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WHY IS RTCG HIDING THE INFORMATION ON ITS WORK?

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) assesses that the lack of transparency in Public Broadcasting Service RTCG has as the effect undermining of the credibility and trust of the citizens of Montenegro, whose money is used for funding of the public service. RTCG has an obligation to report to Montenegrin citizens about its work in an accurate, detail and comprehensive manner.

Despite the legal obligation to respond positively, CCE did not received any information from RTCG. Therefore, CCE sent a letter to the RTCG Council, calling its President and other members, to ensure the availability of these important information, in accordance with their mandate.

To remind, CCE has requested management and editorial team of RTCG following information, which are obviously secret even though these should not be:

- *Number of contracts that regulate the RTCG copyrights to broadcast the film programme for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;*
- *Total amount spent for the regulation of copyright law to broadcast the film programme for above listed years;*
- *Number of contracts that regulate the RTCG rights for transmission of sports events for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;*
- *Total amount allocated for contracts for the right to transfer sports events for above listed years;*
- *List of business travels of RTCG employees abroad, travel purpose and the amount per trip for 2010. and 2011;*
- *The amount of monthly salary with all the remunerations (past performance, etc.) for the Managing Director, Director of Radio Montenegro, Director of Television Montenegro and for all editors.*

Additionally, CCE was looking for the following information, which previously also caused the attention of the stakeholders, but we also did not get an answer:

- *Copies of contracts, related to the transmission of satellite programme in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;*
- *Total costs related to lease of satellite equipment and satellite program in given period.*

This closure of the RTCG only further undermines the credibility of that media and its efforts to transform into a genuine public broadcasting service, because this is



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creating an impression that there is no accountability towards citizens who finance the RTCG.

RTCG has its website where only selective information on its work are published thus simulating transparency. But, the facts are irrefutable, and these are indicating that a large number of important documents and information remain unavailable for the public, which opens space for doubt in the legality of work of RTCG.

Article 5, para 7 of the RTCG Rules of Procedure, adopted on 16/10/2009, stipulates that the RTCG Council "shall adopt work plans, interim and annual financial calculation reports and publish them on the website of Radio Television Montenegro." However, at RTCG website we can find reports of the work for TV and radio only for 2008 and 2009 **CCE requests RTCG Council to publish on the web site other adopted reports.**

The same article, para 15, states that the Council is obliged to regularly, at least twice a year, publish Bulletin of the work at the RTCG website. "In practice, at the site, within the part "Bulletin magazine", there is only one Bulletin as of September 2010, in which there are normative and legal documents, as well as records from meetings of the Council and the Commission of that period. **CCE compliments the recent efforts of the RTCG Council to rationalize RTCG costs, but CCE also requests Council to publish all Bulletin, for the past and the future period at the website.**

In the Statute of the RTCG, passed on 28/12/2010, Article 17, para 1 stipulates that: "Financial performance of the RTCG is public". Para 2: "RTCG Council at the proposal of the Managing Director approves financial plans, reports and final account and publishes them on the website of Radio Television Montenegro." **And this also does not corresponds to the practice, since the website contains only one financial report for 2009, with an explanation of the report.**

Concerning public procurement, one can find at the website an open competition procurement to specific needs for the period 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, but there are no contracts, so we it is not possible to know with whom, under what conditions and for how much money they make business. All this raises suspicion about the meaning and validity of published data.

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