



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE  
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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### **STATE ELECTORAL COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE NEEDS OF MARGINALISED CITIZENS' GROUPS**

Centre for Civic Education (CEE) warns that the procedures for the upcoming presidential elections are strongly discriminatory against certain categories of Montenegrin citizens.

Namely, the fact that support signatures for candidacies for the President of Montenegro must be signed in the offices of the Municipal Electoral Commissions (MECs), discriminates against many citizens of Montenegro with regard to their basic voting rights.

**Persons with disabilities, especially those with impaired ability to move, hospitalised patients, pregnant women and persons who live in settlements significantly remote from the MEC offices situated in urban areas are therefore deprived of their right to express support for their preferred candidate for the position of the President of Montenegro.**

These citizens have been additionally discriminated against and marginalised by the decision of the State Electoral Commission to designate MECs as the sole place for collecting signatures for presidential candidates.

Members of these marginalised groups are also among the supporters of each of the presidential candidates.

**CCE urges the Electoral Commission to reconsider the possibility of more flexible reading of the legal regulations and allow the citizens who are unable to reach the MEC offices to express their support for the candidates.**

This is the opportunity to provide the right of equal opportunities to all citizens of Montenegro through implementation of the principles and mechanisms of affirmative action.

We urge all political parties and non-governmental organisations to live up to their own ideals of supporting the rights of marginalised groups, equality among all citizens and European standards and contribute their efforts towards realisation of this proposal.

Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ,  
Programme Associate