



Centre for Monitoring and Research

ANNUAL REPORT

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INTEGRITET IZBORNOG PROCESA

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Dear friends and colleagues,

It has been another successful year for CeMI and we are glad to present our annual report for 2019. This report represents a summarization, or rather, a compilation of activities and projects that CeMI implemented during the year.

Behind us is year with implemented 7 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.

We continued to work on the improvement of electoral reform, strengthening the judiciary and judicial reform, promotion human rights and fight against corruption. Special emphasis were on the fight against corruption and strengthening the capacity of the judiciary.

Since 2017, when CeMI was elected for the General Secretary of ENEMO, we are responsible for the complete administrative management and organization of the missions. In 2019 we did a great job during the missions in Moldova and Ukraine. These were very big missions, especially mission in Ukraine with two rounds of Presidential elections and Early Parliamentary elections. In Moldova during 2019 we successfully did Parliamentary and Local elections.

In the final part of this report, you can find our financial overview and report that we already submitted to our donors. We sincerely hope that this report will properly reflect all the work we have done this year and inspire you for any advice or suggestions for our further work.

Sincerely,

Zlatko Vujovic
President of the Governing Board



About Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI)

The Centre for Monitoring and Research - CeMI, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in March of 2000.

The organization's vision is Montenegro as a country of free citizens, social justice, rule of law and equal opportunities. CeMI's mission focuses on continuously providing support to reforms and strengthening of the institutions of the political system and civil society organizations through proposing and monitoring the implementation of public policies in the field of human rights and freedoms of European integration and fight against corruption in Montenegro.

The organizational structure of CeMI consists of three departments: Legal Department, Empirical Research Department and Finance and Public Relations Department. CeMI's support to reforms and strengthening of the institutions of the political system and civil society organizations significantly contributed to changing the social and political circumstances in Montenegro.

CeMI was the first organisation in Montenegro to be founded with the goal of monitoring the country's electoral process. Since its establishment in 2000, CeMI has monitored the majority of parliamentary, presidential and local elections in Montenegro, including all of the country's parliamentary elections from 2001. Through its civic monitoring of parliamentary and local elections, CeMI strives to ensure the necessary democratic conditions for the organisation of transparent, free and fair elections.

In addition to its activities in the fields of democratisation, human rights, challenging corruption and Euro-Atlantic integration, CeMI has become widely recognised as a think tank that offers expertise regarding the electoral process, fighting against corruption and guaranteeing the rule of law.

CeMI is the founder and a full member of the international organisations ENEMO (www.enemo.eu) and the Global Network of Domestic Elections Monitors (GNDEM) (www.gndem.org). CeMI's representative is the Secretary General of ENEMO and a member of the governing board of GNDEM. ENEMO's Secretariat will be at CeMI for the following two years. Through ENEMO and OSCE, ODIHR members and experts of CeMI have participated in numerous international observation missions as expert and short- and long-term observers, and on three occasions CeMI's expert headed an international observing mission (in Ukraine and Kosovo).

Title of the project	Partners	Donors
Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary	Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CeDEM)	European Commission (IPA)
Let the Fair Elections Become a Habit! - Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro	/	European Commission Ministry of Public Administration
Raising CeMI's Policy Expertise and Policy Impact on the National and International Level	Institute Alternative (IA)	Open Society Institute – Think Tank Fund
LET'S PUT CORRUPTION INTO MUSEUM!	Centre for Civic Education, NGO Bonum NGO UL - Info NGO Za Druga Ministry of Public Administration Agency for the Prevention of Corruption	Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro and the Ministry of Public Administration.
Job without barrier - a chance for people with visual impairment	Union of the Blind of Montenegro	Employment Agency of Montenegro
Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI Institute) Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives (BILI) Expert Forum in Romania is implementing the ECAC	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on national level	/	Council of Europe

Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary

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. The 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, 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.

As one of the most important activities, we emphasize 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.

A three-day seminar on the judicial system in Montenegro



Lecturers at the seminar, legal expert Milorad Markovic and Project Coordinator in the Centre for Monitoring and Research Bojan Bozovic, 11 March 2019

In March CeMI organized a three-day seminar for local NGOs on the judicial system in Montenegro in Petrovac with the goal of increasing capacities of local NGOs to contribute to the integrity of the judiciary.

Lectures were given by the legal expert Milorad Markovic, the Project Coordinator in the Centre for Monitoring and Research Bojan Bozovic, the President of the Judicial Council of Montenegro Mladen Vukcevic and Milena Bozovic (Court of Appeals). The main topics of seminar were: Freedom of Expression in front of the European Court for Human Rights; Educations, selection and the advancement of judges and prosecutors and the Rationalization of the judicial network in Montenegro and comparative experiences; The Constitutional Court of Montenegro; Discipline responsibility and ethical treatment of judges; Custody in Montenegrin legislation – theory and practice; Peaceful resolution of disputes and ECHR and verdicts against Montenegro.

A three-day seminar on project management



Participants of the seminar on project management, 2 June 2019

In June CeMI organized a three-day seminar on project management for the sub-grantees. Lectures were given by experienced experts with significant experience in the area of project management.

During the seminar, participants had the chance to find out more about activities that follow the signing of the contract, such as reporting, secondary procurement, communication and visibility and monitoring and evaluation. The focus of the training was on practical work, through findings about activity planning and their realization. At the end of the seminar, participants and lecturers together summed up the acquired knowledge and experiences.

A three-day seminar on the methodology of monitoring trials

Within this project “Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO’s capacities to contribute to the integrity of the judiciary” CeMI organized a three-day seminar on the methodology of trial monitoring for local NGOs.

Lectures were given by independent consultant Romana De Vriendt, Bojana Bandovic, a consultant at the Supreme Court of Montenegro.

During the first day of the seminar, representatives of NGOs had the chance to find out more about the process of monitoring trials at an internal and international level, as well as basic information on the way a team, court and a case were chosen. Also, during the second part of the day, they had the chance to acquire knowledge about the technics of trial monitoring, written reports and the differences between thematic and ad hoc monitoring.

At the second day of the seminar, the participants continued their education through lectures on the standard procedures and monitor’s behaviour, as well as respecting the right to defence. At the end of the lecture, they learned about the presentation of a report on monitored trials.

On the third day of the seminar, the focus of the training was on practical work through working on case studies. After that, within the final deliberations, the participants had the chance to ask questions and start a discussion on the things learned.



Participants and lecturers of seminar on the methodology of monitoring trials, 15 June 2019

“Results and Effects of Judicial Reform in Montenegro”

The judicial reform did not fully produce the desired results, despite significant progress in the previous period, in terms of shortening the length of the proceedings, improving the enforcement procedure, and the successful introduction of new institutes within the judiciary - was announced at the National conference.

CeMIs' president of the Governing Board, Zlatko Vujovic introduced and said that the lack of judicial reform had not fully delivered the desired results reflected public confidence in the judiciary. He added that existence of political influence on judicial authorities is obvious and that is necessary to provide an institutional response to this challenge.

The President of the Supreme Court of Montenegro, Vesna Medenica, said that she welcomed the work of non-governmental organizations, which she said, through their fact-based research, contribute to assessing the situation in the area of professionalism, efficiency, transparency, integrity and accountability of the judiciary.

One of the panelists was the head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, which said that the rule of law, including the proper functioning of the justice system and the effective fight against corruption, would remain at the heart of the EU accession process when it comes to Montenegro. He also added that in EU annual Report on Montenegro, they emphasized that it will be of particular importance to improve the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in improving the management of human resources.

The General Director of the Directorate for Justice at the Ministry of Justice and the head of the negotiation team for Chapter 23, Marijana Lakovic-Draskovic, recalled that in September 2019 the Government adopted a new Judicial Reform Strategy for a four-year period with a two-year plan. She said a greater level of efficiency of the justice system would improve the quality of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

CEDEM Executive Director Milena Besic said that further strengthening of the independence, impartiality and accountability of the judiciary remains Montenegro's priority in order to strengthen the rule of law in the European integration process.



Panelists of the National conference
“Results and Effects of Judicial
Reform in Montenegro”,
07 October 2019

“The Right to a Trial within a Reasonable Time – An Analysis of National Legislation and Practice”

The event was organized as part of the Judiciary Reform project: Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary, in cooperation with the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) and the Network for the Affirmation of European Integration Processes (MAEIP), and it was funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro.

Panelists of the roundtable were CeMI Executive Director, Ana Nenezic, program Manager for Civil Society of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, Ana Margarida Mariguesa, Montenegro's representative before the European Court of Human Rights, Valentina Pavlicic, the president of the Basic Court in Podgorica, Zeljka Jovovic, advisor to the Supreme Court of Montenegro, Ksenija Jovičević, KIPS lawyer and legal representative before the European Court of Human Rights, Predrag Savic, Vice President of The Democratic Montenegro, Vladimir Martinovic, the representative of the Centre for Political Education from Niksic, Vera Lalatovic.

Executive Director of CeMI Ana Nenezic warned of the high number of judgments of the European Court of Justice related to Montenegro, of which almost half refer to the established right to a trial within a reasonable time, and the related issue of the effectiveness of remedies for speeding up proceedings and just satisfaction. In 2018, the number of petitions before the European Court of Justice against Montenegro was 318, an increase compared to 2016 when there were 165 of them.

Valentina Pavlicic, Montenegro's representative before the European Court of Human Rights said that speaking about the number of cases settled by the European Court of Justice Montenegro is not in a different position than other countries, because this law is a law in which the applicants complain most of all before the European Court of Justice.

Program Manager for Civil Society of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, Ana Margarida Mariguesa, said that the report for this year states that in 2018 the number of backlogs in Montenegro decreased by 4.5 percent, while the number of cases older than three years decreased by four percent. The report states that Montenegro must strengthen the efficiency of the judicial system, reducing the number of ongoing cases and applying the European Commission's guidelines on judicial efficiency.

Advisor to the Supreme Court of Montenegro, Ksenija Jovičević, pointed out that the issue of old cases is high in the Supreme Court agenda when it comes to internal judicial policy, noting that cases before primary courts over three years of age are monitored separately, given the position of the European Court of Justice according to which the cases lasting more than three years in one instance are more rigorously valued.

KIPS lawyer and legal representative before the European Court of Human Rights, Predrag Savic, said that Montenegro, where 80 percent of petitions are rejected, is in the most unfavorable position before the European Court of Justice. He believes that an independent judiciary with a high degree of integrity is needed and that the Constitutional Court in Montenegro can be a very significant corrective factor.



Panelists of the Roundtable “The Right to a Trial within a Reasonable Time – An Analysis of National Legislation and Practice”
15 November 2019



Participants of the Roundtable “The Right to a Trial within a Reasonable Time – An Analysis of National Legislation and Practice”
15 November 2019

PANEL DISCUSSION

“Results and Challenges in the Work of Public Enforcement Agents and Enforcement of Court Decisions in Montenegro”

At the panel discussion “Results and Challenges in the Work of Public Enforcement Agents and Enforcement of Court Decisions in Montenegro” organized by the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) was announced that in the past year, only two disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against public executors, the supervision of their work is conducted by the Ministry of Justice, has not given results so far, but significant progress has been made in the context of the efficiency of their work.

Executive Director of CeMI, Ana Nenezic pointed out that during the last year, according to the annual report on the work of public executors prepared and published by the Chamber of Public Executives of Montenegro, the total number of cases in work was 72,218, while, as she stated, the total number of resolved cases was 25,566, unresolved 46,652.

“The total claim of public executors was EUR 331,069 million, while the amount of funds collected in the enforcement process was 107,539,732.3. The total amount of costs and rewards of public executors, during 2018, was 4,787,480.02. However, if data from the Ministry of Justice, which has prepared a detailed Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Enforcement System for 2018, is monitored, this data differs significantly and it is very difficult to make a comparative analysis of this data”, Nenezic said.

She also pointed out that CeMIs’ analysis showed that it is necessary to continuously strengthen the application of disciplinary measures and the application of the code of ethics of public executors, by creating awareness about protecting the interests of the profession from the indecent, dishonest and unprofessional behavior of individuals in the system.

Director-General of the Directorate for Civil Legislation and Oversight at the Ministry of Justice, Ibrahim Smailovic believes that strengthening trust in the service of public enforcers can be achieved only by lawful and responsible work and a professional attitude to their obligations.

President of the Chamber of Public Enforcement Agents of Montenegro, Vidak Latkovic, said that in that chamber they were aware of the legal responsibility that it is necessary to strengthen self-regulatory function.

During the panel Ivan Vukcevic, Project Coordinator at CeMI, presented the recommendations of CeMI’s analysis and said that the Chamber of Public Executors should find a model by which membership fees to public executors in the Chamber will be calculated in proportion to their annual revenues. He added that the Ministry of Justice should strengthen its capacity to carry out effective oversight of the work of public executors.

Vukcevic concluded that it is necessary to initiate discussions at the level of the Chamber of Public Enforcement Agents, the Ministry of Justice and the President of all courts in Montenegro, which will consider adopting a protocol / procedure in case of filing complaints about the work of public executors with competent courts.

Participants of the panel discussion “Results and Challenges in the Work of Public Enforcement Agents and Enforcement of Court Decisions in Montenegro”, 23 December 2019



Let the Fair Elections Become a Habit! – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to a higher level of consolidation of democracy and rule of law in Montenegro.

The specific objective was to increase the level of public trust in the integrity of the electoral process, by advocating for adequate changes of institutional and legal electoral framework, in accordance with international standards, thus building a consensus within the political society and civil society organizations in Montenegro.

The main target groups of this project were: political parties, electoral management bodies, state authorities, the Parliament – which is the “Associate” to this project, the international community, civil society, citizens with an active right to vote.

Special attention of the project was on anti-discrimination, especially of Roma minority, who do not have equal rights as other minority by the Law, as well as women, who are still inadequately represented at all levels.

The project was implemented with the financial support of the European Commission co-financed by the Ministry of Public Administration.

Meetings of the Citizens’ Council for Free and Fair Elections

Within the project “Let Free Elections Become a Habit – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro” were held four meetings of the Citizens’ Council for Free and Fair Elections.

At the meetings, the forming of four work groups was verified which worked on dealing with questions about the electoral legislation reform, analysis of the work advancement of electoral bodies and media laws.



Participants of meeting of the Citizens’ Council for Free and Fair Elections, within the project “Let Free Elections Become a Habit – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro”, 08 March 2019

Local consultations in ten municipalities

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) organized local consultations with citizens in ten of Montenegro's municipalities (Podgorica, Niksic, Danilovgrad, Pljevlja, Zabljak, Savnik, Pluzine, Herceg Novi, Kotor, Bijelo Polje) with the goal of a more quality overview of citizens' perception on the new electoral reform.

In this way, CeMI gave the opportunity to all interested citizens to actively participate in the process of formulating conclusions and recommendations and to be included in a more intensive discussion and point out the problems and possible solutions when it comes to the current electoral framework and also share their direct experiences when it comes to the electoral process and their voting rights.



Participants of the consultations in Podgorica
18 April 2019



Participants of the consultations in Niksic
05 March 2019

Decline of citizens' trust in the electoral process

Within the project "Let the Fair Elections Become a Habit! – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro" CeMI made a research conducted on a sample of 1.054 of respondents.

Public policy researcher at CeMI, Nikola Zecevic, said that 52,6 per cent of citizens were satisfied with the way democracy works in Montenegro. He pointed out that the research has shown that 57,4 per cent of respondents evaluated that corruption was present in the political system of Montenegro.

Executive director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic, said that on the question of who make up the polling board 7.6 per cent of the respondents said that it should be representatives of political parties, 6.5% officials of the local administration, and 74,9 per cent of respondents answered that it should be representatives of political parties and local administration officials. Result was, also, that 78 per cent of respondents who are sympathetic to the ruling structures believe the elections were fair and democratic, while 11.3 per cent said they were not. She added that when it comes to electoral institutions, from the point of view of whether elections will be fair and free, 70 per cent of citizens trust them.



Three-day seminar

Within the three-day seminar, through several panels, members of the Citizens Council for Free and Fair Elections and members of the work groups worked on the final formulation of recommendations. Topics of the seminar were the reform of electoral administration, comprehensive electoral reform, mechanisms in which the Law on media in Montenegro can be advanced.

Panelists and participants of the seminar in Kolasin, organized within the project “Let the Fair Elections Become a Habit! – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro”, 06 July 2019

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Panelists of the national conference organized within the project “Let fair elections become a habit! – Building trust in the integrity of the electoral process in Montenegro” were President of the Governing Board of CeMI, Zlatko Vujovic, President of the Montenegrin parliament, Ivan Brajovic, Ambassador of the EU in Montenegro, Aivo Orav, honorary President of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, President of DEMOS, Miodrag Lekic and Professor Djordjije Blazic, a member of the Citizens Council.

During the conference was assessed that the precondition for Montenegro’s progress in the field of elections must be the sincere willingness of the state to reform the electoral system in a comprehensive manner, and by introducing preferential voting, the voter’s influence on the election of their representatives in Montenegrin parliament would be strengthened.

According to Zlatko Vujovic, in CeMI they advocated a series of documents and studies, for the reform of the electoral system and electoral administration which is being criticized by international and local NGOs that monitor the elections.

President of the Montenegrin parliament, Ivan Brajovic, said that the work on improving the election environment is a continuous process, stating that all previous elections were held in an improved ambience, compared to the previous election cycle.

Ambassador of the EU in Montenegro, Aivo Orav, pointed out that the latest European Commission Report on Montenegro has shown that the level of confidence in the electoral framework remains at a low level. He stressed that the precondition for the progress of the country in this area is the sincere desire of the state to reform the electoral system in a comprehensive manner and in accordance with international and European standards.

Professor Djordjije Blazic, a member of the Citizens Council, said that there is much talk about integrity, political aspects, “but we do not deal with what we need to deal with. He, also, pointed out additional problems with regard to the electoral system, stating that some of them are minority communities not being treated in the same way and that the representation of women in parliament is still not satisfactory.



Panelists and participants of the national conference organized within the project “Let fair elections become a habit!

– Building trust in the integrity of the electoral process in Montenegro”,

10 July 2019



Panelists of the national conference organized within the project “Let fair elections become a habit!

– Building trust in the integrity of the electoral process in Montenegro”, 10 July 2019

Raising CeMI's Policy Expertise and Policy Impact on the National and International Level

The Centre for Monitoring and Research implemented the project titled "Raising CeMI's Policy Expertise and Policy Impact on the National and International Level".

The overall objective of this project was for CeMI to take a step further and become a more competitive organization by introducing new methods, technologies and topics and advancing the quality of its products and the influence of its results.

The specific goals of this project are:

1. **Upgrading the research and advocacy capacities and expanding the area of public policy;**
2. **Improving the existing and making new channels for communication and expansion;**
3. **Ensuring the sustainability of conducted researches.**

These goals will be achieved by expanding the volume of public policy research and influence from the national to the international level, increasing the influence of evidence-based advocacy, and also by introducing new research approaches and expanding the list of public policy research topics. Connecting CeMI with decision makers in the European Union institutions and key European countries through regular and ad hoc work visits to European institutions and EU member states as well as sustainable channels of communication with public institutions of EU member states and European think tank organizations will be achieved, in order to increase the influence of evidence-based advocacy. Besides that, improving the existing and creating new channels of communication and expansion will include higher visibility of data, by upgrading our online presence and maintaining the existing products database. In the end, the sustainability of our research was insured by the digitalization of the archive and creating virtual business services for researches.

The project foresees the monitoring of the following activities:

- A three-day seminar on strategic planning which will be organized by a team of coordinators with the goal of developing a strategic plan of the organization for the period 2017-2021;
- Three-day training for the qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)
- Training on the way of politics research which would be held by prominent researches and lecturers Georg Lutz and Michael Marsh;
- Developing a new site for CeMI, which will be renewed on a new platform, with better software research;
- Publishing two-month infographics which will represent the key events in the actions related to the fight against corruption;

- Organizing training for the advancement of communication skills and public policy advocacy;
- Three work visits to European institutions and EU member states' delegations, which will be focused on the growth of evidence-based advocacy influence;
- Developing a virtual office, a digital archive – base for policy research;
- Developing an international resource plan;
- Establishing a new position in the organizational structure of CeMI (Communication Officer);
- Expanding the research board with four international experts.

The project is financed by Open Society Institute – Think Tank Fund.

PANEL

“Frontrunner in a slow race? Montenegro’s EU integration path”

Within the project CeMI organized a panel discussion in cooperation with the European Policy Centre in Brussels.

Panelist of the panel discussion were the Executive Director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic, Head of the Montenegro Unit in the European Commission, Thomas Hagleitner, Public Policy Researcher from the Institute Alternative (IA), Ana Djurnic, Ambassador of Montenegro to the European Union, Bojan Sarkic, Senior Policy Analyst at the European Policy Centre, Corina Stratulat.

The Executive Director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic, said that the goal of the panel was to present the policy brief “Montenegro: Captured State or a Leading Candidate for EU Accession” as well as to exchange opinions about Montenegro’s EU integration process. Policy brief contains insights into the main challenges and results of reform processes in the key areas such as the rule of law in Montenegro, which further proves necessity to intensify the EU’s attitude towards Montenegro. Moreover, it is a rather necessary enterprise to stop with the apparent implementation of reforms and increase institutional commitment when it comes to achieving visible results and Montenegro’s fully-flagged EU membership.

Head of the Montenegro Unit in the European Commission, Thomas Hagleitner, said that it cannot be forgotten that the process of EU enlargement is complicated from a technical point of view, stating that it makes the accession process for Balkan countries more difficult.

Public Policy Researcher from the Institute Alternative (IA), Ana Djurnic, said that Montenegro is the leader among the states striving to join the EU and pointed out their employment in the public sector is another example of abuse for electoral purposes.



Participants of the panel “Frontrunner in a slow race? Montenegro’s EU integration path”, 09 May 2019

Ambassador of Montenegro to the European Union, Bojan Sarkic, said that for the negotiating process, the key chapters are 23 and 24 and added that task to achieve all standards and goals as soon as possible, and as best as possible is not an easy.

Senior Policy Analyst at the European Policy Centre, Corina Stratulat, reminded that Montenegro started its negotiating process with the EU in 2012 and secured, as she stated, the leading position among other states from the region, who aspire to become EU members.

Working visit to Berlin

During the working visit to Berlin, CSO delegation composed of representatives from the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) and Institute Alternative (IA) attended a series of individual meetings with representatives of Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Foreign Office as well as Federal Chancellery and Bundestag.

The meetings were attended by Zlatko Vujović, President of the Governing Board, Nikoleta Tomović, Executive Director, Nikola Zečević, Public Policy Researcher, Teodora Gilić, Head of Finance and Public Relations Department. Ana Đurnić, Public Policy Researcher from IA and Ana Nenezić, External Consultant.



Thomas Hacker, Rapporteur for Montenegro in European Affairs Committee, Bundestag CSO delegation composed of representatives from the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) and Institute Alternative (IA), 16 May 2019

The aim of these meetings, except for establishing longevous and fruitful communication platform with German and EU interlocutors, was to present the latest Policy Brief “Montenegro. A captured state or a leading candidate for EU accession?”. This document gives a critical and overall insight into the narrative of the seven-years long accession negotiation process and events which have profoundly shaped it, and moreover a review and recommendations on how to overcome the lingering issues which continually influence Montenegro’s EU integration path.

The working meeting was organized within the project “Raising CeMI’s Policy Expertise and Policy Impact on the National and International Level”, which is financed by Open Society Foundations – Think Tank Fund.

LET'S PUT CORRUPTION INTO MUSEUM!

The project „Let's Put Corruption in a Museum!“, implemented by the CGO in partnership with the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CEMI), NGO Bonum from Pljevlja, NGO UL-Info from Ulcinj and NGO Za Drug from Petrovac, in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Agency.

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to improving the quality of the EU integration process in Montenegro, by strengthening the rule of law, whereas specific objectives were to help support the decrease of corruption and to strengthen citizens' engagement in the fight against corruption at the local level in Montenegro. Direct target groups within this project were Montenegro's civil society organizations (CSOs), whereas indirect target groups were authorities of 23 Montenegrin municipalities, the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the Supreme State Prosecution.

The project Let's put corruption into museum! went deeper into the issue by securing a greater citizens' and state institutions engagement either through its main activities as well as through its sub granting scheme i.e. through smaller scale projects implemented by grantees-CSOs, and hence also made a quality follow up on recommendations from the evaluation of these projects.

This project is financially supported by Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro and the Ministry of Public Administration.

Mobile application – „Municipalities free of corruption“

In order to make it easier for citizens of Montenegro to report corruption cases, CeMI developed a mobile application. CeMI started initial activities in preparation of mobile application - „Municipalities free of corruption“ which will include a section for reporting cases of corruptive activities, and shortly describe the case. Each case was registered according to the location of the person who has recorded the abuse and therefore the case was registered at the respective local self-government.

Job without barrier – a chance for people with visual impairment

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) in cooperation with the Union of the Blind of Montenegro realized the project called “Job Without Barriers – A Chance for People With Visual Impairment”, with the goal to contribute to the social inclusion and respect of rights of persons with disabilities in Montenegro.

The goal of this project was to increase the employment of persons with disabilities, with a special accent on the persons with visual impairment, through the promotion of social entrepreneurship, working abilities and the significance of employing persons with disabilities. Within the project, one month training was planned for ten interested persons with disabilities, with a special accent on the persons with visual impairment, i.e. two after the completion of the project.

Target groups that this project was focused on are primarily persons with disabilities with the goal of strengthening their capacities to conduct CATI research, as employers, NGO, media, state administration, local self-government, as well as other actors can contribute to the increase of knowledge and raising awareness of citizens about the significance of social inclusion and the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities.

Within this project, a public campaign was conducted about the necessity of social inclusion of persons with disabilities through social networks and media, by producing a short promotional film about their working abilities.

Through the promotion of this project and presentation of its results to the wide professional public, CeMI indirectly influenced other employees, as to increase the number of employees who are persons with disabilities and contribute to the realization of their basic rights.

The project was realized with the financial support of the Employment Agency of Montenegro.

Filming of a short promotional film

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) filmed a short promotional film within the project “Job without a barrier – a chance for people with visual impairment”.

The goal of this film was the promotion of working skills of people with disabilities who participated in this project, as well as reducing prejudices of certain employers when it comes to that population. In the film, short scenes of project participants’ work showed, the barriers that they face as well as their interviews, in which they evaluated the significance of the projects itself for them.



Participant of the project, “Job without a barrier – a chance for people with visual impairment”, 28 March 2019

Presentation of the short promotional film “In the arena”

The short promotional film “In the arena” showed that employers in Montenegro have no reason to be skeptical about employing people with disabilities (PWD).

Speakers on this promotion were the Executive Director of the Montenegrin Association of the Blind, Goran Macanovic, representative of the Employment Agency of Montenegro, Denis Martinovic, the director of the short promotional film “In the Arena”, Mladen Ivanovic, representative of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Aleksandra Popovic, the Executive Director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic.



Panelists at the promotion of film “In the arena” filmed within the project “Job without a barrier – a chance for people with visual impairment”, 22 April 2019

More than two thirds of citizens think PWD don't have equal chances for employment

Within this project CeMI conducted a public opinion research, from the 4th of February to the 9th of April, on a representative sample of 931 citizens in Montenegro, by using the CATI method.

Executive Director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic, said that more than third of respondents i.e. 71% said that they know a person with a disability, while, as she stated, 27% said that in their household (themselves included) there is a person with a disability.

She said that on the question to what degree people felt comfortable if they find themselves next to a person with disability, 34,1% of respondents said that people have the need to help them, while 26,9% said, as she stated, that they do not know how to act in the presence of a person with disability. According to her words, most respondents, 51,3% think that the educational system is not adjusted for PWD, stating that 72% of respondents believe that PWD do not have equal chances for employment as other persons. She said that almost half of the respondents, 43,7% of them think that the law does not encourage employers to hire PWD, while half of that number, every fourth respondent (21,5%) believes that the law still encourages employing PWD.

Project Assistant at CeMI, Aleksandra Nikcevic said that more than half of the respondents stated that the educational system is not adjusted for PWD. She clarified that when they compared this research to the research on the position of PWD of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro from 2015, CeMI's research shows a slight increase in the presence of physical barriers compared to 2015.

Executive Director of CeMI, Nikoleta Djukanovic and project Assistant at CeMI, Aleksandra Nikcevic at the press conference for presenting results of public opinion research, 06 May 2019



Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards

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 partner 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 focus 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

- 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
- 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 is financially supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Meeting with stakeholders in the field of political financing and judicial integrity

Within the project CeMI organized a joint meeting with stakeholders in the field of political financing and judicial integrity in Montenegro.

By conducting joint consultations, CeMI putted focus on legislative and institutional framework in Montenegro but also achieve the understanding of the incomplete or partial use of GRECO and OEBS recommendations in the field of political financing and judicial integrity, as well as the status and protection of whistlers in the country.



CeMI representatives with stakeholders at the meeting within the project Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards, 06 May 2019

PANEL DISCUSSION

“Integrity and transparency of political party financing”

Panelists of the roundtable “Integrity and transparency of political party financing” organized within the project “Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards” at 18th September, were Senior Research, Learning and Strategy Director at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Chad Vickery, the Head of the Department for controlling the financing of political entities and election campaigns at the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), Dusan Drakic, CeMIs’ president of the Governing Board, Zlatko Vujovic, Public Policy Researcher at the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Nina Kecojevic.

CeMIs’ president of the Governing Board, Zlatko Vujovic, said that improving the control and transparency of financing of political parties and election campaigns are one of the key priorities for securing conditions for fair and free elections. Also, he explained that the presented Action Plans concern the GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) recommendations.

Senior Research, Learning and Strategy Director at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Chad Vickery said that at CEMI they had recognized a significant partner in improving the fight against all forms of corruption and would contribute through sharing best international experiences. The head of the department for controlling the financing of political entities and election campaigns at the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), Dusan Drakic, said that he did not recognize the political influence on their work but that they indiscriminately approach their work. He also noted that the institution had published more than 58 thousand documents in the last three years. He noted that the law must be improved to a significant extent and that they have already proposed dozens of amendments in this direction.

Public Policy Researcher at the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Nina Kecojevic, explained that the Action Plan is a product of continuous cooperation and consultation with local decision makers as well as with international partners. She stated that the Action Plans primarily focus on strengthening the capacity of the non-governmental sector to monitor and advocate for further reforms within EU integration, as well as to make recommendations for legal and institutional changes.



Senior Research, Learning and Strategy Director at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Chad Vickery at the roundtable “Integrity and transparency of political party financing”, 18 September 2019



Participants of the roundtable “Integrity and transparency of political party financing”, 18 September 2019

ROUND TABLE

“Integrity and Transparency of the Judicial System in Montenegro”

Panelists of the roundtable “Integrity and Transparency of the Judicial System in Montenegro” organized within the project “Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards” at 19th September, were Senior Associate for the Rule of Law at CEELI Institute, Carolyn ElliottMagwood, project Assistant to the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Miljana Rakocovic, CeMI’s president of the Governing Board, Zlatko Vujovic, the project coordinator of the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Ivan Vukcevic.

Project Assistant to the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Miljana Rakocevic, said that the recommendation under the draft Action plan was the result of months of continuous cooperation and discussions and advisory opinions on the one hand – decision makers in Montenegro, such as the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court, the Basic Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Anti-Corruption Agency, and, on the other hand, international organizations and project partners. She said that the set of organizational laws adopted in 2015 provided, as she stated, a good basis for securing both the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

CeMI's president of the Governing Board, Zlatko Vujovic, reminded that the organization has intensive and continuous cooperation with representatives of judicial institutions in Montenegro, a number of projects and activities on which CeMI representatives often meet and discuss various issues.

Senior Associate for the Rule of Law at CEELI Institute, Carolyn Elliott-Magwood, said the goal was to projects to examine recommendations related to the fight against corruption, as well as what the actions related to the action plan might be. She considered that some progress had been made regarding specific recommendations in the area of judicial integrity.

The project coordinator of the Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), Ivan Vukcevic, said that the Venice Commission and GRECO insist on transparency of the judiciary.



Participants of the roundtable “Integrity and Transparency of the Judicial System in Montenegro”, 19 September 2019

Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on national level

In 2019, The Centre for Monitoring and Research with the support of the Council of Europe organized legal clinics about the use of the European Convention on Human Rights. Taking into consideration that education has a key role in the promotion of human rights, it is of great importance for a professional jurist to be familiar with the significance of human rights at the start of their education. From achieved results and taking into consideration that law students in Montenegro do not have the practical knowledge or skills required for the correct use of the European Convention at the national level, this project gave support to the development of comprehensive knowledge of human rights as part of the regular programme at law faculties. The project activities were organized within the project of the Council of Europe "Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on the national level", within the programme "Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey".

Legal clinics for law students in Montenegro

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) with the support of the Council of Europe organized legal clinics about the use of the European Convention on Human Rights that lasted from March until May of 2019.

The clinics were a part of the programme in the second semester of the third and fourth year of law faculties and gave the practical law experience in the application of the European Convention on Human Rights through the practice of the European Court for Human Rights to 30 students from three universities (University of Montenegro,

University of Donja Gorica and the Mediterranean University). Students were educated by practical jurists – judges and lawyers, as well as the instructors of the COE HELP programme and the national trainers from the Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution.

After the end of legal clinics, the knowledge of students was checked through exams and organization of a trial simulation in front of the European Court for Human Rights. 10 of the best students got the chance to visit the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg.



Participants of the legal clinics within the project "Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on the national level", 24 April 2019

These project activity was organized within the project of the Council of Europe called “Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on the national level”, within the programme “Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey”.

Study visit to the European Court of Human Rights

Within the project “Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on the national level”, 10 students of the University of Montenegro, University Donja Gorica and the Mediterranean University from the 14th – 17th of May were in study visit in Strasbourg (France).

During this study visit, the students had a chance to visit the European Court of Human Rights and presented for an oral discussion in front of the Great Council of the Court in Strasbourg. Besides this, the students had the opportunity to speak with the judges of the European Court and eminent experts in the field of law so they could get the clearest picture about the way of functioning of the European Court and its influence on the national legal systems.



Students of the University of Montenegro, University Donja Gorica and the Mediterranean University in study visit in Strasbourg, 15 May 2019

These project activities were organized within the programme “EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey”, which is being realized by the Office of the Council of Europe and CeMI.

CeMIs’ action

Remark on the Draft Law on Free Access to Information

Five non-governmental organizations, together with Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), submitted to the Ministry of Public Administration numerous objections to the Draft Law on Free Access to Information, as the proposed amendments were contrary to the Constitution of Montenegro, international conventions, as well as the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.

The draft introduces systematic restrictions on access to information, new grounds for hiding data, abolishes existing citizens’ rights and obligations of authorities, and does not resolve problems in practice that lead to multiple violations of rights and the absence of any responsibility. Almost all proposed amendments to the Act narrow the existing rights of citizens.

The draft threatens the complete system of access to information:

The draft law allows an unlimited amount of information to be kept secret:

International standards provide a precise list of possible restrictions on the right of access to information.

The draft stipulates that no harmful test will be conducted for data declared confidential for the protection of privacy, security, defense, foreign, monetary and economic policy.

According to international standards, it must be determined on a case-by-case basis whether there is a greater public interest in making the information public than the interest protected by data hiding.

The draft abolishes citizens' rights and obligations of institutions:

In addition, the Draft extends the time limits for deciding both requests and appeals, which delays access to data to such a degree that it makes it difficult to obtain information.

International standards stipulate that a party must have access to a court in connection with compensation and reimbursement of expenses incurred by another party, in this case the state or authority. Any restriction on access to a court must have a legitimate aim, and the means used must be proportionate to that end.

CeMI excluded from the process of electoral legislation reform

The Centre for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) invited the members of the newly formed Board for Comprehensive Reform of Election and Other Laws of the Parliament of Montenegro to make this process more inclusive and include in its work all the subjects who can substantially contribute to the advancement of the electoral process and election laws with concrete suggestions.

In that sense, on August 2nd, CeMI sent a memo to the President of the Parliament, Ivan Brajovic, with a request to make possible the participation of CeMI in the Board, as an associate member. After the Parliament of Montenegro adopted changes of the Decision on the formation of the Election Legislation Reform Board, which significantly changed the key elements of the previous Decision, regarding the composition, deadline and the scope of work of this body, all presumptions for including other subjects in the work of the Board were formally created, in different capacities.

After 18 years of continued work in this area, CeMI has built a team of recognized, international and national experts, and continually points to the need of electoral framework reform and is dedicated to the advancement of the integrity of the electoral process in Montenegro. In the stated period CeMI has observed almost all electoral processes in Montenegro, in such a way that recognized experts from this area observed and valued the work not only of the election administration in the preparatory period, or during the election day, but all other responsible institutions in Montenegro. Additionally, CeMI is besides national, one of the key subjects at the international level in the field of independent election monitoring. From 2017, it is the head of European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations

(ENEMO), which is composed of CSOs from 18 countries and which conduct independent election monitoring with the support of a large number of international partners. We believe that the acquired international experience and numerous contacts can be of use for the work of the Board, in the sense of formulating the best solutions for our system on the basis of the best international practises. However, it is obvious that references are not what is key in the process of electing those that can be included in this process.

CeMI invited members of the Board to publicly respond to the submitted request and explain to the public the reasons for excluding from the process one of the most significant CSO from this area. In any case, CeMI will continue to follow the activities of this Board and publicly advocate for those solutions we believe can truly advance our electoral process and contribute to increasing the total trust in the electoral system.

PROJECT

“Evolving or revolving: Institutional reforms and democratic legitimacy in Kosovo, Albania, and Montenegro”

This project was implemented through the Think and Link - Regional Policy Programme 2019. The aim of project “Evolving or revolving: Institutional reforms and democratic legitimacy in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro” was to assess the progress achieved in respect with the adoption and implementation of the far-reaching reforms as well as advocating for more consolidated engagement of stakeholders in terms of EU accession process.

During the project were implemented following activities:

- **Publishing of Policy Paper**
- **Organization of Breakfast Briefing**
- **Organization of public conference**
- **Preparation and publication of an Op-Ed**
- **Advocacy Efforts**

Policy paper “Montenegro’s EU integration path: between rhetoric and practice”

The team of researchers from the Centre for Monitoring and Research has produced a policy paper “Montenegro’s EU integration path: between rhetoric and practice”, which provides a critical and comprehensive insight into the narrative of the seven-years long accession negotiation process and events which have profoundly shaped it, and moreover a number of recommendations on how to overcome the lingering issues which continually influence Montenegro’s EU integration path. The policy paper is a product of years-long monitoring of Montenegro’s negotiation process which has been facilitated by the presence of CeMI’s representatives within the Negotiating Working Groups for Chapters 23 and 24 as well as the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. As emphasized in the policy paper, and once more pointed out in the latest EU

Commission Report, the Chapters pertaining organized crime and corruption, and the rule of law in general, are considered the weakest points of Montenegro’s EU accession process, and dictate the necessity to move forward from sole technical progress to measurable results. The policy paper, therefore, represents a fruit of CeMI’s comprehensive observation efforts and positive dialogue with decision makers on the national and European level and collaboration with other critically oriented CSOs as well as analysis of courts’ decisions, inspection of reports of other relevant national institutions (such as the Government of Montenegro, Ministries, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption) and EU Commission Progress Reports and results of various public opinion surveys.

Organization of Breakfast Briefing

The purpose of the breakfast briefing, organized in November 2019, was to present the draft Policy Paper and promote the opinion exchange among young CSOs representatives as regards to the EU integrations of Montenegro. This occasion served as a platform for stimulating and encouraging the involvement of the youth when it comes to discussing the EU accession negotiations. Around 15 young representatives from the most relevant, critically-oriented civil society organizations discussed the importance of their role in the policy proposal making and ways of increasing their representation within Negotiating Working Groups.

Participants of the breakfast briefing, 19 November 2019



This event, thus, was valuable when it comes to ensuring greater engagement of analytically-oriented young people, empowering active opinion sharing and elevating their influence of policy processes in the country. In such a way, CeMI reinforced collaboration among young representatives of civil society organizations and provided an important incentive for a more coherent perspective in identifying the policy priorities on a regional level. The breakfast briefing, although semi-formal event, has been instrumental and important to validate the findings contained in the research paper and determining policy priorities for the target group of youth.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Montenegro in the light of the new model of EU enlargement policy: an encouragement or an excuse for missed opportunities?”

The purpose of the National Conference entitles “Montenegro in the light of the new model of EU enlargement policy: an encouragement or an excuse for missed opportunities?” was to present the latest policy paper “Montenegro’s EU integration path: between rhetoric and practice” and stimulate dialogue between representatives of EU member countries and national institutions. The event served as a platform for opinion exchange, offering the necessary instruments for understanding developments within the EU itself, the reasons behind the latest French proposal regarding the new model of EU enlargement policy, but also the motives for the lacking institutional resolution and measurable results in terms of reform processes. The opening speakers at the conference were H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Montenegro, Veselko Grubisic, the Deputy Head of the German Embassy to Montenegro, Christoph Breunig, Deputy Chief Negotiator for the EU Acquis Chapters, Marko Mrdak and Ana Nenezic, Executive Director of the Centre for Monitoring and Research. The participation of the latter has been instrumental in understanding the priorities of Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and confirming EU’s commitment to the process of accession of Western Balkans countries, whilst pointing out that this process is a matter of not only regional but EU interest.

The panel “How will the announced reform of EU enlargement policy affect Montenegro’s further accession process: an encouragement or an excuse for missed opportunities?” which gathered representatives of 9 different political parties, has once again confirmed that CeMI maintains a longevous and fruitful communication with decision makers in Montenegro as well as its reputation of leading think tank organization in Montenegro.

The presence and involvement of interlocutors from different sectors, from both national and international institutions and organizations, represented an important incentive to advocate concrete recommendations contained in CeMI’s policy paper, ensure their buy-in and, thus, increase the chances that the policy will be picked up by national decision-makers.

Around 100 representatives of state institutions, diplomats, international organizations, political parties, non-governmental organizations and media took part in the conference, providing the speakers and CeMI's team with valuable comments and suggestions for improvement of EU accession processes. CeMI ensured high visibility in the media with national coverage who reported on the event (such as Dan, Vijesti, Pobjeda) and social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Participants of the National Conference “Montenegro in the light of the new model of EU enlargement policy: an encouragement or an excuse for missed opportunities?”, 16 December 2019

Publication of an Op-Ed

For the author of the Op-Ed “Snail-like leaders. Montenegro’s EU accession prospects: In between simulating reforms and EU’s inability to enlarge”, the Centre for Monitoring and Research chose Mr Radoš Mušović known for his activism and work in CSOs across the Western Balkans and beyond. The publication of the op-ed was not only instrumental in presenting the outcomes of the paper and our joint project, but has provided the audience with necessary tools for understanding the internal and external rhetoric behind the accession process. Moreover, it depicts the key progress and shortcomings in the implementation of the requirements of the Negotiating framework, with particular emphasis on progress concerning meeting the interim benchmarks set in the rule of law chapters, and, moreover, consequences of the French proposal and evolving political context in Europe on the future integration of Western Balkans countries. CeMI’s commitment when it comes to upgrading existing and creating innovative means of sharing desired messages has been once again confirmed as the aforementioned op-ed has been viewed over 450 times on CeMI’s web site.

CeMI – Secretary General of ENEMO

On the General Assembly, held in Tbilisi, Georgia from the 6th – 7th April 2017, CeMI was elected as the General Secretary of European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations ENEMO (www.enemo.eu). During this period, the organization programme and financially manage international election observation missions and continue the institutional reform of this network and increase the local presence of ENEMO in the member countries.

During 2019 CeMI as a General Secretary of ENEMO implemented three international election observation missions.

Ukraine Presidential Elections Composition of the IEOM:

- 10 CT members
- 48 LTOs
- 158 STOs (first round), 150 (second round)

In January 2019 ENEMO deployed an International Election Observation Mission to Ukraine to observe the 31 March presidential election, with the support of USAID through NDI, the EU Delegation, and the German Embassy.

In addition to the 10 Core Team members based in Kyiv, ENEMO accredited and deployed 48 long-term observers (LTOs) and 158 short-term observers in the first and second rounds, respectively, in teams of two to all regions (oblasts) of Ukraine.

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. For the first time in an ENEMO IEOM, three high quality Interim reports and two Preliminary statements were published.

During the entire mission, the observation activities were focused on the work of election administration, registration of candidates, conduct of the election campaigns, election-related complaints and appeals as well as Election Day related activities. Meetings attended by the mission members with electoral stakeholders served the purpose of presenting ENEMO's election monitoring plans and activities on one hand, and gathering data in view of writing ENEMO's interim reports and obtaining key information on election processes and challenges. Meetings included other election monitoring missions, presidential candidates of candidate proxies, civil society organization representatives and media outlets.

In the course of the mission for the Presidential election, Core Team members held more than 40 meetings, and LTOs held a total of 2,837 meetings.

LTOs submitted weekly reports, daily reports, spot and rally reports, post-election reports, as well as one final report after their work on the field ended.

Ukraine Early Parliamentary Elections Composition of the IEOM:

- 11 CT members
- 40 LTOs
- 76 STOs

Following the March and April 2019 Presidential Elections, Ukrainian voters were called again to the polls for the July 21st early parliamentary elections to determine the new composition of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine). ENEMO deployed a full-scale IEOM, with the support of USAID through NDI, the German Embassy, and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In order to meet objectives for the snap Parliamentary Elections, in addition to the 11 Core Team members based in Kiev, ENEMO accredited and deployed 40 Long term observers (LTOs) in teams of two to 24 regions (oblasts) of Ukraine. Additionally, for E-Day ENEMO deployed 76 STOs. In total, throughout four weeks of deployment, 20 teams of ENEMO long term observers (LTOs) conducted 1,817 meetings with various interlocutors, attended 90 DEC sessions, reported on 104 campaign events and covered all DEC.

Moldova Local Elections Composition of the IEOM

- 5 CT members
- 8 LTOs

With the support of the EU Delegation in Moldova, Embassy of Sweden, and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, ENEMO IEOM to Moldova deployed 5 Core Team members based in Chisinau, as well as 8 long-term observers (LTOs), who were briefed, trained and deployed throughout Moldova, paired in teams of 2 persons. LTOs observed the pre-electoral period as well as the E-day and post-election period.

Over the duration of the mission, 8 ENEMO LTOs conducted: 612 meetings in total, 175 with election management bodies, 112 with political parties, 143 with electoral candidates, 84 with state officials, 34 with media and 64 with domestic civil society organizations.

At the occasion of a press conference on 30 September, Mr. Dritan Taulla, Head of ENEMO Mission presented the mission and its plans for the observation of upcoming Local Election on 20 October, 2019. The Deputy Head of CEC affirmed their openness for collaboration with ENEMO team, and the CEC officially invited ENEMO to observe the monitor Local Elections in Moldova on October 20, 2019. Guidelines for observers for Election Day observation were developed by experts from the CT and LTO coordinator, to provide a frame of reference to observers regarding Election Day procedures and processes at polling stations.

On Election Day for both rounds, ENEMO deployed 5 multinational teams of observers to follow the opening, voting, counting, transfer and intake of election materials by DEC.

Observation teams, composed of 10 observers, observed the opening procedures in 4 polling stations in both rounds, voting in 70 polling stations in the first round and 69 polling stations in the second round respectively, and closing and counting in 4 polling stations in both rounds. In addition, ENEMO observed the tabulation and election materials intake in 4 Level I DEC's in both rounds.

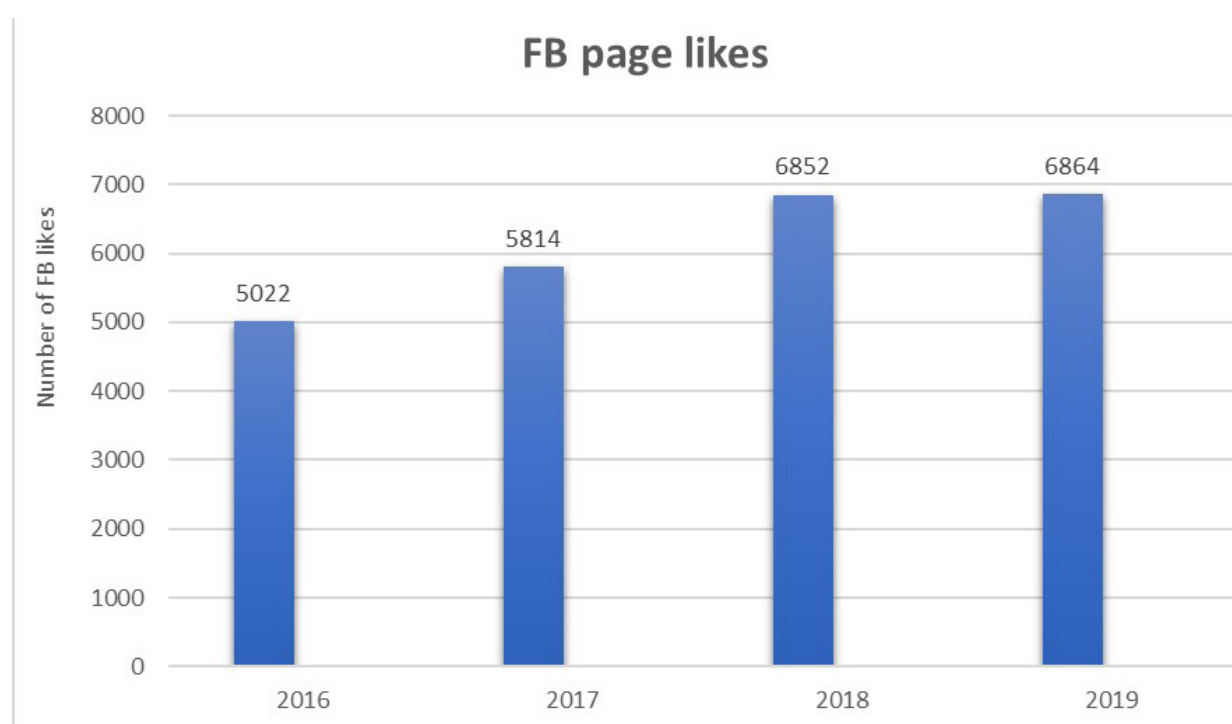
CeMI's website and social networks

Facebook

CeMI's activities reached much more people than before, many more citizens are familiar with all CeMI's products (studies, reports), CeMI's applications (one for reporting violation of consumer rights and other for reporting violation of citizens' rights in the field of healthcare), CeMI's free legal aid and ways to use it. Also, every media appearance of CeMI's employees, especially media appearance of the President of the Governing Board and the Executive Director is available on CeMI's pages on social networks.

CeMI's Facebook is available on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/Centar-za-monitoring-i-istra%C5%BEivanje-CeMI-421528787908380/>. Our Facebook page is open for all the questions, comments and recommendations that citizens might have, regarding activities and possibilities that we provide

Since CeMI started activities on social media networks, the number of followers of our Facebook page has been constantly increasing. For the reference, number of people who follow our page in 2013 was 450, in 2016 was 5022 and in the end of 2019 it was 6864 people.



When it comes to biggest post reach in 2019 on 16th December 2019 our post reached 14.6K views. By using Facebook's sponsored potential to promote specific posts (boosting), CeMI is reaching many more citizens, the expert public (academics, institutions, organizations) in the country and abroad. CeMI has significantly increased its impact on the general public through social media and it will continue to do so in the future.

Instagram

CeMI is also represented on the most popular social media network nowadays. Our page has 602 followers. This network improved CeMI's visibility, especially because of its number of followers (which was 408 in 2018) and 78 posts as well as 1661 likes for posts in this year.

Twitter

CeMI acquired more followers on twitter as well where it was possible to have insight in every part of CeMI's events and main conclusions and recommendations that panellists discussed about. 1954 people follow our page on twitter. CeMI's official twitter page is https://twitter.com/cemi_me

Youtube

Considering that YouTube is the most common way for streaming, CeMI has developed a practice of publishing video materials from conferences, roundtables and panel discussions on its channel. Our followers can also see important statements as well as live broadcasting of election. We published 70 videos this year and encrised number of visits of CeMI's channel.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2019

Donor	Project	Amount in EUR	Amount in USD
Council of Europe	"Fighting ill-treatment and impunity and enhancing the application of the ECtHR case law on national level"	14,055.46	-
Democracy for Development Priština	Think&Link 2019	2,468.00	-
"European Commission (IPA)"	"Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary"	162,744.69	-
European Commission	"Monitoring of the Parliamentary Elections in Moldova"	47,605.00	-
European Commission	"Observing the Presidential elections in Republic of Ukraine"	239,999.00	-
European Commission	"Observing the local elections in Moldova"	47,516.56	-
European Commission	"Let Free Elections Become a Habit! – Building Trust in the Integrity of the Electoral Process in Montenegro"	8,894.51	-
Government office of Sweden	"Observing of the Parliamentary Elections in Moldova"	19,047.89	-
Government office of Sweden	"Observing the local elections in Moldova"	93,788.39	-
"The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands"	"Observing the Presidential elections in Republic of Ukraine"	129,028.00	-
Ministrie Van Buitendlase	"Observing the Presidential elections in Republic of Moldova"	50,000.00	-
"The Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands"	"Observing of the Parliamentary Elections in Moldova"	34,453.00	-
German Embassy Kyiv	"Observing the Presidential elections in Republic of Ukraine"	433,540.78	-
"International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)"	"Supporting Stakeholders in Implementing Anti-Corruption Standards"	17,874.69	20,000.00
"National Democratic Institute (NDI)"	"Monitoring of the Parliamentary Elections in Moldova"	69,628.54	77,907.38
"National Democratic Institute (NDI)"	"Observing the Presidential elections in Republic of Ukraine"	1,350,231.40	1,510,774.00

"Ministry of Public Administration"	"Judicial Reform: Upgrading CSO's capacities to contribute to the integrity of judiciary"	25,480.64	
"Ministry of Justice to Montenegro"	"Restorative Justice - Alternative Sanctions to Resocialization"	11,200.00	-
"Ministry for Human and Minority Rights"	"Equality of LGBT persons before the law - Promoting the rights of LGBT persons in court proceedings"	14,504.00	-
"Ministry for Human and Minority Rights"	"Contribution to the Development and Promotion of the Rights of Minority Peoples and other Minority National Communities in Montenegro"	16,000.00	-
Funds transferred from 2018		26,348.29	
Other		115,881.07	
TOTAL		2,930,289.91	

