



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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OLD HABITS IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) has already warned about the lack of transparency in the work of the highest legislative body in Montenegro. Unfortunately, in spite of repeated promises, Parliament's officials made no attempt to improve the situation, which is well illustrated by the very website of the Parliament.

Although an early August hacker attack stirred wide public attention, revealing the worryingly low level of protection enjoyed by the websites of highest Montenegrin institutions (those of the Government, its ministries as well as the national airline and some daily newspapers), surprisingly enough, the content and organisation of our Parliament's website drew hardly any interest.

The programme of Parliament's activities is unavailable, the outline of the website confused, quick searches are impossible (e.g. of a law whose subject matter interests you, but you do not know the date it was proposed or adopted), unbelievably, even the name of the country remained unchanged (the page still opens as the website of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro. The worst, however, is its disastrous English version which contains one single category – The President. Any further comment on the issue is redundant.

We hope that in this information age in which we live, but are unable to catch up with as a society, also due to such frivolous approach to the official presentations of our highest public institutions, the Government Action Plan for Implementation of Information Technology Projects will yield even the slightest results, and that cooperation between the Government and the monopoly of Telecom can enhance information and communication literacy and internet culture so that these can finally, in the favourite evocative terms of our deputy prime minister, “penetrate” Montenegrin daily life.

Until that day, we can only blush every time we think of a foreign official visiting these websites, whose establishment and maintenance we support through tax contributions, while “transparency” remains a popular, but still a foreign word in our ruling circles.

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