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New strategy for communicating
EU to Montenegrin citizens

interview

Executive Director of CDNGO
Ana Novaković

region

Economic crisis in the EU
and the Enlargement Policy



Foreword: **Explosives**

Vladan Žugić

I often get asked: *what is this stuff that's happening to "Vijesti" all the time?*

Well it's the same thing that would happen to any other profession, if the police and the prosecution were unable to act, as they are unable to act here in a credible way to solve at least one of the cases of attacks against journalist in an entire decade – from the murder of **Duško Jovanović**, beating-up of **Željko Ivanović** and **Olja Lakić**, the forgotten pistol drawn by the mayor's son on **Mihailo Jovović**, bombs in **Tufik Softić's** back-yard, incineration of cars, stoning of offices...

This would be happening to any other profession, if the prime minister and his court servants were to draw target-signs on the chests of those who do their job the way they don't like it. Imagine, for instance, hair-dressers, for whom they would say in their flyers (with all due respect to this marketing tool) that they cut hair poorly, that their shampoo's expiry date has passed, that their dyes are bad... And all that just because they can't deal with the fact their hairlines are receding and their greys are growing out more rapidly...

I often get asked: *Who could've done it (pay for the explosive to be installed at the chief editor's window)?* Criminals whose names are mentioned in the newspapers' crime sections? Hardly.

The (criminal, intelligence, domestic, or foreign...) organisation that wants to set the Government, when it comes to freedom of speech and the rule of law, on a bumpy road to EU and NATO membership? Could be.

The logic would dictate that this was not done by high officials and their close circles, since it does them no good with EU and NATO. But what if the government doesn't want to join the EU and NATO?

I often get asked: *Why don't you change the profession?*

And then what? Taxi-driver, waiter, bank clerk, civil servant – reckless driver, angry pub-goer, drug-addict in need of a few hundred euro, a suicide because of small salary. There will always be those who think and write that a government that doesn't work in its citizens' interests has no legitimacy, regardless of the election outcome.

Calendar

- 5 December **Mechanism for reintroducing visa requirements adopted** / Council of Ministers of the EU adopted a mechanism which allows the EU to re-introduce visa requirements for Western Balkan and other third countries in case there is a sharp increase in illegal migration or false asylum seekers from a particular country.
- 18 December **Opened Chapters 23 and 24** / At the intergovernmental conference which took place in Brussels, Montenegro and the European Union opened five chapters, including Chapters 23 and 24 which concern the areas of Justice, Freedom and Security and Judiciary and fundamental rights. Montenegro and the EU also opened chapters on public procurement, commercial law, entrepreneurship and industrial policy. European Commissioner **Štefan Füle** underlined the importance of Montenegrin citizens being able to 'immediately see the benefits' of this process and that the 'Action Plans' for chapters 23 and 24 are implemented in line with the set deadlines. On Montenegro's side, the conference was attended by Deputy Prime Ministers **Igor Lukšić** and **Duško Marković**, Interior Minister **Raško Konjević**, while the EU was represented by Štefan Füle and Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs **Linas Linkevičius**.
- 26 December **EU accession programme for the period 2014-2018 adopted** / Government has adopted Montenegro's EU accession programme for the period 2014-2018. 'The accession programme is a fix model for data collection, reporting and planning. The document provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of affairs in the country and defines the dynamics of reforms which are needed for further alignment of the national legislation with EU acquis', the government has said.
- 28 December **Parliament adopted the EU integration Resolution** / Parliament of Montenegro unanimously adopted the Resolution on the way, the quality and the dynamics of the EU integration process according to which the Government will have to provide a position on a negative opinion of the EU integration committee on a negotiating platform, even though the negative opinion does not oblige the government to change the negotiating platform. The Resolution was adopted at the initiative of Parliament Speaker **Ranko Krivokapić** and SNP leader **Srdjan Milić**, after the working group of the EU integration committee failed to agree on the previous version of the Resolution, according to which – subject to negative opinion of the committee – the government was supposed to change the draft negotiating position and return it to the committee for consideration within 30 days.

Packed suitcases?



By:
C. Stefanescu, N. Tsekov
and A. Scherle

Nicu would gladly stay in Romania, his homeland, where he lived for 25 years and worked as electrician for one big electricity supplier in the west part of the country. This used to be a state enterprise, which was then bought by a foreign investor. In the past couple of years, a number of his co-workers got fired. In the beginning, a 45 year-old-person could stay:

'However, as the company was understaffed, I had to work double shifts. I was so tired that it happened to me to fall asleep behind a wheel twice', Nicu complained.

In order to find a new job, or to become an independent entrepreneur, he had to undergo retraining. This is compulsory, even though he has been working in the field for more than two decades. The retraining course costs EUR 1 000 and Nicu has to pay for it himself. This is twice the average salary in Romania. This is why he was thinking of looking for jobs in the construction or agriculture somewhere in Western Europe as of 1 January 2014. He is still unsure whether he will decide to go for it. 'There is a good chance that you – as a foreign worker from Southeast Europe – will face exploitation,' Nicu said.

As of next year, employment constraints introduced by some EU countries for the citizens of Romania and Bulgaria, including Germany, will be removed. However, **Sven-Joachim Irmer**, Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation Offices in Romania and Moldova claims that neither in Romania nor in Bulgaria do citizens 'sit on already packed suitcases.' He thinks it completely normal for EU citizens to look for jobs or places to study in other countries, and claims that there will be no such thing as 'a flood', like some western European media have predicted.

Working abroad is no news for Romanians and Bulgarians. These countries have been EU members since 2007, and their citizens were able look for jobs in Germany even before this time, if they applied for a work permit with the competent authorities. Highly qualified people, members of their families and those who studied in Germany had already been freed of these constraints and had the opportunity to work in this country. This means that, as of 1 January, the constraints are removed – above all – for non-qualified Romanian and Bulgarian

workers who were up until now only allowed working in Germany for up to six months, and normally as seasonal workers. Now they can look for more permanent jobs.

They 'think about it' and then they stay in the homeland

There is no precise statistics on how many Bulgarians and Romanians plan to go abroad after 1 January. According to OECD reports, 3 million Romanians are already living abroad. An opinion poll carried out by a Bulgarian research institute showed that around 17% of Bulgarian citizens between the age of 15 and 55 (400.000 people) said they were 'thinking' about looking for jobs in another EU member state. This is not a new notion because, as of 2008 almost, one fifth of Bulgarian citizens want to leave the country.

Dieter Emmert, Director of Bulgarian office for German firm 'Grammer' thinks that Bulgarian technicians and engineers have the best chances at the German labour market. He is convinced that the experience Bulgarians acquire in Germany could 'later prove very valuable for Bulgarian industrial development.' However, the question remains: how will Bulgaria convince them to come back?

This is the area of interest of **Mila Natudova**. After having worked in the US in the area of company management, she joined the 'Here and There' association which gathers together Bulgarians who studied abroad. She admits that many Bulgarians who return to their homeland are disappointed with endless bureaucratic procedures, limited upward mobility, and low salaries. Natudova believes that this has to change in order for Bulgaria to become more attractive for highly qualified persons. However, despite all this, 'our research shows that there are more and more people who are ready to go back to Bulgaria after they have finished their studies.'

Source: *Deutsche Welle*

The Government's new communication strategy for informing citizens about the EU must also answer some tough questions

How much will the EU cost me?



Svetlana Pešić

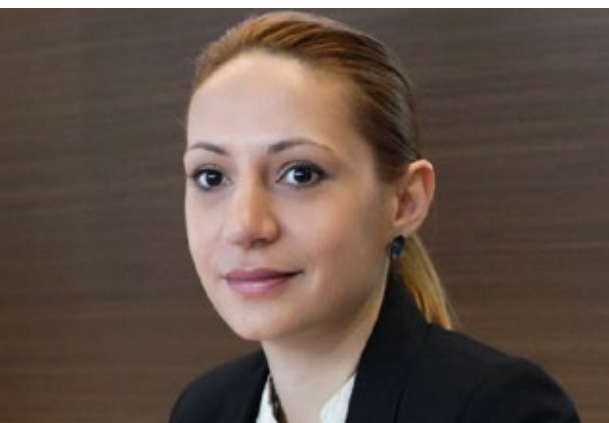
The Government of Montenegro has announced that the new Communication Strategy for informing citizens about the EU will be adopted in March 2014, and its aim will be to provide the citizens with a clear understanding of all the benefits and obligations of living in the European Union.

In addition to the Strategy, the Government has announced the adoption of action plans outlining all the activities, which in turn should be a product of a serious analysis and shared effort of the Government, civil society, academia, and business.

Montenegro's first communication strategy was adopted in 2004 by the President, who chaired the European Integration Council, and the document was an initial attempt to bring the infant EU integration process more closer to Montenegro's citizens on the basis of the neighbouring countries' experiences. It was never

implemented and we may therefore conclude that the Strategy existed only on paper.

"On the other hand, the 2010-2014 strategy, which is still in force, is a useful document, and some NGO representatives were involved in its preparation. Sadly, its implementation is



Ana Vujošević

lacking, and the Government is to blame. They needed this document to tick another box and show to the international public that they are devoted to communicating with the public in Montenegro, but what was missing was a systematic and continued effort on including the public in the process and in making the process more open and transparent. However, it was an improvement in comparison to the first strategy," says **Ana Vujošević**, European integration programme coordinator at the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and member of the working group for drafting the 2014-2018 Communication Strategy.

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It is absurd, she notes, that all the reports on strategy implementation largely outlined NGO activities, with only a few examples of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) involvement. "We were quick to underline this manipulation, but we chose not to close the door regarding this process which is surely of key importance for Montenegro's further democratisation," Ms Vujošević underlines.

The level of citizen support to the integration process doesn't have to be, and usually isn't, in direct correlation with their understanding of the process. A 2011 CCE survey covering nine municipalities, which was part of the project "Europe in My Town," showed just the opposite – even though the support to the process was very high, the level of knowledge about the EU, its policies, and challenges awaiting Montenegro were very low. Especially worrying were the low levels of information among students, with as much as 60% showing insufficient knowledge about the process. These findings were later confirmed by Eurobarometer, the annual survey used by the European Commission. Regardless of such results, the level of support to Montenegro's EU membership remains steadily over 60%, with only small fluctuations. The explanation for this discrepancy perhaps lies with the fact that the European integration process has previously been idealised and

identified with improved living standards.

However, membership negotiations could turn the unrealistic expectations into a sudden plunge of trust, as was the case with many other countries that undertook the process. Ms Vujošević says that the tide is currently turning, as the EU is paying ever closer attention to this segment of integration, and it seems a good moment for Montenegro to incorporate the lessons into the new Strategy and make the document's provisions binding on the Government.

"The ruling coalition's decision-makers' previous practice of paying lip service to the EU is not viable anymore. What is needed now is for them to work closely with the citizens and clarify

constantly all the aspects of this process, regardless of their complexity, and in spite of them revealing the Government's weaknesses," Ms Vujošević notes. The Government should, following others' experience, inform the various target groups of both the positive and "non-popular" aspects of the integration process – from simple to more

complicated questions, such as whether we will be able to continue making brandy at home or sell apples of varying size, how much money would an entrepreneur have to invest in the meat processing industry in order to export to the EU market, or whether they will at all be able to take on the competition in the half-a-billion-people market. In Croatia, in parallel to the Government's communication strategy, there was a corresponding EU Delegation's strategy. It was also aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the integration process and complemented the Government activities. The Delegation had a special budget for financing civil society and academic projects aimed at supporting this communication objective. The strategy implementation has largely contributed to Croatian citizens' better understanding of the process, and it involved many different ways of communication at the national and local levels. Communication in Croatia was financed from the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

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European Integration's budget and a great portion of funds was used for local projects. One fourth of all the funds were sent to the countries (*županije*), and the actual sums depended on the amount of the country's activity and their efficiency. Due to recession and the need to cut budgetary expenditure, communication activities were severely limited, which affected the impact of the strategy. Croatia adopted its first strategy way back in October 2001, and on 27 January 2006 the Sabor (*parliament*) adopted the communication strategy for informing the Croatian public about the EU and membership preparations.

In an interview for the European Pulse, head of unit for European integration at the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) Dr **Višnja Samardžija** explained the preparatory activities for informing Croatian citizens about the EU.

"During negotiations, the strategy was implemented in various ways, among which regular press conferences on various topics, biannual public opinion surveys, special and periodic publications (brochures, magazines, etc.), websites, a network of EU info-points, various projects (e.g. Europe Week), conferences, presentations, lectures, seminars, workshops, toll-free info-phones, and many other campaign activities. Croatia's National Forum for EU Accession, developed following the Irish model, has proved to be very successful, especially at the local level, and good cooperation with the media was established (education and information broadcasts devoted to various aspects of EU integration), Ms Samardžija explains.

In the final phase of the negotiations, Croatia faced a very low level of citizen support to the EU integration process. The civil society believed the process was not open and the negotiating



Višnja Samardžija

Croatia's National Forum for EU Accession, developed following the Irish model, has proved to be very successful, especially at the local level, says Dr Višnja Samardžija, head of unit for European integration at the Institute for Development and International Relations.

positions scarcely available to the professional and broader public.

In Ms Samardžija's view, it was very important precisely for these reasons to reinvigorate communication in the final phase of the process, before the membership referendum. In a way, this was envisaged by the Strategy, as well as a more intensive information campaign that should be undertaken a year prior to the referendum in close partnership with the media and civil society organisations.

"In the end, this campaign tried to gather all the institutions and NGOs whose activities were related to EU integration, the multipliers, and the media, with the view of providing comprehensive information to the public and helping them formulate their opinion based on timely and objective information," Ms Samardžija concludes. In December 2013, Montenegro's MFAEI has established a working group tasked to draft a communication strategy for informing the public about the EU and Montenegro's

preparation for membership for the period 2014-2018. In addition to civil servants, the group comprises two communication experts and three NGO representatives, and its task is to prepare key guidelines for informing the public about all the activities related to the EU accession in a comprehensive way.

In the Ministry they believe the new communication strategy should be a product of a serious analysis and shared effort of the Government, civil society, academia, and business. What is important, but was not implemented with the previous strategy, are the action plans, monitoring, and evaluation.

The previous communication strategy had envisaged annual action plans, prepared each year by the Ministry in cooperation with the NGOs who signed the memorandum on cooperation. The monitoring and evaluation was supposed to be done by the working group which had drafted the communication strategy. In addition, periodic public opinion surveys had been envisaged, as an indicator of the strategy's success, but this activity never took place. The future strategy should clearly define, in addition to the segments not previously implemented, both the management and internal communication within the Government and the communication with citizens. In addition, it is virtually impossible to imagine the strategy can at all be successful without an operating budget the Government would assign for its implementation.

We aim to ensure that all institutions provide citizens with good information

Deputy Prime Minister's Adviser for communication assistance to integration processes **Gordana Radević Jovanović** says that the main problems of virtually every communication strategy are finance and human resources.

"We have worked a lot on the financial framework of the future communication strategy. Together with our partners at the European Commission, and with bilateral support and our own resources, we are making sure that the action plan (related to the communication strategy) for the following year will have a sustainable budget.

At the same time, the new communication strategy should be a product of a serious analysis and shared effort of the Government, civil society, academia, business... In that regard, this exchange of information and project-cooperation should function through a regular mechanism of communication, coordination, and monitoring at all levels. And these questions in particular will be dealt with in the new communication strategy. Our aim is to have a document that clearly defines everyone's role in the process, as the sectoral information provision would ensure that all target audiences are involved and are getting the right information about Montenegro's EU accession process, including the EU assistance programmes," Ms Radević-Jovanović said for the *European Pulse*.



Gordana Radević Jovanović

Executive Director of Centre for Development of Non-governmental Organisations (CRNVO) Ana Novaković

If there were political will, Chapter 23 would not take too long

Executive Director of the Centre for development of non-governmental organisations (CRNVO) and member of the negotiation working group for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and fundamental rights **Ana Novaković** said that closing of this chapter does not depend on the time, but on whether or not the government has the political will to establish the rule of law, free the institutions from political influence, create the conditions for independent and impartial judicial work and fight corruption with sufficient determination. In an interview for the European Pulse, Novaković said that she believes ‘the closing of Chapter 23 in any country, and especially in Montenegro, should be considered in the context of current political circumstances, rather than a certain time-frame.’ There is not much hard acquis in this chapter, which could be difficult to negotiate; it is a chapter which concerns key political issues. The Chapter will be closed when the government decides to establish the rule of law, free the institutions from political influence, creates conditions for independent and impartial judicial work, and start fighting corruption with determination. If the government were to do so tomorrow, it wouldn’t take us a long time to meet the commitments from the Action Plan. Unfortunately, I am not optimistic in this case.’

» The government has announced that civil society representatives will be able to monitor the process of meeting the commitments from the action plans for Chapters 23 and 24. Has this mechanism been already put in place? How do you monitor the dynamics of this process and the work of the institutions in this respect?

Experience at the working groups showed us that that there is lack of coordination and high quality cooperation among the state administration bodies. This is why it is not at all easy to have a constant insight into the work of state administration bodies concerning meeting the commitments from the action plans. Within the

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working groups, this will remain to be an open issue, and will try to point to these shortcomings, as we have done so far. In the same time, we should organise better so that each NGO monitors progress within its own area of interest and inform the citizens on true results of these reforms.

Coalition of NGOs for monitoring progress in the area of Chapter 23 is this sort of mechanism. We will publish our comments on the Government report on meeting the commitments from Action Plan for Chapter 23, based on the findings of our members.

» As a member of the working group for Chapter 23, would you say certain institutions are more behind in meeting the commitments from the Action Plan than others, perhaps due to the lack of capacities?



Because the area of human rights and is so broad and complex, I believe that steps should be taken as soon as possible to strengthen administrative capacities,

in terms of expertise, but also the number of staff at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

» You also deal with issues which concern the functioning of local self government? What are the key problems in this area and how could they be solved?

The key problems in the functioning of municipalities is the high level of political and financial dependence on the central government; municipal councillors who decide in line with

their party preferences, rather than the needs of the citizens in a particular local self government unit; underdeveloped human resources; and insufficient transparency in their work. We deal with issues related to the functioning of local self government from the point of citizens and their needs to better understand and eventually join the decision making process at the local level. Unfortunately, citizens are more concerned with their day to day problems and are less and less interested in current developments in local self governments. We want to change this by underlining that the key decisions in municipalities should depend on the citizens and their needs – from the local budget, and detail spatial plans to establishing mechanisms for fight against corruptions. This is why we propose solutions which increase the possibility for citizens to take part in this process and inform the citizens on how to do so. Due to complexity and importance of these issues, we planned propose different legislative solutions which would address some of the aforementioned problems.

V.Žugić

Government still sees NGO projects as unnecessary expense

» What is your general view on cooperation between government and NGOs? On the one hand, Government has involved NGOs in the work of a number of commissions, working groups, etc; on the other hand, there have been some serious setbacks related to NGO financing from the state budget?

Cooperation between the government and NGOs has improved to a certain extent compared to earlier. However, the most important issues still remain open.

Unfortunately, limits to this cooperation were set by the government and they are crated at the moment when the government is faced with a considerably different, or completely opposite opinion 'from the other side.' It is commendable that more and more NGOs participate in different working bodies. The next question is how many NGO representatives in these bodies really can influence their work, are they always alone in their proposals and suggestions.

Apart from this, there cannot be cooperation between the two sectors until the government starts abiding the regulations on NGO financing. More precisely, the Ministry of Finance does not respect the Law on games of chance and has been providing up to two million less money for NGO project financing than they were supposed to for years now. For the government, NGO projects are still an unnecessary expense, because the decision makers lack the understanding of the importance of investing in the NGO sector. In short, formal legal and institutional preconditions for cooperation are in place, but we are still at the beginning of a journey of mutual acceptance, greater tolerance and understanding on the need for such cooperation to exist.



A fifth of Spain's energy comes from the wind

In 2013, for the first time ever, wind power was the main source of energy production servicing Spain's electricity consumption, said REE,

the transmission agent and operator of the Spanish electricity system. According to preliminary data of the company, wind power provided for 21.1% of the annual electricity consumption in Spain, which is three percent higher than in 2012. The Spanish electricity system operator estimates that renewable energy sources cover 42.4% of electricity demand in the country. Spain has for years now provided ample incentives for energy production from renewable sources, and is one of the pioneers in wind power harvest, with fourth largest capacities in the world.

Crisis affects immunisation of children

Organisation Doctors without Borders warns that a large number of people in Greece are now without health protection due to the economic crisis, austerity measures, and growing unemployment. According to estimates, as much as 27.7%, or more than three million people, have no health protection. Children and pregnant women suffer particularly hard, resulting in growing numbers of stillborns and the declining numbers of children who receive vaccine treatments. Each day we encounter children at the age of two and three who received no vaccine treatments, said the president of the Greek branch of the humanitarian organisation *Doctors without Borders* **Ana Maili**.



A quarter of the population at risk of poverty



In 2012, a quarter of EU's population faced the risk of poverty and social exclusion. Eurostat data show that 10% of EU citizens barely make ends meet and that the percentage of population living in dire material circumstances varies greatly between

member-states. Last year, the critical group amounted to 124.5 million people across EU, or 24.8%, as opposed to 23.7% in 2008. The critical group comprises people who face the risk of poverty or live in difficult material circumstances or in families with little or no employment. The largest percentage of population facing the risk of poverty or social inclusion is in Bulgaria (49%), followed by Romania (42%), Latvia (37%), and Greece (35%). The lowest rates are in the Netherlands and the Czech Republic (15%), followed by Finland (17), Sweden and Luxembourg (18%). Comparing the three elements adding to the risk from poverty or social inclusion, 17% of EU population live in households with income levels below the risk of poverty, which is set to 60% of the national average.

Lower VAT on electronic media

France has requested from the European Commission to reduce VAT taxation for electronic media to 2.1%, as it has done for print media. Newspapers in EU can be subject to lower tax rates, and in some countries, such as the UK and Denmark, they are exempt from taxes. In most countries, the VAT is below 10% – Germany 7%, Estonia 9%, Spain and Italy 4%, Cyprus, Malta, and Hungary 5%, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Portugal 6%, and Austria 10%. Some countries have higher and lower rates – Belgium has rates of 0%, 6%, and 21%, France has the rates of 2.1% and 19.6%, and Finland has rates of 10% and 24%. In these cases, daily newspapers and publications with broad circulation are subject to low rates, and the high rate is reserved for non-standard cases.



Fourth Human Rights Film Festival “Fast Forward 2013”



Fourth Human Rights Film Festival FAST FORWARD 2013 was officially launched at the National Theatre of Montenegro (CNP) on 17 December by **Janko Ljumović**, CNP Director, and **Daliborka Uljarević**, CCE Executive Director. The opening ceremony was followed by the newly established award ceremony for human rights and social activism achievements. The awards in the category of individuals were awarded to **Goran Stanković** and **Tufik Softić**, and to the **Centre for Women's and Peace Education ANIMA** in the category of organisations. Afterwards, the audience was addressed via a video-link by director **Joshua Oppenheimer**, whose *The Act of Killing* opened



the Festival. This documentary is considered to have moved the boundaries of the genre and is regarded as a supreme work of art.

On day two of the Festival, the audience was able to enjoy three peculiar and distinct stories filmed by ex-Yugoslav authors. *Albert's Way*, a

Serbian-American production, is an exciting story of success and 'dream come true' in the life of Albert Mayer, legendary *Panavision Panaflex* film camera manufacturer, who won four Oscars, two Emmy awards and many other awards for his achievements. He was born in the Banat region of Serbia, went to school to Germany, was captured as an ethnic German and imprisoned in the Kničani concentration camp during the Second World War, and went, as a 20-year-old, to the US. After the screening, director **Predrag Bambić** addressed the audience.

The rest of the evening was marked by the award-winning *Defence and Protection* by **Bob Jelčić**, a co-production of Croatia and Bosnia.



This is a compelling story about the difficulty of crossing the invisible borders in our societies, as seen through the eyes of a man who lost all that had defined him in the break-up of his country and the aftermath, phenomenally portrayed by lead actor **Bogdan Diklić**. Day two came to a close by *Halima's Path*, a sad albeit inspiring story of suffering and triumph of the will of a mother who manages, against all odds, to find her sons remains, who died in the Bosnian War. The movie, made by **Arsen Anton Ostojić**, is based on true events.

The first screening of day three was *More than Honey* by Swiss author **Markus Imhoof**, which focuses on the colony collapse disorder (CCD syndrome), i.e. the disappearance of bees world-



wide, which leads to the disappearance of other living organisms. This feature won the 2013 best documentary film awards in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the US, the UK... It was followed by the *Gulabi Gang* by Indian director **Nishtha Jain**, a story about an unusual gang – a group of village women making up the largest female activist group in the world comprising more than 20.000 members. This astonishing film reiterates some everlasting questions: *Is it possible to lead by example to social change? Is it possible to seek justice in a land where there still exist caste divisions and strict laws against those who dare question the ancient traditions, in which there are outcasts and where women have no rights?* *An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker*, by **Danis Tanović**, Bosnia and Herzegovina's first Oscar laureate, closed day three. The painful story about **Nazif** who makes his family's ends meet by picking old iron, whose wife is in a critical condition after being diagnosed with a miscarriage, shows the cruelty of the world of today which often passes us by unaware. The film is a touching story about one of the most marginalised social groups, and about solidarity which still lives in our societies.

Final day of the Festival started with Serbian film-maker Ivana Todorović's **When I was a boy I was a girl**. A short film about love, happiness, and the need to belong, talks about **Goca**, a transvestite in Belgrade, the capital of a country where organising and participating in a pride parade is forbidden. This was followed by *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer* by Mike Lerner and Maxim Pozdorovkin, a testimony of censorship

and repression in today's Russia, gives us the story of three young women, Nadia, Masha, and Katya, members of the Russian feminist art group Pussy Riot, who performed a forty-second political protest performance labelled "punk prayer" at the Temple of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. This act led to their arrest, accusations of blasphemy, and a court case that echoed globally. The Festival was closed by the Cannes winner – Abdellatif Kechiche's *Blue Is the Warmest Colour*. The film focuses on young Adele, whose life changes forever when she meets Emma, a young woman of fair hair, who will help her discover passion, define herself as a woman, and also as an adult.

In addition to film screenings, on 24 December the Festival hosted a panel discussion on the topic of *How to promote the rights of marginalised groups – echoes of the Human Rights Film Festival FAST FORWARD 2013*. Speakers were **Danijel Kalezić**, management board president of NGO Queer Montenegro, **Maja Raičević**, executive director of the Centre for Women's Rights, **Nada Drobnjak**, chairman of the Parliament's Gender Equality Committee, and Doc. Dr **Maja Bogojević**, film theorist and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Donja Gorica. The moderator was CCE Executive Director **Daliborka Uljarević**.



Human Rights Film Festival FAST FORWARD 2013 was organised by Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in cooperation with the National Theatre of Montenegro (CNP) and Beldocs, with media coverage by RTCG and Vijesti, and with the support of the Embassy of Canada.

Radovan Ognjenović

Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy



By: Prof. Dr Milan
Marković

In order to fully protect the health and interests of consumers, the EU implements an integrated approach “from the field to the table”, which covers all stages of the food chain: primary production, processing, storage, transport and trade.

Chapter 12 consists of three parts which complement one another. The first part covers food safety and contains: rules of hygiene in food production and food regulation, official monitoring and mechanisms for ensuring food safety, and elements of hygiene of food processing and trade, with rigorous rules for all food of animal origin. The second part refers to veterinary issues and contains regulation on the internal trade in animals and animal products, control and eradication of animal diseases, official monitoring of products coming from third countries, control of the production of products of animal origin, mechanisms for the reporting of animal diseases, and monitoring movements of animals. Import of live animals requires installation of

inspection units at border crossings. The third part is the phyto-sanitary sector, which contains regulations for the control of plant diseases and pests, the use of plant passports in plant trade, procedures for the approval of plant-protection materials, quarantine measures, residual pesticides in products of plant origin and the quality of seeds and seed trade.

Enlargement of the single market requires a sufficiently well staffed and well trained administration to ensure effective control at the point of origin, non-discriminatory control during transport towards the products' final destination and at external borders and an effective system of laboratory control. To implement EU's regulation in this area a country should possess:

- Competent bodies in the fields of veterinary, plant protection, seed and propagating materials;
- Adequate budget, including an emergency disease fund;
- Administrative procedures and guidelines for the staff, as well as specific national plans for certain animal diseases;
- A satisfactory system of laboratory diagnostics;
- Monitoring of food processing establishments to ensure they meet the conditions set in EU legislation;
- Electronic system for monitoring animal movements and reporting on animal diseases;
- A programme for eradication of zoonoses;
- Effective organisations of breeders capable of maintaining animal husbandry registers;
- Official inspectors for the protection of plant, control of buildings, import of plants and products of plant origin, control of buildings which house the production of food and animal feed, control of seed and propagating materials;
- Official screenings of seed and propagating materials conducted by a responsible body on the national level;



- Comprehensive programme of control of residuals and access to adequate laboratories. When it comes to food safety, the fundamental act in Montenegro is the Law on Food Safety from 2007, which was followed by regulations and bylaws which further regulate this area and are partly harmonised with EU acquis. National Council for Food Safety Assessment performs risk assessment with regard to the safety of food and animal feed. Public bodies with a clear mandate for managing the risks with regard to food and animal safety are: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Veterinary Directorate and Phytosanitary Directorate. The following laboratories are in charge of various tasks in the area of food safety: Institute for Public Health; Specialised veterinary laboratory; Centre for eco-toxicological research; Biotechnology Department of the University of Montenegro.

Veterinary matters are regulated by the Law on Veterinary, Law on the Protection of Animal Welfare, Law on identification and registration of Animals and the Law on Food Safety. These laws also came into force in 2007, and were followed by numerous bylaws which have been harmonised with acquis. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is in charge of policy and regulation in the area of veterinary and monitors the work of the Veterinary Directorate. The Veterinary Directorate is in charge of regulations in the areas of animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health. The specialized veterinary laboratory conducts diagnostic work on animal diseases, and microbiological testing of animal products and animal feed.

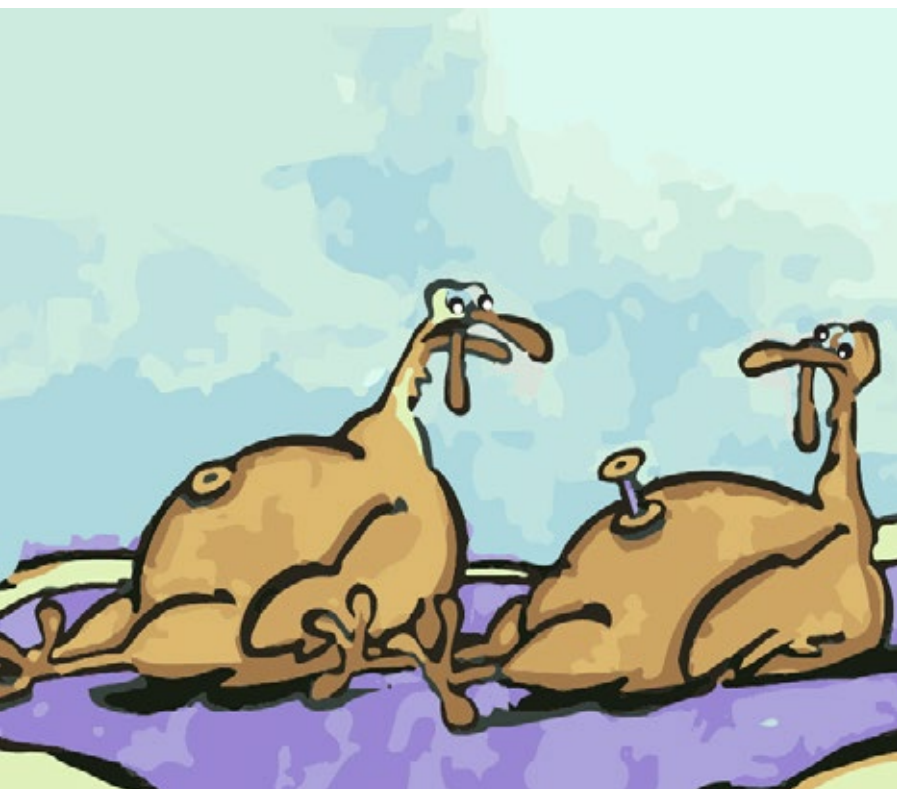
Plant health is regulated by the 2006 Law on Plant Health Protection, which was further amended in 2011. The law lays down the legal framework for the transposition of EU laws and bylaws in order to fully harmonise this area with EU legislation. The 2008 Law on Plant Protection Products regulates classification, registration, trade and use of



plant protection products and active agents, maximum allowed amount of residuals in plant protection products, regulation of registries, data exchange etc. With regard to residuals in plant protection products, in line with the Law on Food Safety and Law on Plant Protection Products, the responsibility is shared between the Phytosanitary Administration, Veterinary Administration and the Ministry of Health.

Seed and propagating materials are regulated by the Law on Seed Materials for Agricultural Plants and the Law on Propagating Materials for Agricultural Plants (both adopted in 2006 and amended in 2011). In the field of forestry, in 2007 the Parliament adopted the Law on reproductive material for forest trees to regulate this area. The 2007 Law on the Protection of Plant Varieties and 2008 amendments on the Law on the Protection of Plant Varieties regulate the procedure for plant variety rights.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development also monitors the work of the Phytosanitary Administration. Phytosanitary Administration is a public body in charge of implementing phytosanitary policy. Depending on the area, it relegates the tasks to one of its following units: Department of Plant Health Protection, Department for Plant Protection Products, Plant Feeds and Food Safety; Department for Seed and Propagating Materials, Plant Variety Protection and



The contemporary approach to food safety shifts the weight of control towards primary production, i.e. towards the beginning of the chain. Only in this way can we fully guarantee a perfectly safe product at the chain's end, i.e. on the consumers' table!

legislation is a crucial precondition for gaining access to the direct payments (Chapter 11), which also require the fulfilment of requirements related to the health and welfare of animals. However, the European Commission allows so-called transition periods, i.e. somewhat longer deadlines for the accession states to phase in the implementation of some EU regulation. Moreover, the European Commission also allows permanent derogations of some regulations, which must be agreed during negotiations.

GMO; and the Department for inspections, which ensures implementation of legal regulation. Some of the responsibilities have also been transferred to other institutions: Department of Biotechnology in Podgorica – Centre for Plant Protection; Centre for Eco-Toxicology Research and Institute for Public Health.

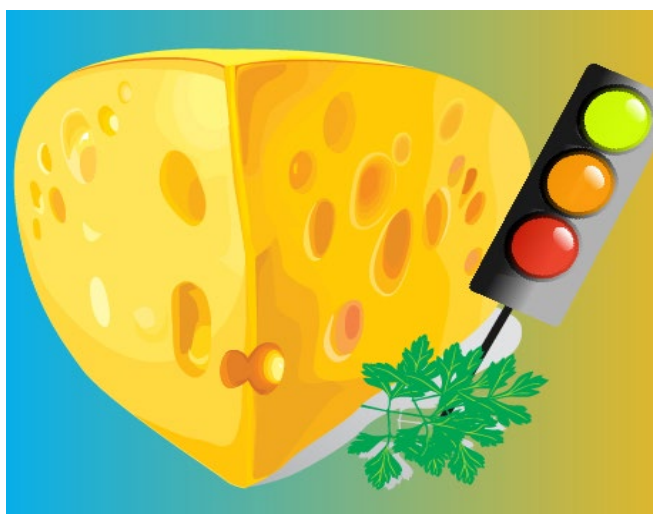
Article 97 of the Chapter VII of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) – Cooperation Policy – briefly discusses cooperation in all priority areas of agriculture, including phyto-sanitary issues. Cooperation in this area aims to modernise the agricultural and agro-industrial sector, in order to meet the sanitary requirements of the Community.

Before joining the EU, every candidate country must implement the entire EU acquis and be capable of its effective implementation. This chapter generally is a “must” – there is little to be negotiated, and the key regulation must be consistently implemented. Implementing veterinary

All products on the Montenegrin market will have to meet EU's high food safety requirements. This also goes for the numerous traditional products, such as cheese, cream, smoked ham and others. They can still be produced and sold to supermarkets and at local markets, but only if adequate hygiene procedures are observed, which will only increase the safety and quality of these products. Food safety begins in the fields, and ends at our tables!

UK's proposal on visual marking of food products caused uproar in Europe's south

Traffic lights for mozzarella



The UK introduced this summer the traffic-light system combined with guideline daily amounts (GDAs), in which foods are awarded red, amber or green colours for their amount of energy (calories), saturated fats, sugar and salt per 100 grams. The British government proposed the scheme for adoption at the EU level in October, citing evidence it could help consumers make healthier choices and reduce obesity rates.

Italy has raised concerns with other European governments over a UK proposal for 'traffic light' food labels across the 28-country bloc, saying the scheme to warn consumers of high fat or salt content could damage the reputation of the Mediterranean diet.

Italy's concern is shared by other European states, including Croatia. Estimates of what the scheme could cost Italy's home producers are set to €200 million a year in lost sales. The Mediterranean diet is considered one of the world's healthiest, and has been deemed by UNESCO as a cultural heritage to protect.

The Italian government told European agriculture ministers during a meeting in Brussels on Monday (16 December) that the Mediterranean diet could see many of its foods labelled as "unhealthy" under the UK's proposal for colour-coded food labels. Italy estimated that the scheme could cost its home producers as much as €200 million a year in lost sales. Italian exports of foods considered "red" under the UK scheme amount to some €632 million per year.

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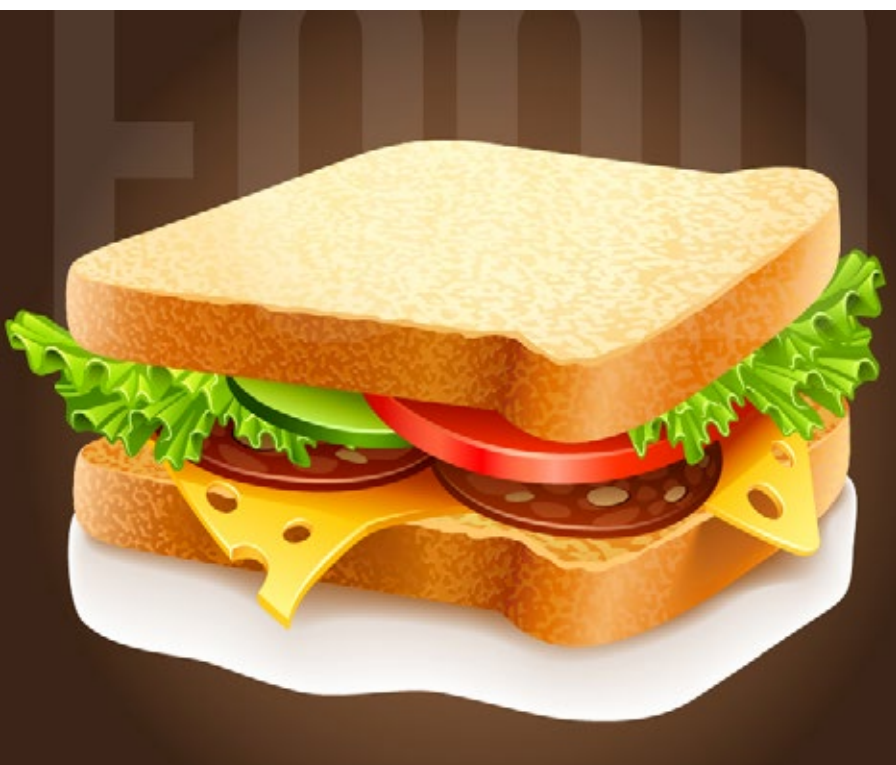
Red light for the Mediterranean food

A statement by the Italian delegation said the information offered by the traffic-light scheme "is simplistic and does not take into account how different food products are combined in a healthy diet."

The Mediterranean diet is considered one of the world's healthiest, presenting usually a balanced mix of fattier foods, such as cheese, cured meats and olive oil, and vegetables and fruits.

The traffic light labels could therefore create a situation in which the foods were simultaneously promoted and discouraged by European regulation.

Many Mediterranean foods, such as mozzarella cheeses or Parma hams, are also protected by EU quality schemes, which certify their specific geographical origin or traditional production method. "Many foods benefiting from EU quality schemes ... such as cheese, ham, honey, jam and fruit compote, etc... would all get a 'red' label," read the Italian statement. The delegation said the consequence could be that, while food products bearing EU quality marks should respect stringent regulations about their composition, other products could freely be reformulated, changing the content of fat sugar and/or salt in order to get a 'green label'.



Italy has raised concerns with other European governments over a UK proposal for 'traffic light' food labels across the 28-country bloc, saying the scheme to warn consumers of high fat or salt content could damage the reputation of the Mediterranean diet. The Mediterranean diet is considered one of the world's healthiest, presenting usually a balanced mix of fattier foods, such as cheese, cured meats and olive oil, and vegetables and fruits.

Consequences for the market

The Italian EU delegation also warned that the traffic light scheme could potentially create distortions in the EU internal market as the UK proposal contains no requirement for harmonisation across EU countries.

Paolo Di Croce, the general secretary of healthy eating campaigners Slow Food International, told *EurActiv* that the traffic light scheme was “deceptive” as it “does not provide sufficient information on the quality of a product: the information is too limited.” Slow Food International is an international movement whose goal is to put a stop to the expansion of “fast” food, and its activists advocate for the protection of traditional and regional cuisines and encourages farming of plants, seeds and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem. “Fats, sugars and carbohydrates” can be more or less healthy according to the raw materials and the production process,” Di Croce said. “We think that consumers have the right to receive detailed information on the products to know what they are buying. Labels should be written with great care and an eye on detail, giving concrete and useful information on the product that matches reality and is not made up for marketing purposes,” he underlined.

It is said that this raises the prospect of the same colour representing different nutrient levels across member states. “In other member states, the same product, in the same supermarket, on the same shelf, may thus result [in being] labelled in two (potentially 28) different ways, since products labelled according to the UK scheme may also be sold in other Member States, especially if manufacturers and retailers (implementing the voluntary scheme) operate at EU-wide level,” read the Italian statement. Some 15 other EU countries, Croatia in particular, have supported Italy’s position on the traffic light proposal.

Source: EurActiv.com

Consequences of the financial and debt crisis for the EU enlargement policy to the Western Balkans

Difficult times for difficult candidates



Dušan Reljić

The author is the chief representative of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Brussels.

The financial and debt crisis has important repercussions for EU's enlargement policy to the Western Balkans. The Union had set itself the goal of turning this region, which has been undergoing a series of crises and violent conflicts for the last two decades, into a politically stable area, and of helping it to rise to its feet economically. The extent of its success in this region will also be a measure of its ability to act as an effective international agent.

The EU enlargement policy is based on two premises. First, the accession of new countries ought to be the principal instrument for ensuring the security and stability of the entire continent. Closely related is the second premise, that the accession of new member states should strengthen the economic growth and welfare of EU. The current EU Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** has accordingly defined the EU enlargement process as a procedure during which the candidate countries must strengthen their economic and financial stability, in addition to implementing the EU laws, and create new trade and business opportunities. This, according to him, is also in the EU's own interest, as well as in the interest of the countries in the accession process, as both sides would benefit from increases in economic growth and employment.

The ongoing crisis in the Eurozone has, however, undermined the economic foundation of the EU's enlargement policy towards Western Balkans. As I am about to describe, the crisis eliminated the advantages that should have followed from economic integration between the candidate countries and EU. The current member states increasingly fear that new members will only impose new economic and financial burdens on them. On the other hand, the West Balkan countries increasingly doubt that the rapprochement with EU is indeed the only right path to the future.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, the EU's agenda is dominated by difficult decisions about the future institutional structure and governance mechanisms in the EU. This is why, according to the widespread impressions, the question of enlargement has been relegated far into the political background.

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Negative reflections of the Eurozone's crisis on the Western Balkans

In spite of these difficult financial and debt problems the EU has not given up the intention to contribute to the economic growth of its candidate countries. However, since the beginning of the crisis these countries also experienced worsening economic and social trends – one of the key reasons is also the lack of demand for their goods and services in the EU. These countries are highly dependent on the EU in terms of trade and financing, as well as a source of foreign investment. In 2012 practically two thirds of all foreign trade of the West Balkan states was with EU member states. Germany and Italy accounted for the bulk of this trade, followed at a distance by Austria, Hungary and Greece. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2008/2009, the value of trade between EU and West Balkan countries fell, the investments dried up, and even the remittances were reduced. Since 2009, western investment in the Balkans fell by 50%. At the moment there is no indication that this trend might be reversed. Moreover, between mid-2011 and mid-2012 the Western banks pulled out capital from the Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe to the tune of almost 4% of the gross domestic product of these countries.

The loss of western capital has reduced the region's chances for economic growth. According to the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) **Suma Chakrabarti**, the states of East Central and South-Eastern Europe are suffering from troubles whose causes are largely outside of their powers.



According to the Index of susceptibility to the dangerous consequences of the Eurozone crisis, calculated by the *Economist Intelligence Unit*, Hungary is in the first place as the most vulnerable, followed by Croatia, Albania and Serbia.

In the group of countries the World Bank refers to as SEE-6 (the six South-

East European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), the GDP fell again in 2012, by 0.6%. The growth might reach 1.6% in 2013, but the road to sustainable recovery is still strewn with thorns, warns the World Bank. Moreover, they should be on guard for the new blows, due to the rising prices of food. Should private consumption, investment and exports continue to fall, and the unemployment continues to rise, the region could find itself at risk of social unrests.

Financial resources of the EU's enlargement policy

Since 2009, EU has repeatedly announced, and occasionally undertaken, measures to alleviate the effects of the crisis on West Balkan countries. In early 2013, Štefan Füle confirmed the intention, announced in the previous year, to begin a dialogue on employment and social reforms with the candidate countries. In order to ameliorate the social situation in the region, both sides should identify priority areas to be allocated funds from the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession. The EU established this instrument in 2007 in order to provide financial and technical assistance and assistance to reform and building of democratic institutions to the countries wishing to become EU members in the future.

For IPA's second cycle (2014-2020), the EU plans to allocate 14.11 billion euro. Nominally this would represent an increase to the IPA funds, from 11.5 billion allocated in the 2007-2013 period. However, taking into account the inflation and population

growth, especially in Turkey, which takes up the lion's share of the IPA funds (more than 50%), the amounts available to the candidate countries from the IPA II will at best remain the same.

The contribution of IPA funds to economic growth and employment is in any case only indirect, with effects which are expected to manifest in the long run. In the meantime, the key to development lies in trade and capital flows between the accession countries and their main economic partners in the EU. The West Balkan countries have continuously posted deficits in their trade with EU: only in 2011 the deficit was as large as 13.8 billion euro. In 2012, the increasingly difficult situation pushed the most important financial institutions in the West to set up a joint programme for support to the East, Central and South-East European countries.

In response to the ongoing repercussions of the Eurozone crisis, the European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank promised to support the countries of this region in 2013 and 2014 through financial instruments worth a total of EUR 30 billion, in order to stimulate new growth. According to the first estimates of the rating agencies, the effects of this capital injection will only show up in the long run, as the private actors are still very averse to taking new credit, and the Western investors are equally reluctant to take on new risks in the weakened national economies of the Western Balkans. This aversion is primarily a consequence of uncertainty with regard to the political future of the region. Will the EU member states leave the West Balkan countries in the waiting room until they can safely say that the crisis is over and the EU has solved its internal problems?

The gap between the EC and EU member states on enlargement

The Commission is being very creative in its efforts to demonstrate that the enlargement policy has moved forward in spite of the current political blockade. In the course of the crisis, however, it became clear that the key member states have lost the political will that had been essential for removing certain obstacles to the previous rounds of enlargement.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, there are growing

doubts that there should be any new enlargements in this decade. Relevant politicians in leading EU members believe that the EU is at the moment incapable of integrating new states, and are demanding that in the future the EU should evaluate more carefully the candidates' readiness in terms of economy and competitiveness. This reflects well the mood of the general population: at the end of 2012, on average 52% of EU citizens opposed further enlargement. Their percentage was especially high in Germany (73%), Austria (72%) and France (68%).

It is clear that the admission of economically weak countries is rejected in a moment when, as also indicated by Eurobarometer, the people in most EU member states are worried about their jobs and fearing a worsening economic and financial situation. People don't want new burdens which could come from accepting insufficiently prepared new members, like Greece, Romania or Bulgaria. In the majority of EU member countries the political class and the population mostly agree that the accession of new members should be postponed until they can demonstrate excellent economic and political credentials.

Waning ability of EU to transform the West Balkans

Membership perspective is the essence of EU's soft power and a key element of its foreign policy. However, the more uncertain is the prospect of future accessions, the less capable is the EU of wielding its soft power. Especially in times of economic crisis the challenges to EU's foreign policy in the Western Balkans are greater than ever. Due to the economic crisis, the candidates in the Western Balkans fell into a vicious circle: their national economies, which are tied to the EU, have been significantly weakened, and with them their ability to implement economic reforms. Sluggish reforms and economic recession mean that it will be more difficult for them to meet the convergence criteria. How can they break out of the vicious circle?

The majority of states on EU's periphery is forced to seek a chance for growth elsewhere: their eyes are increasingly turning towards Eurasia. Russia,

Turkey, China, India, and the rest of newly industrialized countries, especially in Asia, are increasingly the centre of attention in the whole South Eastern Europe as potential trade and investment partners, and thus also as political partners. At the same time, Moscow, Ankara and Beijing have a strategic interest in extending their political presence in South-Eastern Europe in order to prevent complete hegemony of the West over this region.

While the EU demands that the countries interested in becoming its members should build the rule of law and democracy, fight corruption and demonstrate other signs of good governance, none of these matter to the potential Eurasian partners. These countries are exploring new trade opportunities and offering investment capital, and don't expect democratization or reform from their partners.

As the perspective of EU membership becomes increasingly less credible and the Eurasian influence grows, the EU will have less and less ability to influence the countries interested in accession. Moreover, it is not at all clear that the political and social peace in the Western Balkans can be preserved for long, especially in the current crisis centres – Kosovo and Macedonia.

Should the World Bank's recession forecast prove to be right, especially with regard to the growing prices of food, mimicking the situation before the revolution two years ago in Egypt and other Arab states, the long-term efforts of the Euro-Atlantic Alliance to stabilise the South-Eastern Europe might soon come to nought.

Source: Excerpt from the study "EU Enlargement Policy in the Western Balkans: Difficult times for difficult candidates", published in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

School of Democracy graduation ceremony

On 11 December, the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) hosted a ceremony for graduates of the XXII School of Democracy, which is organised by CCE with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The diplomas were awarded to the programme participants by **Daliborka Uljarević**, CCE Executive Director, and **Nikola Đonović**, School coordinator.

The School's objective is to inform and educate the attendees about democracy, its values, and the possibilities of raising awareness and improving the democratic culture in Montenegro. In the autumn semester, the School was successfully attended by 28 people from around Montenegro, mainly from political parties, media, NGOs, academia, etc. They were able to hear lectures from and talk to eminent national and international lecturers, university professors from Montenegro and the region, NGO representative, and journalists. The diplomas were awarded to: **Aleksandra Milović, Anđela Moračanin, Bojan Bakić, Dijana Dedić, Enisa Babajić, Fuad Lamežević, Ivan Otović, Ivana Jovović, Ivana Maraš, Jasmina Kalač, Jasna Durović, Jelena Kulidžan, Kristina Mićković, Margarita Markaj, Milena Krsmanović, Mira Popović, Nenad Radović, Nina Đurašković, Ognjena Vujadinović, Rajko Golović, Rajko Orman, Slađana Kavarić, Tanja Gačević, Vesna Mijušković, Vesna Zejak, Vladimir Jovanović, Vuk Marković and Zilha Zanjmović.** Continued interest in this programme since its inception, as well as the fact that this is the XXII generation, prove that there are many young people willing to be engaged in their communities and the development processes, and also to enhance their own capacities. The new generation is expected to enrol in February 2014.



Monitoring of media self-regulatory bodies in Montenegro

As Human Rights Action presented on 6 December their second report within the project "Monitoring of media self-regulatory bodies in Montenegro." They monitored the work of the media self-regulatory bodies and media publication in Montenegro from March to October 2013. Report authors are **Dragoljub-Duško Vuković** and **Marijana Buljan**, and the editor is **Tea Gorjanc Prelević**. Apart from the three of them, UK Ambassador **Ian Whitting** spoke at the event. The UK embassy helped implement the project.

The project aim is to support the media self-regulatory bodies in Montenegro in applying the Montenegro Reporters' Code objectively and evenly, and help them protect and improve the human rights culture. As part of the same project, the Human Rights Action delivers two times a month to the self-regulatory bodies, editorial boards, reporters, and judges the newsletters on the best practices of the European Court of Human Rights on the freedom of reporting and right to the protection of privacy. CCE was represented at the meeting by **Daliborka Uljarević**, Executive Director, and **Svetlana Pešić**, programme associate.

Scientific arguments against prejudice

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) hosted on 9 December the presentation of the analysis entitled *“Montenegro’s education policy and sexual orientation: LGBT topics in school curricula and textbooks”* authored by Aleksandar-Saša Zeković. The analysis was drafted and published as part of the project “Awareness raising campaigns in schools,” implemented by CCE within the Council of Europe LGBT project, financed with the assistance of the Belgian federal government, and co-published by CCE and the LGBT Forum Progress. The speakers at the event were **Tamara Milaš**, CCE programme associate, **Marijana Laković**, deputy Ombudsman, Dr **Jovan Kojičić**, adviser to the Prime Minister, **Tamara Milić**, adviser at the Ministry of Education, and **Aleksandar-Saša Zeković**, author.

This publication is one of the most detailed and comprehensive analyses of school curricula and textbooks in the region, and it offers guidelines on how best to integrate human rights into education, with a special emphasis on LGBT rights. It is published in Montenegrin and English and distributed to decision-makers, civil society organisations, members of the academia, media, and international organisations. An electronic version is available at the publishers’ websites.

Integrity and ethics in the US prosecution

Lecture entitled *“Integrity and ethics in the US prosecution”* was held on 9 December in the American Corner in Podgorica, in cooperation with the Bureau for fight against international trafficking in illicit drugs and implementation of laws within the US Embassy in Podgorica. The event was part of the anti-corruption week. **Timothy A. Westrick**, former US federal prosecutor, spoke about prosecutors’ responsibility in performing their duties, with a special emphasis on rich experience of US cases that served as precedents for prosecutorial activity. CCE was represented by **Željka Četković**, programme associate, and CCE Youth Group.

Think-tank capacity building in fight against corruption

Centre for Monitoring and Research (CEMI), as part of the project *“Think-tank capacity building in fight against corruption,”* with financial assistance by Think-Tank Fund, Budapest hosted the round table entitled “Broad administrative investigation authority as a precondition for better results in the fight against corruption in Montenegro.” At the round table, a public policy study was presented that deals with the reach of the administrative investigation in Montenegro and the need for its further development for better fight against corruption. The study includes an analysis of the authority of Montenegrin institutions currently working in anti-corruption, analysis of good practice, and concrete recommendations for upgrading the authority of the future Anti-Corruption Agency. Introduction speeches were given by Dr **Vesna Ratković**, Director of the Administration for Anti-Corruption Initiative, and **Zlatko Vujović**, President of CEMI management board. Political corruption was discussed by **Ana Selić**, Director of the CEMI Public Policy Research Unit, and **Milorad Marković**, CEMI legal expert. Special presentations were given by representatives of the State Audit Institution, State Election Commission, Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and the Administration for Anti-Corruption Initiative. CCE was represented by **Snežana Kaluđerović**, programme coordinator.

War and Peace in the 21st Century Course, Croatia

Thoughts on war and violent conflicts at the beginning of the 21st century were marked by claims that there is a qualitative and quantitative shift in the nature of violent conflicts. According to these claims there is a significant change in the scope, methods, financing, organisation and intensity of contemporary warfare. Modern wars are supposedly decentralised and more chaotic. They represent the final consequences of global economic and political processes and differ from 'old wars' typically fought over territories and populations' identity. In addition, the boundaries between the state of war and peace are becoming increasingly blurred and the risk of significant collective violence has increased around the world. However, at the same time a growing number of empirical studies show that the 'new wars' do not in fact differ from the wars fought in the previous centuries nor that they are greater in number, intensity or civilian casualties.

The course will consequently deal with differences in the contemporary conceptualisation and research on war and peace, particularly in divided societies that have already experienced violent conflicts or have the potential to produce new conflicts. Students and scholars in the social sciences, law and humanities and other fields and disciplines that study social phenomena such as divisions, cleavages, conflicts, borders, ethnicity and diversity are encouraged to participate.

Courses will be held in Croatia, Dubrovnik from 22 – 29 April 2014. This post/graduate course will be organized as a rigorous eight-day academic interdisciplinary program structured around lectures, workshops and conference-oriented presentations of scholarly research. The course participants will engage in active discussions of the theoretical, methodological and practical issues of research in divided societies. PhD students' presentations are welcome. In addition, the course offers personal inter-cultural experience of students and faculty from other contexts in an unforgettable setting of a city that was itself the target of a destructive conflict. The course offers ECTS credits for PhD and MA students (3-6 ECTS).

Scholarships may be obtained by participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Georgia, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Exceptionally, one scholarship per course may be granted for lecturers coming from the countries mentioned.

Deadline for submitting applications is 22 March 2014.

Read more on: <http://www.iuc.hr/course-details.php?id=805>

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