



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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WHY THE PUBLIC CAN'T KNOW WHO AND FOR WHAT MONEY HAS WORKED ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) underlines the importance of transparency of the process of European Integration so that it could keep the support of citizens of Montenegro thus being perceived as common property and responsibility.

Unfortunately, some members of the Government often behave as if this was their private business over which they have full monopole, and all the questions regarding information about the process present as an attempt of disturbance of the realization of planned activities, forgetting that in the very same EU same laws apply to all and that the governments are responsible to its citizens.

By using the provisions of the Law on free access to information, CCE is seeking for the information that are contributing to the transparency and responsibility of decision makers, and which themselves obviously are not willing to publish on their own in our context.

Having in mind that the Government of Montenegro submitted the answers to the Questionnaire to European Commission on 19/12/2009, CCE has requested several times, during the 2010, the Ministry of European Integration information on total number of interpreters, which were engaged in translation of materials for the needs of Questionnaire, the total number of lectors and redactors for the needs of Questionnaire, the total amount of the money paid for translation fees, as well as for services of lectors and redaction.

CCE considers that the public has the right to know besides frequently mentioned benefits of the accession process the information on expenses, engaged resources and similar accompanying data. There is nothing in the nature of these information so that they would be considered as secret on any basis. Therefore, it is completely unclear why the Ministry of European Integration refuses to answer upon these requests, which they are obliged to do by the Law on free access to information, as well as by professional ethics, but also the rhetorical commitment to European standards and best practices.

CCE considers that MEI by this approach unnecessarily aggravates the judicial bodies in charge, through which the CCE and other organizations of civil society are forced to seek the implementation of the law. Additionally, MEI is putting itself into a negative context in the eyes of domestic as well as foreign public, and by this does not contribute to the process of integration in its substantial meaning, which should show that the members of this Government are learning that the power is in the hands of people.

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