



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 11.4.2011.

## UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO – LOST IN TRANSLATION?

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) assess the visit of the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso to Montenegro as one of the most important encouragements for the integration of Montenegro into the EU. However, CCE notes that this event showed that the University of Montenegro (UoM) is in a more and more inferior position in our society, which should concern all of us.**

Namely, the visit of high European official at the private University of Donja Gorica (UDG) is the undoubted contribution towards European integration, especially when that visit was aimed at addressing to students. **But it remains questionable why it was not organized at UoM, which gathers the widest student population, has the largest number of academic units and academic staff, and represents the oldest institution of its kind, and most importantly is financed from the budget of Montenegro.**

Further, **the question is what are the references, practice, experience and tradition that UDG has in comparison with the UoM and what led that the visit of Barroso at the UDG showed more important than a similar event at UoM or meeting with many important stakeholders in Montenegrin society within his first official visit to Montenegro.**

CCE believes that the **key responsibility is on Rector of the UoM Predrag Miranovic** who did not provide students of UoM, which (in) directly study European Affairs, to ask questions to the first man of such an important institution, like the European Commission. Indifference of the people leading UoM to through such visits bring closer to students the theory with practice, only undermines the potential of UoM, weakens its influence and credibility in relation to private colleges and universities.

CCE finds as **symptomatic the pushing of the private UDG by the representatives of the Government and asks whether this means that it is more important to the Government than the UoM, and whether and what impact does the fact that a number of decision makers in the government teaches at the UDG has?** CCE reminds public officials that public interest must always be ahead of the private one, and visits to European official serve to the same gain an insight into the capacity of state bodies and institutions, not private created by the first people to share executive power in some cases, at controversial manner.

Danilo Ajkovic, PR