

European pulse

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Foreword: **Depardieu**

Vladan Žugić

He didn't get the citizenship, but he did show up in Montenegro the day after the Russian president **Vladimir Putin** handed him a Russian passport in Kremlin. Gerard Depardieu, egocentric French actor, was received in Cetinje, Budva and Podgorica with the hospitality that could only be matched by the some sub-Saharan states or by celebrated Borat. The Mayor of Cetinje **Aleksandar Bogdanović** and the Minister of Culture **Branislav Mićunović** (who could perhaps be forgiven) did their best to explain to Depardieu in both English and Montenegrin where to sit in the helicopter (he then thanked them in Russian), and hours later the famous actor was also received (that's already serious) by the Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** in his official residence Vila Gorica. Tacky, but what does that have to do with Montenegro's European integration? In the last two months, Depardieu had probably become the most disliked celebrity in his native France, after he ridiculed the Government's decision to tax all annual income above 1 million euro at 75%. French Constitutional Council had declared the measure unconstitutional, but the Prime Minister **Jean-Marc Ayrault** said he will not give up, and his cabinet is now searching for a legal solution that would be acceptable in a country where patriotism is measured by the willingness to pay taxes, not by the length of the anthem. The commitment of the French authorities, spurred on by the President **François Hollande** should be a warning to the advocates of Montenegro's membership in EU: our every step towards EU depends on each one of its member states. And France has been, to say the least, very sceptical about our progress. Don't think that the French politicians and authorities, or at least the socialists among them who are set to govern for another four years, will forget out government's celebration of Depardieu, although they will surely never bring it up when they ask for additional conditions, more time, explanations... Why, then, was Đukanović so eager to receive Depardieu?

Calendar

- 01 January** **Irish Presidency of EU** / Ireland will hold the Presidency of the Council of European Union in the first half of 2013. Irish Prime Minister **Enda Kenny** said Ireland's priorities for EU were stability, jobs and growth, and promised to work on a solution to the Eurozone's crisis. Ireland will also work to support EU's enlargement agenda. The logo of the new presidency consists of four letters 'e' which represent the four decades of Ireland's membership in EU. This is Ireland's second time at the helm of EU – the last time was in 2004, when it presided over the EU's biggest enlargement.
- 09 January** **Fajon: We expect a lot from Montenegro** / Montenegro is an example of a country that made the fastest progress in European Integration, and Brussels expects a lot of it in the future, said member of the European Parliament **Tanja Fajon**. She added that she hopes Montenegro will be the next country to join EU after Croatia. Commenting on the possibility to reintroduce visas for the West Balkan countries, Fajon said that even if such demands were to be put forth by the EU members, Montenegro's status is not in danger.
- 17 January** **Draft action plans almost ready** / After the meeting between deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice **Duško Marković** with deputy director of DG Enlargement **Joost Korte**, it was announced that draft action plans for Chapters 23 and 24 are almost ready, and will be presented in February in Brussels at the consultations between the negotiating teams of Montenegro and European Commissions.
- 21 January** **Đukanović in Brussels** / President of EC **José Manuel Barroso** announced yesterday that Montenegro was in the "crucial phase" of its accession to EU, where it needs to "speed up the reforms, especially in the key areas of the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and fight against corruption and organised crime". "It is absolutely necessary that Montenegro should complete constitutional amendments needed to ensure independence of its legal system. I would like to stress that a broad consensus across all political forces in Montenegro with regard to European integration and reform represents the key factor of success", said Barroso after the meeting with Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović**. This was the first time Đukanović has visited Brussels since his return to the position of Prime Minister. During the visit, Đukanović also met the president of the European Council **Herman van Rompuy**.

Montenegro on the right track



Charles Tannock

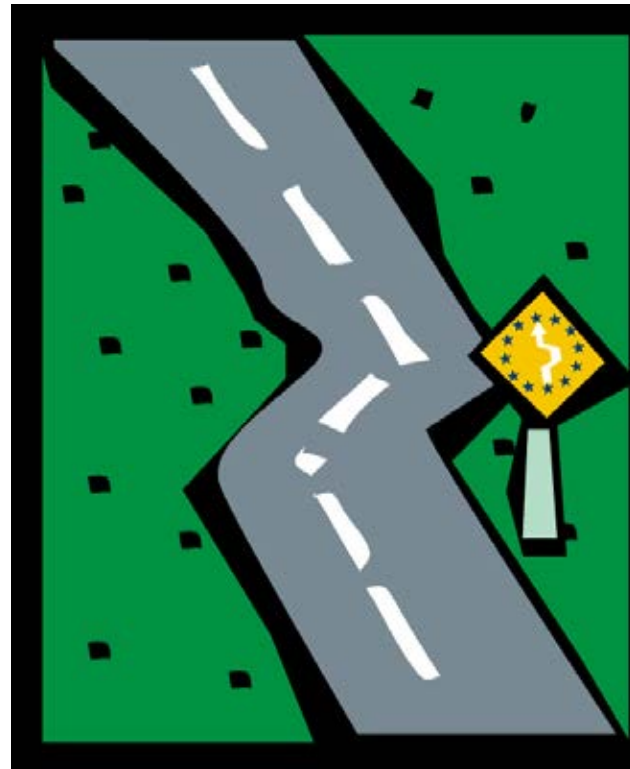
The author is the European Parliament rapporteur for Montenegro and Conservative party spokesman for foreign affairs

On January 22, the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee approved a report monitoring the progress of Montenegro's accession to the European Union.

I am pleased with the progress achieved thus far, but while acknowledging success, I fully understand the challenges that lie ahead. Having worked closely on this issue, it is clear the country is taking steps in the right direction and welcome Montenegro's efforts to meet the accession criteria. The progress report clearly shows how far Montenegro has come in such a short space of time. In 2011, for example, it successfully concluded bilateral extradition treaties with Serbia, Croatia and Macedonia. While questions still remain over some borders, it is clear that the country enjoys positive relations with its neighbours and it is a great champion of regional cooperation. Naturally, the report encourages any issues regarding borders to be resolved prior to accession.

The report welcomes the free and fair nature of early parliamentary elections held in 2012 and efforts to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary, while acknowledging that a lot more needs to be done to tackle corruption and poor infrastructure. Legal independence and judicial accountability are of paramount importance to the future of Montenegro.

The state must now demonstrate that it is prepared to enforce the law impartially and in all circumstances. The country's public administration must become more effective, merit-based and impartial. I also encourage efforts by the Montenegrin government to incorporate the EU's policy on the International Criminal Court. The protection and inclusion of women and minorities is a top priority. Much more must be done to encourage women and individuals from all minority backgrounds to come forward, participate and build a society committed to social responsibility and supportive of public service. More must be done to protect employment rights and more must be done



Independent and accountable judiciary is key to Montenegro's future

to fight child poverty. As Montenegro moves forward, these issues can be tackled with ever-increasing confidence and I am sure the European Parliament will be strongly supportive of any such efforts.

Montenegro has gone to great lengths to enhance economic performance. In 2011, the country was admitted to the World Trade Organisation and this particular accession will hopefully help build a dynamic and competitive economy. Limiting red tape and bureaucracy will hopefully encourage business and allow Montenegro's booming tourism sector to go from strength to strength. A lot more needs to be done and it will probably take several more years to conclude negotiations, but Montenegro is heading in the right direction.

Source: www.publicserviceeurope.com

How close or far away is agreement
of the authorities and opposition on constitutional reforms

Simple vs. qualified majority



Vladan Žugić

Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro decided to leave the most difficult question for the very end. The key bone of contention is the mechanism which would prevent both the majority and the opposition from blocking the appointments of the Supreme State Prosecutor (SSP) and judges to the Constitutional Court, in case they fail the requirement of qualified (2/3) majority vote. According to the information available to *European Pulse*, the only solution that seems acceptable to the Government at the moment is to have the SSP and the judges appointed in the second round of vote by some qualified majority that would require more than a simple majority vote, but less than two thirds of the MPs to support it. This would mean that instead of 54 MPs, 49 of them would suffice to approve the appointments – in the current distribution of political forces, this means that the ruling parties would have to garner support from at least one opposition party. Constitutional changes that affect the reform of judiciary, in accordance with the recommendations of the Venice Commission (VC), are required (unofficially) by the EU before Montenegro can begin negotiations on chapters 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security). In mid-December, the VC shocked the Government by announcing its opinion that judges of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme State Prosecutor should be appointed by a two-third majority in the Parliament, with a clause that would prevent the appointments from being blocked in case the government and the opposition failed to agree on the candidates. However, the VC gave no suggestions about the possible balancing mechanism. Montenegro's officials first reacted by saying that VC is simply an advisory body to the Council of Europe, whose opinions should not be binding. Vice president of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) **Svetozar Marović** protested that the EU should say openly if it thinks different rules need

The only solution that seems acceptable to the government at the moment is to appoint the SSP and judges of the Constitutional Court in the second round of vote by more than a simple majority, but less than two-thirds, up to three months after the first vote has failed to yield a candidate acceptable to two thirds of MPs

to apply to the Balkans than in the rest of Europe, and demanded to know “why the VC is asking for the SSP to be appointed by a two third majority”. **Miodrag Vuković**, another official of DPS, reminded that public that VC had already approved the current Constitution and found its solutions satisfactory. On the other hand, the opposition tried to evade the question of whether they will persist in identity politics now that they have a chance to blackmail the government to accept some of their demands (like shortening the anthem by two stanzas, introducing a tricolour as a “people’s flag”, and equalizing the status of Serbian and Montenegrin languages in the Constitution. In its December opinion, the VC also considered separate amendments to the Constitution proposed by the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro (i.e. the ruling majority) and the Socialist People’s Party (SNP). SNP’s amendments incorporate earlier demands of the opposition to appoint the SSP by a two-third majority, but their proposal was rejected by the ruling coalition, which warned that a mechanism like that could lead to obstruction, and insisting on the current constitutional provisions which state that the SSP should be appointed by simple majority. SNP also proposed a two-third majority rule for the judges of the Constitutional Court. VC also endorsed their suggestion that judges should be nominated by the President, Judicial Council and the Parliament (three



Stevo Muk

Stevo Muk from Institute Alternative says it is hard to expect the discussion in the Constitutional Committee to reach a compromise in the midst of the campaign for presidential elections.

nominees each). On the other hand, VC agreed with the proposal of the ruling majority that the President of the Constitutional Court should be appointed by the Judicial Council, by two-third majority, upon nomination by the general assembly of the judges of the Supreme Court. The opposition preferred appointment by a two-third parliamentary majority. Both proposals, however concurred in that the Judicial Council should consist of four judges appointed by a Conference of Judges, two lawyers appointed by the Parliament, and two lawyers appointed by the President of the Republic. Composition of the Judicial Council and the appointment of the President of the Supreme Court were the first topics for discussion in the Constitutional Committee, starting in early January on initiative of the Speaker **Ranko Krivokapić**. In addition to the proposals of the ruling majority and SNP, Democratic Front (DF), whose group in the Constitutional Committee is led by **Nebojša Medojević**, proposed another model where all members of the Judicial Council would be

appointed by a two-third parliamentary majority. “The Judicial Council should consist only of independent experts, preferably with experience in the judiciary, without any political figures. The Government is trying to buy our support by proposing that two MPs should participate in the work of the Council. DF doesn’t want to have the power to appoint judges”, Medojević said. Stressing that six members of the Judicial Council should be sitting judges, appointed by the General Conference of judges, he said that the other five candidates should be nominated by the Bar Association, Legal Department of the University of Montenegro, and NGOs with at least two years of experience in human rights advocacy, promotion of democracy or the rule of law and anti-corruption. DF is also campaigning for a revision of all current appointments of judges and prosecutors, although this particular solution seems unrealistic at the moment, and has called for an amendment to the Constitution which would abolish statute of limitation on corruption and organised crime. This is a very pertinent issue, since it had already come up in the case of Bulgaria, which changed its constitution already four times under the EU pressure. On the other hand, it is difficult to put that issue on the agenda right now, given the difficulty of procedures involved in changing the Constitution. Another complicating factor is that the discussion on constitutional amendments comes at the beginning of the campaign for presidential elections, and is bound to be used by all parties to their own best interest. **Stevo Muk** from Institute Alternative says it is hard to believe the discussion in the Constitutional Committee will be concluded before the end of the campaign. “The agreement on the constitutional change is not an easy task for the Government or the opposition. Especially since the recommendation for a two-third or other qualified majority for the appointments to

key positions in the judiciary begs the question of how to appoint these people in reasonable time if there is no agreement among the political forces”, said Muk. He regretted that VC did not offer its own solution to the problem, and that no other actors came into the open with their own proposals. There is no single recipe on how to resolve a blockade caused by the requirement of a two-third majority. The practice varies from one country to another, but usually comes to the need for a consensus between the government and the opposition. The current Constitution already envisages two-third majority requirements in decisions involving participation of the military in international forces and certain aspects of minority rights. In case the first vote does not yield the required majority in the Parliament, three months later a simple majority can be used. In simple terms, if there is no agreement the government can simply wait for three months to pass its own decision. In Germany, judges of the Constitutional Court are appointed by two-third majority, but before the vote the parties must make a preliminary agreement and commit to abide by it during the vote. A similar solution is used in Italy, which also requires the parties to agree beforehand, so that the judges nominated by the parliament must be accepted by both majority and the opposition. Italy has fifteen judges of the Constitutional court, nominated in equal parts by the President, the Parliament and judges of other courts. In both Germany and Italy the sitting judges remain in office until new ones are elected. Political elites in Montenegro know they must reach an agreement, if they don't want to be accused of obstructing the country's path towards EU accession. It is therefore not impossible that an agreement could be reached even before the elections. One encouraging sign is the fact that the negotiations are being led by the leader of the Movement for Changes, a party which does not insist on identity issues, while **Andrija Mandić**, president of the New Serbian Democracy which is also part of the Democratic Front coalition, remained in the background, although he did signal that the opinions within DF differ. They might be counting on the agreement with the Government to help DF,

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and its presidential candidate **Miodrag Lekić**, to emerge as a constructive force in Montenegrin politics. Medojević already stressed that DF will not bother with identity questions, although their insistence on qualified majority vote for nearly all key positions in the judicial branch could be an introduction to further accusations that the Government is refusing such amendments in order to keep its control of judiciary. An agreement with DF, on the other hand, could create a bridge that would also bring to agreement Positive Montenegro and SNP. Given the experience of negotiations over the electoral law, the government knows that an agreement before elections would be less onerous than waiting for the elections to pass, especially if the opposition candidate loses. According to our sources from the Constitutional Committee, representatives of the ruling coalition already agreed to have SSP appointed by a two-third majority, and there is more or less a general agreement on the composition of the Prosecutors' Council. Muk doesn't believe that obstructing the agreement by raising additional issues would help the forces that try to do so, nor would it help to speed up the reforms in Montenegro. “In our experience, the EU has no understanding for such demands and blackmails. As the deadline for the next Progress Report on Montenegro approaches, the pressure will grow to make the Government give up its monopoly on appointments of the leading members of judiciary”. “In all this, it is important to remember that the new assembly of the Parliament does not leave too much space for manoeuvre to the parties insisting on identity issues. I believe the parties will reach a compromise at the latest by the end of this year”, Muk said.



EU money for Bulgarian turbo-folk

Bulgarian record house *Payner*, which is known to be the largest producer of Bulgarian turbo-folk music, also known as “chalga”, is set to receive around one million euro from the EU Operational Programme “Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship”. “Turbo-folk” became notorious in the early nineties of the last century for its garish sound, strong sexual undertones and a frank approach to money. The owner of *Payner*, **Mitko Dimitrov**, applied for the funding from Brussels to “improve competitiveness of the company in the domestic market through modernization of equipment”. *Payner*, with headquarters in Dimitrovgrad, also promised to use the money to raise the number of viewers, attract new audiences in order to increase the revenue from advertisement, and subsequently create new jobs, helping the Bulgarian economy. **Shirin Wheeler**, speaking on behalf of Commissioner for Regional Development, said the funding for *Payner* was not yet approved, but also that the responsibility for the selection of projects lies with the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy. She added that after some complaints the European Commission asked the Bulgarian authorities to ensure that the application conforms to all regulations of the regional aid scheme.



Same driving licence for EU members

As of 19 January all driving licences issued by EU members will be of a standardized shape, with a uniformly high level of protection. The new driving licence will gradually replace some 100 different documents used by more than 300 million drivers around the EU. The drivers do not have to replace their licences immediately, but will receive the new licence when their old ones expire, the latest by 2033. The new licence is also meant to prevent the “driving licence tourism” – the practice of applying for a second licence in another member state after the first one had been suspended or withdrawn by authorities.

Difficult chapters after the elections

Iceland's Embassy in Brussels denied that the negotiations on EU membership have stalled, and explained that “more difficult topics”, such as fisheries, have been “put on hold” until after parliamentary elections. Negotiations on fisheries, which is one of the main economic activities on the island, as well as other “difficult” matters such as agriculture, freedom of establishment and services and free movement of capital, will be continued after 27 April. In the meantime, negotiations on the 16 chapters that have already been open, and another two on which Iceland already presented its position, will continue. Iceland began membership negotiations with EU in 2010. So far it opened 27 out of 33 chapters and temporarily closed 11.



EU goes to the world more than the world comes to EU

Between 2008 and 2011 EU increased the volume of foreign direct investment abroad by 50%, and by the end of 2011 it had invested nearly five thousand billion euro around the world. On the other hand, foreign direct investment into EU reached 3.8 thousand billion euro, making EU a net investor. According to Eurostat, investments in third countries constitute around 40% of all foreign investment from EU's member states, while another 60% is invested in other EU member states. Out of the total investments in third countries, 1.42 thousand billion (29%) was invested in the US, followed by 598 billion in Switzerland, 239 billion in Brazil, 222 billion in Canada and 167 billion in Russia. EU invested 102 billion into China – only 2% of its total investments abroad. The largest investors in EU are USA, with 1.34 thousand billion euro, or 35% of all foreign investment in EU from third countries. Second on the list of largest investors is Switzerland with 467 billion euro, followed by Japan, Canada and Brazil.



Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with European Union, Aleksandar Andrija Pejović Chapter 25 shows we are ready for bigger challenges



We should bear in mind that a number of corruption-related trials are still under way, so we will need to wait for the outcome to see what happens to the assets concerned.

Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with European Union **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović** says the opening and the temporary closing of Chapter 25 – Science and Research, only a few months after the beginning of negotiations, signals that the Government had already lived up to a lot of its commitments in the previous period, and had made the necessary progress in this area. “This means Montenegro's legal system is in line with EU's goals, guidelines and priorities in the field of science and research. At the same time, it is testimony to Montenegro's maturity and readiness for a new, more intensive phase of European integration”, said Pejović in the interview for *European Pulse*.

» The Government already announced several times that it expects a number of chapters to be opened this year, in addition to chapters 23 and 24. Which chapters would those be?

The pace of negotiations is going according to the plan, and proceeds according to agreement with the European Commission (EC). Negotiating chapters differ in the amount of relevant *acquis*, as well as in the complexity of demands we must respond to. After we complete the screenings, we will prepare a National Programme for Accession (NPA), as a comprehensive strategy for all further activities and harmonisation with EU law by 2018.

So far we completed the screening for 14 chapters, which gives us a good idea how we stand in terms of harmonisation with European regulations in specific areas. In certain areas, such as those covered by the Science and Research chapter which we already closed on 18 December, there is relatively little *acquis* and our legislation is more or less in line with EU's. We can therefore expect to open a few more of these chapters in the course of 2013.

However, I don't think there is need to speculate on these matters. We should wait for the end of the screening process and the EC's report, and of course, continue to implement reforms as best we can.

» Does the government find acceptable VC's new Opinion on the draft constitutional amendments, especially in the part which recommends a two-third majority requirement for appointment of the Supreme State Prosecutor and judges of the Constitutional Court? Do you have a concrete mechanism in mind that would prevent obstruction of such appointments in case their recommendation is accepted?

The proposal for amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro has been generally approved by the Venice Commission.

In spite of differences which exist among our political parties, I believe in compromises over such important issues. The Government and the Parliament have already demonstrated, on multiple occasions, their readiness to reach agreement on the most important matters. I believe that in this case too we will find the best possible mechanism that would ensure a functional procedure for appointments of the Supreme State Prosecutor and judges of the Constitutional court, taking into account recommendation for a qualified majority.

This would certainly send a positive message to Brussels and the member state: that Montenegro is a credible partner. Even more importantly, it would cement the internal consensus on the most important issues and strengthen the commitment of all parties in the interest of further progress in European integration.

» Is there a danger that Montenegro might, after opening a certain number of chapters, run into problems for failing to meet the requirements of these chapters? The reason I ask is the insistence of EU above all on the rule of law. Also, although it might be stretching the comparison, we can see a similar scenario in the case of Turkey...

There are 35 chapters to be negotiated, and they certainly differ in terms of complexity and difficulty. Nevertheless, each of these areas is important in its own right. Chapters 23 and 24 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, and Justice, Freedom and Security, and certainly the basis of the rule of law and a precondition for a democratic and economic development of a country. It takes time to reach substantial progress in these areas. This is why these chapters will be opened at the very beginning of the process, and closed at its very end.

Nevertheless, there are other, no less important chapters, where we need to align our legislation with the EU laws, ensure they it is properly implemented, and build adequate administrative capacities by strengthening existing institutions, establishing new ones, and training our staff. We need to show tangible results in all areas, and strike the right balance between speed and thor-

oughness of reform. Strategic planning is important, as is coordination and regular communication with EC and the member states.

I am convinced that Montenegro has created a solid foundation for its path to EU. The results to date, as well as the commitment and the quality we demonstrated give me the reason to believe that we can also tackle the next step without problems.

» The latest Progress Report found that in Montenegro no assets have been confiscated in anti-corruption cases. What is your opinion on this?

The value of seized assets in Montenegro amounts to some 43 million euro, by which Montenegro ranks among the top countries in Europe according to per capita value of confiscated property. We have also made major improvements to the legal framework which governs seizure and management of illegally acquired property. The changes include amendments to the Law on management of temporarily and permanently seized assets, as well as a number of new bylaws regulating the management of such assets in order to minimise the costs of maintenance, which are funded by taxpayers. By this I mean primarily the procedures for leasing and sale of real estate such as restaurants, hotels or gas stations which have been confiscated so far.

We should also bear in mind that a number of corruption-related trials are still under way, so we will need to wait for the outcome to see what happens to the assets concerned.

V.Ž.

New Communication strategy by the end of the year

» Is the Government preparing the next Communication strategy for European integration?

The current Communication Strategy which governs the principles and organisation of communication with the public about EU and Montenegro's membership efforts was created for the period 2011-2014 and was successful in meeting the needs of the European integration process so far. The new phase of integration is obviously more dynamic and complex, and requires adaptations and communication about the new circumstances. Membership negotiations are the most complex and the most demanding part of EU integration, and it is very important that we should present them adequately to the citizens, so they understand the fundamentals of this process. It is important to us that the citizens understand what happens over the next few years and how these changes will affect their everyday lives. The Ministry will therefore begin preparations for a new strategy for the period after 2014. I would like to add that we already began the action plan for 2013, in cooperation with the British Council, and we also agreed on a number of joint activities with our partners in the non-governmental sector and the media.

European Union struggles with growing unemployment

No common front against joblessness



In 2010, Denmark cut the period unemployment benefits can be paid from four to three years. France did the same already in 2002, reducing it from three years to two. In Spain, the benefit was cut by 10 per cent from the seventh month of unemployment

Four years after the crisis began, Europe is still struggling with a depressed labour market. In the Union overall, the number of unemployed has risen by 8m over four years and the unemployment rate has shot up from 7.1% to 11.8%. Not all countries have been affected in the same way. In countries hard hit by the financial crisis or trapped in excessive public debt, the fall in employment has been dizzying: Ireland and Spain have lost one job in six since 2008, Greece one in seven, and Portugal one in ten. Outside the Eurozone, the Baltic countries and Bulgaria have also paid a heavy price. Poland, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Sweden, on the other hand, have fared considerably better and are now slightly above their 2008 levels. Falling between the two groups, France is just above its pre-crisis level, according to Eurostat data. What explains such differences? The answer lies not only in the intensity of the recession, but also in employment policy. Far from harmonising their responses to the crisis, European countries have in effect bet on different strategies, with greater or lesser success. In some countries, the adjustment of the job market to the financial shock was swift and uncompromising. Faced with a slump in orders, companies quickly slashed their workforces to preserve their margins. This is what happened in the United Kingdom, where the labour market is highly flexible. In Spain and Denmark, employment fell more sharply than the demand for companies' products, which resulted in significant productivity gains and a surge in

unemployment. It was often those employed in temporary jobs (fixed-term or temporary contracts) who served as an "adjustment variable": their contracts were not renewed. Those countries that have created the most flexible labour markets are the ones that have seen the sharpest spikes in unemployment rates. In other countries, however, the adjustment of the job market was marked by half-measures. Faced with falling demand, companies preferred to reduce wages and the number of hours worked rather than dismiss employees outright. This is the strategy used most widely in Germany, Belgium and Italy, due to an intensive deployment of short-time workers. To a lesser extent, this is also what happened in France. Faced with a downturn, the pain was shared out among all the employees of the same company, rather than primarily on those to be laid off. Other types of policies have been brought in. Austria, for example, chose in early 2011 to subsidise semi-skilled and unskilled jobs. It is indeed the low-skilled workers who are usually the first to be dismissed. Hungary, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, France and Spain have also supported the demand for jobs, to encourage the hiring of young, elderly or low-skilled workers, but in a more timid manner and with more mixed results. In contrast, recourse to jobs largely funded by the public has been limited. The number of those fell by 15% between 2007 and 2009 in the European Union. Finally, the tool most widely used has been professional



development, or job training. Apart from this relative consensus around the need for training, however, the crisis has not been exploited to harmonise social policies in Europe. Some states stick to the laissez-faire approach, while others go in for massive intervention. In 2010, spending on employment policies in effect ranged from 0.7% of GDP in the United Kingdom to 2.3% in Germany, 2.5% in France, 3.4% in Denmark, 3.8% in Belgium and 3.9% in Spain. In such a context, the idea now being studied by the Commission to set up an unemployment

In 2010, UK spent only 0.7% of GDP on unemployment policies, compared to 2.3% in Germany, 2.5% in France, and 3.9% in Spain.

insurance system at the European level is quite a puzzle. It is not only that the levels of benefits vary from country to country, but so do the rules and length of payments. Moreover, most states have recently responded to the budget restrictions by overhauling their unemployment insurance systems in a way that has left the unemployed worse off. In 2010, Denmark cut the period unemployment benefits can be paid from four to three years. France did the same already in 2002, reducing it from three years to two. In Spain, the benefit was cut by 10 per cent from the seventh month of unemployment. In Portugal, the maximum compensation has been reduced, its total sum is declining, and the period it will be paid has been reduced as well. Only Belgium, swimming against the tide, has raised the amount of the allowance and facilitated youth access to unemployment insurance.

Source: *Presseurop.eu, Alternatives économiques*

Commission pushes for a common unemployment scheme

Social policy in EU is mostly the responsibility of the member states, which explains the large differences in their approach to unemployment. However, after the June EU Summit last year, where the EU agreed on the banking union and common budget monitoring rules, the European Commission announced it will also put forth a proposal on a common unemployment insurance scheme. EU Commissioner for Labour and Social Policy László Andor insists that a common scheme of unemployment benefits could act as an automatic stabiliser mechanism in the periods of crisis. Such a mechanism could also make mobility a more credible option for European workers, who would not need to fear the consequences of losing a job in another country. He explained that a European unemployment benefit scheme would not constitute a threat to the national social protection systems, but would help to prevent social protection from spiralling to the bottom. In fact, it could also reduce the pressure on the national budgets, as the EU would guarantee a certain minimum of benefits, which could then be topped up by the Member States according to their needs and abilities. Another dimension of the common approach to unemployment is the "Youth Guarantee" scheme, with which the Commission hopes to address the problem of youth unemployment in Europe. Out of 25 million unemployed today, 7.5 million are young people aged between 15 and 26. Because of the lack of work experience, their skills and chances of finding a job can quickly deteriorate. As part of the Youth Guarantee scheme, the member states would commit to offer all young people a job, education or internship within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The Commission is ready to make substantial financial contributions to the scheme, but the amount will depend on the outcome of the negotiations on EU's long-term budget.

Russia's involvement in the former Yugoslav states

Crisis in EU strengthens the influence of Moscow

The territory of former Yugoslavia is part of the European borderland contested by Western Europe, Turkey and Russia. Moscow is using energy projects and opportunities created by the European economic crisis to build and solidify its influence in the region. For instance, the Russian-backed South Stream natural gas pipeline is expected to receive national project status from Serbia soon. Russia and Serbia have already signed an agreement for an \$800 million loan to finance an upgrade to Serbia's railway system and discussed a prospective \$1 billion loan to support Belgrade's budget. Although Russia's presence in former Yugoslavia is growing, Moscow's involvement in the region will remain constrained. The countries that once constituted Yugoslavia will maintain ties to Europe and Western institutions that provide them with financial assistance. Since Yugoslavia's gradual and conflict-laden disintegration, which began in the early 1990s, Yugoslavia's former constituent territories - Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of

Macedonia - have diverged economically and in their attitudes toward Europe and Russia. Serbia has a particularly strong relationship with Russia, based on cultural and religious ties. Others, however, are not so close to Russia. Slovenia, for instance, is already a member of the European Union and eurozone, and Moscow does not even recognize Kosovo, and supports Belgrade in its policy towards the former Yugoslav province. The region's mountainous geography and cultural differences make it



From energy to real estate and banks

Numerous Russian energy companies are involved in the former Yugoslavia outside the scope of South Stream. Macedonia is collaborating with Russian company *Stroytransgaz* to modernize and expand the national natural gas grid, and in March last year another Russian company, *Sintez Group*, completed a natural gas power plant in this country. Several years ago, *Gazprom Neft* purchased Serbian energy company NIS, which operates in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. NIS announced in July last year that it intends to invest nearly \$2 billion over three years to expand its retail network and its oil exploration and refining operations in the region. Also in 2012, Russian state-controlled oil company *Zarubezhneft* announced plans to invest around \$1.3 billion in the oil infrastructures of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to transport refined products from its refineries in Bosnia-Herzegovina to Croatia. Moreover, *Zarubezhneft* and *Gazprom Neft* are bidding for approximately 63 petrol stations in Croatia that Austrian company OMV is planning to sell. Russia's largest bank, *Sberbank*, which is majority-owned by the Russian central bank, acquired *Volksbank International* from a group led by Austria's *Volksbanken* in 2012. *Volksbank International* has subsidiaries in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia. Moreover, Russian company *Uralvagonzavod* is negotiating the takeover of a Serbian steel plant that a U.S. company gave up in 2012, and NIS involvement in Serbia's petrochemical sector is being discussed. Russian involvement in the former Yugoslavia is not limited to asset acquisition. In November 2012, Serbia and Russia agreed to jointly produce military vehicles in Serbia for export. In December, Russian bank VTB announced it was considering financing infrastructure projects in Serbia and showed interest in the privatization of certain companies. Montenegro, meanwhile, is known for attracting Russian real estate investors and tourists.

difficult for outsiders to deal with the seven countries of the former Yugoslavia uniformly. All of the former Yugoslav states have developed strong commercial ties to Europe and either have been or aspire to be integrated into the European Union. However, this integration has been complicated by the current European crisis as well as the numerous unresolved ethnic and territorial disputes in the region and the countries' relative lack of Western institutional standards. On the other hand, the former Yugoslav republics need to upgrade their industrial bases and transportation infrastructures, which opens more avenues for Russian involvement. Russia can also use its energy wealth and foreign policy ambition to become a big player in the region. Russia is already the Balkans' main energy provider, and South Stream will allow it to fortify that position. Natural gas currently makes up about 10 to 15 percent of energy consumption in the former Yugoslav states, but with the construction of the South Stream pipeline, increasing natural gas exploration in the region and the expansion of the area's natural gas infrastructure, natural gas usage is expected to rise. The main pipeline will run through the Black Sea, then through Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Slovenia and will end in Italy. Serbia and Slovenia will benefit from increased natural gas supplies as well as transit fees. Other countries in the region eventually will gain access to natural gas from the South Stream line after lateral pipelines are built. In 2012, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina were in talks to gain access to South Stream supplies through lateral pipelines, but the latest plans include only additional links to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Numerous other examples show that Russia's interest in the region is not one-sided. In June 2012, former



Macedonian Prime Minister **Nikola Gruevski** travelled through Russia to attract Russian business and announced the relaxation of visa requirements for Russians visiting Macedonia. Croatian officials already made similar trips to seek Russian investment in Croatia's energy and shipbuilding sectors. Although the former Yugoslav republics welcome Russian capital, they will remain tightly linked economically to Europe, which is the closer and larger market and investor. Also, institutions like the IMF, World Bank, EBRD and the EU overall provide more funding to these countries than Russia does. Russian involvement in the former Yugoslavia will differ from country to country. Instead of trying to create blanket relationships across the region, Moscow is pinpointing specific projects, particularly those that use energy to increase its influence. Moscow will continue to target Serbia more than any other country in the region, since Russia has ties to Serbia that it does not have to other former Yugoslav republics. Although the region's ongoing relationship with Europe will hamper Russia's efforts, Moscow will continue making inroads in the former Yugoslavia, recognizing its importance as a region with access to Central Europe and the greater Mediterranean.

Source: Stratfor

Croatia seeks to limit dependence on Russia

Croatia is a good example of a country which welcomes Russian investment, but is wary of becoming too dependent on Russia. The Croatian government has courted Russian investors and shown interest in a connection to the South Stream pipeline. However, Croatia - the second former Yugoslav republic expected to join the European Union - has pursued plans to construct its own liquefied natural gas terminal, which is partly financed from EU funds. Initially, South Stream's main pipeline was supposed to traverse Croatia, but this plan was abandoned in part because Croatia showed unwillingness to enter into a long-term natural gas supply contract with *Gazprom*.

Chapter 1: Free movement of goods



Nemanja Tepavčević

The principle of the free movement of goods is the foundation of EU's single market, and implies elimination of all trade barriers among the EU member states. The main purpose of this chapter is to eliminate all technical barriers to the flow of goods, especially customs tariffs, and ensure their free circulation within the whole territory of EU.

Elimination of import and export tariffs and quotas is, however, not enough to guarantee free movement of goods. Because of the differences in national standards and regulations on product quality and safety, this chapter requires the countries to recognise each other quality standards. To do so, it ensures that they respect universally high quality norms in order to protect the public interest, above all the safety of EU's citizens. Among the most important areas regulated by this chapter is product standardization, continuous assessment of conformity with EU's norms, effective market surveillance to ensure general product safety, and metrology, which regulates the measurements of size, length, temperature, weight or other characteristics of the product in question.

Montenegro already has the institutional framework responsible for the formulation of national and incorporation of international standards, and evaluation of conformity of Montenegrin standards with European norms. As a signatory to the CEFTA agreement, Montenegro is already part of a larger regional free trade area, and has also signed a number of bilateral agreements with the neighbouring countries to eliminate technical barriers to trade. All current standards in Montenegro are identical to European and other international norms, and some 80% have been taken directly from the EU standards. Nevertheless, the system suffers from the lack of qualified staff, has and too few bodies accredited for assessment of product conformity with EU norms.



Once it completes the negotiations and becomes a full member of EU, Montenegro will become part of a single European market which guarantees protection of consumers, public health, and environment. All products will have to undergo rigorous control in order to ensure that the consumers only receive safe goods

The core provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) regarding this chapter are related to elimination of tariff barriers between EU and Montenegro. The agreement applies to industrial as well as agricultural goods and fish products, with a number of exceptions for which the tariffs will be eliminated gradually over a longer period of time. The free trade area between Montenegro and EU should be completed by 2015,



although Montenegro agreed to eliminate some tariffs before the deadline, depending on the overall situation of the economy. Once the SAA came into force, it banned any kind of discrimination between Montenegro and EU member states regarding the conditions under which the products are being sourced and sold.

Also, SAA stipulates elimination of all quotas in the trade between Montenegro and EU for all categories of products. In practice, it means that Montenegro is allowed to export unlimited amounts of its products to EU, as long as they conform to all EU standards in their specific area. The SAA binds both sides to protect geographic rules of origin of agricultural goods and fish products, as well as of all food products except wine and other alcohol. As for the latter, the SAA allows Montenegro tariff-free exports to EU of up to 16 000 hl of wine, whereas the EU can export up to 1 500 hl of its wine to Montenegro free of duties. Nevertheless, although conditions are favourable for exports

A deep-rooted misconception about the free movement of goods is that Montenegro will have to give up its traditional brands such as the smoked ham from Njeguši (“Njeguški pršut”) or various local cheeses. Just the opposite: through harmonisation with EU regulation on product quality, market surveillance, etc. Montenegro will be able to improve the quality and safety of these products. The biggest winners are the consumers, who can be sure that the goods they buy are safe and of high quality, but also the producers, who will be able to access the whole European market without obstacles.

of Montenegrin products to EU, Montenegro has been amassing a sizeable trade deficit with the Union.

In spite of the SAA, both Montenegro and EU have the right to suspend or limit trade in the event of a threat to public security, or to the health of humans, animals or plants, or for other relevant reasons. To avoid any abuse of the SAA in terms of the free movement of goods, there is a general control of administrative cooperation whose task it is to detect any fraud or foot-dragging on either side.

As in many other areas, Montenegro's major problem in the implementation of the free movement of goods is the lack of administrative capacities and limited legal harmonization with EU's *acquis communautaire*. Without improving and expanding the capacities of



up of a single market inspectorate for the whole territory of the country. This would ensure more effective market surveillance, which is among the main requirements of this chapter. Single surveillance system would also ensure a more effective monitoring of product safety, timely identification of high-risk goods, and would thus ensure a higher level of preventive consumer protection.

To become competitive in the European market, Montenegrin producers should be strongly encouraged to improve the quality of their products. It is therefore important to begin campaigns that would motivate more entities to take up the task of conformity assessment with EU norms and acquire relevant certificates.

Source: publication "Europe in my town – what are we negotiating and what the negotiations with the EU are bringing to us?", publicised within the project Europe in my town, which was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) during 2011 and 2012, in cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiatives (CI) from Belgrade, with the support of the EU Delegation in Montenegro

the Institute for Standardization, for instance, there is little hope for improvement in this area. Also, responsibilities in this area are widely spread among different ministries and other bodies, which complicated the implementation of measures for the free movement of goods. Montenegrin products for the most part do not yet conform to the EU's norms, which can be an obstacle to Montenegro's negotiations on this chapter.

Regarding the legal framework, Montenegro still needs to adopt a National Strategy for Standardisation and amend the Law on the general safety of products, as well as the Law on technical requirements for products and conformity assessment. One specific measure that would take Montenegro a long way towards the fulfilment of requirements of the free movement of goods would be the setting

EU Info Bus – on the road to EU!

At a time when the EU faces major challenges and significant global uncertainty and gains new momentum for economic, financial and political integration, enlargement policy continues to contribute to peace, security and prosperity on our continent. (*Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, Enlargement Strategy and main challenges 2012-2013*)



Chiara Gaia Iascone

The project “**EU Info Bus – on the road to EU!**”, is carried out by Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the non-governmental organization Natura from Kolašin, and financed by the communication fund of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. The project aims to improve the knowledge of EU and European integration process at the local municipal level, helping to raise the level of acceptance and of legitimacy of this process in Montenegro. The target group for the project are the citizens of six municipalities of the central region of the country (Podgorica, Old Royal Capital Cetinje, Nikšić,

Montenegro. The results of this project created an impetus for further activities aimed at better communication of EU to Montenegrin citizens. The main goal of the project is to raise the level of knowledge about the values and culture of EU values and culture, about the changes, the impact of integration, and the benefits that lie in store for the citizens of Montenegro. The project plans to achieve this goal by several means. On one hand, it will make information and promotional materials available to the citizens of each municipality through an “*EU Info Bus*”: the CCE staff, along with representatives of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Ambassadors of EU countries, teachers, students and volunteers will travel together on a bus to visit each municipality and to offer information to the citizens, encouraging them to expand their knowledge on this topic. An EU info stand will be set up on the main square of each municipal capital, where the citizens will be able to get information directly from those who deal with EU matters on a daily basis, and are conscious of the changes Montenegro will be going through. The project tries to involve the public in an interactive manner, inviting citizens to ask questions freely and receive answers from expert on specific issues relevant to EU integration. On the other hand, the project involves 12 public discussions organised in schools and municipal halls. Our goal is to initiate frank, open debate, strengthened by the involvement of EU representatives and guests. On 9 May, which the EU celebrates as the Day of Europe, i.e. the day when the then French minister **Robert Schumann** first proposed the idea of a united Europe, we are planning a series of activities in three locations: Kolašin, Podgorica and Cetinje.

Europe was never closer
– EU Info Bus!

Danilovgrad, Mojkovac and Kolašin). The enlargement strategy is not a one-way process: European Union and the candidate countries are strongly and continuously interlinked in a complex process of dialogue and exchange of information, which must include all levels of society. It is not enough that the Government has political will to join the European Union: the process needs the support of the citizens, so that when the time comes for Montenegro to join the European family, they will be ready for this new and final step. At present, broadly speaking, Montenegrin citizens support the process of integration into European Union. However, the level of knowledge and overall understanding of the process remains worryingly superficial. This became clear in the course of research conducted by the Centre for Civic Education and its collaborators in 2011, as part of the project “*Europe in my town*”, which was also financed by EU Delegation in

CDNGO study on the local government financing of NGOs

Less money than ever



According to the study conducted by the Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations (CDNGO) in December 2012, over the course of last year NGOs received less financing from the local governments than in the previous years.

According to the original financial plans of Montenegrin municipalities for the last year, a total of €485.400 was budgeted for NGO projects. However, by November 2012 only €169.457 was distributed through financing tenders. Another €29.722 was given out to NGOs by other mechanisms (e.g. by decision of the president of the municipality etc.).

CDNGO sent requests for access to information to 20 Montenegrin municipalities on 21 November 2012. Municipality of Šavnik was left out of the study, as its financial plan did not include any financing for NGOs in the last year. By 11 November, it received responses from all municipalities except Ulcinj, Bijelo Polje and Kolašin, to which three it subsequently submitted complaints for inaction.

Three municipalities - Žabljak, Podgorica and Herceg Novi - changed their original financial plan in the course of the year. In Žabljak, the

original amount of €2.000 scheduled for NGO projects was subsequently eliminated. Podgorica reduced the amount for NGO financing from € 50.000 to 30.000, and in Herceg Novi the Commission for Cooperation with NGOs revised the original financial plan to reduce dedicated funding from €65.000 to €50.900.

In seven municipalities whose financial plan did envisage support for NGOs, by November 2012 no tender was announced for the distribution of these funds (Bar, Budva, Bijelo Polje, Cetinje, Kolašin, Ulcinj and Danilovgrad).

According to the information received by the Municipality of Nikšić, its Commission for Allocation of Funds to NGOs distributed €60.085 in 2011. This was €13.000 more than the original plan for 2011 (€47.085), so the outstanding amount was covered by the 2012 budget, and no other financing was offered for new projects. However, the municipality supported some regular projects, gave out one-off support, paid rents according to the existing contracts and sponsored public events.

Municipality of Kolašin, which was contacted by CDNGO in September, budgeted €10.000 for NGOs in 2012. There were no public tenders, and the money was distributed in response to individual applications, to the following entities: €5.000 for NGO projects, €5.000 for associations (€3.000 for Association of Pensioners and €2.000 to the Association of Veterans of the WWII). Municipality spent another €10.000 on cultural activities, mainly for support to the NGO Parents for Students - The amateur theatre of Kolašin. CDNGO also asked for the photocopies of all decision on NGO financing between January and October 2012 but received no response.

D.N.

Overview of municipal financing for NGOs

Municipality	Amount stated in the Budget for 2012.	Revised amount according to amendments to the Budget	Amount distributed to NGOs though public tenders	Amount distributed in other ways
Andrijevica	5.000,00€		2.600,00€	1.678,00€
Bar	50.000,00€		No tender	
Budva	70.000,00€		No tender	
Bijelo Polje	40.000,00€		No tender	
Berane	30.000,00€		10.360,00€	3.986,00€
Prijestonica Cetinje	23.000,00 €		No tender	3.100,00€
Danilovgrad	15.000,00€		No tender	12.788,00€
Glavni grad Podgorica	50.000,00€	30.000,00€	23.868,44€	
Herceg Novi	65.000,00€	Commission appointed by the President of Municipality allocated 50.900,00€	38.671,38€	
Kotor	20.000,00€		19.792,60€	2.800,00€
Kolašin	10.000,00€		No tender	
Mojkovac	10.000,00€		No distribution to date	
Plav	2.500,00€		1.175,00€	
Pljevlja	17.120,00€		12.340,00€	1.150€
Plužine	12.000,00€		7.500,00€	2.000,00€
Tivat	55.000,00€		38.450,00€	
Ulcinj	30.000,00€		No tender	
Rožaje	15.000,00€		14.700,00€	2.220,00€
Žabljak	2.000,00€	No financing planned		
Šavnik	No financing planned			
Nikšić	No financing planned			
Total	521.620,00 €	485.400,00€	169.457,42 €	29.722,00€

Cooperation against corruption

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) signed on 24 January Memorandum of Cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro, Ministry of Justice and the Supreme State Prosecutor. The Memorandum is meant as a starting document for the implementation of CCE's project "Monitoring of corruption-related trials".

The Memorandum reaffirms understanding by all sides that genuine rule of law requires active participation, cooperation and coordination of all social subjects against corruption, as well as their willingness to recognise the importance of monitoring by civil society, all in order to ensure that judiciary and the prosecution will remain accountable, professional, efficient and transparent. The purpose of the Memorandum is to define modes of cooperation, coordination and exchange of information that will be taking place in the course of the project.

The overall goal of the project is to help reduce corruption in Montenegro by ensuring is adequately processed by the legal system. This it hopes to do by evaluating the effectiveness of the judiciary in

prosecuting corruption, by raising the level of awareness in the general public, as well as among the legal and media experts about the possible shortcomings of existing anti-corruption mechanisms; by producing recommendations to improve the said mechanisms and by reporting to the media about the outcomes of the project. The project is supported by the Dutch Embassy in Montenegro.

Signatories to the Memorandum are **Stanka Vučinić**, deputy president of the Supreme Court, **Branka Lakočević**, deputy Minister of Justice, **Veselin Vučković**, deputy Supreme State Prosecutor and **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of the Centre for Civic Education (CCE).



CCE presents experiences from negotiations

Senior legal advisor in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and member of the working group for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights – **Boris Marić** participated in the regional conference "Accession to EU: what (if any) is the role of the civil society?", organised on the 16 January in Skopje by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), Institute for European policies and Cenzura plus.

The goal of the conference was to initiate discussion about European integration and the current position of the countries of the region, and to exchange experiences about the process so far. The participants also discussed the possibility of mechanisms that would institutionalize cooperation between the civil society and the state, in order to formulate specific recommendations for establishment of a common platform for civil society organisations, which have a lot to contribute to the accession process and the government, which is the main pillar of this process. The participants also talked about the European structural and cohesion funds, the main engines for economic and social policy, which are available to the potential candidates for membership of EU. Boris Marić talked about the experience of Montenegrin civil society organisations in the process of negotiations with EU, opportunities for active contribution to the Europeanization of the country, but also about the challenges which confront civil society representatives in these working groups. He also spoke about the importance of transparency of the process of negotiations, to ensure its maximum legitimacy among the citizens of the country. CCE's representative was the only participant from Montenegro in this important gathering. In addition to civil society activists, the conference featured speeches by top officials from the region, including **Radmila Sekerinska**, president of the Macedonian National Council for EU Integration.

III Fast Forward Human Rights Film Festival

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

The 3rd edition of the Fast Forward Human Rights Film Festival 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.

CCE and Friedrich Ebert Foundation CALL FOR APPLICATIONS to the XXI Generation of DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

- learning democracy from theory to practice -

The School comprises 5 modules of a total duration of four months. The courses will be held once or twice a week for two hours. All expenses are covered by Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Centre for Civic Education, as long as the participants commit to attend at least 80% of the programme. Upon finishing the School the participants shall receive a certificate and be eligible for further educational programmes.

The organisers welcome all candidates who wish to contribute to development of democracy and civil society in Montenegro. All candidates are welcome, regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion or beliefs, although advantage will be given to the activists of political parties and non-governmental organisations, as well as other individuals who can demonstrate high levels of social involvement.

The School is led by professor Radovan Radonjić, who will be working with the participants together with a large number of prominent lecturers from Montenegro and abroad.

All interested candidates should submit their application with a short biography no later than **15 February 2013**, to:

Centre for Civic Education
(for “Democracy School”)
Njegoševa 36, I floor, 81 000 Podgorica
Tel/Fax: 020 / 665 112
E-mail: info@cgo-cce.org

CEU Summer University 2013

The Summer University (SUN) is an academic program for courses for graduate students, university teachers, researchers and professionals in the social sciences and humanities. In 2013, the summer program (**June 3 – July 26, 2013**) offers a series of intensive one- and two-week courses in the social sciences and humanities to encourage and promote regional academic co-operation and curriculum development by drawing together young faculty in lectures, seminars and workshops. The language of instruction is English. Financial aid / scholarships are available.

Applications should be received no later than **February 15, 2013**.

For more information please visit the website www.summer.ceu.hu where you can find the description of each course and apply.

Economic and Political Reporting from Southeast Europe

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 programme for journalists from Southeast Europe, 'Economic and Political Reporting from Southeast Europe' jointly run by Robert Bosch Stiftung and Thomson Reuters Foundation. The programme was initiated in 2007 to foster quality analysis and reporting on economic issues, enhance coverage on topics that are central to the region's economic and political development and encourage regional networking among journalists. Sixteen journalists from Southeast Europe are competitively chosen to participate in the programme, run by experienced ex-Reuters journalists. **The programme includes two 10-day courses in the UK (13-27 April) and in Germany (15-28 September).** Applying journalists must be citizens of Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia or Turkey.

Applications should be received no later than **February 10, 2013**.

For more information please visit the
<http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/content/language1/html/11260.asp>

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