

ANNUAL REPORT
2008

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About The Monitoring Center

The Monitoring Center – CEMI is a nongovernmental, non profitable organization, founded in March 2000, whose main goal is to provide infrastructural and expert support for continuous monitoring of the overall process of transition in Montenegro. One of the main reasons for CEMI's success is our openness to any citizen who wants to participate in the activities of our organization. This is best illustrated by the fact that 3,000 adult volunteers have been involved with CEMI. In other words, almost 0,7% of people who have the right to vote are members of this organization, which shows that CEMI plays an important role in the democratic development of Montenegro.

Our Vision: Montenegro as a country of freedom, rule of law and equal opportunities.

Our Mission: To promote and defend the values of an open society and the rule of law in Montenegro.

Our Goals:

- Monitoring of election process ;
- Reform of Montenegrin legislation ;
- Monitoring the respect for political rights and freedoms in Montenegro;
- Monitoring the respect for, and the implementation of laws and the Constitution in Montenegro ;
- Monitoring the process of transition;
- Protecting human rights and freedoms as well as promoting the values and ideas of a civil society.

Governing Board Members:

Zlatko Vujović
Vladan Radunović
Ivana Vojvodić
Radmila Piletić
Pavle Gegaj

Donors

"Olof Palme" International Center, Stockholm
Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), Podgorica
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
NED – National Endowment for Democracy
Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
Balkan Trust for Democracy
German Embassy
U.S. Consulate, Podgorica
British Embassy
USAID - ORT
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Royal Netherlands Embassy
Swiss Embassy
Embassy of Finland
Delegation of the European Commission, Belgrade
COLPI, Budapest
OSCE – ODIHR
Freedom House, Belgrade
Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro
Government of the Republic of Montenegro
USAID - OTI
Austrian Development Agency
Austrian Research Center for Peace and Conflict Management

Our Partners

CeSID, Belgrade
CEDEM, Podgorica
Juventas, Podgorica
CRNVO, Podgorica
PR Resource Center - NGO Public Relations Center, Podgorica
Legal initiative of public interest - PILI

Executive director:

Boško Nenezić

Program coordinator:

Branka Todorović

Project within programs:

I Elections

- Monitoring of elections from year 2000 (more than 20 elections, domestic and foreign, so far)
- Training for leaders of political parties

II Rule of law

- Monitoring of financing of political parties;
- Preparation of the Model Law for amendment of the Law on financing of political parties;
- Development and update of database of financing of political parties, salaries of public officials and public procurement;
- Monitoring of the right to defense and presumption of innocence;
- The Law on financing of political parties;
- The Law on political parties;
- The Model Law on central voters' register;
- The Model Law on election of MPs and members of committee;
- The Model Law on State's electoral committee.

III Good Governance

- Education of public officials on conflict of interest;
- The Manual on conflict of interest for public officials;
- Training for the representatives of NGO sector on advocacy and coalition building;
- Raising awareness of citizens of Montenegro on Ombudsman institution;
- Case study: Financing of political parties in Montenegro;
- Monitoring of the Ombudsman's work;
- Monitoring of the implementation of the Law on financing of political parties and the Law on political parties.

IV Civil society

- PR Resource Center – NGO Public Relations Center
- Get to know the system in order to change it;
- Monitoring of the work of population counters;
- Strategy as an instrument – trust as a goal;
- Institute for Civil Society and Democracy.

V Euro – Atlantic Integration

- Get to know the European Union – peer education and EU debate clubs;
- Communication strategy;
- Declaration of the accession to the EU;
- Research of public opinion on integration process in Montenegro;

Project

MONITORING OF FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

In accordance with the earlier practice and goals of the program “Financing of political parties”, during the 2008, were realized activities aimed to pass a new legislation and establish transparent and accountable system of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns in Montenegro.

After the old Law on financing of political parties have been completely changed by the MPs, a broad consensus and completely non-transparent, occurred a need for passing a new Law that would be in accordance with international standards and good practice in the area of financing political parties. With a new Constitution of Montenegro, the proponents of some civil initiatives have lost the right to directly propose and defend their initiatives in the Parliament, based only on signatures of citizens. Taking that in to the consideration, CEMI as the initiator of adoption of a new Law on financing of political parties was forced to implement their legislative initiative through the Government of Montenegro or Ministry of Finance. The representative of CEMI, along with the representatives of Ministry of Finance, within the working group, have proposed its Model Law, which was adopted with minor amendments by the Government and submitted to the Assembly for consideration and adoption. Alongside with proposal of a new Law on financing of political parties, within the same working group, CEMI has proposed the adoption of the Law on financing of campaigns for the election of the President of Montenegro, mayor and the president of the municipality.

As a result of CEMI’s long term and expert work on preparation, development and proposal of legislation in the field of financing of political parties, the new Law on financing of political parties has been adopted at the last session of Parliament of Montenegro in July, 2008.

This year’s project was also aimed at *the improvement of transparent and accountable system of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns*. Within the regular program activities during the 2008 year, CEMI has followed the implementation of the provisions of newly adopted Law on financing of political parties during the campaign in local elections in Kotor. Before the elections were held, CEMI has dispatched reports to all participants of electoral process, political parties, OIK KOTOR and SEC (State Electoral Commission), where they have informed about obligations deriving from the Law on financing of political parties regarding to financing of electoral campaigns, allocation of budget funds, submission of reports, etc. After the electoral process was finished, at the press conference CEMI has informed the public of Montenegro about the main conclusions and assessments that were

made by monitoring the implementation of the Law on financing of political parties at elections in Kotor.

Project TRIAL MONITORING

OSCE mission in Montenegro has chosen The Monitoring Center CEMI as a partner organization in implementation of a two-year project called “Trial monitoring project”. Goal of the project is strengthening the rule of law in Montenegro through support of the current process of judicial reform by improving standards of fair trial and their respect.

The activities of the project have been focused on evaluation the current judicial practice in the segment related to implementation of the domestic criminal law and international standards of fair trial. Also, it is offering recommendations for improvement of functioning of the criminal justice system and strengthening the capacity of civil sector to monitor a trial. Working group of the OSCE mission in Montenegro, which is working on implementation of the project, consists of distinguished jurists: Aleksa Ivanović, Nada Djurović i Bojana Ostojić.

The second part of the project aims to ensure the sustainability of the project, through strengthening the capacity of civil sector in order to monitor trials and report about them. On this part of the project were engaged qualified lawyers Milorad Markovic and Vlado Dedovic.

Project

EDUCATION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Center CEMI has implemented the project “Education of public officers on the conflict of interest” in cooperation with the Montenegrin National Commission for Conflict of Interest, supported by The Balkan Trust for Democracy. The project is envisioned as a sequence of seminars designed for public officers from all the levels of government. This project aims mainly to acquaint public officials with the problem of conflict of interest, and to present the possible solutions and measures of prevention.

This project’s main goal is focused on reducing the level of corruption in public services through education of state officials on conflict of interest, as well as improving the access to information on their income. In order to realize the main goal CEMI has strengthened the implementation of the Law on conflict of interest through education of state officials on the obligations in accordance with the Law.

During this project that lasted 10 months, state officials had an opportunity to identify the concept and situations of conflict of interest, and to resolve and remove such problems, through the series of seminars and working groups. Among the local lecturers, representatives of The Monitoring Center and the Montenegrin National Commission for conflict of interest, at seminars were organized lectures of visiting representatives of state electoral commissions from the region.

Project

MONITORING OF THE WORK OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

The main goal of the project “**Monitoring the work of municipal authorities**” was improvement of the communication between citizens and local authorities along with the identification of citizens needs. The project has been realized in four municipalities: Pljevlja, Niksic, Herceg Novi and Rozaje, which were chosen by the following criteria: **Region they belong to** (North: Pljevlja, Rozaje; central region: Niksic; South: Herceg Novi), **Municipality where majority of population is consisted of minority representatives on the level of Montenegro** (Rozaje) and **Municipality where local government is from the opposition.**

Activities of this project have been divided in five phases:

Selection and education of local coordinators in mentioned municipalities, Research related to citizens’ needs and satisfaction level on a local level, Meeting local authorities and citizens with the obtained results, simultaneous making of legal analysis with recommendations, Citizens’ education on rights they can practice by the Law on local governance, Meeting all interested parties with the project results throughout the publication.

Target groups of this project were: Citizens, Representatives of local governments, Local NGOs, Political parties, Members of administrative local services.

The results of the project “Monitoring of the work of municipal authorities” are:

Successfully identified problems in the communication between citizens and local government were presented to citizens throughout open forums, and through meetings with local government representatives. For each municipality a separate analysis has been done (Rožaje, Pljevlja, Herceg Novi and Niksic), related to the level of citizens’ satisfaction with the work of local governments, according the inclusion of citizens in their work. Over 500 citizens have been educated throughout open forums (Rožaje, Pljevlja, Herceg Novi and Niksic) on rights they can practice by the Law on local governance. 2000 leaflets have been distributed, where citizens can get basic provisions of the Law on local governance, which are directly considering citizens’ participation and decision making on a local level. Raising awareness of wide public

on the level of citizens' satisfaction, related to the work of local government, throughout printing and distribution of a publication named "Monitoring of the work of municipal authorities".

The project has been realized supported by "Olof Palme" International Center, Stockholm.

Project CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION

In cooperation with the Center Civic Education, The Monitoring Center CEMI has started the implementation of the project "Corruption in education" supported by German Government, German Stability Pact.

High level of corruption in education is unavoidably causing the spread of it into other social spheres. According to the latest researches of public opinion that were conducted in Montenegro, the trend of corruption increase was notified and it was the most notable in high-education institutions, at universities.

Project "The fight against corruption in education" has lasted eleven months and the activities that were realized are: research of the public opinion which included 1300 students, university professors and employees in the faculty administration, building capacities of student organizations in the fight against corruption in education, education of high-school students and professors about corruption, the analysis of existing student files and making recommendations for their improvement, conference and printing of publications with information and proposals of solutions for successful fight against corruption in education.

Alongside was conducted a strong media and informative campaign, in order to inform and motivate citizens to fight against corruption in education.

Program

EURO – ATLANTIC INTEGRATIONS

Project

RESEARCH OF PUBLIC OPINION ON NATO ALLIANCE

Within the program Euro – Atlantic integrations, The Monitoring Center has implemented the project aimed to determine public opinion on NATO Alliance.

The research has been conducted using CATI method (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) in all Montenegrin municipalities on a sample of 1 300 citizens. In addition to this method, within the research CEMI has used focus groups method and in-depth interviews. The results of the research have shown the level of knowledge of citizens about NATO, as well as their perceptions and opinions related to the Alliance.

US Embassy in Podgorica has provided the funds for the project.

Project

CIVIL MONITORING OF PRESIDENTIAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS 2008

In accordance with the long – lasting practice, The Monitoring Center – CEMI has organized the civic monitoring of presidential and local elections in Tivat and Herceg Novi, supported by Swiss Embassy, in cooperation with Strategic Marketing.

In order to have an adequate monitoring of the e-day, CEMI has accredited 422 observers in total that were deployed in polling stations throughout Montenegro. From the total number of observers, 67 were deployed in all polling stations in Tivat and Herceg Novi, while the rest of the observers were covering the polling stations included on stratified sample.

When it comes to Presidential elections, in cooperation with Strategic marketing, CEMI has produces a sample that provides fast and reliable assessment of the results. Stratified sample includes 243 polling stations, which is 21.3% form the total number. Based on results received form polling stations form our sample, CEMI has committed a projection of voter turnout and voting results of presidential elections.

Like at previous elections, CEMI has collected the information on voter turnout in several terms during the day of the elections. The first results, CEMI has announced 20 minutes after the closing of polling stations. The biggest innovation comparing to the previous years of monitoring of elections and projection of the results, is the way of presenting a data on turnout and the estimation of the final results. The results were presented on the web address of the organization with updating in every 3 minutes. Visitors of the web site were able to see the results on the level of Montenegro and by region during the entire election day in a real time.

Project

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES IN ELECTORAL PROCESS

Within the program ELECTIONS The Monitoring Center has conducted the project "Representation of minorities in electoral process – Local elections in Tivat and Herceg Novi and elections for the President of Montenegro". The project was aimed at the improvement of position of minorities in electoral process on local and national level in Montenegro.

Within this project CEMI has attempted to support the equal position of minorities in Montenegrin political life. As a consequence of the observed anomalies, with the experience of a many years of monitoring of electoral process in Montenegro, CEMI has initiated the adoption of series of laws and prepared the numerous reports that treat the question of electoral issue. A special emphasis in own activities CEMI dedicates to representation of minority communities, which reflects through the elaboration of studies and models for improving their political representations. In this project CEMI has focused on participation of minorities in the electoral process of presidential and local elections in Herceg Novi and Tivat.

The project methodologically consists of four units: 1) direct contact with interested parties, 2) analysis of programs of candidates for the President of Montenegro and programs of political parties in local elections, as well as monitoring of contents of their statements in pre – election campaign (analysis of program content, media monitoring, print media), 3) analysis of level of inclusion minorities in election authorities (field research on election day) and 4) report writing.

Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), Podgorica has supported the implementation of the project.

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES IN ELECTORAL PROCESS ELECTIONS 2008

Regarding the presidential elections and elections on local level in Tivat and Herceg Novi, that were held on 6th of April, 2008, The Monitoring Center has implemented the activities of monitoring of representation of minorities in electoral process. These were also the first activities of this kind in Montenegro, and the same were realized within the project ‘Representation of minorities in electoral process – Local elections in Tivat and Herceg Novi and elections for the President of Montenegro’, which was supported by Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), office in Montenegro.

Publication includes the analysis of legal framework and it is concentrated on legal and political representation of minorities in Montenegro, as well as monitoring of the participation of minorities in the electoral process in the elections for the President of Montenegro and the local elections in Tivat and Herceg Novi. That includes direct contact with the representatives of minorities and political parties, also media monitoring, and commitment of presidential candidates to minorities through programs presented in their pre – election campaigns

The results were presented within the report on representation of minorities in electoral process. CEMI has obtained the results through monitoring, together with conclusions and recommendations for improvement of existing state of representation of minorities in political life in Montenegro.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008.

Project	Year of implementation	Donor	Total
Monitoring of the work of local authorities	2008	Olof Palme International Centre	31,521.48 €
Financing of political parties Improvement of the electoral campaign finance system in Montenegro	2008	Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), office in Montenegro	7,590.00 €
Fight against corruption in education	2008	German Embassy in Montenegro	45,000.00 €
Monitoring of the Presidential elections	2008	Sweden Embassy in Serbia	4,500.00 €
Improving transparency and political accountability in the area of political party financing in Montenegro	2008	Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), office in Montenegro	11,613.46 €
Trial monitoring	2008	OSCE	24,000.00 €
Representation of minorities in electoral process	2008	Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), office in Montenegro	9,234.00 €
Research on public opinion on NATO Alliance	2008	US Embassy in Montenegro	7,918.00 €
TOTAL IN €			141,376.94€
Education of public officials on conflict of interest	2008	The Balkan Trust for Democracy	25000,00\$