October, the Council conclusions on enlargement in December have set an ambitious programme for the first half of 2013. This will involve considerable work for all concerned. First and foremost it will be for the enlargement countries to meet the expectations and to deliver on the necessary conditions. Before taking you through the enlargement agenda for the Western Balkans countries in the year ahead, let me touch on a couple of horizontal issues which I think are extremely important and which will define enlargement this year. The first is bilateral issues and here we face a challenge because we clearly say that we don't want major bilateral issues to be imported into the European Union, and we also don't want bilateral 'mines' to explode in the middle of the accession process. And that begs the question: how are we going to handle bilateral issues? Some may be solved easily between parties concerned, others may be solved with the help of the EU, and as Croatia and Slovenia have shown, an arbitration mechanism could help. Ultimately we have the International Court of Justice in The Hague. What is most important in 2013 is that this issue is acknowl-



edged as a major element of good neighbourly relations, a principle to which we will refer more and more as we move ahead. And it is important that we start to tackle these issues so that they don't hold up the accession process. The second horizontal issue which will be very important in the coming year is to reconcile approximation with the acquis, all 130,000 or 140,000 pages of it, with what is in the pipeline and what is being decided in each and every Council and European Parliament session. The crisis has shown that as it is important to deliver on the acquis, it is also important that all enlargement countries are associated to the changes in economic governance of the European Union. In its 2012 Strategy paper the European Commission underlined the importance of further associating enlargement countries to the strengthening of the European Union's economic governance, as well as implementing measures to support economic recovery. Familiarising enlargement countries already now with the changes underway in the European Union will not only support economic reforms but also strengthen accountability in these countries. In the next few months, the European Commission will publish its last monitoring report on Croatia and also reports on several candidates and potential candidates. If the conditions are met, for all the countries of the Western Balkans, important milestones on the European path are within reach in this year

*Source: Excerpts from the speech at the EPP Group conference "Western Balkans: A future with Europe"*

How close to the opening of Chapter 26 – Education and Culture, and what it means for Montenegro

## A sign of encouragement, but the problems remain



Damir Nikočević

Given the experience of Croatia, and the fact that the Committee for European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro recently discussed in a closed session Montenegro's negotiation position for Chapter 26 – Education and Culture, the European Union (EU) could be expected to open, and perhaps even close this chapter in the following few months. This could even take place before the EU member states convene to decide whether Montenegro's action plans, which are now being prepared by the government, are enough to meet the criteria for the opening of most difficult chapters 23 and 24, which concern the rule of law.

It would be a way to send Montenegro another signal of encouragement, like in December 2012 when the EU opened and closed Chapter 25 – Science and Research, on the same day.

Similar to Chapter 25, the area of education and culture belongs to the so-called “soft acquis”, and contains very few common regulations which are binding for all EU members. Cooperation in the area of education, vocational training and youth is governed by Articles 149 and 150 of Chapter 9 of the Treaty on EU. According to these provisions, member states are responsible for their educational systems, the content of education, and the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Working group for the preparation of negotiations for Chapter 26 was established by the Government on 26 July 2012. It has 39 members, representatives of ministries and other public administration bodies, Parliament, universities, public sector and non-governmental organisations. On 26 September 2012 they participated in the explanatory analytical overview of harmonisation of

Education and culture are largely the responsibility of EU member states. European Union does not have a common educational policy, and its role is confined to the creation of a system of cooperation between member states. According to the principle of subsidiarity, the member states retain full responsibility for the content and quality of their educational systems

Montenegro's legislation in this area with the EU laws, and were acquainted with the importance of the open method of coordination, which enables cooperation among member states, i.e. rapprochement between national policies and progress towards commonly accepted goals.

“Montenegro expressed readiness to participate in the Life-long learning programme, i.e. the enlarged version of Erasmus programme, which will cover all levels of education from pre-schooling to higher education. It should be noted that Montenegro's participation in this phase remains limited and mostly concerns involvement in the centralized activities of the Programme. At this stage, Montenegro



is only required to sign the Memorandum of understanding for participation in the centralized activities of the Programme”, **Mubera Kurpejović**, head of the working group for Chapter 26 and deputy minister for education and sports told *European Pulse*.

At the bilateral screening of 16 November 2012 members of the working group presented



the Montenegrin legislative framework and the assessment of harmonization with the EU *acquis* in this area. EC representatives agreed that Montenegrin regulations in this field have been largely aligned with the European laws and that the next phase should focus on their implementations and capacity-building.

Member of the working group for Chapter 26, Dr **Saša Milić** from the Department of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro, says that bilateral screening showed that in the previous decade Montenegro made important steps to improve its educational system. “This is also obvious from the statements by various EU representatives, and is further supported by Montenegro's active participation in numerous programmes such as Erasmus, Tempus etc. One area where we still need to work more is pre-school education. Montenegro will have to make a lot of effort to raise the rate of participation of children between three and six years of age in pre-school training”, Milić explained. According to Milić, there are several approaches to education in the context of European integration, and Montenegro is closest to the so-called functionalist approach.

“Montenegro spends around 4.5% of its GDP on education, which is close to the European average. By comparison, Slovakia and Lichtenstein spend 4%, Belgium and Malta 6%, while Denmark spends the most – 7% of GDP. The average expenditure on education in EU 27 is around 5% of GDP” says Mubera Kurpejović, deputy minister for education and sports and the head of the working group for Chapter 26.

This, he says, means searching for the common links with EU which serve as the building blocks for integration. “In the early days of EU, educational policy was characterised by a lack of standardisation, passive attitude of EU institutions towards education, and the lack of common educational infrastructure. Today, things are very different, although some of these characteristics carry on. As a person who is well acquainted with the problems of educational policy, I must say that education does not carry the same importance some other social activities in EU. It is therefore difficult to expect it to be ranked among the top-level priorities in the membership negotiations with EU”. Kurpejović, on the other hand, believes that this chapter is important on many levels: “Bearing in mind that education and culture are the basis for identity of a society, harmonising educational and cultural policies of Montenegro with those of EU will emphasise the similarities between our country and EU member state, while preserving the values and approaches which are the result of specificity of our environment, history and tradition”.

The key institutions in charge of educational policy are the Parliament and the Government via the Ministry of Education and Sports. The ministry is responsible for defining the state policy towards education, structuring and financing of education, establishment and management of public educational institutions, preparation of new legislation in this area,

and implementation of the laws and other regulations relevant to pre-school, primary, secondary, post-secondary, higher and adult education. The ministry is also responsible for the training of teachers, development of teaching programmes, and selection and approval of textbooks and other study materials.

Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) stipulates that Montenegro will cooperate with EU to raise the overall level of general and vocational education, as well as in the areas of youth and youth employment policies, including informal education. The priority of higher education system is to implement the goals of Bologna Declaration in the framework of the international Bologna process. In this context, one of EU's demands in the course of negotiations with Croatia was to establish a separate Agency for Science and Higher Education.

Asked whether Montenegro will be expected to establish a similar institution, or if there is already an institution which fulfils the EU requirements in this area, Kurpejović said that Montenegro's equivalent is the Council for Higher Education, which is in charge of analysing the state and achievements of higher education, and provide expert advice to the Government.

Stabilisation and Association Agreement also asks Montenegro and EU to advance cooperation in the field of culture. The two parties committed themselves to cooperation in the promotion of cultural diversity, especially in the framework of the UNESCO Convention on protection and promotion of diversity in cultural expression. Implementation of this Convention is one of the requirements under Chapter 26 which is most interest to EU and EC with respect to culture. The Parliament of Montenegro ratified the UNESCO Convention in 2008. Its main aim is to create individual cultural policies while promoting the principle of equality.

“Most of our students do not know enough about the process of negotiations on Chapter 26, or for that matter about the European dimension of education in the EU, which includes education in Europe, education about Europe, and education for Europe... I believe we still need to do more on this front” says Saša Milić, professor at the Department of Philosophy and member of the working group for Chapter 26.

“The Convention stipulates that a country should support development of culture through public financial assistance. Ministry of culture is already offering public assistance to projects such as the Programme for cultural development of northern municipalities of Montenegro, Call for co-financing of projects and programmes of cultural and artistic interest, Programme for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, etc.” Kurpejović explained.

At the beginning of Croatia's negotiations with EU, Chapter 26 – Education and Culture, was opened on 6 December 2006 and temporarily closed five days later, on 11 December. Both Kurpejović and Milić think there are good chances that Montenegro will close the chapter in the course of this year. Kurpejović thinks that the pace of negotiations so far gives Montenegro grounds for hope that it might close the chapter already this year. Milić is more sceptical, but concedes that due to the modest scope of EU acquis in this area it might be possible to close Chapter 26 by the end of 2013 or the beginning of 2014.



### Only Denmark self-sufficient in energy

The only EU member state which does not import energy is Denmark, while Estonia and Romania import relatively little. On the other hand, Malta covers 100% of its energy needs from imports. From 2008 to 2011, energy consumption in EU declined by 6%, and fell again in 2011 after a brief spike in 2010. The biggest consumers are Germany, France and UK. According to Eurostat, for the whole of EU dependence on energy imports stood at 54% in 2011, the same as in the previous three years.



### Unusual tender in Bulgaria

European Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) is investigating a case of EUR 50 000 awarded for rural development in Bulgaria to a project that promised to establish and manage a Facebook and a Twitter account. The investigation began after a Bulgarian daily pointed to "inconsistencies" in the contract awarded for advertising purposes of the Ministry of Agriculture. OLAF said Minister **Miland Najdenov** was not under investigation, although they are investigating projects that were under his responsibility. In August 2012 Bulgarian daily *Sega* wrote about generous contracts awarded to the young former employees of the Agency for Food, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture. The daily reported that three companies applied to the tender, and all three were founded on the same day. The companies also offered similar terms of contract: Moiri Co. was willing to take over the advertising services for 49.000 leva, BGN of 48.500 leva a K.M.Com for 47.500 leva. K.M. Com, which won the contract, is owned by Kristina Spasova (25) and Lora Dimitrova (24) who until then worked in the PR department of the Food Agency. According to *Sega*, it was unclear why a company that was founded a few days earlier would be awarded the contract, without any experience or track record, especially since the tender stipulated that all applicants must have work experience of at least three years and the turnover of at least the value of the contract, or EUR 75 000.

### Sales of new cars lowest since 1990

According to the European Association of Automobile Manufacturers (ACEA), In January this year 885 159 new cars were registered in EU, 8.7% less than in January 2012. This is "historically the lowest level since January 1990, when we began collecting this information", warned ACEA. The situation varies from one country to another: while the UK saw an increase in new registrations by 11.5%, the Netherlands recorded a drop of 31.2%, similar to Finland (28.2%) and Hungary (26.1%). Even German markets shrunk by 8.6% compared to last year, but Germany remains the leading market in EU, with 190 090 cars sold in January.



### Turkey still wants EU, but not the Euro

Turkey is committed to joining the European Union despite mounting frustration over decades of talks on the issue, but has little appetite for adopting the euro currency, a senior Turkish official said. In a speech in London, Turkey's chief negotiator on EU accession **Egemen Bağış** said it was time the EU made up its mind on whether Turkey can join the 27-member bloc. "If there was a vote today I could easily get a yes vote ... on membership of the EU, but I'm not so sure about joining the euro zone," Bağış said.



British expert for the Balkans Tim Judah says the EU is happy to have Montenegro moving ahead

## Problems with corruption can be postponed, but not forever



Renowned UK analyst of the Balkans, Tim Judah, told *European Pulse* that the EU is very happy at the moment to have one country in the region which is moving forward, but warned that problems such as organized crime and corruption cannot be postponed forever and that sooner or later they will have to be tackled.

» *Montenegro has been named the bright light of the region, mostly due to the situation in its neighbourhood, in spite of problems such as organised crime, corruption, weak administrative capacities... Part of the public believes the EU is turning a blind eye on these problems because it needs a positive example in the Western Balkans. Do you think the same attitude will prevail during membership negotiations?*

Yes, I think they are happy to have Montenegro move ahead, but in the end, later if not now for the reason you mentioned, I think these problems will be addressed. They can be postponed, but not forever.

» *Part of the opposition and the civil sector believes Montenegro could experience “Sanaderization” in the course of negotiations. Is this realistic?*

The arrest of Sanader was, whatever the political context of the moment in Croatia, a hugely significant moment, which came about thanks to the very European integration that Ivo Sanader

had begun.

But, it came about because the Croatian elite and Croatia as a whole was ready for it. It meant that no one was above law.

I would like to think that at some point this moment will come in Montenegro, and the rest of the region, but I don't think this necessarily means the arrest of a former prime minister. I also think that Serbia is showing every sign of getting to this point rather faster than Montenegro, though, thanks to Mr Šarić, Serbs might later be able to say that they got to their Sanader moment, thanks to the Montenegrin connection.

» *How will the EU crisis affect the dynamics of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans?*

There has been a lot of talk about enlargement fatigue and, now, for example a lot of talk about how countries like the UK want to change certain rules because they are nervous of lots of Romanians and Bulgarians (by which they mostly mean Roma, but this is not politically correct to say,) coming once interim work restrictions are lifted next year.

Likewise Germany does not want these two in Schengen and Greece too has helped fuel the perception that Balkan countries equal problem countries. And yet, for all this, the Western Balkan countries are either moving forward, or if they are stalled, for example Bosnia and Herzegovina, the fault does not lie with EU member states but their own leaders. Croatia, is set to join in July, Montenegro is moving ahead and it is widely expected that if Kosovo and Serbia strike a deal in the dialogue they will both move a step forward too. Also, as far as the crisis is concerned, while it is not over, the euro has not collapsed and the EU has not splintered, so maybe we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

What we don't know is what sort of EU Montenegro and everyone else can expect to join in the future. What will the eurozone look like, how many EU tiers will there still be and will some states be more equal than others, or perhaps I should say, will some be even more equal than others than now.





**» Can some states of the Western Balkans, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, or even Macedonia, rely on their European perspective, given the problems they face?**

No, of course not. They need to solve their own problems. But, the EU perspective can help if their leaders want it to help.

As I write, no deal has been struck on the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue for example, but the simple fact is that if it was not for the EU perspective there would be no dialogue.

Štefan Füle, the Enlargement Commissioner intervened in Macedonian politics recently and the opposition now say they will participate in politics. In Bosnia too the EU is extremely active in trying to get the parties to make a deal over the so-called Sejdić-Finci issue so that their Stabilisation and Association Agreement can come into force and which would enable them, once the constitution was adapted, to apply for candidate status.

So, in short, the answer is no, the EU cannot solve their problems but there is plenty of evidence that if leaders want help, they can get it and it can be useful.

**» How do you see the future of negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo?**

As I write, they are very close to a major, historic, breakthrough.

If they strike it on March 20th, the next meeting, this will be a huge success. If they don't I fear the momentum will be lost and things could

go backwards. But it depends on whether Prime Ministers Ivica Dačić and Hashim Thaçi have the courage to strike the deal on the two As, by which I mean if they strike a deal Thaçi will have to spin it that the north does not have autonomy and Dačić will spin that Serbia has not accepted the Ahtisaari plan which led to independence.

**» What about Bosnia and Herzegovina? Should the EU and Washington begin serious talks about its restructuring?**

No. We had four rounds of this, the so-called April Package, the Butmir talks, the Prud talks and the German initiative. They all failed. That is enough. However, the quiet diplomacy that is going on now is right for now. This means Peter Sørensen, the EU head in Bosnia is working discreetly to see if he can make a breakthrough on Sejdić-Finci and the American embassy has launched a series of discussions on the future of the Federation.

But, if Bosnian leaders won't do what is required, then Bosnia will be left behind. Croatia will join and then they won't be able to export foodstuffs because they have not done the phyto-sanitary things required, Kosovo will move ahead, Serbia will move ahead and Bosnian leaders will have to explain why they are lagging further and further behind. European diplomats I speak to are trying to help, but, at the end of the day, they can't run Bosnia. If there is movement on Sejdić-Finci however I do think that while big set-piece talks have been seen not to work, it may well be time for Croatia and Serbia to get involved too, to tell their Bosnian counterparts in language they understand that they need to stop wasting time because, Europe aside, it is not in their strategic interests to have Bosnia lagging ever more. I think they are reluctant to do this, because they think that even they can't get the Bosnians to do what is necessary, but I also don't think they have tried as they have both been focused on their own problems and issues.

V.Ž.

While the panic over aflatoxing in milk shakes the Balkans, the EU is grappling with a scandal over horsemeat in beef products

## From the Romanian country road to Irish dinner table



It all started when in mid-January the Irish food security agency found traces of horse DNA in frozen beefburgers in a number of local supermarkets. Given the connection to the Irish market, and having learned a lesson in the “mad cow” scandal of ten years ago, the UK Food Standards Agency immediately reacted and tested several hundred samples from different producers of frozen foods. Shockingly enough, the tests revealed that a huge variety of packaged beef products – from hamburgers to lasagne and meat pies – contained up to 100% of horsemeat. Ever since, the scandal has reached the fever pitch. In the following weeks horse meat was found in all sorts of “beef” products in at least 14 of the 27 EU member states, and in nearly all larger producers of prepared meals. In late February, the Council of EU convened an extraordinary meeting of agriculture ministers to discuss a joint response. Contaminated products are being withdrawn from circulation en masse, and several member states began investigations to determine the source of mislabelled meat. Although there is no precise figure as to the share of pre-packaged meat products which contain some amount of horse, the consumers are revolting: in Britain, the sales of frozen burgers fell by 40% in less than a month. The amount of public outrage is particularly surprising because the products containing horsemeat do not appear to be in any way dangerous to human health. Horsemeat is perfectly legal and moderately popular in a number of EU member states, especially in France, where it is even considered healthier than beef because of lower cholesterol levels. The EC confirmed that the horsemeat products present no danger to public health, and that the

### Obscured by horsemeat

Interestingly enough, while the horsemeat scandal ranges on and the European institutions insist that the “consumers have the right to know what they’re buying”, hardly anyone even took notice of the EC’s decision to allow the use of processed animal protein as fish feed. European fisheries will again be allowed to use fish feed based on processed leftovers of pork and poultry. According to the Commission, the feed could “improve the long term durability of the fisheries sector”. The EU executive banned the use of processed animal proteins (PAPs) for use in farm feed in 1997 for cattle, and in 2001 for all animals, after they were linked to the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or mad cow disease. In the meantime, the Commission concluded that their reintroduction will not pose a health risk, as long as it does not involve cannibalism. “It complies with the latest scientific opinions which say that risk of transmission of BSE between non-ruminant animals is negligible, provided there is no recycling between species”, explained the Commission

affairs is essentially “a labelling issue”. “We’re not talking about a food safety issue. Nobody got sick”, the Commission spokesman **Frédéric Vincent** told the press. According to EC, this is a simple case of fraud. “Someone, somewhere in Europe has sent a supplier meat that wasn’t correctly labelled”, explained Vincent. As it turns out, this is exactly the crux of the problem. The horsemeat affair was a pointed reminder of just long and complicated the supply chains are in the European food industry, and that even EU’s rigorous rules on food safety cannot guarantee full protection to consumers. Large amounts of horsemeat, between 60 and 100% of meat content, were first found in the frozen lasagne by Swedish company Findus which were on sale in UK supermarkets. Although

they are sold under Findus brand, the lasagne are actually manufactured by the French company “Comigel”, which has its factories in France and headquarters in Luxembourg. “Comigel”, in turn, bought the meat from another French company, which bought it from a Dutch trader which outsourced meat purchase to a third company from Cyprus. The meat itself probably came from an abattoir in Romania, but nobody knows at which stage of the chain the horse turned into beef. The scandal also reignited the discussion on the food origin labels in EU. At the latest Council meeting, several member states asked for new labelling regulations that would clearly state the country of origin of the product. It is well known that EU has extremely strict rules on food labelling and extensive criteria for which products can be sold under what label. Surprisingly, these rules do not include country of origin, except for a small number of products. The origin must always be labelled for olive oil, fish (unless it's canned or prepared), wine, most fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, eggs. The same rule applies to beef and poultry only if they come from outside EU. For all other foods, origin labelling is only voluntary. Advocates of more extensive regulation claim that if they had to always specify the origin of their products, final

producers would be forced to get a tighter grip on the supply chain, decreasing the chances of fraud. It is less clear, however, how the labelling rules would help the consumers: for highly processed products it is impossible to say whether the “made in” label refers to the place where the ingredients were farmed, or the place where they were processed or packaged. Finally, an interesting question that reveals further the trappings of a unified economic space that is EU is – why horse? Once upon a time, horsemeat was the cheaper choice for the working classes – a horse which couldn't do its work anymore would become food. However, since the horses became a rarity in the European households, they also all but disappeared from the dinner tables. Today, horsemeat is considered a sort of delicacy and is not necessarily cheaper than beef. Most probably, this year's scandal is just a one-off episode, caused by a bizarre new law in Romania which forbids horse-driven carriages from driving on the country roads, as they are disproportionately involved in traffic accidents. The law forced many villagers to get rid of their steeds and sell them to the slaughterhouses. However, since Romania is probably the last country in Europe where horses are still used to do the farm work, there is little chance that the incident will be repeated.

### Spoiled European buyers

Five years ago, European Commission abolished its regulation on the size and shape of vegetables which was often a source international ridicule of EU's unreasonable bureaucratic machinery. The regulation really said that bananas with “abnormal curvature” and cucumbers with a bent of more than 1 cm for every 10 cm of length cannot be sold as Class 1 products, so the “ugly vegetables” often ended up on the dump. The Commission abolished the regulations in 2008 out of concern that they were leading to food waste in the circumstances when the rise of food prices in the international markets increased the risk of famine in poorer countries. In spite of this, however, European supermarkets still rely on somewhat unreasonable aesthetic criteria in their purchases, which means that fruits and vegetables of unusual shape or size often end up rotting in warehouses or as animal feed. This is why the United Nations recently organised a dinner party for 500 delegates at a week-long United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) event in the Kenyan capital, which consisted entirely of rejected products. The organisers were hoping to show that the rejected food is perfectly usable, and point to the gap between “spoiled” and wasteful European consumers and the people in poor countries such as Kenya. “With this dinner, we are demonstrating to retailers, consumers and policymakers who can push for change that the astonishing amount of food we throw away is not just edible and nutritious, but also delicious,” said Achim Steiner, head of the UN Environment Programme. A total of 1.7 tonnes of food was collected, and the part which was not used to the diplomatic dinner was distributed to the poor through the local charities. Kenyan farmers say that supermarkets in Europe as the worst of their buyers abroad, and often refuse to accept the food that has already be harvested due to cosmetic reasons such as colour or shape.

## Screening report for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights

**Law contradictory, implementation problematic**

European Union believes that Montenegro could open negotiations for Chapter 23, but only once it adopts one or more detailed action plan(s), comprising clear timetables and resource implications in order to improve independence, accountability, impartiality and professionalism of judiciary, introduce preventive and repressive measures for the fight against corruption and organised crime, and ensure effective implementation of human rights for the vulnerable groups such as women, children and minorities. These are the conclusions of the screening report on the extent of harmonisation of Montenegro's legislation with European laws in the area of Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. The document also stresses that these action plans should be developed through a transparent process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum support for their implementation. Although Montenegro has been working on harmonisation of its legal framework with European standards in this area, the adopted measures are often half-hearted, contradictory, or are simply not implemented in practice. For example, the EU notes that efforts to amend sub-constitutional legislation in order to ensure greater independence of judiciary must remain ineffective without the relevant amendments to the Constitution. The report stresses that judiciary remains under undue political influence and urges Montenegro to amend its highest legal act in accordance with recommendations by the Venice Commission. Specifically, the Judicial Council and the Prosecutorial Council should be composed by at least 50% of members stemming from the judiciary, and selected by their peers, without involvement of the Parliament. Further, prosecutors should not be appointed by the Parliament, and the reasons for dismissal of judges and prosecutors should be included in the Constitution. Except for the political influence on the highest organs of judiciary, the Commission is also concerned about influence on the rank and file through employment criteria. It therefore warns that the recruitment process needs to be transparent, and involve a single, nationwide recruitment system, anonymous tests for all candidates and obligatory training before being the final appointment. Also, Montenegro should introduce periodical professional assessment of judges and prosecutors' performance. Political influence is also not the only problem of the Montenegrin judiciary. According to EC, the present system does not fully guarantee impartiality of trials. To amend the shortcomings, the report recommends introducing an IT system to ensure random allocation of cases, and amending "conflict of interest"

Action plans should be developed through a transparent process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum support for their implementation.

rules, ensuring effective monitoring of asset declarations by judges and prosecutors. Further reforms are needed to improve efficiency, professionalism and competence of courts. Although Montenegro has more judges, courts and administrative staff per capita than any EU member state, the Commission warns that there is no reliable and complete statistical information on courts' performance, the duration of trials and the human and financial resources allocated. In order to begin negotiations, therefore, Montenegro has to devise an action plan to ensure reliable and consistent judicial statistics, rationalise the court network and make it more efficient, especially in terms of reducing the existing backlog. Another area where the country needs a detailed action plan to deal with the most glaring shortcomings before it can begin negotiations is anti-corruption. A study on risk assessment adopted by the Government of Montenegro in July 2011 showed local self-government, spatial planning, public procurement,

EC recommends introducing an IT system to ensure random allocation of cases, and amending "conflict of interest" rules, ensuring effective monitoring of asset declarations by judges and prosecutors.

privatisation, education and healthcare to be high-risk areas for corruption, together with tax administration and customs, the judicial system and the police. EC warns that the legal framework also contains a number of shortcomings, but warns that the biggest problem is the scattered institutional setup of bodies which are nominally in charge for fighting corruption. The Commission thus recommends strengthening the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiatives (DACI), as well as the Commission for prevention of conflict of interest, especially with regard to its capacities for substantial checks on assets of public employees, and introducing additional measures for the prevention of conflict of interest. Montenegro is also expected to improve the system of political party funding, ensuring reliable reporting. It is also necessary to strengthen the capacities of the State Audit Institution (SAI) and the State Election Commission, as well as to ensure a clear division of

tasks and cooperation between the two institutions. The Commission finds that the rules on free access to information, including the ones of economic value are not being implemented consistently, and believes that the provisions of the Law on prevailing public interest need to be clarified. The report also recommends further development of the control system for public procurement, anti-corruption measures on the level of local self-governments, and separate action plans for all areas identified as high-risk by the 2011 Government report. The Commission believes the Parliament should play a stronger role in fighting corruption, by stepping up supervision of the executive, and recommends involving NGOs in the anticorruption agenda. In addition to these “preventive” measures, the conclusions of the screening report also recommend strengthening the repressive instruments against corruption. Among these, it stresses the need to provide adequate resources to all investigation and judicial authorities involved in the fight against corruption, making corruption cases priority matters. Other recommendations include elimination of shortcomings which the Commission believes diminish judiciary’s ability to fight corruption, such as the lack of training, lack of qualified staff, inadequate access to relevant databases by prosecutors and the Special Investigative Team, and insufficient cooperation and information exchange between authorities involved in the fight against corruption. Montenegro is also expected to improve the procedures for

The Commission finds that the rules on free access to information, including the ones of economic value, are not being implemented consistently, and believes that the provisions of the Law on prevailing public interest which can override the right to access to information need to be clarified.

seizure, confiscation and management of proceeds of crime and make the system of whistle-blower protection more effective in practice. The last set of recommendations concerns the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of fundamental human rights. The Commission is especially concerned about inadequate competencies of the Ombudsman. Among a long list of measures, it recommends introducing an effective legal remedy to redress violations of human rights, and stresses the importance of full implementation of the recommendations provided by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Montenegro is also requested do improve prison conditions, and introduce measures to reduce the prison population: the Commission

### The biggest shortcoming in anti-corruption is the scattered institutional setup

suggests exploring alternative sanctions and conditioned sentencing. Another problematic area with regard to fundamental right is insufficient protection of journalists from threats and violence. EC notes that the best remedy would be effective investigations and deterrent sanction of past attacks. It also recommends review and amendment of the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of media freedom. In the conclusion, the report reminds that the recent legislative amendments to the Law on electronic media put at risk the independence of the audio-visual regulator, as the Agency for Electronic Media is required to submit operational and financial plans and reports to the Parliament for approval. It therefore asks Montenegro to take further steps to ensure independence of the Agency for Electronic Media and of the public broadcaster, which has “not yet fully achieved” professionalism and independence. Although the general legal and institutional framework for the protection of fundamental rights of vulnerable groups is in place, and the country ratified relevant international conventions, in practice they are still at risk of discrimination. “Take concrete steps to ensure practical implementation of non-discrimination and gender equality, including through strengthening of the monitoring bodies and more effective reactions of the law enforcement bodies to possible violations, as well as through better awareness raising and support measures, especially on employment and public representation of women. Particular focus should be put on ending discrimination of the LGBT community”, warns the report. Similar criticism and recommendations can be found in the section on the position of persons with disabilities, children and minorities, who are not always have the opportunity, knowledge or resources to pursue their legally guaranteed rights. As a concrete measure to improve their situation, EC asked Montenegro to allocate sufficient financial means to ensure the effective functioning of the free legal aid system. The Commission is especially concerned about the position of the RAE population (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians). In spite of the measures undertaken to facilitate RAE education and employment, drop out and unemployment rates remain high, especially for women. Discrimination against these groups is prevalent in access to employment and to social and health care. Montenegrin authorities are expected to enhance their political commitment to Roma inclusion, and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources for the improvement of their status, including equal access to economic and social rights. V.Ž.

## Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers



Nemanja Tepavčević

Once the negotiations are completed and Montenegro joins the EU, its citizens will have the right to work anywhere on the territory of EU. Their families will also have the right to join them, and will have access to social protection such as health insurance, pension, unemployment insurance and family benefits. These rights are equally available for the workers who move to EU on the request of their employer as for those who voluntarily choose to work elsewhere. Montenegrin citizens will be able to work in EU without special permits, except in those member states which decide to introduce temporary derogations of the free movement of workers, for a maximum duration of two to seven years. In that case, Montenegro also has the right to introduce a similar ban on free employment of workers from that member state. Freedom of movement for workers will allow Montenegrin citizens to use their skills in the best possible way, looking for the best match in terms of employment anywhere in the EU.

Freedom of movement across EU's internal borders is one of the most important rights of every European citizen. As the EU was originally established to create a unified economic space, full mobility of workers was an important precondition for the proper functioning of the labour markets since the very beginning. European *acquis* thus enables the citizens of every member state to travel, live and work on the territory of another member state, and offers them protection from discrimination on grounds of citizenship or any other trait. Because of the peculiar

nature of tasks in public administration, public institutions are exempted from the rules of this chapter.

Chapter 2 also regulates the right to residence on the entire territory of EU, as well as other rights ensuing from the principle of the free movement of workers, such as equality of working conditions, taxation and the right to social security on equal grounds regardless of citizenship. It also defines the right to retirement of persons who are employed in EU, and regulates the rights of movement and residence of the employee's family. It should be noted, however, that due to differences among the member states as regards social protection and healthcare, these provisions are enforced through cooperation between national administrations, and not through direct implementation of uniform EU standards. One example is health insurance: all EU citizens have a card which entitles them to access to health services while travelling, working, or living in other EU member states. Their home country or the country where they pay insurance then reimburses the relevant costs to the state in which the services were provided.

In Montenegro, recent amendments to the Law on Employment of Foreigners simplified the procedure for approval of work permits, easing access to the Montenegrin labour market for EU citizens. Montenegro also signed cooperation agreements in the area of social security with Austria, Belgium, Macedonia and Switzerland, and is planning further agreements with other countries of the region and EU. Nevertheless, the level of cooperation between social security systems of Montenegro and those of EU member states is still very low. Modernisation of healthcare is under way, and Montenegro does not yet have electronic health card which would facilitate cooperation with EU member states with regard to the transfer of compensations for services performed during the citizens' stay abroad.



It is a widespread misconception that free movement of workers requires complex legal procedures, which is not entirely true.

Chapter 2 also regulates the right to residence on the entire territory of EU, as well as other rights ensuing from the principle of the freedom of movement for workers. It will provide Montenegrin citizens with the same conditions of employment, taxation and social protection as are available to other EU citizens, and allow them to freely choose employment in any EU country, without special permits.

However, EU member states may choose to introduce certain limitations on the right of movement, i.e. to suspend the right of citizens from new member states to seek employment in their countries for a period of two, five or seven years. The same right applies to the new member state.

The provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) in this area mainly concern elimination of discrimination against Montenegrin citizens who are legally employed in an EU member state, or against EU citizens employed in Montenegro. In addition to the existing agreements on coordination of social security systems with a handful of EU member states, Montenegro plans to extend the network of such agreements, in order to improve conditions for employment. The agreement with Slovenia is awaiting ratification, and further agreements are being negotiated with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Croatia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

To prepare the ground for free movement of workers, SAA requires coordination between social security systems of Montenegro and those of EU member states in order to

harmonise the rules for the transfer of pension contributions, compensation for workplace injuries and the right to healthcare. Council for Stabilisation and Association, a common body consisting of representatives of Montenegro and EU, is in charge of implementing these provisions in order to facilitate the transfer of these rights within the limits prescribed by the respective national legislations.

The most problematic aspect as regards the freedom of movement for workers in Montenegro is the lack of administrative capacities for effective incorporation of Montenegro in the EU Single Market. Montenegrin legislation is still far from being fully harmonised with the *acquis*, and the country still needs to change some of the more problematic legal provisions, as well as ensure a sufficient number of qualified staff to implement relevant laws.



For the Montenegrin workers to be competitive on the European market, Montenegro must improve its educational system, in order to offer its citizens the opportunity for life-long acquisition of skills necessary for survival in a fast-changing labour market. Through cooperation with the member states and reliance on EU funds, Montenegro can gradually attain these goals, adapting the skills of the Montenegrin workers to the demand of the new markets, and thus ensuring higher employment of our citizens.

Also, it would be necessary to take relevant steps to introduce European health insurance card that would provide Montenegrin citizens to the right to healthcare while in EU.

*Source: publication "Europe in my town – what are we negotiating and what the negotiations with the EU are bringing to us?", publicised within the project Europe in my town, which was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) during 2011 and 2012, in cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiatives (CI) from Belgrade, with the support of the EU Delegation in Montenegro.*

Although Montenegro has eased access to work permits for EU citizens, from the day it joins the Union the EU citizens will not need any special approval to seek work on the territory of Montenegro.

One specific measure which the country needs to implement to facilitate free movement of workers is to link the national Employment Office to the European Employment Service (EURES). Right now, except for the declared intention to cooperate in the future, little has been done to link the two systems. Once the effective cooperation is established, Montenegrin citizens should have better access to information on job opportunities, conditions of employment and residence in different member states.



## EU info BUS begins its Montenegrin tour in Cetinje



On 14 February 2013, at the Court Square in Cetinje, CCE officially began its project “EU info bus – on the road to European Union”. The project is implemented by the Centre for Civic Education in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and NGO Natura, with support of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro. The project is part of the communication strategy of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. It aims to strengthen the capacity and role of local communities and civil society organisations in Montenegro to make a lasting, more effective contribution to EU integration process. The project targets six municipalities in the central part of Montenegro (Podgorica, Nikšić, Danilovgrad, Cetinje, Kolašin and Mojkovac). Between 12:00 and 15:00, the organisers set up stands on the Court Square where the interested citizens could get information about the European integration process. They also organised a music programme, as well as quizzes and games with prizes for younger visitors. The event was opened by the head of EU Delegation to Montenegro, His Excellency **Mitja Drobnič**. Numerous visitors were also greeted by the Mayor of Cetinje **Aleksandar Bogdanović** and executive director of CCE **Daliborka Uljarević**. Shortly before the event, the Mayor of Cetinje and his team met with the head of EU Delegation to Montenegro, German Ambassador to Montenegro **Pius Fisher**, secretary general for European integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) **Snežana Radović** and CCE’s executive director. Among other, they

discussed the activities of the municipality of Cetinje and its capacity to make use of EU funds. On the same day, in cooperation with the municipality, the organisers held a panel discussion titled “The role and importance of local communities in the process of European integration” in the plenary hall of the local parliament. During the two-hour discussion, the participants were addressed by the Mayor of Cetinje Aleksandar Bogdanović, Head of EU Delegation in Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Montenegro Pius Fischer, general director for European integration in MFAEI Snežana Radović and executive director of CCE Daliborka Uljarević. The discussion attracted a lot of interest among the citizens of Cetinje: more than a hundred representatives of local businesses, representatives of local



committees, councillors, workers, students and members of the administration attended the event. The discussion was an occasion for all participants to get first-hand answers to the questions about European integration which they consider relevant for their everyday life and work. EU info bus continues its journey on 20 March 2013, when it will visit municipality of Danilovgrad.



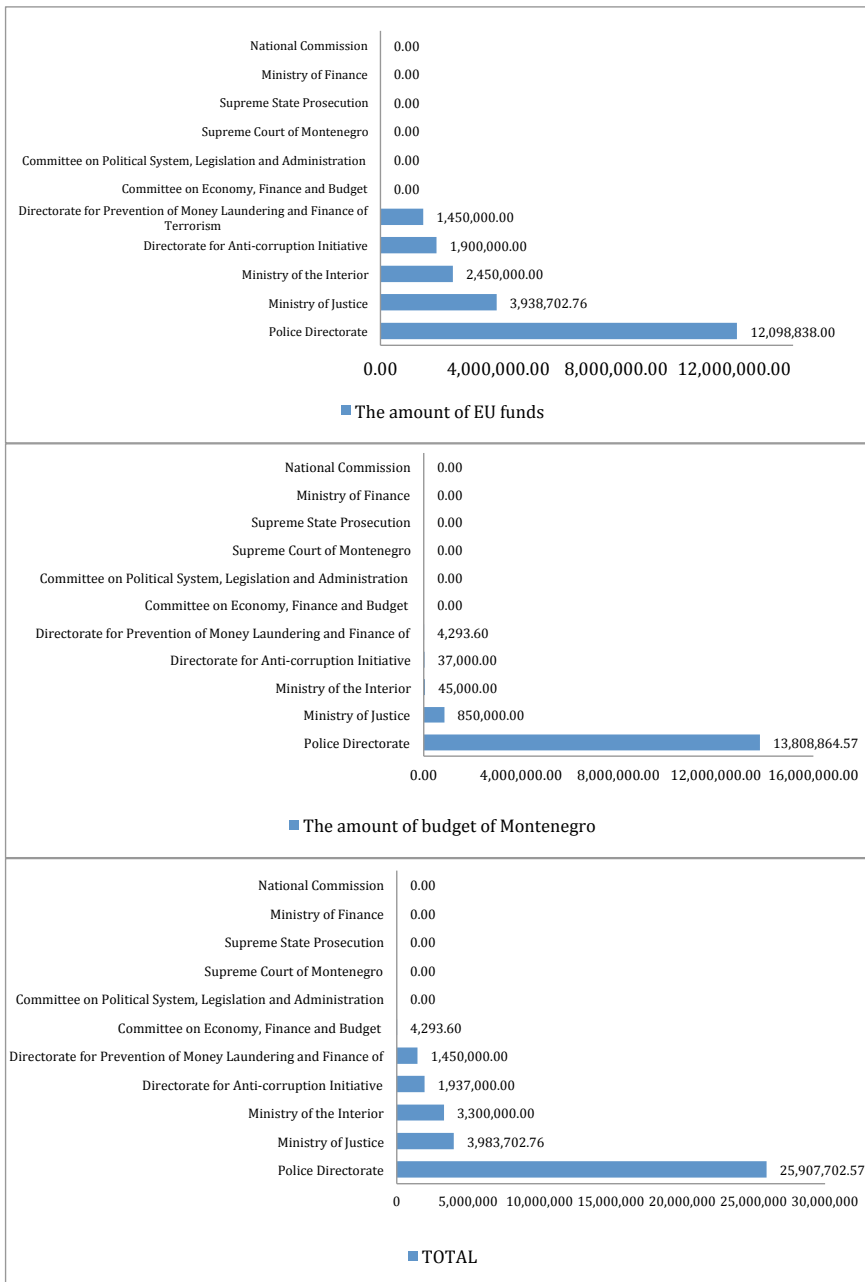
How much was invested in the fight against corruption and organised crime, and are there any visible results?

## 36.5 million in five years, achievements meagre

Over the last five years, between 2007 and 2012, Montenegrin institutions responsible for fighting corruption and organised crime received around 36.5 million euro from the public budget and European Union funds, but the results are few and far between. This raises concerns about the governments' declared political will to make every possible effort to remove this key obstacle on Montenegro's road to EU. These are the results of a study conducted by Centre for Civic Education (CCE), titled "How much was invested in the fight against corruption and organised crime, and are there visible results in this respect?" The research was conducted between January 15 and February 6, as part of the sub-programme *Responsibility and Transparency of Government*, whose aim is to contribute to raising awareness about responsible spending of public money, be it from the national budget or from the European Union funds, and the (lack of) effectiveness of these investments. CCE analysed the investments into projects aimed at fighting against corruption and organised crime in Montenegro in the period 2007-2012, including both the assistance provided through the Instrument for Pre-Accession and the money allocated by the Budget of Montenegro to the key institutions responsible for the fight against corruption and organised crime. The research covered 10 institutions, whose representatives participate in the National Commission for implementation of the strategy against corruption and organised crime, the Commission itself, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The Ministry was also the key source of information on the distribution of project money from EU funds. For the programmes and projects concerning the fight against corruption and organised crime in the last five years, Ministry of Justice received EUR 3 938 792.76 from EU funds, as



well as EUR 45 000 from the national budget, or a total of EUR 3 983 702.76. In the same period, a total of EUR 29 207 702.57 million was allocated to the Police Directorate and the Ministry of Interior Affairs. Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative received EUR 1 900 000.00 from the EU funds, and another EUR 37 000 from the national sources for its anti-corruption programme. Committee for Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Committee for Political System, Judiciary and Administration told CCE that the Parliament does not have information on the funding received for combating corruption and organised crime. Supreme Court, on the other hand, did not receive any financing from EU in this five-year period for activities concerning corruption and organised crime, and failed to submit any information on the funding allocated to these purposes from the national budget. The office of Supreme State Prosecutor spent EUR 4 293.60 on study visits, seminars and education of the prosecutors and their deputies, all financed from the Budget of Montenegro, but occasionally participated in EU-funded programmes organised by other bodies. On the other hand, activities in the



field of anti-corruption and organised crime of Directorate for the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism have been financed entirely from the EU funds in the five-year period since 2007, the total amount reaching EUR 1 450 000.00 by the end of 2012. Although CCE’s communication with other authorities responsible for the fight against organised crime and corruption revealed that the Ministry of Finance was the main partner in at least one project in this area, the Ministry never responded to our requests for information

about the amount of money it received from the national budget or the EU for these purposes. “The lack of political will and inadequate implementation of the necessary measures, are for the most part due to the lack of administrative capacity in the relevant institutions. The gap between the invested resources and the visible results of these investments can be traced back to a number of factors, the most important of which is the lack of political will. Moreover, the public perceives some of the key anti-corruption institutions as internally very corrupt, and places most of its trust in the NGOs and media to fight corruption and organised crime, although these actors have no legal prerogatives to pursue such initiatives through”, warns the study. The authors conclude: “One would expect that all the money that was invested in these institutions would have raised their ability to produce more tangible results in the fight against corruption and organized crime. This also raises concerns about the government’s declared commitment to make every effort to remove this key on Montenegro’s road to EU, and dampens hopes that we will soon see the measurable results in this field that have long been promised by Montenegrin authorities, and long awaited by the EU. The question of tangible achievements is clearly the most important, but not the only relevant one. Other problems include the lack of clear and functional coordination among responsible institutions, dubious effectiveness of many programmes, and the fact that although millions of euros have been spent over many years to improve capacities of the staff of these institutions, it remains unclear who they trained, as most employees who are today directly in charge of these matters in their respective directorates and ministries never had a chance to participate in capacity building programmes”.

S.P.

## Human rights of patients in psychiatric institutions

As part of the project “Monitoring of observance of human rights in closed institutions in Montenegro”, Human Rights Action (HRA), in cooperation with the Centre for Anti-Discrimination “EKVISTA”, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Safe Women’s House organised on 18.02.2013 a round table titled “Final report on the observance of human rights of patients in psychiatric institutions”. The project is supported by European Union, via the European Union Delegation to Montenegro and the Embassy of the Republic of Germany in Montenegro.

At the round table, the organisers presented the findings about the state of human rights of the patients and interns of the Special Psychiatric Hospital in Kotor, psychiatric ward in Nikšić and psychiatric clinic in Podgorica. The report was produced by a team of non-governmental organisations which participated in this project. It consists of a review on the progress on 61 recommendations which the monitoring team issued in its previous report of 30.11.2011. The authors conclude that the situation in psychiatric institutions is better than two years ago, but that many problems remain, including shortage of medical staff and inadequate treatment of certain patients.

The report was presented by **Mirjana Radović** from HRA and **Daniilo Ajković** from CCE. Other participants at the round table were deputy ministers for justice, health and labour and social affairs, representatives of the Ombudsman and members of the NGO sector.

## Strategic planning for civic education

As part of the regional programme *Education for Human Rights and Active Citizenship in the Western Balkans*, many projects have been implemented with the goal of promoting civic education in all countries of the region, and improving the institutional approach to education for human rights and active citizenship. Among other such activities, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) organised a meeting for strategic planning between 15 and 17 February 2013.

During the three-day workshop, representatives of CCE formulated an outline of the strategic plan, including operative goals, action plans and specific measures which are to serve as guidelines for the future work of the organisation in the field of civic education. The planning workshop was led by **Aleksandra Letić**, regional coordinator of the programme. Other participants were **Petar Đukanović**, programme coordinator, **Tamara Milaš**, project associate, **Svetlana Pešić**, project assistant, **Miloš Knežević**, coordinator of the CCE youth group and **Mihra Tahirović**, member of the CCE youth group.

## Internships in Montenegro

On 14.02.2013 in Podgorica, in the auditorium of the Rectorate of the University of Montenegro, a group of young people gave presentations on the topic of *Internships in Montenegro: opportunity for students and young professionals to learn and become acquainted with the world of work*”.

**Jelena Miljanić** from the Directorate for Youth and Sports, **Ivana Drakić** from the Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT) and **Mirela Rebronja** from the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) spoke for two hours about the concept of internship, the benefits for students and the importance of practical training for the career and professional advancement later on. The speakers also talked about opportunities for internships in Montenegro, and about experiences of their own organisations and institutions. After the opening presentations, the floor was opened for discussion, giving students a chance to get more information on the specific topics of interest.

## Where do the advertising euros of the Montenegrin taxpayers go?



On 22.02.2013, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) organised a press conference where it presented its findings on the spending for advertisements and media services by the Government institutions and the Parliament of Montenegro in 2012.

The project “*Who gets the taxpayers’ money for advertising, and how much does it cost?*” is part of the CCE’s sub-programme *Media and Democracy*. Its goal is to raise awareness and contribute to greater accountability of public spending. The specific aim of this project was to map the relationship between government institutions and the Parliament of Montenegro with different media in Montenegro, based on the patterns of expenditures on media services. Accordingly, between 11.01. and 19.02.2013, CCE requested from these institutions the lists of all media, polling agencies and production houses which received money for

their services from the Government and Parliament in Montenegro in the course of the 2012 on the basis procurement contracts, special services or other grounds.

The analysis also covered the amounts transferred to different media, and types of services involved. The research showed that the institutions in question reduced the expenditures, but that there is still a difference in the treatment of different media. The criteria for the selection of media for advertisings services are unclear and inconsistent, and do not match the findings on the public trust in different media concerns, popularity of the media or costs of services. The research was presented by **Damir Nikočević**, CCE programme associate.

## Social dimension of higher education in Montenegro

Montenegrin association of young people with disabilities organised on 04.02.2013 a round table titled “*The Social Dimension of Higher Education in Montenegro*”.

Higher education in Montenegro is based on the principles of Bologna Declaration, which aims to create a common space that would allow mobility of students across Europe. In Montenegro, however, students with disabilities are still facing problems of access and mobility in higher education in their own country, which is a powerful obstacle to their education. The round table focused on one usually neglected aspect of the Bologna system – social dimension of studies, although all signatories committed themselves to improvements in this area. Representatives of the Association of youth with disabilities presented the findings of the project *Improving Higher Education in South-East Europe*, and the results of a research on the current situation of future plans to improve social dimension of higher education at the University of Montenegro.

Part of the discussion at the round table concentrated on the specific problems of students with disabilities in the academic life. Except for the architectural barriers and lack of access to many buildings, there is still an acute lack of literature and teaching devices for persons with impaired sight and hearing, lack of access to student dorms etc.

An important recommendation of the round table is to involve the persons with disabilities more consistently in the design of upcoming laws on higher education, as well as of other policies, strategies and documents in this field. It is especially important to improve inter-sectoral cooperation to make education policies for persons with disabilities more effective, because their needs span the competencies of different sectors. **Petar Đukanović**, CCE programme coordinator, participated in the round table.

## CEU Summer University 2013

The Summer University (SUN) is an academic program for courses for graduate students, university teachers, researchers and professionals in the social sciences and humanities. In 2013, the summer program (**June 3 – July 26, 2013**) offers a series of intensive one- and two-week courses in the social sciences and humanities to encourage and promote regional academic co-operation and curriculum development by drawing together young faculty in lectures, seminars and workshops. The language of instruction is English. Financial aid / scholarships are available.

Applications should be received no later than **February 15, 2013**.

For more information please visit the website [www.summer.ceu.hu](http://www.summer.ceu.hu) where you can find the description of each course and apply.

## Economic and Political Reporting from Southeast Europe

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 programme for journalists from Southeast Europe, 'Economic and Political Reporting from Southeast Europe' jointly run by Robert Bosch Stiftung and Thomson Reuters Foundation. The programme was initiated in 2007 to foster quality analysis and reporting on economic issues, enhance coverage on topics that are central to the region's economic and political development and encourage regional networking among journalists. Sixteen journalists from Southeast Europe are competitively chosen to participate in the programme, run by experienced ex-Reuters journalists. **The programme includes two 10-day courses in the UK (13-27 April) and in Germany (15-28 September).** Applying journalists must be citizens of Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia or Turkey.

Applications should be received no later than **February 10, 2013**.

For more information please visit the <http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/content/language1/html/11260.asp>

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