



**Centar za građansko obrazovanje**  
**Centre for civic education**

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## **PROMISING BEGINNING OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION WITH NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) welcomes the beginning of the work the Council for Cooperation between the Government and NGOs, which held its inaugural session on 25 January, 2011 assessing that this opens space for more effective communication between the two sectors.**

Following the consultations organized by the new Prime Minister Lukšić in his first working days with the representatives of the majority of relevant NGOs, this is an additional and concrete step towards the intensification of communication and partnership with civil society which is a prerequisite for strengthening democratic capacities towards the EU accession process.

The manner of the beginning of work of this body and the selection of a NGO representative as a Vice-President of the Council is encouraging. In addition, bearing in mind that we are talking about **Ana Novaković**, the Executive Director of the Centre for development of NGOs, which is the initiator of systematic solutions in defining of the relations of the Government and NGOs, gives reason for hope that the Government finally began to acknowledge individual expertise in the sector.

The work on the Action Plan for monitoring of the implementation of recommendations from the Opinion of the European Commission and the current weak capacity of public bodies require the involvement of NGOs, which with its rich experience and knowledge in certain areas can significantly contribute to meeting certain recommendations from the Action Plan.

CCE expects that the Council will be discussing and implementing some important issues, among first the adoption of the law on NGOs, as well as financing of NGOs from public funds and participation in the design and adoption of legislation and other public policy documents.

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