

CIVIC

Acceleration of the post-traumatic society

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These days, a Fast Forward Human Rights Film Festival is being held in Podgorica, but it will not feature a movie that would tell how horrible and traumatic path of us as a society was to come to the first political party, the first bank, the first controversial businessmen, etc, even though we have such portraits of similar post-traumatic societies.

It became tiring to talk, read or lament regarding the tops of criminal and political structures. It seems that today it is much easier to pronounce the actual names within these frames, along with a series of populist epithets in order to get ratings in public, than to explore the true causes of this situation as well as the possibilities of change. Therefore, at the present, there is certainly only one change running – the change of generations in political and criminal circles of Montenegro. In a political discourse, this kind of transformation occurs much easier than in a criminal one, primarily due to the deficit of competition. When it comes to the crime structure, the problem of a successor is much more expressed. Numerous indicators starting from public appearances of our key analysts point towards this conclusion, who legitimize themselves by repeating the first controversial Montenegrin businessman, up to the established need of the society reform. That is, starting the loud demagogic performances up to the silent but implacable requests from the EU to arrange our home and our backyard by producing specific results. These days, a Human Rights Film Festival "Fast Forward" is being held in Podgorica, but it will not feature a movie that would tell how horrible and traumatic path of us as a society was to come to the first political party, the first bank, the first controversial businessmen, etc, even though we have such portraits of similar post-traumatic societies. Probably, this deficiency is also an additional reminder of those wounds which we still have not recovered from, and which we often deliberately neglect, allowing it to destroy us from the inside while we deal with the consequences endlessly and in the same manner. Fall of the Berlin Wall brought a wave of democratization in most East European regimes. We were splashed by a wave of national socialism, civil wars with the death fields on which criminal groups will recruit and build upon, which will, until nowadays, get numerous and sophisticated forms of cooperation with political and primarily governing structures for the mutual benefit and primitive satisfaction.

We will step into devastating privatization processes, large rhetorical discussions of accidents and the need for lustration that will never happen. Apart from the war profiteers, also anti-war ones will appear. Freedom of speech will be transformed into the tabloid trash. Workers will remember their factories turning into the building blocks with a few light bulbs burning. The state becomes the greatest employer, and for decades no one will be complaining about the economic status. Students will need a long time until they realize that the "administrative capacities" are filled beyond measure and that their diplomas are worth nothing. The current encouragement is the date of negotiations initiation while the entertainment represents the listings that look like tests for determining the knowledge and capacities of our institutions. The European story is a

great story by itself. Especially for us, since we never experienced the values of the European democracy and a significant part of society still doesn't accept these values, while the governing elite mostly consumes them in the form of powerful cars, branded clothes and a few glasses of brandy or expensive wines.

One of the greatest European values is the corpus of human rights and freedoms. However, in the field of anti-discrimination policies, Montenegro must prove itself equally as in the field of economic policy and the rule of law. There are no human rights for the hungry ones and no food that can replace the pain of humiliation and deprivation. The attitude towards human rights is an expression of the character of each one of us, and the fate of human rights in Montenegro will depend solely on us. The ruling pyramid has established a sort of political escapism that is being used to keep the society in a state of parallel reality and virtual images. Running away from reality keeps us from finding a solution to the agony, reduces the pain of the real life as any opiate, while narcotics are a lucrative business here, as well as the policy that takes under its wings and governs. By accelerating our past, we can observe the indecent speed that was crashing everything around. People were adapting as much as they could, but the options are limited.

It is time to direct the post-traumatic experience towards the exit, to the pain. When we feel that we are in pain, it means that there is hope, and that we were not lied to, deceived, that we can see with our own eyes. The value of the European integration as a broader, rather than technical, concept is that we are becoming open, that we are ready to compete, to compare, to progress, to change without losing ourselves. It sounds nice, and it really is. We have to go to compete, to get to know ourselves and others.

Movies within the Human Rights Film Festival "Fast Forward" offer preview of similar fates, knowledge that we are not alone, that the pain of life is inevitable and often beneficial, and that we need to be afraid of people who have all the answers, as well as that we need to fear the society which has a lack of human rights and an excess of crime, lack of the real economy and the excess of slow bureaucracy. If we want to change this, each one of us needs to speed up...

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