



Centar za građansko obrazovanje



Podgorica, 13.06.2011.

## **COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NGOs INCLUDES QUALITY SYSTEM OF FUNDING**

Non-governmental organizations (54 of them) have called Prime Minister of Montenegro Igor Luksic to accept the initiative of non-governmental organisations to have the new Law on nongovernmental organizations establishing a minimum percentage of annual allocation for the implementation of projects of non-governmental organisations.

The current version of the Law, which will be soon discussed in the Government of Montenegro, provides a range of quality solutions essential to the further work of NGOs in Montenegro. One of the most important questions which Law regulates, is certainly the financing of NGOs from public funds. Cooperation between the public sector and NGOs cannot exclude high quality resolutions of the funding of which depends the further work and development of NGOs.

The Council for cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and the NGOs, supported at a recent meeting the NGO initiative to establish a minimum percentage of the current annual budget (0.8%) that should be reserved for non-governmental organizations on the basis of the commission decision that will make allocation of funds.

In making appropriate decision on funding of NGOs in Montenegro, one should bare in mind that more and more of NGOs will be switching to domestic sources of financing due to the fact that the most of the donors left Montenegro and that EU funds are available only for a small number of NGOs. This trend will be kept in the near future. Donors interests is currently on other geographical areas and Montenegro is no longer the focus of their attention.

The expectation of the EU is that countries (government and local government) more strongly support the work of NGOs and in financial terms.

Means allocated for NGOs from public funds are used for the implementation of **public policies adopted by state and local government** and that process needs to be better organized. If the funds are directed towards implementation of policies then that cannot be considered as a cost but an **investment** into the improving the quality of life of citizens of Montenegro and the NGO capacity building. The importance of cooperation with NGOs has been recognized within the recommendations of the European Commission and based on their successful implementation the date for opening negotiation date on accession to the EU will be depending.

The advantage of the determined percent of **0.8% to 1.00% % of the current budget** provides greater assurance that the Government will not, due to economic opportunities, reduce the

amount allocated to NGOs. The possibility of reducing the budget based on its rebalancing will always be there, logically that will also proportionately reduce the funds intended for the NGOs.

The determination of the percentage of the current budget law is an experience present in our legal system within the Law on financing political parties (for funding of parliamentary parties it is allocated 0,5% from the current budget with additional funding at the local level) and the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Montenegro (1.20 % of the current budget goes to the public service RTCG). **Determining the percentage of the current budget in the laws is rational for those categories (institutions, organizations) that have an independent character and whose independence of the work ensures the safety of the funding.**

**The countries of the region contribute substantial funding from public funds to NGOs: Croatia (in 2010 about 160 million-between 0,9% and 1.00 % of the current budget), Bosnia and Herzegovina (about 60 million), Serbia (about 100 million). If taken as a parameter the number of registered organizations in these countries compared with the amount of allocated funds, we conclude that almost four times more funds are allocated to NGOs in other countries than in Montenegro.**

We hope that the support towards the NGOs and the Council for Cooperation between Montenegro and non-governmental organizations will contribute to the decision of the Government of Montenegro in order to be a positive one. From Prime Minister of Montenegro is expected to consider our arguments and determine the Government's position in the adoption of the Draft Law on NGOs, which will provide a minimum percentage of funding of NGOs from the budget of Montenegro.

The acceptance of our initiative will define the general attitude of non-governmental organization towards the new Law on NGOs.

Sincerely,

Non-governmental organizations:

Centre for Development of NGOs (CRNVO)

Centre for Civic Education (CCE)

Centre for Monitoring (CEMI)

## **Support to the alternative for the Article 32 from draft Law on non-governmental organisations**

We, the undersigned non-governmental organizations require that the Article 32 of the Law on non-governmental organisations is accepted as the basic legislative solution within the Alternative to the present: “The funds referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be provided at amounting **0.80% to 1.00% of the total budget of the current budgetary year for which the budget is passed.**”

ORGANIZACIJA
1. Centre for Development of NGOs
2. Centre for Civic Education
3. Centre for monitoring
4. European Movement in Montenegro
5. Institute Alternativa
6. Roma Scholarship Foundation
7. LGBT Forum Progress
8. NGO Bonum, Pljevlja
9. NGO Adria, Association of people with special needs, Bar
10. Montenegrin Committee of Lawyers for the protection of Human Rights
11. Ekvista
12. Montenegrin Women’s Lobby
13. NGO PRIMA
14. NGO Staze
15. Association of Youth with Disabilities, Niksic
16. Eco center Delfin
17. Association of Paraplegics, Cetinje
18. Association of Parents of Children and Youth with Special Needs Bijelo Polje, „ OAZA“
19. Women's Safe House
20. NVO4 LIFE
21. Centre for Development and improvement relations between Montenegro and Serbia
22. Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities “Ray of hope”, Pljevlja
23. Coalition NGO Roma Circle
24. NGO Feniks
25. Women's Action
26. Centre for Child Rights
27. New horizon, Ulcinj
28. Association of the Blind of Montenegro
29. Democracy Center Bjelo Polje

30. NGO Multimedial, Bijelo Polje
31. Gerontological Society
32. CAZAS
33. NGO HOPE, Herceg Novi
34. NGO OZON, Niksic
35. NGO The right road, Tivat
36. Association of Young Economists of Montenegro
37. Women's Alliance for Development, Niksic
38. Montenegrin Slovakian friendship
39. Alliance of Civil War Invalids (SCIRCG)
40. Organization for the Blind for Podgorica, Danilovgrad and Kolašin (OSPDK)
41. Organization for civilian war invalids in Podgorica, Danilovgrad and Kolašin (OCIRPDK)
42. Montenegro League of Esperanto (CLE)
43. Society of Cerebral paralyzed persons Montenegro (DOCPCG)
44. The association of displaced Roma and Egyptian from Kosmet
45. NGO " Association of Herceg alternative "
46. NGO "Matica Boke"
47. NGO " VOICE "
48. Citizens Association „ DAMI“
49. NGO Green meadow, Rozaje
50. Organization for the Blind for Niksic, Savnik and Pluzine
51. NGO Yes, Bijelo Polje
52. SOS line for women and children, victims of violence Nikšić
53. UMHCG
54. NGO Ikre Rožaje