



Podgorica, 4 June 2011

## SECRETS OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses its concerns about the lack of transparency in work of the public broadcasting service RTCG, which is directly funded by taxpayer's money. Consequently, citizens are entitled to be completely and thoroughly informed about the manner in which these funds are spent.**

In line with the Free Access to Information, CCE sent a number of requests to the management and editorial team of the RTCG, in the period of 19 to 26 May 2011, trying to obtain the following information which are not available at the RTCG website nor in the other public documents:

- *Number of contracts regulating copyrights that RTCG has got for broadcasting the film programme in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;*
- *Total amount spent for regulating copyrights for broadcasting the film programme in the years as stated above;*
- *Number of contracts regulating RTCG rights for broadcasting sports events for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;*
- *Total amount allocated for contracts concerning rights for broadcasting sport events in the years as stated above;*
- *List of business travels of RTCG employees abroad, travel purpose and the amount per trip for 2010. and 2011;*
- *The amount of the monthly salaries with all the accompanying remunerations (based on number of years of work, etc.) of the RTCG General Director, Director of Radio of Montenegro, Director of Television of Montenegro and editors of RTCG.*

**Despite the legal obligation to respond to all requests, RTCG has not sent any feedback to CCE about the expenditure of the money of the Montenegrin citizens.** Therefore, citizens of Montenegro can't know how much is paid part of the RTCG programme that is bought, who and in which arrangement travels on behalf of the RTCG, as well as how much in total are earnings of the key people within the RTCG management and editorial team. This is opening a space for doubt in professionalism, as well as legality of work of RTCG. The lack of transparency does not contribute to the establishment of trust or credibility, both of the citizens and those from whom RTCG is now trying to acquire different types of assistance for its transformation into genuine public broadcasting service.



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

During the public debate, as well as in its written comments on the Draft Action Plan for monitoring recommendations from EC Opinion, CCE suggested **that the legally defined public broadcasting service RTCG must show a greater degree of transparency of its work and that it is necessary to define a measure that will oblige RTCG to make publicly available all contracts concluded between the management and third parties from entering into force a set of media laws in 2002, as well as the Law on Public Procurement in terms of compliance with prescribed legal procedures. Additionally, CCE underlined the importance of making public the earnings of the RTCG employees.**

Unfortunately, nor the Government of Montenegro neither relevant Ministry of culture and media did not accept this recommendation, which clearly encourages the management of RTCG in rather extremely nontransparent work and irresponsible relation towards the citizens of Montenegro. **Perhaps this is one of the reason of already existing rumors that RTCG will show in its financial report for 2010 a loss of million, and that there are great chances that nobody will be taken as accountable for that.**

CCE believes that it is very important that the obligations related to the transparency of the public broadcasting service work are clearly defined, with precise indicators and sources of verification. Also, various forms of the responsibility of the persons in charge in RTCG have to be established.

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