

European pulse

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Foreword: Science



Vladan Žugčić

Chapter 25 – Science and Research, the first of 35 Chapters of *acquis* to be negotiated with European Union (EU) was opened and immediately temporarily closed. The successful start of negotiations was, however, completely overshadowed by the appointment of the new Government and its austerity measures. Chapter 25 has little common European legislation, and most of it was already transposed into the Montenegrin legal system. To a large extent, science and research is responsibility of the member states and candidate countries. It is clear that the EU's decision to temporarily close this chapter constitutes a gesture of encouragement at the very beginning of a long journey, but it is unclear where the government gets the figures for its upbeat promise to the EU – that it will increase spending on science and research by as much as 1% of GDP. And that at the moment when the new Government of Milo Đukanović decided to freeze pensions and raise personal income tax by 3%, which is most likely to be taken out of the employee's wages. Instead of the only principle it can think of – distribute the burden of the crisis to all equally – the Government could also try to get the revenue it's missing from the employers, but that would mean pressuring the donors and friendly tycoons to foot the bill. A thorough application of the tax and labour inspection would do more to bolster the budget than additional burden on the employees. For the Government, which continues with the recipe of gamble economy, getting Montenegro on the track of economic recovery will be the real science – especially at the moment when both EBRD and the World Bank forecasts show the country growing at barely a fraction of a percent above zero.

Calendar

- 04 December **New Government appointed** / The Parliament of Montenegro appointed the new Government, to be led by Prime Minister Milo Đukanović. This is Đukanović seventh term as prime minister since February 1991 when he came to head the executive for the first time. Former Prime Minister Igor Lukšić was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.
- 11 December **Council of EU reiterates concerns with high-level corruption** / Council of EU ministers commended Montenegro for the progress it made in European integration, but asked to “build on its achievements so far”. “Special attention should be paid to attain a solid track record with regard to the rule of law, in order to implement the reforms and make them irreversible, especially when it comes to organised crime and corruption, also on the highest level”, said the Council of Ministers in its conclusions. It also asked for further efforts to guarantee independent and responsible judiciary.
- 18 December **Negotiations begin with Science and Research** / Montenegro opened and temporarily closed Chapter 25 – Science and Research at the inter-governmental conference in Brussels. The conference was attended by the European Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle and the head of Cypriot foreign affairs Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, as well as Montenegro's Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić. This is the first of a total of 35 chapters.
- 19 December **Chapters 23 and 24 to be opened in the fall** / Montenegro could open chapters 23 and 24 next autumn, and the European Commission expects the screening for the two chapters to be done by the end of June, said Stefano Sanino of DG Enlargement.
- 24 December **Marović: Europe doesn't consider us an equal** / Vice president of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) Svetozar Marović wonders whether “Europe is equal for all, or are they expecting us to pay a higher price because they think we're too small and too problematic?”. “If this is indeed the case, we should put the cards on the table. We are a problem state in the Balkans and they don't consider us their equals – we are subject to a different set of rules”, Marović said. He gave the example of Montenegro being asked to abolish libel, which exists in most large European countries.

Enlargement as a way out of crisis



Rosa Balfour



Corina Stratulat

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Enlargement has always been part of the DNA of the European. Having grown over the years from 6 to 27 member states via six different rounds of enlargement, the EU now has another set of countries wanting to join. The Union has made a political commitment to enlarge further to Turkey, to the countries in the Balkans, to Iceland and, on the basis of Article 49 of the Treaty on the European Union, any other 'European' country may apply for membership on the basis of the Copenhagen criteria. But since 2005, enlargement policy has been endlessly challenged to keep a high profile on the EU's agenda. 'Enlargement fatigue' became a staple culprit for the EU's troubles, from the negative outcomes of the French and Dutch referenda on the Constitutional Treaty to the famous 'Polish plumbers' – although in both cases the enlargement had a minimal impact. The accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 is widely perceived as having been carried out too quickly. Other issues which have been affecting the enlargement process are related to the on-going economic crisis. In the case of Balkans, there is also the problem of the image and anxieties related to security, unresolved statehood issues and domestic ethnic, political and economic tensions. A combination of all these factors has pushed the European Commission to resort to much ingenuity in order to keep the process going, while having to face the creeping “nationalization” of the enlargement process. In other words, in addition to the well known membership conditions set and monitored by the Commission, the enlargement process has increasingly come to depend on the specific benchmarks and conditions set by the Council – often under pressure from individual member states. The Copenhagen criteria are not the only source of EU standards for the accession of the Balkan countries; the conditions are in the *acquis*, which keeps growing by the day, in Council Conclusions setting higher standards and making additional requests and in the Treaty of Lisbon, which states that additional conditions for accession can be set by the EU, through the European Council. Changing the basic rules in the midst of the game is not advisable. Instead, as experience already shows, defining measurable benchmarks or concrete targets, sensitive to the specific regional or national context, can help



to effectively meet the broad conditions defining at present the Union's conditionality. Alternatively, changeable considerations are likely to undermine the EU's credibility in the region. The second issue regards the EU's absorption capacity for further enlargement. Will an ever-growing EU be able to continue to function effectively? A potential re-opening of the treaties in the context of economic governance reform could offer the opportunity to reflect or even act on proposals about this problem. However, should the pace of enlargement slow down considerably after Croatia, or break down, or else should the crisis result in 'inner' and 'outer' circles of member states, with varying membership criteria? To answer these questions, a serious and rational debate about the pros and cons of enlargement will be necessary in the member states and at the EU level. This will not only help to arrive at a successful enlargement strategy in the years to come, but will also help to define the EU's future character and role as a global actor. From this perspective, the real question is not how the current situation in the EU and beyond is affecting enlargement but rather what enlargement can do to shape and solve the present context to the EU's advantage. This also means that it is neither enough nor possible to wait wait to sort out the crisis before thinking about the rest. Since the 1970s EU enlargement has been a key source of dynamism in EU – driving economic, political and institutional change – in the Union. This is still valid. Enlargement is a the best policy field for the EU to demonstrate its power of attraction in the wider region and credibility in the world.

Source: Excerpts from the paper submitted to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union.

Negotiations had barely began, but the EU already decided to temporarily close the chapter on science and research

A knowledge based society or a tactical move



Tina Radulović

Chapter 25 – Science and Research – is Montenegro's first record in EU membership negotiations: the chapter was opened and closed on the same day, 18 December. The closure is still temporary – the Government pledged to raise the rate of investment into science to the European average of 3% by 2025, and to help Montenegrin scientists integrate into the European research space. In return, their involvement should allow the country to join large-scale projects with substantial spillovers into the national research and economy. On the other hand, the Government ought to stimulate the private sector to join European research projects, because their involvement “remains insufficient”. Chapter 25 reviews the level of harmonisation of science-related policies and legislation on science and research in candidate countries with the Treaty on European Union and EU's goals, guidelines and priorities in this area. The chapter contains very few community

Professor Filip Kovačević insists it is tragic that Brussels was willing to swallow the Government's “swindle” without a blink, for its own pragmatic reasons. “Neither Einstein nor Tesla would have managed to get a job in a Montenegrin university or research institution unless they joined or advertised their support of the ruling parties. It is clear that in a country where political freedom has been reduced to a minimum, and public institutions serve to intimidate and punish critical minds, the real science – an expression of autonomy, dignity and progress, stands no chance”

regulations, because science largely remains the domain of the national governments. So the EU's surprising decision to close Chapter 25 doesn't mean that Montenegro is in any way up to European standards in science and research. Rather, it should be understood as encouragement, a positive signal for further negotiations. In earlier negotiations with Croatia and Iceland, for instance, the EU also decided to open and close immediately some of the easier chapters at the very beginning of the process. The Government is optimistic: with sustained efforts, Montenegro should be able to reach the Union's goal of “knowledge-based society”. Montenegro's academic community, on the other hand, is sceptical about this quick victory. For them, temporary closure of the chapter is a short-term boost to Montenegro to focus on the larger problems – rule of law and fight against corruption and organised crime. Minister of Science Dr Sanja Vlahović is content that the Chapter 25 could be closed so quickly after the bilateral screening. The decision is conditional on Montenegro meeting three aims: raising the level of investments into science, stepping up





bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and creating conditions for science to become the driving force of innovations in the country. The minister admits that there are issues in this field which require urgent attention so that the question of harmonisation in regard to science and research could really be closed. “For me, the key problems that weigh on the science in Montenegro are the lack of investment in research centres, laboratories and equipment, i.e. in science infrastructure and, on the other

hand, limited opportunities for young people to become involved in research and become part of scientific institutions. Nevertheless, it is good that the country recognises the importance of science and has been trying to increase the funding: from 0.13% of GDP in 2010, the overall state funding increased to 0.41% in 2011 and, according to our estimates, at least 0.43% in 2012. This improvement is mostly due to an integrated approach to the financing of national projects, where we received support from several ministries, allowing us to finance 104 research projects of a total value of five million euro”, Vlahović said. In spite of that, the target rate of 3% of GDP cannot be reached before 2025. “The current target rate for EU is 3% of GDP, which corresponds to its understanding of science, research and innovation as the foundation of a knowledge-based economy and a driver of sustainable economic competitiveness. In its new Strategy on Science and Research Montenegro set a number of financing guidelines, in line with EU recommendations. We are hoping to reach the level of 1.5% of GDP by the end of the decade, and increase it further to the demanding 3%

Eureka and Horizon 2020

According to Vlahović, the Government took to heart EC’s warning that the private sector contributes too little to science. The plans to remove the barriers include joint participation of Montenegrin scientists and companies in the European research projects – the pan-European network EUREKA, seventh Framework Programme for research (FP7) and its extension, “Horizon 2020”. “Young researchers will be the focus already in 2013, as part of financial support for the scientific community, and most of the money will be spent on them”, Vlahović said. EUREKA is a pan-European network for support of market-oriented, industrial research project. Established in 1985 as an inter-governmental initiative, its main aim was to strengthen European competitiveness through support to enterprises, research centres and universities working on pan-European innovative products, services and processes. EUREKA’s network offers the participants assistance in identifying commercial, financial and technical partners. FP7 is an instrument intended to finance research in Europe. It began in 2007 and will be phased out in 2013, with a total budget of 50.5 billion euro. The goal of the programme is to respond to the problems of employment and competitiveness in Europe, and is based on ideas, cooperation and core research of European scientists. Horizon 2020 is a successor to FP7, in a modified format due to the drastic changes in Europe’s economic context since the establishment of FP7. Horizon 2020 will last seven years (2014–2020) and will represent a completely new EU programme for research and innovation, whose funding is expected to contribute to EU’s development and job creation. The total funding is estimated at 80 billion euro.

by 2025, which is the target we included in our negotiating position and the EU agreed to it”, Vlahović explained. In its negotiating position Montenegro also expressed readiness to contribute to the Research Fund for Coal and Steel after joining the EU, reminded that all universities in Montenegro are required to adopt an code of academic conduct and have their practices challenged before a Court of Honour, pointed out that the screenings demonstrated that Montenegro's intellectual property legislation has been fully harmonised with European law, and that 767 patents have been registered at the Bureau for Intellectual Property, out of which 27 by the nationals. However, Professor **Filip Kovačević** insists it is “tragic that Brussels was willing to swallow this swindle without a blink, for its own pragmatic reasons”. “Opening and temporarily closing Chapter 25 is a tactical move, a kind of “carrot” they give the Government in small doses, in the hope that this will nudge them towards reforms in some other areas. It has nothing to do with the state of affairs in Montenegrin science”, Kovačević said. And the state of affairs, according to him, is “disastrous”, because the selection of scientific priorities, as well as of the persons in charge of the field, both hinge on the requirements of political loyalty, party obedience, nepotism and negative selection. Research and academic references are neither valued nor respected unless they are aimed at the perpetuation of corruption,

to the detriment of science. “Neither Einstein nor Tesla would have managed to get a job in a Montenegrin university or research institution unless they joined or advertised their support of the ruling parties. It is clear that in a country where political freedom has been reduced to a minimum, and public institutions serve to intimidate and punish critical minds, the real science – an expression of autonomy, dignity and progress, stands no chance”, says Kovačević. He doesn't believe the country will ever reach the target of 3% of GDP spending on science. “This is just another in a series of swindles cooked up by the regime's administrators to appease the international observers. Nobody in Montenegro believes such statements, given that even the existing paltry funding for higher education has been dwindling”, Kovačević said.



The new year brings a budget increase for science

Vlahović said that the Ministry of Science will already have a larger budget next year. “The budget will consist of two parts: the first part, 1.7 million euro, goes to the Ministry of Science. The second part of 2 million, which comes from the World Bank, will be invested in excellence centres (laboratories, research centres, research teams), through the INVO project. 3.7 million is a lot more than what we had in 2012, and I trust we will have a chance to support a number of priority projects”, Vlahović said. “By priority projects I mean primarily the excellence centres, like the first innovation and entrepreneurship centre “Technopolis” in Nikšić, which will be financed by the Ministry of Science, Investment and Development Fund and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. There are also a number of projects aimed at supporting young researchers and scientists”, Vlahović explained. These priorities have been officially sanctioned by the Strategy for Science and Research for the period 2008-2016, adopted in December.

What does the Government think of the Venice Commission's recommendations for the Constitution

Venice is overrated



Neđeljko Rudović

Montenegrin Government is about to face a serious test – and its performance will largely determine the pace of our membership negotiations with EU. In December 2012 the Venice Commission, a body of legal experts of the Council of Europe, issued a number of recommendations on the necessary amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro, which don't agree with the country's ruling parties. Should they shun them publicly, the EU would have much reason to doubt the Government's declared commitment to set the foundation for independent judiciary. But DPS and SDP are in a tight corner – if they bow to the Commission's recommendations they will lose the grip on the judiciary, and if they don't they will send a clear message that they are don't want an independent judiciary branch. And any middle solution means they don't. Then it is up to Brussels to decide whether to open negotiations on the key chapters 23 and 24 even if the Government refuses to amend the Constitution. Venice Commission considered the arguments of the opposition and concluded that the Supreme State Prosecutor (SSP) and judges of the Constitutional Court should be appointed by a two-third majority in the Parliament. This particular solution was proposed by the Socialist People's Party (SNP), while the ruling coalition insisted that the judges and the SSP should continue to be appointed by a simple majority. At the same time, the Commission believes it is necessary to devise a mechanism to ensure that the appointments cannot be blocked by either the government or the opposition. Their recommendation was to have the Parliament, the President and the Judicial Council nominate three judges each to the Constitutional Court. The Commission also approved of the Government's proposal to have the president of the Supreme Court appointed by a two-third majority in the Judicial Council, following nominations by the general assembly of the Supreme Court. According to the identical proposal submitted by SNP and the ruling coalition, the Judicial Council should consist of a president, four judges elected by the conference of justices, two lawyers appointed by the Parliament, Minister of Justice, and two lawyers appointed by the President of the Republic. According to the Venice Commission, changes in the appointment pro-



cedures for the president of the Supreme Court relieved “an earlier concern expressed by the Commission about protection and independence of the judiciary from political influence”. The first reactions from the Government were fascinating, in that they practically amounted to a confession that the judiciary is controlled by politics. President of the Supreme Court **Vesna Medenica** said she welcomed the Commission's recommendations, which will remove political influence from the judiciary. However, the ruling parties remained very reserved and there is no announcement on whether they accept the recommendations from Strasbourg. They know Brussels is waiting, and it will be interesting to see what excuse they will come up with if they decide to ignore VC's recommendations. Although this would constitute a clear sign that they're indifferent to the values of western democracies, it would not be too surprising if the DPS-SDP coalition musters the courage to reject recommendations. Given their record so far, they will try to offer some half-way solution which would honour VC's opinion, while allowing them to circumvent it in practice. The opposition will reject the half-solution, there will be no change to the Constitution, and the government will continue to control the judiciary, which is one of the pillars of its survival: Montenegro will stagnate, or deteriorate. Also, there will likely be another opposition party trying to obstruct the whole process by smuggling in some ultimatum on the national symbols or other identity issues, once again bolstering the position of the Government. And so Montenegro continues to run in circles. Of course, it is not impossible that they agree on the constitutional amendments, but bearing in mind the interests of the ruling parties, that will be a huge positive surprise

Executive director of Human Rights Action (HRA) Tea Gorjanc Prelević
on the VC's new Opinion on constitutional amendments for judiciary

It's time for independent judges and prosecutors



We disagree with the Venice Commission when they say that Minister of Justice should be member of the Judicial Council. They think it is alright, because this is also the case in many countries of Europe, but we think the minister is a member of the executive branch and as such does not contribute to independence of the Judicial Council, just like the other representative of the Ministry of Justice does not contribute to the independence of Prosecutors' Council

Executive director of Human Rights Action (HRA) Tea Gorjanc Prelević says that the latest Opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft constitutional amendments, which do not mention judiciary, is a result of the fact that the current system does not inspire trust in Montenegro's ability to ensure politically independent judiciary as long as all judges and prosecutors are appointed by the ruling coalition.

In the interview for *European Pulse*, Gorjanc-Prelević expressed hopes that political parties will be able to reach a sensible compromise, in line with the advice of the Venice Commission.

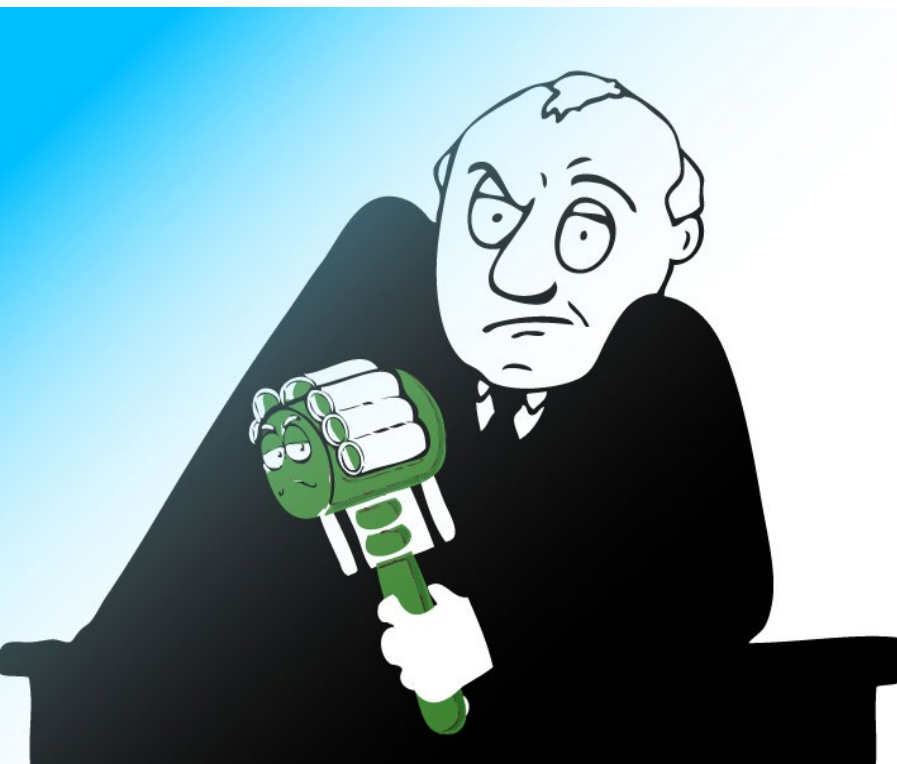
"Commission's recommendations are based on the obvious need to introduce independent mechanisms for appointment of judges to the Constitutional Court, members of the Judicial and Prosecutors' council, in a country which has never seen a real change of government. The goal is to ensure that judges and prosecutors are appointed transparently and on objective criteria, and dismissed in the same manner if their work is found wanting", explains Gorjanc-Prelević.

» Do you disagree with any of the recommendations of the Venice Commission? By this I mean most of all the opinion that judges of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme State



Prosecutor (SSP) should be appointed by a two-third majority in the Parliament, as well as the recommendations on the composition of the Judicial Council and the appointment procedure for the president of the Supreme Court?

In HRA we were very disappointed with the VC's decision to give a green light to the Constitution in December 2007, although it already had all these objections which are the subject of constitutional amendments now, as well as many



others which are not so likely to come back on the agenda.

» *What exactly do you mean?*

The lack of guarantee of the right to effective legal remedy, the lack of guarantee of habeas corpus, as well as some other rights like the right to just trial, problematic provisions like the right to compensation for publishing untrue information with its implications for the freedom of expression, denial of the right to civic legal initiative, simple majority vote for the appointment of Ombudsman...

Right after Constitution was adopted, in November 2007, Human Rights Action began the initiative to change these missing or problematic provisions. Although we knew our efforts were in vain, it was a way to express our disagreement with the shortcomings of the Constitution, which neither guarantee independence of judiciary and the Constitutional Court, nor adequately protect human rights.

As for the latest Opinion of the Venice Commission, we disagree with their recommendation that Minister of Justice should be member of the Judicial Council. They think that's ok, because this is also the case in many countries

Opposition to focus on amendments to Criminal Code

» *Do you think Constitution should be changed so that crimes of corruption and organised criminal activity cannot have a statute of limitation?*

This is really something that should be a matter of amending Criminal Code, which stipulates statutes of limitation for specific crimes. Ministry of Justice is just working on a proposal to amend the Criminal Code, and the opposition should focus their efforts on these changes.

of Europe, but we think the minister is a member of the executive branch and as such does not contribute to independence of the Judicial Council, just like the other representative of the Ministry of Justice does not contribute to the independence of Prosecutors' Council.

We also do not think the minister will be a useful member of the Council, because he cannot participate in disciplinary or dismissal procedures, and by the same token we also think he cannot participate in their appointment.

Instead of the minister, we would rather see a representative of the civil society in the Council, or an independent expert.

» *Should other parties seize the moment when the Constitution is being amended in relation to judiciary to ask for some other changes, e.g. the right to civic initiative?*

Unfortunately, the complex procedure of amending the Constitution has already progressed so far that the questions I raised above cannot be put on the agenda any more.

V.Ž.



One in six earns a low wage

The proportion of low-wage earners among employees in European Union amounted to 17% in 2010. This proportion varied significantly between Member States, with almost a third of wage-earners in Latvia having a low wage, whereas in Sweden their proportion was a mere 2.5%. According to Eurostat, the majority of low wage earners are women, as well as persons with low level of education and fixed term contracts. The highest percentages observed in Latvia (27.8%), Lithuania (27.2%), Romania (25.6%), Poland (24.2%) and Estonia (23.8%), and the lowest in Sweden (2.5%), Finland (5.9%), France (6.1%), Belgium (6.4%) and Denmark (7.7%). Low wage earners are defined as those employees earning two thirds or less of the national median gross hourly earnings. Hence, the thresholds that determine low-wage earners are relative and specific to each Member State.



EU for the sea travellers

On the last day of 2012 EU introduced new rules providing better protection for passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterways in Europe. The passengers travelling by sea will have the right to claim compensation for loss or damage in the event of accidents. Special protection is guaranteed for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility. The new rules will protect some 200 million people travelling by ship every year. The rules also stipulate that the passengers will from now on have right to adequate and accessible information during their journey, as well as general information about their rights. If the departure is cancelled or delayed by more than an hour and a half, they also have right to adequate assistance such as snacks, meals, refreshments and, where necessary, accommodation up to three nights, with a financial coverage up to €80 per night.

Finns generous with energy



Energy spending by EU household reached the highest level in two decades in 2010. Households make up nearly 27% of all energy consumption in EU. The highest rate of energy consumption per person is in Finland, the lowest in Malta. Latest report by the European Commission shows that in 2010 total energy consumption in the 27-member block reached 1 153 million toe (tonnes of oil equivalent), compared to 1078 million in 1990: an increase of 7% over the last 20 years. In the same period energy consumption by households increased by 12.4%, reaching a peak in 2005 and then declining again until 2009. The rise in energy consumption in 2010 is attributed to the weather conditions: 2009/10 winter was unusually cold in Europe, while the summer of 2010 pushed the temperature up well above the average. The report, however, also points to other factors: population growth and economic situation.

Tumultuous 2012 will be a year to remember in the European Union

Debts worthy of Nobel Prize



For a whiplashed EU, the 2012 rollercoaster is finally gliding back into station. Along the way, members picked up a Nobel Prize and fistfuls of debt. Yet many are still left wondering: What just happened?

The year is drawing to a close, and still it looks like the EU will enter the new year more divided than ever before. Yet at the last EU summit a sense of momentum was palpable. The union of European countries is no longer as fragile as it was at the beginning of the year, even if many problems do have yet to be solved.

The debt crisis was 2012's dominant force, relegating everything else to a sideshow: the civil war in Syria, the sharpening of the Middle East conflict, the upheavals in Egypt.

Even for issues closer to home, such as the European integration of Serbia and other states of the former Yugoslavia, the EU had neither the attention nor the energy. Sometime soon, Croatia will become an EU member. Yet at the

Doom and gloom predominated. Some even talked of the end of the euro

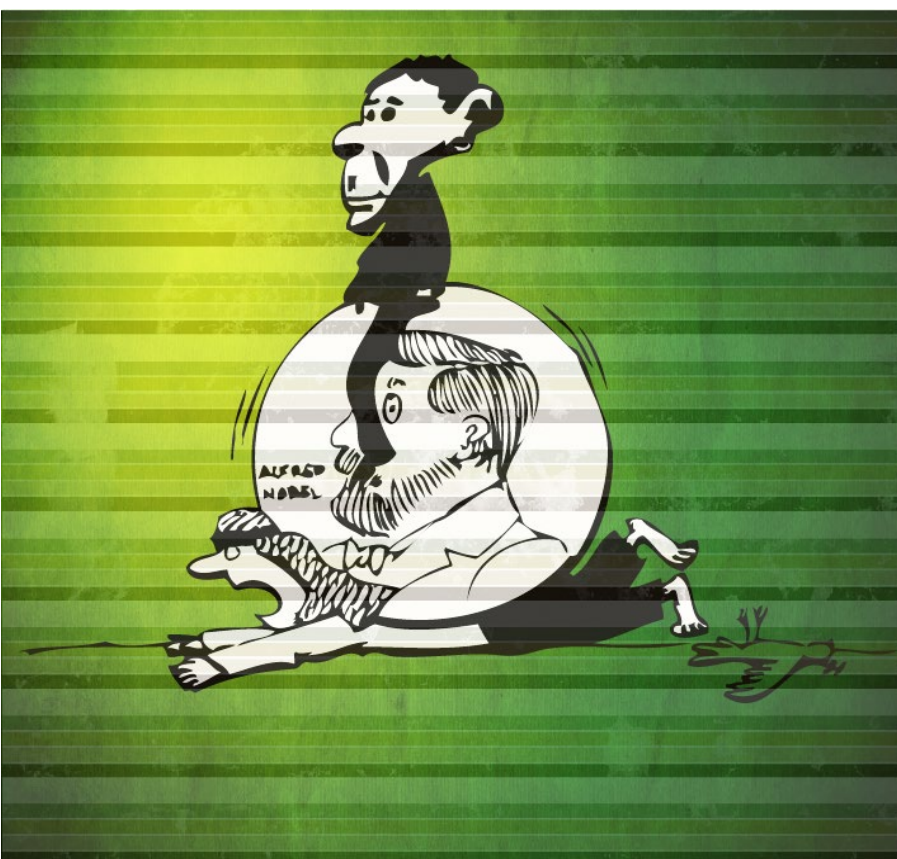
latest EU summit, Chancellor **Merkel** stated explicitly that it's the wrong time, due to the fact that "we'll be looking more closely at Croatia's economy and competitiveness." Everything, at least for now, must be subordinated to strengthening the monetary union.

Some have spoken of the crisis having already reached its peak. And if one would like to pinpoint when that took place, exactly, it was earlier this year. At that time EU Commission President José **Manuel Barroso** warned against believing "that the European project and its achievements are not irreversible." Parliamentary President **Martin Schulz** also saw in the high levels of unemployment amongst Europe's youth, "A shame, and one that drives an axe through all of Europe."

Doom and gloom predominated. Some even talked of the end of the euro.

This year Greece again found itself on the receiving end of many of the warnings, wails and good wishes of other Europeans.. A second international aid package is now working its way through the Greek economy; private lenders have already taken write-downs on outstanding Greek loans. That is now, and yet in the fall the givers of Greek aid were forced to wait to see if anything resembling credible austerity and reform legislation would also work its way through Athens.

European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro **Olli Rehn** summed it up succinctly. "The country," he said, "lived beyond its means for a decade."



Athens was told, at times, to quietly leave the currency zone. In May, Austrian Finance Minister **Maria Fekter** advised Greece to exit the European Union entirely and only then start working on re-entry. "Then we would find out if Greece was actually ready for entry at all," Fekter said. Her words were a clear reference to the falsified financial figures Greece used to enter the currency union.

And yet in summer, the course of a euro rescue changed dramatically. **Mario Draghi**, president of the ECB, suddenly announced an emergency measure to purchase unlimited quantities of sovereign bonds from hard-hit Euro members. The aim was to lower interest rates, which happened, but not everyone rejoiced. For **Jens Weidmann**, president of the German Bundesbank, the move remains the greatest sin to date.

The cracks began to show at the EU summit. Together with Italian Prime Minister **Mario Monti**, the new French President, **Francois**

Hollande, decided that European austerity measures that had been accepted until that point needed a round of softening. Media immediately picked it up as "defeat" of Angela Merkel: the atmosphere after the summit was.

So long as the victories of some are understood as defeats of others, European won't find a common solution out of the crisis. Even the biggest sign of recognition of their common faith - the Nobel Peace Prize, did little to improve the bitter atmosphere - quite the opposite.

In November, things heated up once more due to the fact that countries could neither agree on EU budgets, the latest Greek aid package, nor a future course of the euro rescue.

Yet over the last few weeks, a sense of recognition seems to have dawned on all parties involved that they are, in fact, sitting in the same boat. The end of the year has brought wide-ranging consensus - a striking difference from the year's beginning. The eurozone will not break apart; no country will exit; and even the long-term 'cost' of transfers from resilient countries to the not-so-resilient countries appears to have been agreed upon. In exchange, receivers of such aid are obliged to structural reform.

Without such joint measures of force, not only is the euro in danger, said Chancellor Merkel, but Europe will become dependent on other regions of the world. "If we simply close our eyes, then together we can't guarantee prosperity for future generations," she said. Not everyone appreciates such mutual dependence. Powerful national currents are gaining popularity in some countries. But for many, a sense of a shared European destiny has strengthened by the end of 2012.

Source: Deutsche Welle

For a better tomorrow



Svetlana Pešić

The author has a degree in Journalism from the Political Science Department of the University of Montenegro. She is currently doing a traineeship in the Centre for Civic Education.

European Union is a community of free states and citizens striving towards prosperity, international integration, democracy and rule of law. I was born in a country which is always proud of something, always best at something, always holding something sacred. But is it really? Or does everything remain a dead letter? We are a democracy still making its baby steps, and the rule of law is still hazy: we really, really need to connect to European values in order to crystallize the sphere of human rights and democratic achievements. What really exists are the laws regulating rights and freedoms of the citizens, as well as their duties – but this is only the surface. Both the citizens and those in charge of law enforcement take these rules as negotiable and avoid them whenever possible. That's something to be proud of – a bit more than non-democracies – but it's only a start.

We keep hearing about the need to change our attitudes whenever somebody talks about changes in Montenegro, and the people have grown to think of it as an empty phrase. But it is really the only way. We cannot walk the European road, without really believing that we all have equal chances, that we should respect each other, obey the law, as well as the rights and freedoms of others. Human rights and respect for diversity are also not our strengths. In the eyes of the world, we are a multicultural state, but only two decades ago we had a civil war in these parts. We lack the awareness of the need to accept diversity and overcome cultural stereotypes.

We need comprehensive education of our young people about rights and values set in the laws, and in line with European principles. A person must be protected in every way, regardless of the gender, age, nationality or education. Cultural integration, taking from EU what is good, is another challenge. Citizens should be actively working with their communities, both on the local and on the state level. They must feel that their voice is really heard and means something.



Many of us graduate from the universities with only a theoretical understanding of the world around us which is hard to apply without practice. This leads us all to feel lost, awkward, in our first jobs, and some of us don't even get a chance to have that first job. I believe practical training should become mandatory at the universities, as in some EU members, where after two-semester block the students have the right to a month of paid traineeship, and learn to apply the knowledge they acquired. We respect the human rights on paper, we have secured the peace in some way, and prosperity is still missing to combine these parts into a compact, functional whole. Montenegro uses its resources only to the bare minimum, sometimes only enough to keep surviving. Regardless of the difficulties of the present moment, and of the upheavals it experiences, regardless of the debt crisis, of strikes, EU is still a solid ground which keeps on righting its wrongs and leading its members towards a better future. For ourselves, for the people who are yet to begin learning and working without fear, believing in their rights and living a life of dignity, for a better future, I'd like to be a citizen of EU.

Challenges for the Western Balkans in 2013

Same as ever, but without Croatia



The geopolitical landscape of the region will change in 2013 with Croatia's EU accession, and talks with Brussels will dominate the foreign agenda of many governments. The economy will also top many capitals' priorities with many countries facing a deficit and trying to increase growth despite the prolonged recession. In some countries, bilateral issues will make or break further diplomatic efforts. Croatian accession to the EU is by far the most important political event in 2013 for the country. Croatia ended negotiations with the EU in 2012 and is expected to officially join the Union on July 1st 2013. **Zdravko Petek**, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb, said that with the ability to access EU funds, Croatia will gain major potential, but it's up to its leaders to use that leverage. "Utilisation of EU funds will surely be one of the key challenges for Croatia." In June 2012, Croatian citizens officially opted to join the Union in a referendum, with 66.2% of the votes. "I voted for the Croatia's entry, but I don't think that a lot will change overnight," said **Darko Brdalj**, an account manager from Zagreb. Kosovo is expecting a number of important developments in 2013,

Kosovo and Serbia prime ministers Hashim Thaçi and Ivice Dačić are expected to meet again in January to discuss a number of pending issues, including customs duties, energy, telecommunications and the situation in northern Kosovo.

starting with the talks with Serbia. Kosovo and Serbia prime ministers Hashim Thaçi and Ivice Dačić are expected to meet again in January to discuss a number of pending issues, including customs duties, energy, telecommunications and the situation in northern Kosovo. **Belul Beqaj**, a professor at Pristina University, told *SETimes* that the talks with Serbia will have an impact on the ruling coalition, which will face "a different kind of mood after the problem in the north is solved." For Serbia, the most important issue in 2013 will be the beginning of the negotiations with the EU. Talks are expected to start by July if all the requirements are met, but that will hinge on the Belgrade-Pristina discussions. "The way Serbia deals with Kosovo will determine the start of negotiation. The new platform for Kosovo will be in the centre of Serbian, Kosovo and international interests," said **Zoran Stojiljković**, a professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. With the impact of the global economic crisis still reverberating, the economy will also factor

Macedonia expects new proposals to resolve the name dispute, scheduled for January 2013 when UN mediator Matthew Nimetz will visit Skopje and Athens

in to most countries' 2013 plans. Economists predict that Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) will have the slowest economic progress of all the countries in the region in 2013. "Bosnia can't survive without the revival of the economy, but new openings for jobs are only in the state administration. On the other hand, frequent political crises are the reasons for withdrawal

of the investments of many investors," **Zlatko Hurtić**, an economic analyst, told *SETimes*. With the expected census in 2013, BiH can expect a tottering economy, small export commodities, lack of foreign investment and undoubtedly large loans from international financial institutions. Politics will dominate headlines in the region as well. General and presidential elections in Kosovo come after a period of internal elections within the parties for their leading bodies. "Big events will happen within the parties, between the parties, in the economic and social issues," Beqaj said. "The most important issue in this aspect is related to the electoral reforms," Beqaj said, adding that this issue, together with deepened social problems, will influence the stability of the institutions and the consolidation of power. In Macedonia, local elections are expected to be held in March 2013. The latest poll of Republican Institute IRI indicates that the ruling VMRO-DPMNE has a stable support of 27%. **Nikola Gruevski** of the ruling VMRO-DPMNE remains the most popular politician with 20% support, versus main opposition SDSM leader **Branko Crvenkovski**, with about 5 percent. The 23 June 2013 parliamentary elections in Albania should bring some progress in a country ravaged by long-term political conflict between the democrats in

The 23 June 2013 parliamentary elections in Albania should bring some progress in a country ravaged by long-term political conflict between the democrats in power and socialists in the opposition

power and socialists in the opposition. As the ruling Democratic Party enters its eight year in government, it is hoping to win the candidate status for EU membership. Some other issues are expected to culminate in 2013. Macedonia expects new proposals to resolve the name dispute, scheduled for January 2013 when UN mediator **Matthew Nimetz** will visit Skopje and Athens. "We hope that there will be new initiatives and new ideas that we need to talk. After visiting UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-Moon** in Macedonia, the situation changed," Macedonian President **Gjorgje Ivanov** told *SETimes*. In January, Albanian Prime Minister **Berisha's** initiative to give citizenship and passports to all Albanians who live abroad is expected to be implemented. This initiative will allow Kosovo Albanians to become citizens of Albania, which is expected to prompt reactions from the neighbouring countries.

Source: *SETimes.com*

Nuclear reactors, Schengen, recession...

Even the countries of the region which are already in EU won't have an easy year ahead. A controversial referendum will top the agenda in Bulgaria in 2013. The first national plebiscite in the Balkan country since 1989 was prompted by Sofia's decision to quit the project for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Belene on the Danube River. The vote will be held on January 27th. More than 62 percent support construction and 37 percent are opposed, according to a poll conducted by the National Centre for the Study of Public Opinion in November. Romania enters 2013 with the hope of a new Schengen accession schedule after the political turmoil last summer threw the country off the track of joining the borderless area. A new schedule is expected this spring, after a new report by the European Commission on the state of justice reform to be released in January, but the EU warned that any other attacks on the fundamental democratic institutions risk sparking a similar vivid reaction on the part of the EU countries. In Greece, the recession will continue into a sixth year in 2013 as the coalition government tries to hold itself together, impose yet another wave of austerity measures and hope that more international aid will stave off the specter of default and economic collapse. Alex Sakellariou, a researcher at Panteion University in Athens, told *SETimes* that 2013 "will definitely be a year of critical importance for Greece. After three years of unprecedented economic crisis, there are signs that the situation will become stable and by the end of 2013".

NGO coalition for monitoring of EU negotiations issues recommendations for Chapter 23

A homework for the new government

The public should be acquainted with the criteria for the opening of Chapter 23, Montenegro's negotiating position and the Government's Action plan for the fulfilment of relevant criteria to close the chapter. Some of the tasks are as follows: the appointment of the president of the Supreme Court, Supreme State Prosecutor and Ombudsman should be made conditional on the approval of 2/3 of members of the Judicial Council, i.e. Parliament of Montenegro. Transparency of the Judicial and Prosecutors' Council should be improved by making their sessions open to public. Also, there should be mechanisms to check the system of random distribution of cases within the court system, set the procedures for evaluation of expertise and practical skills of legal experts, and find a systemic solution to the lack of textbooks for persons with impaired sight. Further, members of the police and other bodies who are required to carry weapons should also be required to take regular psychological tests, and the Constitution should be amended with a guarantee of the right of 6 000 citizens to propose a law for adoption to the Parliament, a procedure abolished in 2007. These are only some of the 250 demands sent to the newly appointed members of the executive by the NGO Coalition for monitoring of accession negotiations, concerning Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. The demands are grouped into four priority areas: reform of judiciary, respect for human rights, fight against corruption and civil society development. As for the reform of judiciary, the NGO coalition asks the authorities to regularly inform the public about the progress in investigations and violence against journalists. In the field of human rights, they demand that the Law on Constitutional Court should be amended to render constitutional appeal an effective remedy for all forms of human rights violations, and to allow the Constitutional Court to expand its competence beyond merely overruling individual acts, and towards substantive decision-making. "Ensure that all charges of

Decentralise procedure for appointment of directors of schools, because the existing procedure of appointment by the Minister of Education allows political loyalty to win over competence. The responsibility for such appointments should be transferred to the school committees, consisting of teachers and parents

discrimination receive priority treatment", asks the Coalition. They insist on a stricter system of monitoring of construction projects, to ensure better implementation of standards of accessibility for persons with reduced mobility. "Introduce mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, centres for social work and police officers on the standard procedures for gender-sensitive approach to victims and on the legal procedures in cases of domestic violence and violence against women... Ensure free legal assistance to victims in all procedures following the report of violence and amend the law on free legal assistance to encompass domestic violence which according to the legislation belongs to offence proceedings", continues the list of the NGO Coalition. They are also asking for the adoption of a strategic document dedicated to the fight against homophobia and transphobia

Change the fiscal calendar in the Law on the Budget so as to leave the Parliament at least three months to discuss the next year's budget

with an accompanying action plan for the first year, and to continue with trainings of police officers to improve the treatment of LGBT community. They add that it is necessary to amend regulations which prescribe the conditions under which an individual is required to give a DNA sample to the authorities. The Coalition also asks the authorities to make the clause "significant share of minorities in the population" in documents specifying the

preconditions for certain minority rights (such as the use of own language) more specific. “Amend the Constitution to guarantee the right to “adequate” or “just” representation of minority representatives in public administration, instead of the current “proportional” representation, as advised by the Venetian Commission”, asks the NGO Coalition. The Coalition also thinks it is necessary to change the Law on the election of MPs and committee members to allow the RAE population to have an authentic representative in the Parliament, like all other minorities. “Improve the work of institutions in charge of preventing begging by minors of RAE ethnicity through dedicated implementation of the Law on public peace and order and the Law on Families... Urgently rehabilitate ecological black spots and devise systemic solutions for pollution... Solve the problem of overfilled prisons, especially pavilion “A” of the Podgorica Prison”, continues the list. It is necessary to raise the sanctions, especially for public officials convicted of torture, maltreatment and extortion of confessions, in line with the Convention against torture. Also, there is need to improve objectivity, impartiality and efficiency of internal control of the Police. “The Law on criminal procedure should introduce more specific criteria for the currently excessively broad rationale for detention whenever there are “indications that releasing that detainee would result in a serious threat to public law and order”, to prevent misuse”, warns the NGO Coalition. Abolish the ban on the gathering of striking workers “outside of the company premises”, as envisaged by the Law on Strike, because the current formulation is contrary to the Constitution and European standards. Allow the voters to really vote for their representatives by abolishing closed electoral lists. Decentralise procedure for appointment of directors of schools, because the existing procedure of appointment by the Minister of Education allows political loyalty to win over competence. The responsibility for such appointments should be transferred to the school committees, consisting of teachers and parents – says the Coalition. As for the prevention of

Improve the work of institutions in charge of preventing begging by minors of RAE ethnicity through dedicated implementation of the Law on public peace and order and the Law on Families

corruption, Coalition favours establishment of an independent Anti-Corruption Agency responsible for at least five key issues: financing of political parties, prevention of the conflict of interests, abuse of public resources, lobbying, and prevention of corruption. “Change the fiscal calendar in the Law on the Budget so as to leave the Parliament at least three months to discuss the next year’s budget”, recommends the Coalition. As for the development of civil society, they believe it is necessary to amend the Law on the taxation of profits of private persons in order to stimulate the culture of charity and corporate social responsibility. “Improve and adapt the websites of public administration bodies to the needs of the citizens, in order to make these institutions more accessible, and their work more transparent. Ensure accessibility of the websites also for persons with impaired sight”, reads the document. The Coalition announced it will carefully monitor the work of the new Government, starting with their attitude to these demands, and will keep the national and international public informed about all positive and negative developments in these areas, as well as in all other aspects of negotiations.

The members of the Coalition are: Human Rights Action (HRA), Centre for Monitoring and Research (CEMI), Institute Alternative (IA), Safe Women’s House (SWH), European Movement in Montenegro, Centre for Women’s Rights, SOS phone for women and children victims of violence from Nikšić, Anima – Centre for Gender and Peace Education, Association of Youth with Disabilities, Centre for anti-discrimination EKVISTA, Juventas, LGBT Forum Progress, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) and Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO).

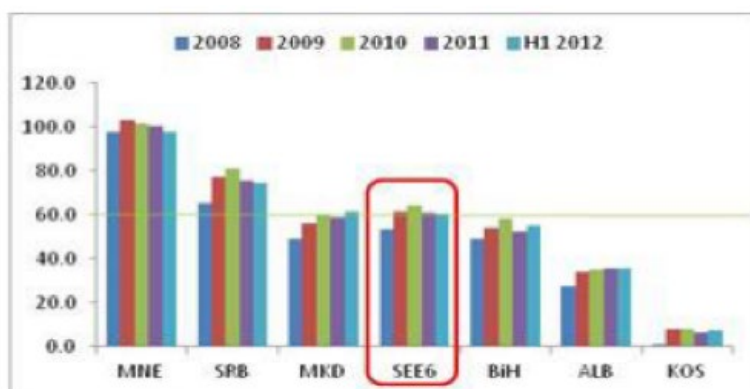
World Bank report forecasts a return to recession in the region in 2013

Another tough year

After two years of fragile recovery from the global recession, as a group the six South East European countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia – are again teetering at the edge of recession, warns the World Bank in its new South East Europe Regular Economic Report, published on 18 December. Among the main risk factors are deteriorating external conditions, the impact of the severe winter on economic activity, and a continuing rise in unemployment early in the year, which took a toll on consumption, investments, and exports. Credit recovery and fiscal consolidation are under threat. Nonperforming loans – thought to be stabilizing only a few months ago – are again on the rise. As a result, both within and outside the region the environment has become much more difficult to navigate, and the policy trade-offs necessary to stabilize economies and reignite growth are tougher. After growing by about 2% annually in 2010–11, the combined real GDP of the region will shrink –0.6 percent in 2012, warns the report. However, the outlook is not the same for all countries. Serbia will take the biggest hit, with the real output declining by as much as 2%. Economies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia will most likely stagnate, while Albania and Montenegro continue to grow at an anaemic 0.8 and 0.2% respectively. On the other hand, the growth in Kosovo is expected to hit 3.6%. “It is now clear that even in the best of

circumstances, the road to sustained recovery will be arduous: growth in 2013 is now expected to average 1.6% and the risks may be formidable. Among the clouds on the horizon for 2013 are the global impact of the U.S. “fiscal cliff,” the uncertain recovery of the Eurozone, and high commodity prices—risks to which all the West Balkan countries are highly vulnerable. Also worrisome for its households is the risk of a new food price shock, which could exacerbate poverty and put pressure on the middle class”, warns the report. The report adds that in this fragile environment, Serbia, Albania, and Montenegro in particular will need to persevere in reducing fiscal deficits and bringing down debt, even as they must continue to improve the investment climate and reform the public sector. In all countries of the region, public sector arrears pose special challenges to fiscal management and the private sector, and there are unfinished, structural reforms agendas. Nevertheless, after two years of deep crisis, a sluggish recovery, rising unemployment and poverty, and a continuing recession – even with the best efforts on fiscal consolidation and structural reforms there is a danger that the region is caught in a vicious circle that reinforces the cycle of long-term austerity, low if not negative growth, high debt, and even higher risks of social upheaval. To prevent this outcome, the report argues, their governments need to redouble their efforts to accelerate fiscal and structural reforms. These countries have largely exhausted their fiscal space and reduced public investment to a fraction of what is needed to maintain public capital stock in critical infrastructure. Private investment is suppressed by the lack of productive, complementary public investments, slow credit recovery, and depressed domestic demand. External demand is minimal, and exports are not only too few, they are prevented from becoming an immediate, new engine of growth by infrastructure, finance, and other deficiencies. What is needed first and foremost is more intensive policy reform to reduce public debt and accelerate structural reforms, especially in public sector governance, the investment climate, and labour markets,

Combined private and public foreign debt until June 2012, %GDP



Source:

World Bank, South East Europe Regular Economic Report No.3

argues the report, adding that the countries of the region could also better prepare for new food price shocks. If such accelerated reforms materialize, external support – well-coordinated and targeting the region as a whole, not just individual countries – from the EU and global international financial institutions could help ease the transition to a more sustained growth in medium term. In November 2012, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank announced €30 billion in financing for Central and South East European countries over the next two years. In SEE6 countries, this timely initiative would likely be delivered via the Western Balkans Investment Framework

(WBIF) and other international financial institutions. IPA resources will also be important, especially in supporting institutional reform and rural development. To heighten the efficiency of investments, growth and employment, these resources should primarily focus on major infrastructure of regional significance (rail, highways, energy, and gas) and on jobs and small and medium enterprises. Even though all countries of the region are facing enormous economic problems, neither the problems nor the solutions are same for all. The largest loss of output this year was seen in Serbia and Macedonia, while Kosovo recorded substantial growth, mainly with the help of remittances. On the other hand, Kosovo has the highest rate of unemployment – over 40% – although many are believed to be working “black”. The average rate of unemployment in the region is 25%, which is still frighteningly high compared to most EU countries. The recession hit industrial production especially hard, which partly explains disappointing export performance. On average the industrial output of the region was 10% smaller than in 2011, and the most significant decline was in Albania (–20.3%), followed by Montenegro (–14.7%).

Economic growth forecast for South East Europe

	2011	2012 (proj)	2013 (proj)
Region	2.2	-0.6	1.6
Albania	3.0	0.8	1.6
BiH	1.3	0.0	0.5
Kosovo	5.0	3.6	3.3
Macedonia	2.8	0.0	1.0
Montenegro	3.2	0.2	0.8
Serbia	1.6	-2.0	2.0
EU	3.1	0.9	1.3

Source:
World Bank, South East Europe Regular Economic Report No.3

V.Š.

Wages in Montenegro drop by 10%

After the record contraction of the economy in 2009 (–5.7%), Montenegro had two years of growth above 2%, but the outlook for this and the next year is far from rosy. At 20% of the working age population, unemployment is among the lowest in the region, but still about twice the European average. A combination of crisis and inflation resulted in a wage decline of 10% compared to last year. Due to the enormous trade deficit which couldn't be offset by remittances, foreign investment and income from tourism, Montenegro has the largest current account deficit in the region, around 20% of gross domestic product every year. Also, unlike Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, where a lot of money arrives through private channels from friends and relatives abroad, Montenegro's tiny diaspora means it cannot really rely on this source of foreign exchange. As a consequence, even though it has the highest inflow of per capita foreign investments in the region (with 869 dollars per capita it is nearly three times the regional average of 285 dollars), the total private and public foreign debt of the country has long been nearly as large as its total GDP – compared to the regional average of 60%. There is little hope that the country will be able to reduce its debt level in the years to come: although the Government cut the spending by 10% compared to 2008, which is the largest cut in the region, public revenues fell by an even larger 20%, only increasing the deficit.

Transparency at the University of Montenegro



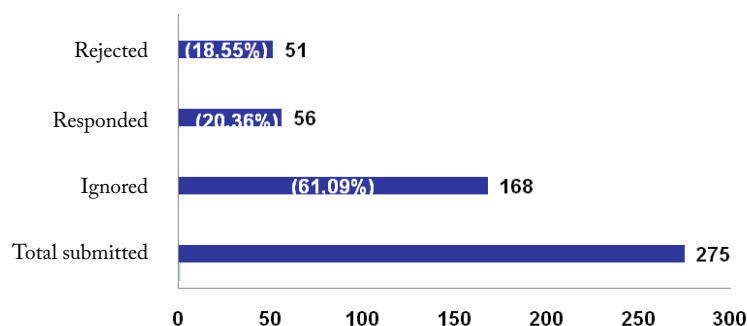
On 26 December 2012 Centre for Civic Education organised a press conference about corruption in higher education and the lack of transparency at the University of Montenegro (UCG). The campaign against corruption in education was initiated in 2008 by Centre for Civic Education and Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) and was generally neglected by the responsible figures in the academia. The findings and research carefully collected over the years and demonstrating existence of corruption did not even provoke condemnation, let alone some concrete action such as the “Index” operation in Croatia.

Since October, CCE has been analysing different aspects of UCG’s work: the financial situation, and problems which have been sys-

tematically swept under the carpet in order to hide corruption within the institution. The result was a series of scandals which should be unthinkable in an academic institution, and a deficit in excess of 10 million euro, demanding urgent reaction from public authorities, writes CCE.

In this context, CCE reveals some of the key problems in the functioning of the University of Montenegro. Snežana Kaluđerović, legal advisor in CCE, emphasised the following problems: lack of transparency at the University; illegal employment practices including double employment; “untouchable”, privileged professors whose work is not subject to any form of control; enormous earnings of some professors who teach several subject at multiple departments, while on the other hand there is a lack of teaching staff to cover the increase in the number of students; unreported or vague information on the property owned by some departmental heads; selective approach to analysis of departmental performance; reduced budget of the University of Montenegro, unclear source of additional earnings and wasteful management of resources; controversial procedures for the appointment of student representatives to the Students’ Parliament, which are overwhelmingly geared in favour of the members of the Managing Board of the University Senate; lack of interest to conduct serious investigation at the University.

Following the provisions of the Law on Free Access to Information, CCE sent 275 requests to UCG and its organisational units, between 1 October and 20 December 2012. The quality of information received varied tremendously. Some units sent in detailed responses, others left out parts of information, asked to consult their website or other sources, and more often than not simply failed to respond. The number of requests which received any response at all, i.e. approval or denial of the request for information was 105 or 38.18% of this, only



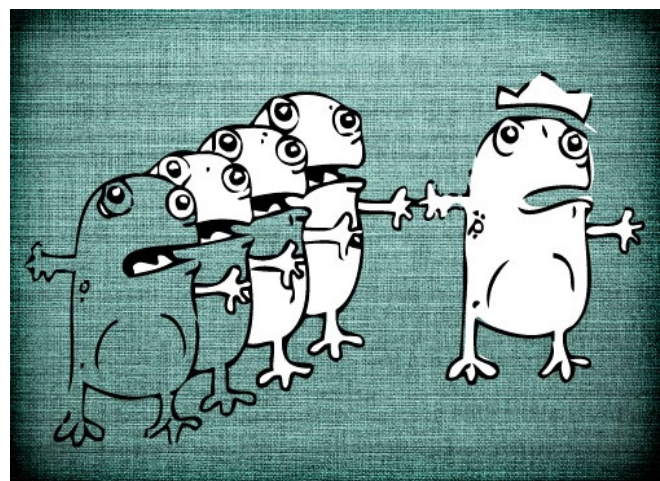
56 (20.36%) approved the request for access and sent us the information. The other 51 or 18.55% rejected our requests. The largest number, 168 or 61.09% was simply swallowed by the silence of university administration. In general, UCG proved to be inefficient, often broke the 8-day legal deadline to submit information and often submitted incomplete answers.

Snežana Kaluđerović explained that most frequently UCG tried to evade the law by avoiding answers or giving incorrect information, of simply ignoring the law on free access to information.

The most responsive was the Electro-Technical Department, which approved 12.38% of all requests for information (which, however, doesn't mean it always submitted the requested information). Departments of Medicine and Maritime Studies did not answer a single request CCE sent in this period. Electro-Technical Department was also the most responsive with regard to rejecting our requests, with 12.38% of the total of rejected applications. Department of Visual Arts was the most helpful – it submitted the highest number of approved requests with detailed information, 14.29% of all such requests. Departments of Medicine, Civil Engineering and Maritime Studies remained the most efficient at ignoring the law.

Most of the questions concerned the deficit of the University Rectorate, as well as UCG's income for 2011/2012 from tuition fees of the undergraduate and graduate students and research projects. In addition to this, CCE asked for a list of payments by category to all professors, teaching assistants, associates, demonstrators and others in 2012; a list of professors and associates who taught three or more subjects in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, copies of the report of the board of managers of the Department of Law together with internal auditors' report; copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Managers on Octo-

ber 1st, 9th and 10th, as well as copies of the later meetings, departments' financial plan for 2010, 2011 and 2012, financial reports from all departments for 2010 and 2011. CCE also asked about composition of the Council of the Department of Economics (the same question was asked of the Political Science Department and Department of Law). We also asked for copies of candidates' papers submitted in the course of student elections.



UCG mainly refused to submit the information, referring to the need to protect privacy and other similar rights of individuals. Various units often referred the researchers to the website, where the information either didn't exist or was posted overnight, said Kaluđerović. Often different units interpreted the law differently and submitted entirely different answers. She announced that CCE will continue to insist that UCG abides by law, including by maintaining high levels of transparency. Kaluđerović also added that the media should pursue this question with more dedication and attentiveness, as cooperation between NGOs and media could create a positive impulse to change the current situation at Montenegro's public University.

D.N.

Successful third edition of the Human Rights Film Festival “Speed up”

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), in cooperation with the National Theatre of Montenegro, University of Montenegro, Beldocs, Radio-Television Montenegro and Government of Montenegro organised, between 10 and 15 December 2010, third season of the Human Rights Film Festival “Speed up”. Two new partners joined for this festival round, daily “*Vijesti*”, *DHL Express Montenegro*, *Compania de Vinos* and *Studio Mouse*.

The 3rd edition of the Human Rights Film festival “Speed up” offered a rich selection of award-winners from prestigious international festivals – from the Berlin Film Festival to Sundance, all from the latest 2011-2012 production vintage. Films were selected based on the strength of their messages, aimed to address different aspects of human rights, speak about suffering or provoke empathy. The final programme consisted of 16 films from around the world: *Marina Abramovic: The Artist Is Present*; *The Face of Revolution*; *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*; *Dragan Wende – West Berlin*; *Marley*, *Reunion*, *A People Uncounted*; *When Day Breaks*; *The Flat*, *Life is not a Hawaii song*; *Family Portrait in Black and White*; *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975*; *Last Days Here*; *This Ain't California*; *Indignados*; *Where Do We Go Now?*

The audience in Montenegro had a chance to be among the first in the world to see the best selection of human-rights related films from the last two years. More than 2000 citizens attended the screenings over the six days of the festival. This was well above the organiser's expectation and demonstrated public interest in these kinds of festivals.

The Festival started as an idea to place Podgorica and Montenegro on the cultural map of the region which already has a well developed culture of human rights advocacy through film festivals. The success of the third Festival only have additional boost to the CCE members to continue developing this form of communication about human rights. The festival was coordinated by **Nikola Djonović**.



3. Festival filma o ljudskim pravima / Ubrzaj.me / Foto: Ilija Perić © Centar za građansko obrazovanje / identity & promotion

Elections and electoral programmes 2012 – form or content

On 29 November 2012, representatives of political parties, media and the civil sector met at the conference on 2012 electoral campaign “*Elections and electoral programme 2012– form or content*” to discuss their views of the electoral programmes and the way in which the campaign was conducted. The event was organised by Centre for Civic Education (CCE) with support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. The participants offered very different opinions on the media’s role in the electoral campaign, the way the political parties handled the process, and on the flaws and improvements of party attitudes compared to previous elections.

Boris Marić, senior legal advisor in CCE moderated the first session, titled “What was offered to the citizens of Montenegro in 2012 electoral programmes, and with how much conviction?” The discussants were **Dr Zoran Stojković**, professor at the Political Science Department of the University of Belgrade, **Goran Jevrić**, member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Socialists, **Aleksandar Damjanović** from the executive committee of the Socialist People’s Party, **Azra Jasavić**, vice president of Positive Montenegro and **Kemal Zoronić**, member of the presidency of the Bosniak’s Party.

The second session, titled “*Who informed us about the campaign and how: the parties or the media? The principles and challenges of media reporting on the elections*” was moderated by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE. The discussants were **Marina Vuković**, editor of Channel 1 of the Radio-Television Montenegro, **Vladan Mićunović**, chief editor at TV Vijesti, **Srdan Kusovac**, chief editor of daily Pobjeda, **Rajka Raičević**, politics editor at daily Dan and **Draško Đuranović**, editor in chief of Portal Analitika.

Seminar on visa liberalization

Between 14 and 16 December Kosovo Foundation for Civil Society Development organised a regional conference in Durrës (Albania), titled “*Visa liberalization for Kosovo – challenges for the implementation of the Roadmap*”. The meeting was supported by Open Society Institute in Kosovo, and was meant as a forum to exchange experiences on visa liberalization among representatives of different Balkan countries, and communicate some of the challenges they experienced in fulfilling the roadmaps for visa liberalization. The participants were: **Vladimir Petronijević**, executive director of Group 484 (Serbia), **Marija Ristevska**, executive director of Centre for Public Policies and Research from Skopje (Macedonia), **Ilir Qorri** from the Albanian Ministry of European Integration, and **Ana Vujošević**, coordinator of European Integration Programme in Centre for Civic Education (Montenegro). The conference also gathered more than 60 representatives of the Government of Kosovo who are directly involved in fulfilling the conditions from the Roadmap.

Central European University (CEU): Postgraduate studies in Political Science

The program focuses on research methods, comparative political economy, democratic political institutions, political regime change, party systems and voting behaviour, the role of media in democratic politics, analytical and normative political theory, constitutional theory and political sociology. The one-year MA program and the PhD program are accredited in the US, the two-year MA program has both Hungarian (European) and US accreditation. The department was placed among the best 100 universities in the world for three years consecutively by Quacquarelli Symonds and it was ranked one of the best political science departments in Europe, receiving six stars from the CHE - Centre for Higher Education Development in 2010. CEU offers a wide range of financial assistance for prospective students. Scholarships and tuition fee waivers are available for both Master (one-year and two-year) and PhD studies on a competitive basis. The majority of CEU students receive internal or external financial aid while about 90% of the students at the Political Science Department are granted some kind of financial aid, ranging from tuition waiver to full stipends. The deadline for the next round of applications is January 24, 2013.

For more information, please visit <http://politicalscience.ceu.hu/>

Full fellowships for training programme Integrity of Civil Servants

In March 2013 The Hague Academy for Local Governance organises the training Integrity of Civil servants. Full fellowships will be provided by the Netherlands' Government to senior civil servants and policy makers at national Ministries or subnational government in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Deadline for application is 27 January 2013.

For more information, please visit www.asser.nl/matrapatrol

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