



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 5 September, 2012

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND LABOUR MARKET SHOULD BE HARMONIZED

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) is concerned over the increase of unemployed graduate students who make up about 20% of the total number of unemployed people in Montenegro, which is more than twice of the EU average. Bad enrolment policy of the University of Montenegro, as well as private universities, which is not based on the labor market's needs as CCE previously pointed out, significantly contributed to this situation.

Current economic crisis and rather unconvincing actions of the authorities to put it under the control, non-alignment of the market needs and enrolment policies leads to huge disproportions concerning the number of highly educated people and possibilities of their employment. Financial interests of the educational institutions became the basis of their admission policies. By enrolment of too many students these are making profit although the quality of studies and students suffer because of it.

The lack of mechanisms for practices at many faculties additionally affects the quality of these higher education institutions. Consequently, this creates inadequately prepared graduates for work in institutions, companies or organizations which is one of their main barrier for employment. **CCE proposes the introduction of part-time work for students that would enable them to work in parallel with studies for a few hours a week.** This idea works in the developed western countries (e.g. Great Britain, USA) and opens space for engaging part-time associates who would then easily come to their appointment and would not spend months or years in the registry of the Employment Bureau.

CCE assess that education and perspective of youth remain underestimated issues, also in the efforts of political parties. CCE call them to clearly present their specific plans aiming to settle things out in this area. It is very important to systematically monitor the development of the market and education system, and a special responsibility lies with the institutions and decision-makers. **These are a lot more important questions for the development of the state and its sustainability than impotent rhetoric in identity and nationalistic colors.**

Montenegrin education system in correlation with the labor market needs to provide equal opportunities to all. It requires well-devised and dedicated professionals. The responsibility for the current situation undoubtedly lies on the Government of Montenegro, which did not recognize the importance of these issues, thus demonstrating the absence of vision of the societal development. But, unfortunately it is difficult to identify the other actors' useful suggestions and determination to deal with these issues, and it is up to the civil society and media to make the pressure on all these actors in order to get clear views on these issues.

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