



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND COURTS TO ACT AGAINST CORRUPTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO

The Centre for Civic Education (CCE) welcomes with satisfaction the final announcement of the President of the Managing Board of the University of Montenegro (UoM) **Duško Bjelica** declaring that controls on the work of all institutional bodies will be carried out, as it was recently done at the Faculty of Law. However, **the CCE calls for an impartial and comprehensive exercise of that process, which includes control of the work of the Faculty of Law since the 2008/2009 academic year and at the same time controls on all other university units from the side of commissions formed for this purpose, as well as by all other inspection organs.**

CCE hopes that this control will be detailed and that, in its implementation, none will be privileged or untouchable, as it is now the case, starting from the Faculty of Law. It is extremely important to carefully examine those faculties that have large number of students, i.e. the Faculties of Economics, Philosophy, etc., those which allow significant revenue from commercial activities, i.e. Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Architecture, i.e., those for which there are serious pending allegations or that have employees with questionable scientific rankings, i.e. the Faculty of Political Science, Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, etc.

Moreover, in the case of the Faculty of maritime studies, the CCE has no knowledge on any illegal activities by the Board of the Faculty. However, we are concerned about information we have been receiving for years by the students themselves, through informal communication, stating cases of corruption of some teachers. Suspicious activities of individuals are clearly going beyond the capabilities of intervention of the Board of the Faculty, although there are efforts and transparent measures to protect the interests and rights of students. Reasons may lie in “protected” individuals and “dangerous” relations. But the fact is these isolated cases of some professors who have been making money out of students and have been damaging them on longterm, do not only endanger reputation of these faculties, which do not have any formal and legal tools to sanction these actions, but also the University, as a whole, which is their legal employer, as well as the entire academic community composed of eminent professors, scientists and researchers of Montenegro.

Due to such cases, the CCE believes it is fundamental that police, prosecutors and judiciary are involved in the control of several faculties and to introduce the measures of secret surveillance in order to gather qualitative evidence to further proceedings, as it happened some years ago in neighbouring Croatia in the famous case “Indeks”.



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The CCE suggests that, along with publication of property records of the deans, it is necessary to make public all salaries and benefits that professors and associates enjoy at the University of Montenegro under any criteria, as well as to verify the origin of the assets for which there are differences in income and assets. The fact that the CCE is still not able to receive from the Managing Board of the University of Montenegro an overview of this information is not positive taking into account that the Managing Board is rhetorically willing to deal with all irregularities of the UoM.

The CCE recalls the latest survey that we carried out in cooperation with the NGO CEMI, and supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is indicating that almost half of the student population in Montenegro believes that it is possible to buy a diploma of high school or of university (46%). Moreover, a quarter of the students admits that, in case of need, they would offer and eventually bribe teachers or professors in order to get a better mark, to pass an exam or a grade. The percentage of people ready to solve a problem in schools with bribe is higher among student population than among overall (41% compared to 23% of population). The same survey shows that a third of the population won't report cases of bribe, may they witness it. **This social environment is a fertile ground for those professors who illegally have been taking material benefits of the situation, and that must be in focus of the investigative authorities, as this goes beyond the authority of the faculty boards.**

CCE reiterates its call to the Managing Board of the University of Montenegro to show its commitment to tackle all irregularities at the University in a systematic and objective way. Moreover, it calls for engagement of investigative authorities to help administrations of those faculties where there are substantial allegations of corrupted professors to put an end of this phenomenon.

Snežana Kaluđerović
Legal advisor