



Podgorica, 23 December 2007

## **STOP THE ADOPTION OF MONTENEGRO'S SPATIAL PLAN**

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) and Centre for Civic Education (CCE) express their full support for their colleagues in non-governmental organisations in the area of environmental protection and for their effort to preserve the most important resource of Montenegro – its space.

The Draft Spatial Plan, whose propositions ignore the constitutional commitment for Montenegro as an ecological state, ought to be fully presented to the citizens of Montenegro in all of its details. Also, international organisations (EU, UN) must be given sufficient time to comment on the draft before the Government adopts its final text and forwards it to the Parliament of Montenegro.

**Preparatory procedures in drafting the Spatial Plan were unnecessarily quickened, avoiding EU standards, and lowering dramatically the overall quality of the document. This is a cause for serious concern, given that the Plan is to be one of the building blocks for the foundations of the future of Montenegro.**

**We support demands by environmental NGOs that the Spatial Plan proposal must stay true to all EU directives related to environment, energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, and that comments and proposals from the non-governmental sector ought to be taken seriously.**

We hope that the Government is not bracing for a replay of the situation surrounding the Strategy for energy development when all NGO comments were ignored. We expect all the participants in this process to make additional effort to improve the Spatial Plan proposal in the interest of the common good.

**We call for solidarity among all NGOs and citizens in those moments when the non-governmental sector is suffering increasing pressures, while decisions are being taken with lasting consequences for the citizens of Montenegro.**

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO)

Centre for Civic Education (CCE)