



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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DELAYS WITH THE DELIVERY OF FREE TEXTBOOKS ADDITIONALLY MARGINALIZE VULNERABLE GROUPS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) calls the ministers of education and sports and labour and social welfare to determine whose responsibility is that pupils from vulnerable groups did not get textbooks timely, even though they are eligible for these. Such action resulted within their further marginalization compared to other pupils.

We remind that the CCE has appealed on the authorities, on several occasions, to provide free textbooks to primary school students in compliance with the right guaranteed by the Constitution (Art.75 Constitution stipulates that primary education is free). However, it was said that the state takes care of the most vulnerable groups and that the Government of Montenegro has provided textbooks for more than 15,000 socially endangered pupils. Nowadays, it is clear that even that part has not been done properly and completely. This is not the first time that these textbooks come late for the socially endangered pupils. In the previous school year, students whose parents receive material support have been waiting for a month to get textbooks. Teachers were managing the classes in various manners, but pupils have suffered the most.

Today, CCE sent a request for free access to information to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to get data who had these allocated free textbooks, which criteria were applied for the allocation, exact number of persons who are users of this right divided through the municipalities and what is the percentage of these children compared to the total number children attending elementary school.

CCE has reasonable doubt that this limited allocation of free textbooks, which were intended only to vulnerable groups, was coloured with election campaign manipulations. Therefore, we call the authorities to determine where and why the error occurred and inform the public with those responsible for it and applied sanctions.

CCE will continue with urging the Government to respect the Constitution and to practically implement its provisions, and in this case to provide free education genuine sense of the word and not just on paper, and in particular, not only for election purposes and for the chosen ones.

Danilo Ajković
Programme Coordinator