



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

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## THE STUDENT OMBUDSMAN SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN MONTENEGRO

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) after analysis of the state of affairs at the universities in Montenegro and several years of dealing with non-institutional education, has launched an initiative aiming to establish a *University Ombudsman*.**

Namely, a similar body as the protector of students, but also the academic staff, is recognized all developed countries with university tradition, and this practice have increased in the region as well, including Serbia and Croatia. Montenegro is among few without having the University Ombudsman, although we have more than 25 000 students, which is not an insignificant number compared to the overall population.

The University Ombudsman is an institution that is engaged in solving problems that students may face during their studies, such as the unfair attitude of teachers, student services, possible cases of corruption and etc.

CCE believes that it is necessary to form some sort of the university permanent body to observe the work of higher education institutions and disclose comments and criticism when necessary, this influencing the improvement of position of students and the exercise of their rights.

In communication which, on this occasion, CCE had with **the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms** in Montenegro, **he has supported our initiative**, with the recommendation to establish a University Ombudsman which would have the authority at the state as well as the private universities, "for which at this point there are conditions in Montenegro ", as he underlined.

Additionally, in contact with **the student representatives** of the University of Montenegro, the Mediterranean University and the University Donja Gorica, **CCE has also gained support for this initiative.**

At the end, the support to CCE initiative was sent by **the Rector of the University Donja Gorica professor Veselin Vukotić**, and **the Rector of the University of Montenegro professor Predrag Miranović**.

In spite of individual opinions that the each university in Montenegro should, in the spirit of autonomy, establish its own Ombudsman, **CCE aspires to a single**



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**University Ombudsman with the authority for all three universities, because that is the only way to achieve its independence and reduce to a minimum the impact on his/her work, which is expected in a small community like Montenegro.**

CCE recommends that the University Ombudsman be chosen with the consent of all three Senates and the agreement of all three University Student Parliaments – of the University of Montenegro, University Donja Gorica and the Mediterranean University.

A similar model has already been established in our country with the operation of the Bank Ombudsman, which is authorized to work with all banks, regardless of their status as private or public.

Organizing discussions and lectures on the rights and protection of students, participating in disciplinary proceedings against students as well as the academic staff, drafting recommendations, etc, are just part of the responsibilities that would be entrusted to the University Ombudsman.

**CCE believes that the Montenegrin students and academic staff deserve to have an institution that will in the form of one person, through his/her moral and ethical principles, promote the values that have survived for a long time on the world's most prestigious universities.**

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