



ANNUAL **REPORT** 2020

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Centre for Monitoring and Research

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Dear friends and colleagues,

It was very challenging year behind us with a lot of difficulties on a global and national level. However, CeMI has achieved great success during this year, what you can read about in the below of our Annual report 2020.

This report represents a compilation of activities and projects that CeMI implemented during the year. During 2020 we successfully implemented 8 projects through 4 programmes: Rule of Law and Human Rights, Good Governance and Fight against Corruption, Security and Defense Sector Reform, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation. The projects were conducted within our three departments: Legal Department, Empirical Research Department, Finance and Public Relations Department.

During this period we continued to work on improvement and promotion of human rights and judiciary reform, but also on improvement of the electoral reform by conducting successful monitoring of Parliamentary and Local elections 2020, which has been our most significant project this year.

Within ENEMO CeMI were responsible for the complete administrative management for implementing three international election observation missions: Serbia Parliamentary Elections, Ukraine Local Elections and Presidential Elections to Moldova.

The report consists of chapters divided by projects within which the activities are listed. In the final part of this report, you can find our financial overview for 2020.

We sincerely hope that this report will properly reflect all the work we have done this year and, as always, we are welcome to any advice or suggestions in improvement and development of Montenegro as a civil society.

Sincerely,
Zlatko Vujović
President of the Governing Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Zlatko Vujović, the President of the Governing Board.

PROJECT: Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary

About project

Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), in cooperation with the partner Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CeDEM), implemented a project “Judicial Reform: Upgrading COS’s capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary”, supported by the European Commission (IPA).

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the achievement of a higher level of rule of law in Montenegro which were reflected in the assessment and increase of the professionalism level, accountability, efficiency and integrity of the judiciary through the establishment of closer cooperation and more effective mechanisms between CSO’s and judicial institutions. Also, objective of this project was to improve capacity of local organizations and greater involvement of civil society in the reform of judicial system of Montenegro, as well as in negotiations on Chapter 23 (judiciary and basic human rights). Within this project CeMI was working on establishing a joint project management committee between CSOs and judicial institutions, signing a memorandum of cooperation, establishing regular communications and organizing meetings between CSOs and representatives of the judiciary in these committees.

The project also envisages monitoring of the most important court cases in Montenegro including the application of new institutes such as plea agreement and delayed prosecution. These activities were followed by publishing regular and annual reports (total of 2) on the key findings and recommendations we came through trial monitoring. During the project were organized two national conferences (one annually) for presenting annual reports on trial monitoring to key stakeholders from national justice, international partners and civil society organizations.

ShapeAs one of the most important activities, we emphasized the regular monitoring of the media in Montenegro and the preparation of annual reports on media behavior regarding court proceedings in Montenegro. The mentioned reports, observations and key results were presented to media representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

Project activities

Conference “A shortcut to justice – results and effects of the plea agreement”

At the press conference “A shortcut to justice – results and effects of the plea agreement” organized at February 3rd was stated that Montenegro has not yet developed a predictable case law on the application of plea agreements, as well as a balance between criminal offenses and sanctions imposed, and it is questionable how much the financial effects of the agreement have contributed to better results in financial investigations.

The conference was organized as part of the Judiciary Reform project: Upgrading CSO’s capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary.

The Executive Director of the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Ana Nenezić, said that the primary challenges in implementing the plea agreement were related to the scope of the offenses covered by the institute, as well as to the issue of criminal policy. According to her, crim-

inal policy is generally perceived as mild and inadequate from the point of view of meeting the goals of general and special prevention.

Head of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, assessed that the application of plea agreements in the legal system has the potential to assist the judiciary and state authorities, stating that the use of agreements between defendants and prosecutors, with strict judicial scrutiny, can enhance credibility and efficiency of the criminal justice system. He, also, pointed out that the European Commission's annual report for 2019 pointed out that the use of plea agreements, along with the temporary seizure of property, led to the resolution of a larger number of cases or did not lead to an increased number of confiscations.

Director-General of the Directorate for Justice at the Ministry of Justice, Marijana Lakovic-Draskovic, said that in very few cases the court refused to conclude a plea agreement, stating that in the first six years the court has done so only in two cases.

Legal Affairs Coordinator at the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) Ivan Vukčević said that from 2016 to 2019, Cemis' Legal Team monitored 624 cases in Montenegrin primary courts.

He said one of the key findings related to the observed agreements was that the conclusion of the plea agreement was initiated by the Prosecution in 30 cases, while the defendant or his defense attorney did so in 104 cases.

Judge of the Supreme Court of Montenegro, Svetlana Vujanović, believes that the court plays a crucial role in the plea agreement. She assessed that the position of the injured party in the proceedings was completely marginalized.

Chief Special Prosecutor Milivoje Katnić said that the plea agreement had achieved its objective and that its results were significantly better than the regular and adversarial proceedings in comparative cases, than otherwise and that 21 indictments were filed in the Special State Prosecutor's Office (SSP) between January 1 and December 1, 2019, involving 137 persons.

The president of the Bar Association, Zdravko Begović, assessed that the plea bargain was expedient and it justified its existence. He said that he had concluded a number of agreements, and that in all cases involving corruption offenses where unlawful material gain was obtained, no plea agreement could be concluded without the prosecutor first insisting that harm obtained through unlawful material gain should be compensated.



Press conference "A shortcut to justice – results and effects of the plea agreement", 3 February 2020



Participants at the press conference “A shortcut to justice – results and effects of the plea agreement”, 3 February 2020

Three-Day training on the preparation and advocacy of public policy

From 7 to 9 February, a three-day training on the preparation and advocacy of public policy was held at the Hotel “Palas” in Petrovac.

During the first day of the seminar, NGO representatives were introduced with the concept and definition of public policy, and through interactive work, they had the opportunity to learn more about the process of creating public policies.

On the second day of the seminar, the focus of the training was on practical work in five groups, through the drafting of public policy proposals,

after which they successfully defined and worked on five such proposals: “Building the trust in the judiciary”, “Mediation”, “Probation and alternative sanctions”, “Protection of vulnerable groups through enabling equal rights in Montenegrin courts” and “Media Self-Regulation in Montenegro.”

On the last day of the training, through direct work with the lecturers with each group, the drafted proposals of public policies were presented and analyzed, with the aim of empowering all participants for further independent work.



Participants of the three-day training, 7-9 February 2020



PROJECT: Supporting Stakeholders in Implementation Anti-Corruption Standards

About project

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) in cooperation with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI Institute), Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives (BILI) and Expert Forum in Romania implemented the ECAC project entitled “Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards”.

Through this project, the Centre for Monitoring and Research partnered with domestic stakeholders and influencers in order to identify, prioritize,

and create action plans to tackle and effectively implement anti-corruption reform recommendations in accordance with international and regional commitments.

Aligning with INL priorities and IFES/CEELI core expertise the project was primarily focused on judicial integrity and independence, criminalizing and sanctioning bribery as well as on enhancing transparency of political party funding and election campaigns.

Specific goals of the project are:

- Identification of priority anti-corruption reforms
- Development of action plans for implementation of priority reforms
- Support for approval of action plans
- The project envisages the organization of the following activities:
- Research on and initial prioritization of anti-corruption recommendations and commitments from identified peer review mechanisms and policy for a
- Convening stakeholders to select priority recommendations
- Preparation of good practice overviews, coordination of meetings aimed at building consensus around action plan
- Development of an action plan as a result of stakeholders’ inputs and identification of the steps needed for implementation of reforms
- Convening of stakeholder meetings to develop country-appropriate strategies for the implementation of the action plan

The project was financially supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Project activities

Workshop “Supervision and control of the abuse of state resources in the light of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Montenegro



Speakers at the workshop: Chelsea Dreher, Research Officer at IFES, Nina Kecojević, Project Coordinator at CeMI, Ana Selić, Project Manager at Council of Europe, Ana Nenezić, Executive Director of CeMI, Dušan Drakić, Head of Department for Control of Political Financing and Election Campaigns at APC, Boris Marić, Legal Expert, 1 July 2020

On 1 July was organized a workshop with goal of strengthening the capacity of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in the context of parliamentary elections in Montenegro. The workshop which brought together 25 participants from several sectors of APC, the Council of Europe, IFES and civil society organizations which are engaged in implementing projects in the field of election observation was organized in cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Speakers and facilitators who took part in the workshop were: Dušan Drakić, Head of Department for Control of Political Financing and Election Campaigns, APC, Ana Selić, Project Manager, Council Europe, Chelsea Dreher, Research Officer, Centre for Applied Research and Learning, IFES, Ana Nenezić, Executive Director, CeMI, Dr. Magnus Ohman, Director, Regional Europe Office and Senior Political Finance Adviser, IFES, Juliette Schmidt, Senior Conflict and Security, Elections and Political Processes

Specialist, IFES and Boris Marić, Legal Expert, whilst the event was moderated by Nina Kecojević, Project Coordinator at CeMI.

The aim of the workshop was to point out the key problems in the field of control and supervision of abuse of state resources during the election campaign, but also to serve as a platform for opinion exchange on possible ways to improve existing solutions, creating the necessary impetus to further harmonize the Agency's work with international standards and practice, and also strengthening its investigative powers and proactivity. To this end, CeMI's analysis "Agency for the Prevention of Corruption in the Fight against the Abuse of State Resources" and the draft Plan for Supervision and Control of the Election Campaign for the 2020 Parliamentary Elections were presented and commented by the participants as well as experts from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Recognizing the need to move from the state of reactivity towards undertaking a more proactive stance when

it comes to timely reporting to the public on the results of the Agency's work during the election campaign, strategic communication instruments

were presented as a basis for further optimization of the existing plan and transparency raising of this institution.



Participants of the workshop "Supervision and control of the abuse of state resources in the light of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Montenegro", 1 July 2020

PROJECT: Equality of LGBT persons before the law - Promoting the rights of LGBT persons in court proceedings

About project

The project "Equality of LGBTIQ persons before the law - Improving the rights of LGBTIQ persons in court proceedings" is a step forward in the fight against inequality and disrespect for basic human rights, when it comes to socially vulnerable groups, such as the LGBTIQ population. Special emphasis is placed on providing support and affirming activities that would lead to an equal position of the LGBTIQ population in the actions of the judiciary, and in this regard, the prosecutor's office, and the police. The project also deals with the issue of legal regulations within which human and minority rights are determined, as well as their implementation, or insufficient implementation of the same. In this regard, a comprehensive analysis of the legislative

and institutional framework is made with a focus on the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ persons in the region. Also, to raise the awareness of the representatives of the judiciary and the prosecutors, a media campaign is conducting within the project.

What this project especially focuses on and advocates is education in the form of seminars, lectures, workshops, for justice officials in order to inform about sensitive and equal treatment of the LGBTIQ population. Raising staff awareness of shortcomings in practice and law enforcement, as well as increasing the capacity of trained professional staff are key factors in project implementation.

The project “Equality of LGBTIQ persons before the law – Improving the rights of LGBTIQ persons in court proceedings” is financially sup-

ported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro.

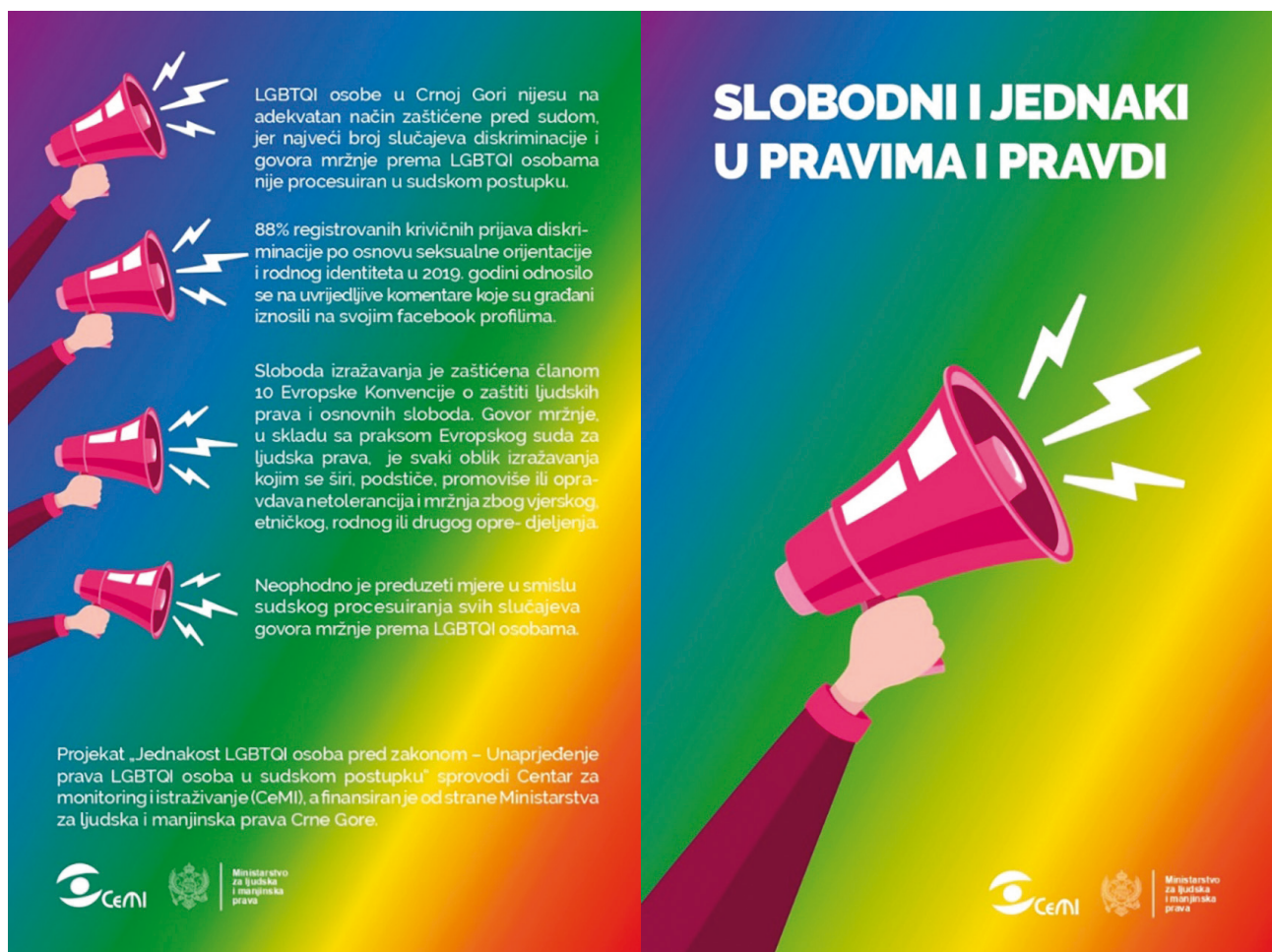
Project activities

Informational flyer “Free and equal in rights and justice”

The informational flyer is part of a media campaign conducted by the Centre for Monitoring and Research within the project with the aim of raising awareness of the Montenegrin public about the equality and rights of LGBTIQ persons in Montenegro.

LGBTIQ community in Montenegro. Project activities are aimed at contributing to reducing the level of discrimination and increasing awareness and awareness of sensitive treatment of the LGBTIQ population in Montenegro in court proceedings.

The goal of the project is to increase the level of respect for human rights of members of the



Informational flyer prepared within the project “Equality of LGBTIQ persons before the law – Improving the rights of LGBTIQ persons in court proceedings” financially supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro

Panel discussion “Free and equal in rights and justice”



Participants of the workshop “Supervision and control of the abuse of state resources in the light of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Montenegro”, 1 July 2020

At the panel discussion where the speakers were General Director of the Directorate for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro, Blanka Radošević Marović, Executive Director of CeMI, Teodora Gilić, Public policy researcher at CeMI, Milica Zrnović and Trans man and representative of the Spektra Association, Nikola Ilić was presented short promotional film “Free and equal in rights and justice” which contained key challenges faced by LGBTIQ people in Montenegro are presented.

Public policy researcher at CeMI, Milica Zrnović pointed out that research at the European level shows that Montenegro has met 62 percent of all indicators that indicate adequate protection of the rights of the LGBTIQ community, and that the greatest progress has been made in the field of equality and non-discrimination (96 percent), which makes Montenegro a leader not only in the region, but also in Europe. However, despite the progress made, there are certain issues of concern. Namely, the research conducted by the CeMI indicates that most cases in which LGBTIQ persons are injured parties are prosecuted in misdemeanor, and rarely in criminal proceedings, most often

by applying the Law on Public Order and Peace, and not Law on Prohibition of Discrimination.

Director General of the Directorate for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights Blanka Radošević Marović said that in a period of ten years in Montenegro, steps of seven miles were made when it comes to LGBT rights and their visibility in Montenegrin society.

The main protagonist of the short promotional film, Nikola Ilić, a trans man and a representative of the Spectrum Association, said that LGBTIQ people in Montenegro do not have sufficient security and conditions for a normal life, which, as he says, is the minimum necessary.

Executive Director of CeMI, Teodora Gilić said that the project “Equality of LGBTIQ persons before the law - Improving the rights of LGBTIQ persons in court proceedings” is aimed at strengthening the capacity and greater training of judicial instances in prosecuting crimes against LGBTIQ population, as well as treatment of LGBTIQ persons in the procedure in an equal and adequate manner.

PROJECT: Restorative Justice – Alternative Sanctions to Re-socialization

About project

The project “Restorative Justice - Alternative Sanctions to Resocialization” aims to contribute to strengthening the rule of law in Montenegro, with a special focus on the protection of human rights and freedoms. The specific objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement and promotion of the system of alternative sanctions, in accordance with the standards of the European Union and the best international practice.

Through the organization of a set of activities, the project is focused on direct influence to the achievement of the stated goals, which will contribute to the affirmation of the system of alternative sanctions and the existing repressive system of criminal sanctions can be humanized and rationalized. More precisely, through the analysis of the existing imposed and executed alternative sanctions in Montenegro, by courts and criminal offenses, with a focus on work in the public inter-

est and house arrest, the currently missing data will be collected and systematized, but also further debated on steps necessary to improve this system in Montenegro.

The project envisages the organization of a national conference and promotional campaign to raise public awareness of the importance of alternative sanctions, with best examples from comparative practice, as well as the implementation of a continuous information campaign through traditional and new media. In relation to the professional public, an advocacy campaign will be conducted on the need and advantages of the system of alternative sanctions.

The project “Restorative Justice - Alternative Sanctions to Resocialization” is financially supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro.

PROJECT: Contribution to the Development and Promotion of the Rights of Minority Peoples and Other Minority National Communities in Montenegro

About project

The Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) is implementing a project entitled “Contribution to the Development and Promotion of the Rights of Minority Peoples and Other Minority National Communities in Montenegro”, which aims to contribute to the protection and promotion of human and minority rights.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the pre-conditions for common life and equality of all citizens, through achieving a greater and more active role of members of minority peoples in conducting and creating public policies and the private sector of Montenegro. Achieving the project goals will be enabled through the implementation of project activities, with an emphasis on

those that directly involve members of minority peoples and other minority national communities. Training of members of minority peoples and other minority national communities with an expert, Ombudsman and a representative of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights on their rights significantly improved the knowledge and skills of members of minority peoples on their rights and opportunities. Furthermore, by attending seminars on ways to gather and participate in the public and private sectors, members of minority nations received concrete advices and ideas on ways to strengthen their position in the mentioned sectors. An in-depth examination of the institutional and legal framework as well as the results obtained from interviews with

representatives of institutions and representatives of private businesses and focus groups with members of minority nations and other minority national communities is part of analysis with detailed recommendations that contributes to targeting shortcomings improving the position of minority peoples and other minority national communities in Montenegro. The project conducts an anti-discrimination campaign to reduce ethnic distance in Montenegro.

The target groups of the project are, first of all, members of minority peoples and other minority national communities and members of councils

of minority peoples and other minority national communities, as well as the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, state administration bodies, representatives of the private sector, local governments, NGOs, media, and other actors that can contribute to solving the problem defined by the project.

The project is being implemented with the financial support of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

Project activities

Three-day seminar on the protection and promotion of the rights of minority peoples and other minority national communities

A three-day seminar entitled “Between Law and Practice: Key challenges in the field of protection and promotion of the rights of minority peoples and other minority national communities in Montenegro - equality in the public and private sectors” was held from July 29 to 31 at the Hotel “Slovenska plaza”.

The introductory speech and lectures on “Management of Ethnocultural Pluralism in Montenegro” and “Multiculturalism and Social Cohesion” were given by Ms. Danijela Vuković Čalasan, professor of minority policy at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Montenegro. She stressed the importance of achieving non-territorial minority self-government in Montenegro through further improvement of the work of minority councils and their position in the existing institutional framework, in accordance with the given competencies. She also emphasized that successful management of ethnocultural pluralism does not imply the exclusive use of measures and mechanisms of multiculturalism policy, but also the affirmation of plural identities at the level of individuals as well as increasing the degree of interaction, understanding and acceptance between communities. In this sense, it was about what the basic ideas of interculturalism are as a corrective, complementary model in minimizing

certain, potentially disintegrating effects of multiculturalism.

Mr. Siniša Bjeković, the Ombudsman of Montenegro, was also the speaker during the first day of the seminar. During his presentation, he introduced the participants to the functioning of the Ombudsman institution and pointed out that the trust of citizens in the institution is growing. Also, a discussion was initiated on the topic of protection and violation of minority rights in the field of employment and recommendations were given for improvements in that area.

During the second day of the seminar on the protection of the rights of minority peoples and other minority national communities in the Montenegrin legal order and the Minority Policy Strategy 2019-2023, Mr. Bojan Božović, teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Donja Gorica on human rights subjects and member of the Working Group for writing the Minority Policy Strategy 2019-2023. During the lecture, participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge from the practice of the European Court of Human Rights in the field of protection of minorities.

In the second part of the day, Mr. Leon Gjokaj, General director of the Directorate for the Promotion and Protection of Minority Rights in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, compared Montenegrin legislation and the international legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of minority rights. During the lecture, there was a discussion on the topic of minorities in the field of education, minorities in the media and languages. He pointed out that Montenegrin society has a strong basis when it comes to respect for minority rights, but that it is an unstoppable process that requires continuous work.

The third day of the seminar was focused on practical work. Workshops were led by Mr. Zlatko Vujović, professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences and President of the Governing Board of CeMI. Participants discussed about the system of positive discrimination in the electoral system and the distribution of mandates for minority parties. Mr. Vujović pointed out that the political representation of minorities in the Parliament is an important segment in a multicultural society such as Montenegro, that requires additional efforts.



Participants of the three-day seminar, 30 July 2020



Participants of the three-day seminar, 30 July 2020

Training for members of minority people and other minority national communities

Within the project “Contribution to the Development and Promotion of the Rights of Minority People and Other Minority National Communities in Montenegro” on July 31 at the Hotel “Slovenska plaza”, a training was held for members of minority people on political participation of minorities and their involvement in Parliament.

A professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences University of Montenegro and the president of

the Governing Board of CeMI spoke about the system of positive discrimination in the electoral system and the distribution of mandates for minority parties. Through two thematic workshops, Mr. Vujović presented the system of positive discrimination of minorities in the electoral system of Montenegro and the manner of distribution of seats in the Parliament.



Participants of the training, 31 July 2020



Participants of the training, 31 July 2020

Free legal aid



As part of this project, CeMI has continued its tradition of providing free legal aid which for four months provided free legal aid to members of minority peoples and other minority national communities in relation to unequal treatment before the judiciary. Free legal aid was provided by the CeMI legal team, with the support of human rights experts.

The aim of this activity was to improve access to justice for members of minority peoples and oth-

er minority national communities in the judicial process. Providing support encourages minorities to respond to cases of discrimination on national grounds and contributions increasing the level of knowledge about the rights that members of minority peoples and other minority national communities have.

Citizens were able to contact CeMI team for free legal aid on phone number 069-037/376 or email address bppmanjine@cemi.org.me.

PROJECT: Civic Election Monitoring of Parliamentary and Local Elections in Montenegro 2020

About project

The complexity of the political situation in Montenegro since the last parliamentary elections, and especially during 2019, then the conditions caused by COVID-19 pandemic are circumstances that gave clear indications that the parliamentary elections 2020 will be a great challenge and will attract a lot of attention.

In this process, as in many previous years, CeMI

had very important role in process of increasing the level of public trust in the electoral process by contributing to the foundation of democratic conditions for having transparent, free and fair parliamentary and local elections.

Team of election monitoring mission consisted of eight Core Team members: 1) Head of the Mission,

2) Deputy Head of the Mission, 3) Legal Analyst, 4) PVT Coordinator, 5) Legal Consultant, 6) PR Coordinator, 7) Legal Aid Adviser and 8) Researcher, 24 Local Coordinators and 1355 Short-Term observers.

The project of monitoring the parliamentary and local elections 2020 was supported by the British Embassy in Podgorica, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Belgrade.

Project activities

Monitoring of online media and social networks

Within the monitoring of Parliamentary elections in Montenegro 2020 CeMI conducted monitoring of online media and social networks during the election day and pre-election campaign on Facebook. Online media and social networks with the COVID-19 pandemic conditions in Montenegro have played a significant role during the electoral process for the 2020 parliamentary elections.

A prominent level of political parties' activities occurred through social medial campaigns, which recorded an increasing trend beginning in June when the elections were officially announced. With regard to Montenegrin political parties on Facebook, Prava CG (76,075) had the most likes, followed by the DF (53,704), Democratic Montenegro (DCG, 46,787), the URA (33,991) and the DPS (30,890). From March to August 2020, there was an average 11% increase in the number of political parties' page likes on Facebook.¹ Keeping in mind that there is no legislative framework in Montenegro that explicitly regulates online media and social networks, it is important to mention the obligation to respect Facebook rules on political advertising for all political entities in Montenegro. This obligation has been enforced since 5 August 2020. Therefore, the authors of the political advertisements were obliged to identify themselves, an approach that aimed to increase the transparency of political campaigns and responsibility of political entities on social networks before the parliamentary elections. With regard to that issue, the data on authorized advertisers or the author of the advertisement that are submitted to Facebook shall be available in the Ad Library for the next 7 years. Besides political parties, Facebook pages that are characterized as 'politicians' have also been involved in political campaigns and registered increased activity levels during the electoral pro-

cess.

Aside from the above mentioned high activities of political parties and politicians on social networks, various web pages, groups and meme profiles were used during the election campaign to disseminate the political parties' and politicians' messages to voters.

CeMI prepared a comprehensive analysis of political social media activities and online behaviours during the electoral period for the 2020 parliamentary elections in Montenegro. In that report, CeMI presented strong evidence suggesting coordination among the monitored Facebook entities (pages, groups and meme accounts) and the involvement of individuals, groups and media outlets outside of Montenegro, indicating that the network of entities may be directed by or be acting in coordination with foreign actors.



¹ *Reshaping the Electoral run through the usage of Social Media in Montenegro*, Final Report, CeMI-IFES, 2020

Election day monitoring



Maja Bjelic, PR Coordinator and Zlatko Vujovic, Head of Mission, 30 August 2020

Within the election observation mission CeMI monitored most of the polling stations all around the Montenegro. For monitoring of election day CeMI accredited 1355 short term observers and had 24 local coordinators.

CeMI conducted election day monitoring in partnership with the PR Center, which hosted CeMI staff, an operational centre for collecting data from the field, a legal centre for reporting irregularities during election day and the media.

Election day monitoring was realised through five groups of activities:

1. Monitoring the implementation of election procedures at PSs – opening, voting, closing of PSs and counting/tabulation of votes, continuous communication of observers with operators and the legal centre to collect the data on voter turnout and irregularities during election day;

2. Partial parallel voting tabulation (PPVT) on a representative sample of results from PSs on the basis of which CeMI announced the first forecast of results and the distribution of mandates at the national and local level;

3. Parallel voting tabulation (PVT) based on the results from almost all PSs collected by short-term observers and mobile teams that visited several PSs during the day and monitored the work of MECs during the tabulation of results at the local level;

4. Monitoring the work of MECs and the SEC;

5. Media and public relations – data on voter turnout and irregularities during election day were communicated through five regular press conferences, while the data on estimates of results in national and local elections were presented through three conferences held after PSs had closed. All conferences were broadcast live, and our findings were reported by a total of 17 media outlets, four television stations and 45 journalists. The findings were also available simultaneously on CeMI's social networks and its website.

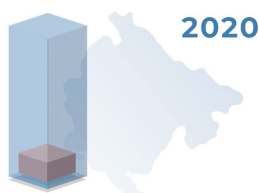


Maja Bjelic, PR Coordinator and Zlatko Vujovic, Head of Mission, 30 August 2020 Maja Bjelic, PR Coordinator for Election Monitoring mission of Parliamentary and Local Elections to Montenegro 2020, 30 August 2020

Monitoring the implementation of election procedures at PSs was conducted by CeMI's short-term observers divided at almost all polling stations. They informed the team of operators about their findings on a regular basis according to a pre-determined schedule. Before the election day, observers attended training organized in a "hybrid" format, combining the physical presence of speakers and network inclusion via Zoom platform for observers.

During the election day CeMI had accredited representatives for monitoring work of MECs and SECs and received regular updates of their work.

CeMI regularly informed the public via its press conferences on voter turnout, irregularities, voting trends and the projection of election results after PSs had closed. Press conferences were held at 09:15 h, 11:15 h, 13:15 h, 17:15 h and 19:15 h. At these press conferences, CeMI presented to citizens comparative analysis indicating the number of voters who voted during the 2012 and 2016 parliamentary elections. CeMI held five regular press conferences during election day and three press conferences during the election night, when projections of election results were made in line with the percentage of the processed sample and presented to citizens.



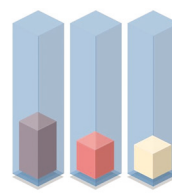
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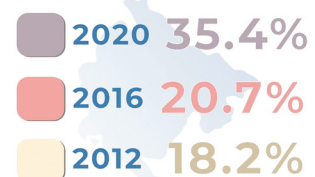


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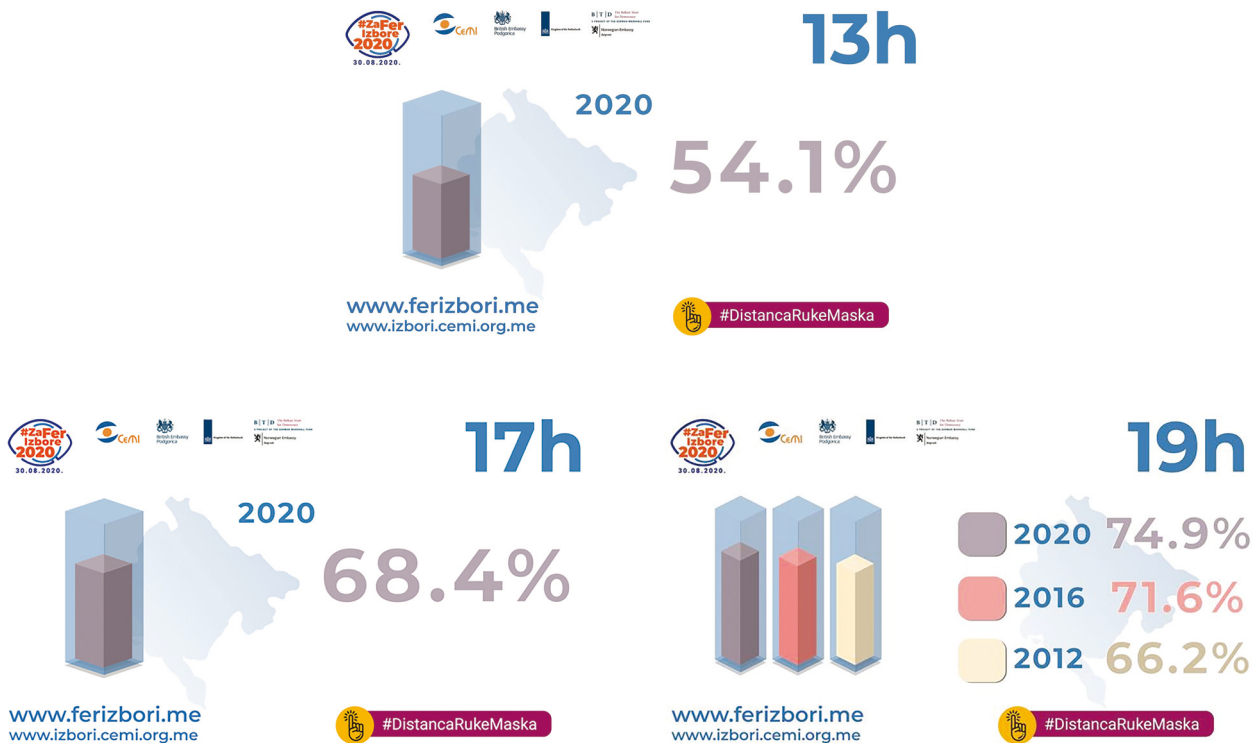


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#DistancaRukeMaska



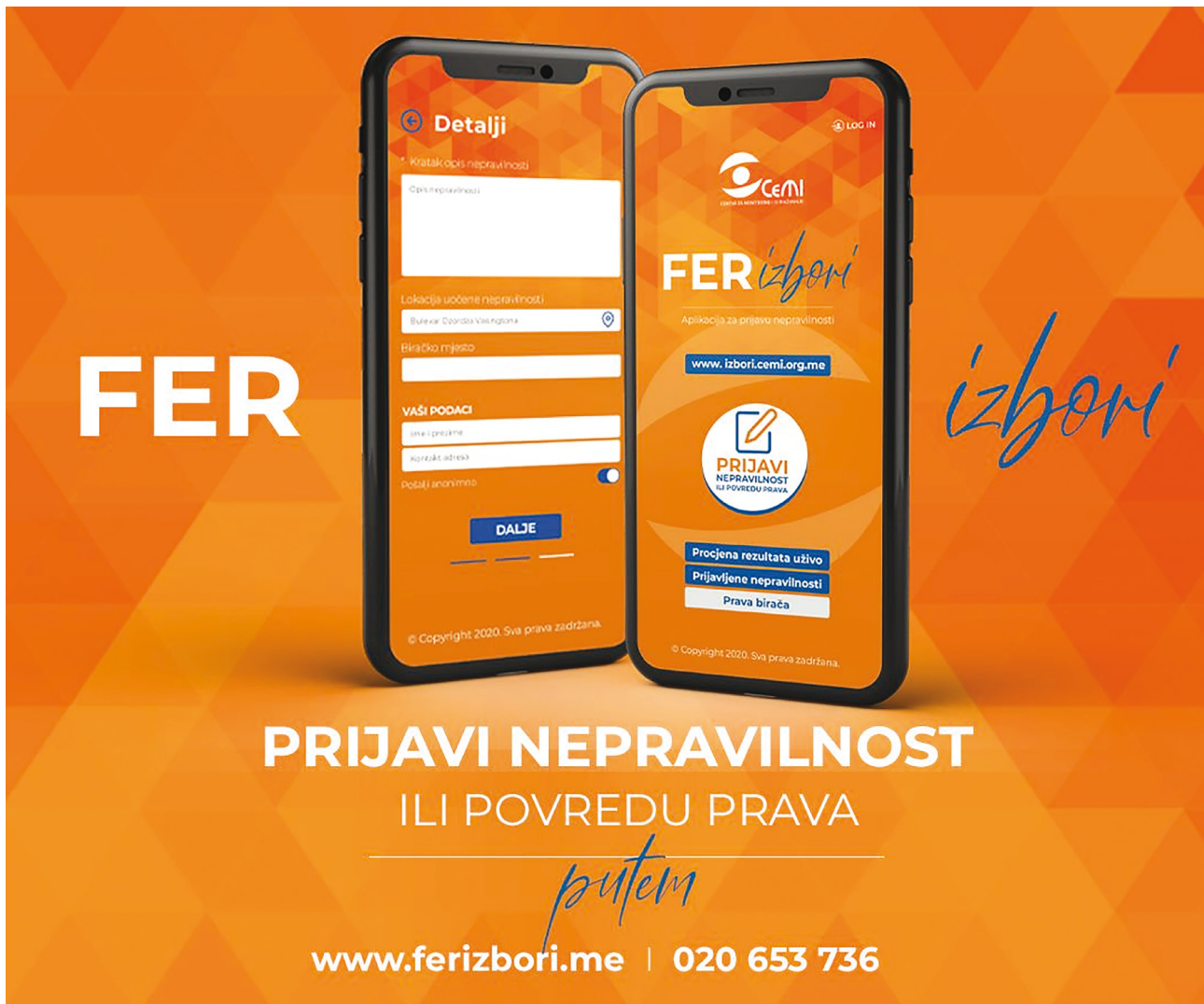
CeMI informed the public about irregularities from PSs from all around Montenegro, based on the information gathered from the observers in the field and citizens who informed CeMI during election day about the irregularities perceived via the application 'Fair Elections'

(www.ferizbori.me) and phone number 020 653 756. Until the end of election day, CeMI's Legal Team received 728 reports on irregularities, out of which 91 were related to violations of NCB Recommendations and SEC Technical Recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



CeMI enabled citizens to watch live broadcasting of projections of the voter turnout and projections of the election results on three national TV stations, namely Radio Television of Montenegro (RTCG), TV Vijesti, TV Prva and one cable tele-

vision TV Pink M, which were directly connected to CeMI's software used for elaboration of data



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obtained from our observers.

The 'Fair Elections' service except enabling monitoring possible irregularities during the election process and its reporting had also informative purpose. This endeavour primarily enables the observers, but also the citizens/voters, to report irregularities and violations of voting rights in real time, directly to CeMI's Legal Team. During the entire election day, Android and iOS applications, a web portal and two open lines for direct communication with CeMI's Legal Team were available to citizens. Through the 'Fair Elections' service, CeMI's Legal Team received 728 reports of irregularities. Along with processing the received reports on irregularities, CeMI's Legal Team made the most characteristic irregulari-

ties and violations accessible to the Montenegrin public through the web portal and 'Fair Elections' application, thus contributing to the transparency of the election process, but also pointing out the most common irregularities and violations of electoral rights, so that citizens can recognize and report other eventual irregularities and violations. The number of submitted reports indicates that the availability of the 'Fair Elections' service and real-time publication made citizens/voters free to report possible irregularities and violations of their rights. The 'Fair Elections' application was downloaded 8,943 times. Of that number, 8,116 downloads were from the Google Play Store and 827 were from the Apple Store.

When it comes to the projections of the election results by CeMI, already around 11 p.m., and three hours after the polls closed, CeMI gave its final assessment of the results of Parliamentary elections. The average deviation from its evaluations of the percentage of votes obtained by the political parties was 0.08% in relation to the final results, which is much lower than the announced possible errors of $\pm 1\%$.

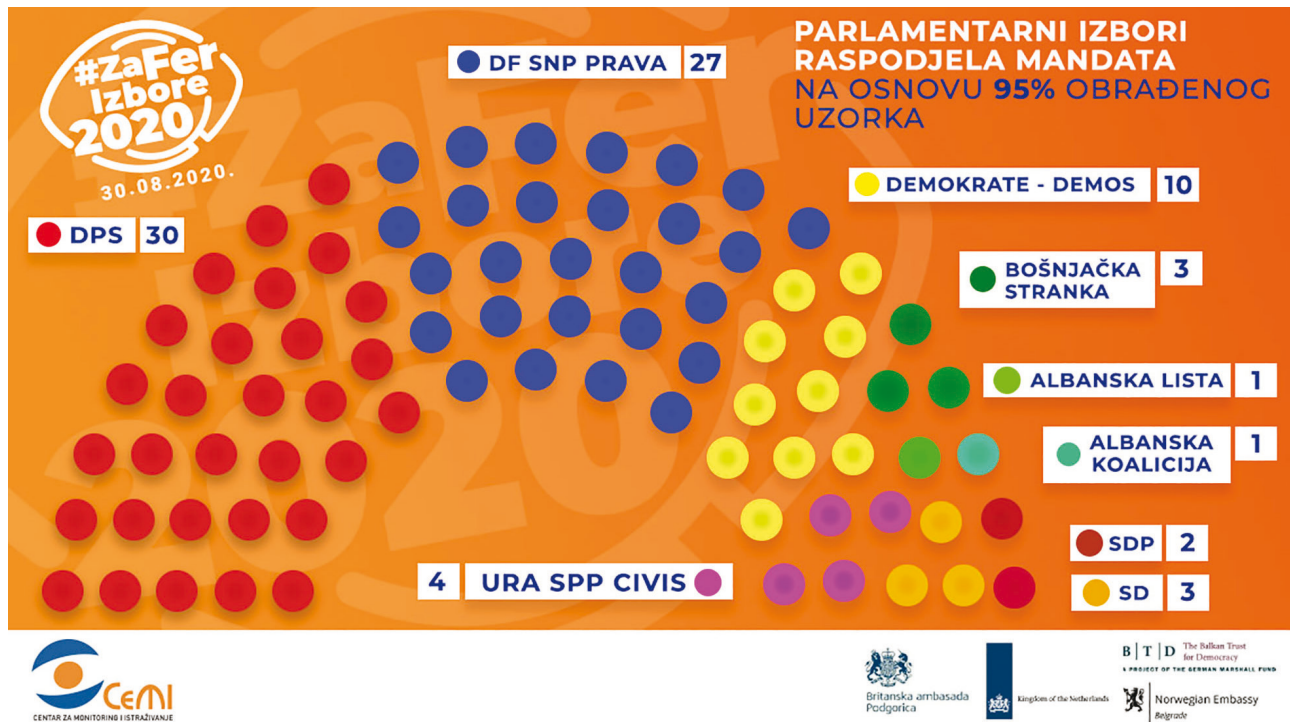
CeMI has justified the reputation of the most serious civil society organization that monitors the elections in Montenegro. And during this elec-

tion day, CeMI showed results of dedicated work, speed, accuracy and reliability of data. This is also witnessed by the assessment of the final election results, a comprehensive final report with a large number of clear and concrete recommendations for improving all aspects of the electoral process, the great interest of the media to be accredited for the election day in CeMI.



Zlatko Vujovic, Head of Mission, Maja Bjelic PR Coordinator, 30 August 2020

Final Report "Civic Monitoring of the Parliamentary and Local Elections – Montenegro 2020



CeMI's projections of the distribution of mandates based on 95% of the processed sample

This report is a final product of the project, and in this annual report we represented one part of it in order to give a general assessment of the election process. In final chapter of the report are summarized recommendations for future improvement.

CeMI has made 57 recommendations, out of which: a) 20 are related to Parliament of Montenegro, 9 are related to State Election Commission, 6 are related to Municipal Election Commissions, 1 to Constitutional court, 1 is related to Prosecutor's offices and courts, 3 are related to Ministry of the Interior, 7 to the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and 4 to the Political subjects and 6 to the relation to the media.

Comparison of CeMI's projections of parliamentary election results with official results:

Electoral list	CeMI %	CeMI seats	DIK %	DIK seats	Difference in %	Difference on seats
Availability	98%		100%			
The Social Democrats of Montenegro – Ivan Brajović – We decide CONSISTENTLY	4.20%	3	4.10%	3	0.1%	0.00%
Bosniak party – Correctly – Rafet Husović	4.00%	3	3.98%	3	0.02%	0.00%
Croatian civic initiative. WITH ALL HEART FOR MONTENEGRO	0.20%	0	0.27%	0	-0.07%	0.00%
Social Democratic party – STRONG MONTENEGRO!	3.10%	2	3.14%	2	-0.04%	0.00%
CROATIAN REFORM PARTY – HRS	0.10%	0	0.13%	0	-0.03%	0.00%
dr Dritan Abazović – Black and white – dr Srđan Pavićević – (Civil movement URA, Justice and reconciliation party, Group of voters-CIVIS i independent intellectuals-Citizens!	5.70%	4	5.53%	4	0.17%	0.00%
Albanian Coalition "Unanimously " Democratisation party, Democratic Union of Albanian and Democratic alliance in Montenegro	1.10%	1	1.14%	1	-0.04%	0.00%
Decisively for Montenegro! DPS – Milo Đukanović	35.10%	30	35.06%	30	0.04%	0.00%
Coalition FOR THE FUTURE OF MONTENEGRO – Democratic front (New Serbian democracy, Democratic people's party), Socialist people's party of Montenegro, True Montenegro, United Montenegro, Worker's party, Party of united pensioners and invalids of Montenegro, Yugoslav Communist party of Montenegro, Serbian radical party	32.60%	27	32.55%	27	0.05%	0.00%
ALBANIAN LIST – Genci Nimanbegu, Nik Đeljošaj	1.30%	1	1.58%	1	-0.28%	0.00%
ALEKSA BEČIĆ – MIODRAG LEKIĆ – "PEACE IS OUR NATION" – DEMOCRATS – DEMOCRATIC MONTENEGRO – DEMOS – PARTY OF PENSIONERS, INVALIDS AND RESTITUTION – CIVIC MOVEMENT NEW LEFT	12.50%	10	12.53%	10	-0.03%	0.00%
Average deviation					0.08	0.00

Priority recommendations

1. Electoral reform – It is necessary to implement a comprehensive electoral reform that would include the adoption of a new (1) Law on the Election of Councillors and Representatives, as well as the related laws: (2) the Law on the Electoral Register and (3) the Law on the Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns. The reform should also include subsequent amendments to a set of related laws: (4) the Law on Electronic Media, (5) the Law on the Registers of Permanent and Temporary Residence and (6) the Law on the Prevention of Corruption. Comprehensive reform would regulate all the issues from this and the previous electoral processes. Codification of election laws should also be considered.
2. Complete professionalisation and depoliticization of the SEC and partial professionalisation and depoliticization of MECs – It is necessary to bring about complete professionalisation and depoliticization with regard to the SEC composition. This endeavour would comprise 3–5 professionals from the field of law, as well as professionalise and depoliticise the role of the presidents of MECs.

Other recommendations

A. To the Parliament of Montenegro

1. The Law on the Election of MPS and Councillors should be amended to provide individuals with an opportunity to submit individual candidacy for an MP or a councillor position.
2. It is necessary to introduce preferential voting, with more preferential votes (3) available to the voter. This change will increase the influence of voters with regard to selecting specific candidates, and it will strengthen the link between citizens and their elected representatives.
3. A precise procedure in the Law on the Election of MPs and Councillors should be introduced for how an electoral list can be registered as a minority, and on that basis draws the rights to the minority representation.
4. Equal rights of members of Roma should be ensured through amendments of the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs, who do not have equal status with members of minority communities that make up a similar percentage of the total population. The obligation to prepare a certain part of the election material in the Roma language should be established.
5. In accordance with the international obligations that Montenegro has accepted, it is necessary to define the scope of election monitoring under the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs in a way that allows domestic and foreign observers of the election process to have free access to election materials. The number of signatures required to certify the electoral list should be reduced, with the introduction of mandatory verification of the authenticity of signatures by notaries. A limit on the price of this service should be introduced so that it is not a limiting factor for the nomination of candidates.
6. The legal limitation that one citizen can support only one electoral list with his signature should be removed.
7. Voting abuses should be prevented by establishing a precise provision on the conditions for a ballot to be valid, instead of the current insufficiently precise provision on situations where the ballot is invalid. These changes should prevent compromising the secrecy of voting by labelling ballots with different geometric shapes or ornaments, combined with different colours.
8. The Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs should be amended to enable the professionalisation of the SEC in such a way that the commission would comprised 3–5 professionals in the field of law (preferably with an emphasis on the right to vote). The proposed professionalisation of the SEC would allow it to function more seriously and efficiently and strengthen the capacity and established procedures necessary for the planning and operation of this institution. The latest public opinion poll conducted by CeMI indicates that more experts need to be introduced to the SEC. Specifically, 65.5% of respondents estimate that the SEC should consist of a combination of representatives of political parties and independent experts, with a dominance of experts.
9. It is necessary to professionalise the position of the president of the MEC, who would be appointed to that position on the basis of legally determined criteria, via public competition, by the SEC. Other members would be appointed by political parties according to a similar model.
10. In the future, the representatives of the confirmed electoral lists should not participate in the work of the SEC and have the right to vote; they should only have the right to observe the work and inspect SEC documentation.
11. It is necessary to more precisely, clearly and legally regulate the election of members of MECs and PBs, as this would not depend on political turmoil and the decisions of the MECs or the SEC.
12. It is necessary to amend the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs so that all the aspects of functioning of PBs would be thoroughly regulated by law.
13. The Law on Prevention of Corruption needs to be amended to give the APC stronger competencies and enable it to conduct administrative investigations. The Law on the election of councilors and deputies should be amended in order to regulate the behavior and use of

social media during the election silence.

14. To put all categories of political entities on an equal footing, it is necessary to redefine the term political entity and adjust the deadlines for reporting costs during the campaign in a way that leaves no room for non-compliance with the Law on Financing Political Entities and Election Campaigns.
15. State financing of regular work and pre-election campaigns of political parties should be legally conditioned by introducing into the statutes and implementing democratic procedures of selection of candidates for MP and councillors, as well as direct selection of party's leadership by their members.
16. The Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs should be updated to address the behaviours and use of social media during the electoral silence day.
17. To ensure full respect for the principle of electoral silence, we believe that the law should stipulate that the responsibility for the observance of the electoral silence on social networks should lie with the political entities who are participating in the elections, rather than with social media.
18. To put all political entities on an equal footing, it is necessary to redefine the terminology of the concept of a political entity and adapt the deadlines for reporting on the costs of ongoing campaigns in such a way that leaves no room for non-compliance with the Law on the Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns.
19. The Law on Financing of the Political Entities and Election Campaigns should be updated to address the use of social media during campaigning.

B. To the State Election Commission

20. It is necessary to adopt new procedural rules for the SEC that would regulate all disputable situations in this election cycle, as well as previous cycles (recording sessions, recording and approving the minutes during the session, the manner of putting certain questions to a vote, adoption of a complaint mechanism, the length of breaks, the necessary number of members to put proposals on the agenda and

the length of and reasons for pauses in work, among other issues).

21. The media should be provided access to SEC meetings.
22. Particular attention should be paid to verify the authenticity of signatures to avoid abuse.
23. The SEC should introduce a live broadcast of its session through the Internet, especially when there is an epidemiological emergency such as a pandemic.
24. It is also necessary to enable members of the Roma community to have election material in their own language, to enable them to fully exercise their voting rights.
25. Carrying accreditation is not an obligation in either the Rules of the Work of PBs or in the Manual for Training of PBs. To reduce the room for abuse by unauthorised people, it is necessary to introduce this obligation in a by-law.
26. The SEC should indicate to the PBs the importance of working with a full composition so that there are no situations in which the PBs conduct elections as four members and not five as provided by the Law on the Election of Councillors and MPs.
27. The practice of PSs regarding the treatment of people who are not recognised by the electronic identification device should be standardised.
28. It is necessary to work on educating the presidents and members of the PBs on the ban on the use of mobile phones at PSs.

C. To Municipal Election Commissions

29. The MECs should protect the integrity of the electoral process so that the determination and declaration of the electoral lists will be made pursuant to the Law on the Election of Councillors and Representatives and according to pre-established procedures. The MECs should exclude from the electoral process all electoral lists that do not meet the formal legal conditions for participation in the elections.
30. Conditions at PSs for people with disabilities should be improved – to solve the problem of obstacles or designate other PSs – to avoid voting outside the PS.
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32. Work is required to update the existing MEC websites with regard to proactive action and publishing information important for conducting elections.
33. The practice of PSs regarding the treatment of people who are not recognised by the electronic identification device should be standardised.
34. It is necessary to ensure the consistent application of the legal obligation to respect the provisions concerning the representation of women on electoral lists, and to prevent the acceptance of electoral lists that do not respect the number and position of women on the list as prescribed by law.

D. To the Constitutional Court

35. The practice of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro in deciding on the appeals in the electoral process should be harmonised to avoid legal uncertainty.

E. To State Prosecutor Offices and Courts

36. Possible violations of the right to vote should be prosecuted more efficiently than in previous election processes.

F. To the Ministry of Interior Affairs

37. Automated control and deduplication of fingerprints through the AFIS system should continue, and control of identical photo identities in the voter register should be introduced. With this endeavour, the abuse of voter register would be prevented in the case of people who have been issued multiple identification cards with different identities.
38. There should be new mechanisms for better updating the voter register so that there are fewer examples of registered voters who should not be in the voter register. Alternatively, consider other models (at least temporarily until the voter register is updated), such as an active voter register, or the introduction of compulsory voting, modelled in other

countries.

39. The cooperation between the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the SEC in the election process should be at a much higher level.

G. To the Agency for Prevention of Corruption

40. Despite significant progress, it is necessary to improve the proactivity of the APC with regard to training people who are subject to the law.
41. A more proactive role of the APC is necessary in terms of monitoring observance of the Law on Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns, through warnings and more objective and efficient filing of misdemeanour charges against those political entities that violate the law, to ensure transparency in this part of their work and to inform citizens about how their campaigns are financed.
42. The APC must create a database of potentially risky individuals and legal entities to reduce the risk of unauthorised influence and indirect action of these people outside the period in which the election campaign takes place.
43. The APC should continuously and comprehensively monitor social benefits and employment in Montenegro, in the election year, on a quarterly basis, for a more complete picture of possible abuses.
44. It is necessary to work on further improvement of the APC's PR strategy, and thus contribute to the transparency and proactivity of the APC activities as well as inform the interested public to a greater degree. The use of creative audio-visual solutions (infographics, storytelling videos and animations) during and outside the period of election campaign, and in connection with key findings, would contribute to a positive impact on the APC's public reputation.
45. The APC should adopt new tactics to monitoring of abuses of state resources adapted to the online environment and work on capacity building for the collection of evidence of abuse of state resources using new technologies.
46. The APC should investigate potential participation of the SOC in financing the political campaign of the coalition 'For the Future of

Montenegro, keeping in mind that the leaders of this coalition have informed the public that the SOC participated in the management of their campaign.

H. To political subjects

47. We urge all political entities to reduce the overall level of politicisation of the electoral process and of the bodies for conducting elections to increase the overall level of professionalism of the electoral bodies and restore public confidence in the election and the election results.
48. Political entities should bear in mind the general public interest, should respect the norms of electoral legislation and should not abuse legal loopholes and legal uncertainties for the personal interests of individuals or parties.
49. We believe that political entities should refrain from negative personal campaigns, as well as the use of minors for the purpose of political marketing.
50. Political entities and their leaders should also respect the electoral silence on social networks.
51. The legal framework for the media needs to be improved in a way that ensures equal treatment of electoral subjects.
52. RTCG, as a public broadcaster, should provide balanced coverage of political entities during the election campaign.
53. Private media should ensure balanced reporting about the participants in the electoral process.
54. Media should be educated about disinformation campaigns, in particular during elections, and should establish an intersectoral cooperation with CSOs for combating online disinformation.
55. Media should conduct online awareness raising campaigns about digital rights and ways to protect human rights.

PROJECT: Social Media monitoring - Pilot project

About project

Aim of the pilot project of monitoring social networks was to contribute to solving the problem of unsatisfactory methodological and legal framework related to misuses on social networks, in particular, focusing on monitoring online activities that suggest violations of the rules of political campaigns and Facebook community standards in the light of the 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Montenegro. The overall goal of the project was to contribute to the total integrity of the electoral process in Montenegro, in order to provide voters with an informed choice. Project goal is ensured by achieving a specific goal that emphasizes transparency increase and accountability for activities and behaviors on social networks during the election period, through monitoring activities of coordinated inauthentic behavior during the election campaign.

Within the project, the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) in cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) built a monitoring system using the CrowdTangle platform to examine how political and other entities use Facebook and identify evidences of violations of the Facebook community's campaign and standards, foreign influence, interference in the choice of voters, and examined whether there were indications of coordinated inauthentic behavior in relation to how candidates and campaigns used Facebook. As part of this project, IFES and CeMI, in partnership with Facebook, developed a scalable programming system that pursued the broad goal of bringing additional transparency to information on the Internet during the election process.

Project activities

Trainings with partners

CeMI is the first non-governmental organization in Montenegro which, in cooperation with partners, established a monitoring system through the CrowdTangle platform. This enabled the collection and processing of those data that may indicate elements of coordinated inauthentic behavior during the election campaign, namely hate speech and organized negative campaigns, which are conducted in order to discredit political opponents during the election process.

We are especially pleased that CeMI implemented the project according to the same methodology previously developed and applied by prestigious institutions such as the Stanford Internet Observatory (USA), Urbino University (Italy) and Memo98 (Slovakia).

Bearing in mind all the challenges posed by the development of digital technologies and the popularity and influence of social networks on shap-

ing public opinion, as well as the fact that due to the specific situation caused by Covid, the party's political campaign was predominantly on social networks, the project primarily was implemented in order to protect voters and their right to be informed and have a free choice.

That is why the special focus of CeMI was on identifying possible foreign influences on the electoral process in Montenegro, and thus on the free choice and will of the voters, but also on gathering evidence on cases of misuse of state resources in the online space.

CeMI published a report on the collected data, identified irregularities and steps taken in cooperation with partners in order to prevent such occurrences in the Montenegrin public space, and thus protect the right of voters to free choice.

In order to inform the citizens of Montenegro,

CeMI published a publication on rights and responsibilities online, with an analysis of the existing legal and institutional framework in Montenegro, and best international practice, as well as an e-brochure on their digital rights and how to protect them in Montenegro.

E-brochure

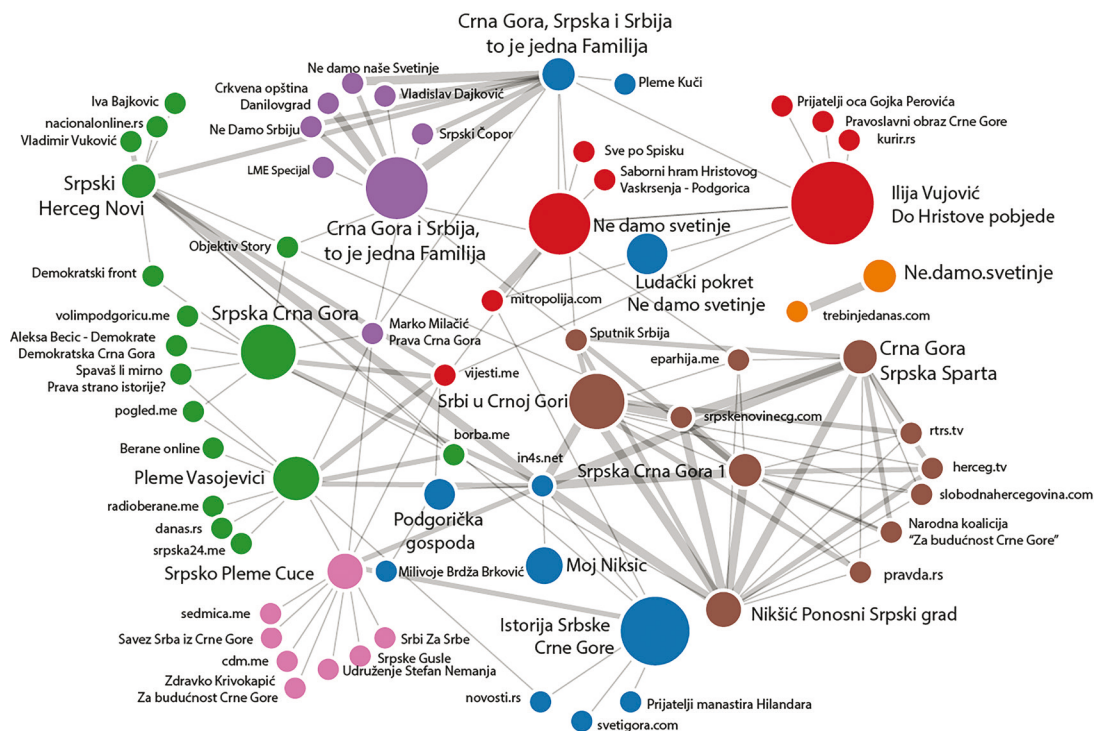


The Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), within the Pilot Project, has prepared an e-brochure, which aims to inform the citizens of Montenegro about the risks that exist in the cyberspace during election campaigns, as well as how to protect their rights and freedoms on the Internet.

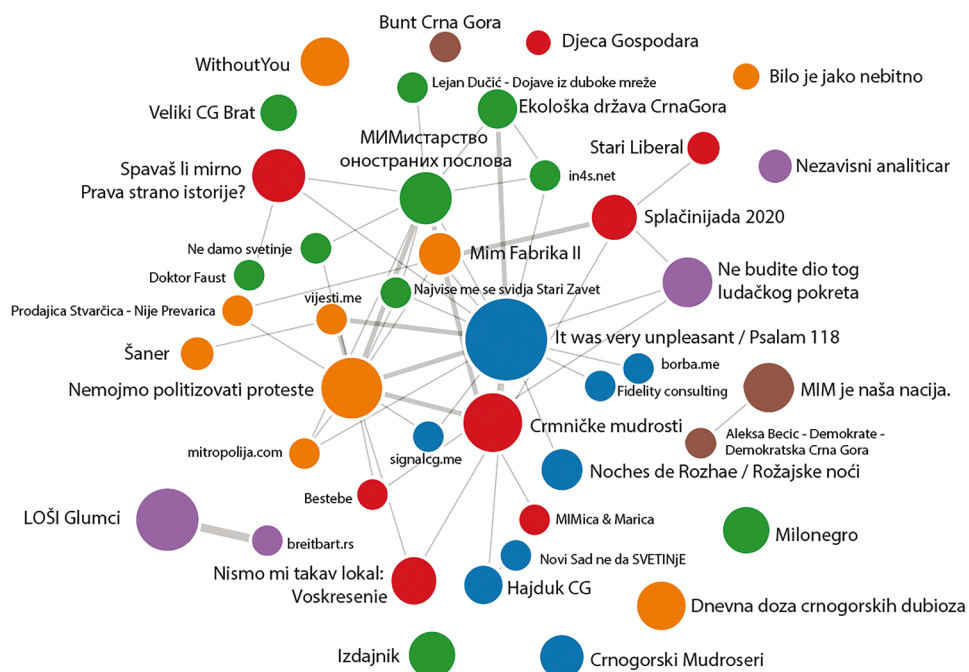
Bearing in mind all the challenges posed by the development of digital technologies and the popularity and influence of social networks on shaping public opinion, as well as the fact that due to the specific situation caused by Covid, the party's political campaign takes place predominantly on the Internet, the Pilot project is primarily implemented in order to protect voters and their right to informed and free choice.

Analytical Paper

As part of the Pilot project for monitoring social networks, the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) has prepared a publication on rights and responsibilities in the online space, along with an analysis of the existing legal and institutional framework in Montenegro, and best international practice in the field of social media.



Link-sharing behavior - Pages



Link-sharing behavior - Meme accounts



Link-sharing behavior – Groups

Press conference for presenting Final report

Within the project has been prepared a final report of monitoring social medias during the election campaign which was presented during the press conference held on 18th December at PR Center.

In Montenegro, the creation and use of various pages, groups and meme accounts on social networks is on the rise in order to reach as many voters as possible, which can have negative consequences on the electoral process, because political subjects, not revealing their authentic goals, influence the political opinion of citizens.

Media analyst at CeMI, Milica Zrnović, said that the monitoring was conducted on the most frequently used social media platform in Montenegro, Facebook, in the period from March to August, and that the Crowd Tangle platform was used for it.

“This report is the first of its kind published in Montenegro in connection with coordinated inauthentic behavior and the collection of evidence on the misuse of state resources on and off the Internet. Coordinated inauthentic behavior is defined as a group of pages or people working together to deceive others about who they are or what they are doing”, Zrnović said.

Speaking about the monitoring of coordinated inauthentic behavior, as she said, CeMI monitored 51 public accounts (17 pages, eight groups and 26 meme pages and profiles) and 134.6 thousand of shared contents in the period from March to August 2020.

Regarding the misuse of state resources, CeMI monitored 59 public pages and accounts (19 state bodies, 9 public companies, 20 political parties and 11 profiles categorized as “politicians”) and

18,999 contents distributed over a six-month period. In addition, in both cases, 25 media were monitored, during the analysis of behavior that could suggest the existence of coordinated behavior and abuse of state resources on social networks”, Zrnović pointed out.

She said the data indicate that the use of technology, especially social media for political purposes, is a trend in Montenegro.

She pointed out that civil society organizations and the media play an important role, not only in terms of educating citizens and conducting campaigns to raise awareness of digital rights and threats on the Internet, but also in terms of strengthening our own capacities in the use of new technologies and the fight against deceptive campaigns, such as misinformation, false news, etc.

CeMI Executive Director Teodora Gilić explained that the focus of the project was on monitoring social networks ahead of the parliamentary elections held this year.

“It is important to emphasize that social media is not regulated by Montenegrin legislation, so the goal of monitoring was to assess the manner and rate of use of social media during the political campaign in Montenegro, namely to assess whether there was a violation of Facebook community standards”, Gilić said.

You can download the Final report “Reshaping the election campaign using social media in Montenegro” on the following link [finalni-izvjestaj2020CeMI-2.pdf](#)



Executive director of CeMI, Ms Teodora Gilić and Public policy researcher Ms Milica Zrnović, 18th December 2020

PROJECT: Society without prejudices: Solidarity to equality and inclusion

About project

The project “Society without prejudice: Solidarity to equality and inclusion” aims to contribute to the fight against discrimination and strengthening intercultural tolerance between the local population and migrants in Montenegro. Achieving this goal will be done through the achievement of two results: increased information of citizens about the rights of migrants and strengthened participation and social cohesion of migrants and the local population.

Implementation of project activities, specifically through informal education of young people, as well as through activities aimed at direct involvement of migrants in project implementation, will

contribute to the improvement of the awareness of the local population, promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, stimulate the integration of migrants into Montenegrin society, and will make a positive contribution to preventing discrimination, intolerance and the overall social marginalization of individual migration groups, all in line with EU best practices and standards.

Project is financially supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the project “Regional Support to Protective and Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA II Funds)”.

Project activities

Competition for an erudition programme in the field of immigration policies of the EU and Montenegro and other activities of the legal team

Through the project “Society without Prejudice: Solidarity to Equality and Inclusion” CeMI announced a public competition for an erudition programme in the field of immigration policies of the EU and Montenegro, as well as for participation in the implementation of other activities of the legal team.

CeMI offered challenging activities in which students will have the opportunity to through

practical work in a period of two months, with a monthly fee of € 350, expanding their theoretical knowledge and gaining practical experience in the field of rights, protection and integration of migrants, and thus assist in making recommendations whose implementation will lead to further strengthening of the migration management system in Montenegro.

CeMIs' initiatives

On July 4, 2020, the Centre for Monitoring and Research called on the deputies of the Parliament of Montenegro to propose and adopt an amendment to Article 44, paragraph 1, of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns by urgent procedure, in the part Employment and employee engagement, in which com-

panies whose founder and/or majority or partial owner of states or local self-government units are “left out”, from a number of entities to which the ban on employment during the election period applies. It was concluded that the norm defined in this way leaves room for violations, unhindered and non-transparent political employment

in these companies during the election period.² Although a new Law on the Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns was passed at the end of 2019 (December), except for the number of articles which was 33 in the Law from 2015, in the new Law it was changed to the Article 44, there is no other change because the text relating

to this article has remained essentially the same.³ Despite the proposal of CeMI to amend this article as a matter of urgency due to possible violations during the election process, this initiative in 2020 was not accepted by the state authorities, nor was it mentioned within the issues that need to be worked on.

CeMI as Secretary General of ENEMO

As a Secretary General of European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) during 2020 CeMI implemented two international election observation missions.

During 2020 for the first time IEOM of Local elections to Ukraine 2020 and IEOM of Presidential

elections to Moldova were organized in hybrid format of monitoring elections. Representatives of Core Teams were based in the country, while other part of CT together with long-term observers (LTOs) worked remotely due the COVID – 19 pandemics.

ENEMO IEOM TO UKRAINE: LOCAL ELECTIONS 2020

Composition of the IEOM:

- **9 CT members**
- **48 LTOs**

With support of Central Election Commission, USAID through the National Democratic Institute (NDI), ENEMO IEOM to Ukraine deployed 9 Core Team members 3 of them based in Ukraine and 6 of them working abroad, as well as 48 remote virtual long-term observers (LTOs) who were briefed, trained and worked remotely due the COVID – 19 pandemics. LTOs virtually observed the pre-electoral period as well as the E-day of both rounds and post-election period.

ENEMO's mission conducted a range of activities, including the observation of pre-electoral conduct of election contestants and election management bodies, the election campaign, the possible abuse of state resources and the work of the media; then the voting on Election Day and tabulation of results on polling stations.

Over the duration of the mission, ENEMO remote long-term observers conducted 1727 online

meetings with key electoral stakeholders, including election management bodies, political parties and candidates, state officials, media, civil society organizations and other interlocutors, in addition to remotely observing 60 campaign activities (meetings or rallies) with the help of their local assistants.

On Election Day, ENEMO deployed three Core members in Kyiv who visited a few polling stations at the first round and other six core member and LTOs remotely observed polling process from publicly available sources and spoke online with several interlocutors taking a part in electoral process (Election management bodies, local observers, parties, candidates, media, police and courts).

As a final product of monitoring mission ENEMO published Final report with 30 recommendations.

² <https://www.facebook.com/CeMIMontenegro/posts/3142970335764198>

³ <http://www.mans.co.me/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Tilman-uskla%C4%91enost-Crne-Gore-sa-preporukama-.pdf>

ENEMO IEOM TO MOLDOVA: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2020

- **Composition of the IEOM:**
- **8 CT members**
- **8 LTOs**
- **26 STOs (35 for second round)**

ENEMO's international observation mission for the November Presidential Elections in Moldova is financially supported by the Delegation of the European Union, Government Offices of Sweden, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the National Democratic Institute.

The mission was monitoring and assessing the overall political and electoral environment, respect for the rights to elect and stand for election, conduct of election management bodies, campaigning, gender equality, voting and tabulation processes, election dispute resolution and other crucial aspects of the process, based on interna-

tional standards for democratic elections and the legal framework of Moldova. Until the second round's Election day the IEOM has conducted a total of 460 meetings, with election management bodies, presidential candidates, political parties, state officials, the international community, domestic civil society organizations, and media; in addition to observing 75 campaign activities (meetings or rallies).

As a products of IEOM to Moldova ENEMO published Interim report, two Preliminary Statements for both rounds of Presidential elections and the Final report is being prepared.

CeMI on social networks

Since CeMI appeared on social networks, the number of people that follow our work has been constantly growing. This positive trend continued this year too.

Instagram

In 2020, CeMI shared 59 posts. Number of likes of all posts from 2020 is 1472, while the current number of followers is 1.006. On the other hand, most liked post, with 97 likes, was video Secrecy of voting is crucial for elections - IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW NO ONE, but NO ONE can know to whom you have given YOUR VOTE, available on following link : <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CEUgmyJGer/?igshid=1vbcao4hlwb34>



YouTube

In previous year, 29 videos were shared on CeMI's YouTube channel. Number of views for all videos is 11.253. Most liked video of this year was titled "Maja Bjelić, pr koordinatorka cemi-ja, pres u 19h". The Most Viewed video was "Maja Bjelić, pr koordinatorka cemi-ja, pres u 9h", which got 8,167 views. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCk-UvNHmnug&feature=youtu.be>

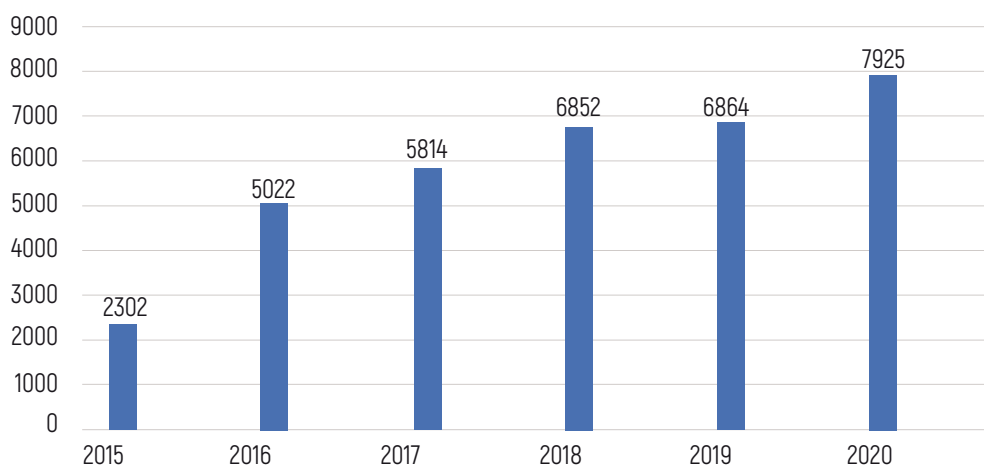
Twitter

During 2020, on Twitter CeMI posted 143 tweets which had almost 1.9million impressions. Number of followers increased by 1.710 new followers, which is almost double compared to the number of followers from 2019, which was 1.954. Our Twitter page were mentioned 291 times and had almost 113.704 visits.

Facebook

CeMI's Facebook page shared 69 photos, 7 links and 11 videos. Facebook videos in total got 231.687 views. Altogether, there were 3,742 interactions and 3 178 likes, 2,024 interactions related to photos while others were links, Facebook videos, Facebook lives and YouTube videos.

When it comes to our Facebook page, it records a constant growth. Number of followers in 2020 has increased by 15,45 % which is 1, 061 of new followers. The most viewed Facebook video, "Secrecy of voting", got 178,956 views, received 91 comments, had 1,316 interactions and was shared 159 times. There is a constant increasement of likes that came along with the increasement of followers. During 2020 CeMI's posts on Facebook were shared 295 times.



Facebook page likes

The web site www.ferizbori.me which was used during monitoring of Parliamentary and Local elections recorded 21,125 visits during election day, while the 'Fair Elections' application was downloaded 8,943 times. Of that number, 8,116 downloads were from the Google Play Store and 827 were from the Apple Store. Over the course of election day, the web site www.izbori.cemi.org.me recorded 112,243 visits. The number of likes on CeMI's official Facebook page increased 9.16% on election day.

Several days before election day, CeMI published a video on the importance of the secrecy of vot-

ing. The main message of the video was that the secrecy of voting is crucial for elections and nobody can know for whom citizens cast their vote. So far, the video has more than 180,000 views.

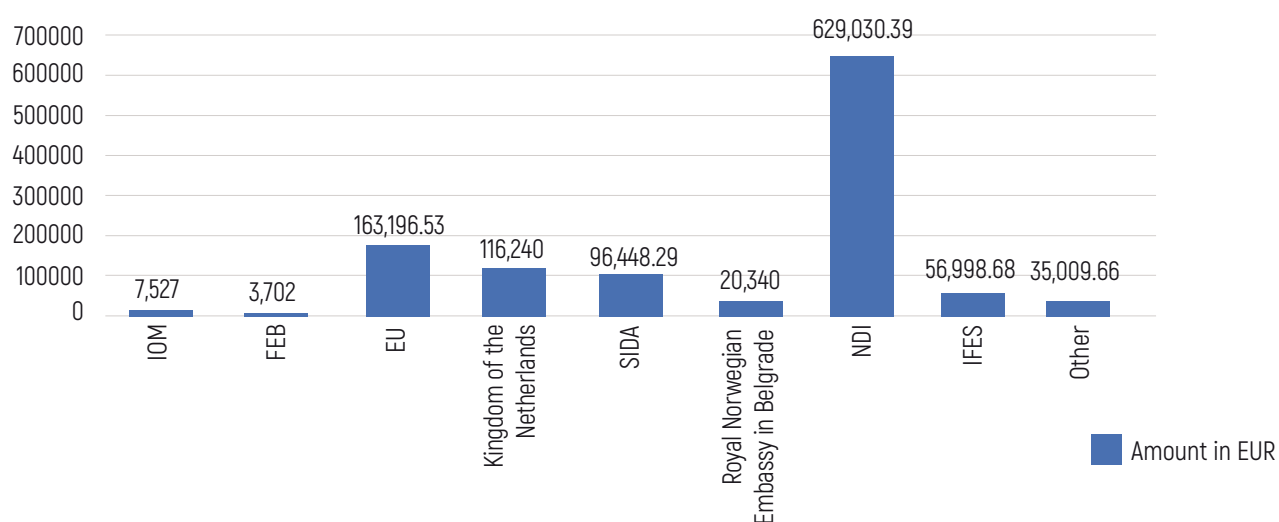
Financial report 2020

Donor	Project	Amount €	Amount \$
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Society without Prejudices: With Solidarity to Equality and Inclusion	7,527.00	
European Fund for the Balkans (EFB)	Evolving or revolving: Institutional reforms and democratic legitimacy in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro	3,702.00	–
European Union - IPA	International observation of Presidential Election in Ukraine	55,912.17	–
European Union - IPA	International observation of the Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Moldova	11,910.00	–
European Union - IPA	International Observation of the Local Elections in the Republic of Moldova 2019	11,337.71	–
European Union - IPA	International Observation of the 2020 Presidential Elections in the Republic of Moldova	47,756.65	–
European Union - IPA	Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO's Capacities to Contribute to the Integrity of Judiciary	26,280.00	–
European Union - IPA	Let's put Corruption into Museum!	10,000.00	
Kingdom of the Netherlands	ENEMO International Observation Mission for the Early Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine 2019	6,396.00	–
Kingdom of the Netherlands	Observing the 2019 Local Elections in the Republic of Moldova	3,849.00	–
Kingdom of the Netherlands	Observing the 2020 Presidential Elections in the Republic of Moldova	81,000.00	–
Kingdom of the Netherlands	Monitoring of Parliamentary Elections 2020 in Montenegro	24,995.00	–
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	Observing the 2020 Presidential Elections in the Republic of Moldova	96,448.29	–
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade	Increasing the Electoral Integrity in Montenegro	20,340.00	–
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	International Election Observation Mission to Moldova Presidential Elections 2020	59,918.61	73586.04
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Electoral Reform in Montenegro - A Step Forward	7,734.71	9,499.00
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	International Election Observation Mission to Ukraine Local Elections 2020	432,375.21	531,000.00
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Observing the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Ukraine 2019	129,001.86	158,427.19
The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)	Facebook/Global/Election Integrity Strategy in Montenegro	15,031.35	18,460.00
The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)	Effective Combat Against Corruption (ECAC)	41,967.33	51,540.00
Other		35,009.66	
Total		1,128,492.55	

Financial overview 2020

Donors 2020	Amount in EUR
International Organization for Migration	7.527,00 €
European Fund for the Balkans (EFB)	3.702,00 €
European Union - IPA	163.196,53 €
Kingdom of the Netherlands	116.240,00 €
The Swedish International Development	96.448,29 €
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade	20.340,00 €
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	629.030,39 €
The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)	56.998,68 €
Other	35.009,66 €
Total	1.128.492,55 €

Financial overview by donors 2020



Financial overview 2003-2020

