

7. ABOUT MANS



7.1. Vision and Strategic Objectives

The vision of MANS is Montenegro as a society of active citizens exercising their social, economic and civil rights in cooperation with responsible, transparent and efficient authorities at all levels.

Our **strategic objectives** for the period 2005 – 2008 are:

- Development, implementation and supervision of social, economic and civil policies and legal regulations are carried out with public participation.
- Implementation of efficient civil actions for fight against corruption in state institutions.
- Citizens and their associations use and improve mechanisms for communication with state institutions in the areas referring to social, economic and civil freedoms.

MANS has five program wholes:

- Monitoring of anti-corruption legislation enforcement
- Monitoring of anti-corruption policies implementation
- Free legal advice for citizens
- Fight against corruption in space planning and object construction
- Program of European integrations and Parliament monitoring

7.2. Cooperation with International Organizations

Activities of MANS in the area of fight against corruption are recognized by **Transparency International**, a leader in fight against corruption at the global level with which MANS has signed a contract on partnership.

MANS is a member of the network **FOI Advocates** which gathers individuals and institutions which advocate respect and advancement of the right to free access to information throughout the world.

7.3. Donors of MANS

Our work so far has been supported by numerous **donors**, including:

- United Nations Development Programme
- US Agency for International Development/ ORT
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Council of Europe,
- German Government, Stability Pact for SEE,
- Balkan Trust for Democracy,
- Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights,
- Open Society Institute - Human Rights & Governance Grants Program,
- Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro
- Charles Steward Mott Foundation,
- National Endowment for Democracy – NED,
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund,
- British Embassy,
- German Embassy,
- Royal Netherlands Embassy,
- IRD/USAID,
- HIVOS - Netherlands,
- Norwegian People's Aid,
- International Rescue Committee,
- Catholic Relief Services,
- Regional Environmental Center

7.4. The Most Important Results

Corruption and Conflict of Interest

- Owing to the public campaign of MANS, the Assessment prepared by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund asked from the Government to respect the opinion of citizens and it was recommended to include anti-corruption policies into Poverty Reduction Strategy. (2002 – 2003)
- Publicly presented cases of conflict of interest at the highest levels of the Government led to the adoption of the Law on Conflict of Interest and the publishing of the report on property and revenues of public officials. (2004)
- After a report submitted by MANS to the Constitutional Court and a positive decision, the Government members were banned the possibility to perform public functions, so four deputy ministers and six ministers were forced to resign from membership in 22 boards of directors. (2005)
- After MANS submitted over 150 initiatives for determining existence of conflict of interest, the competent commission reported 23 public officials for illegal acquisition of revenues and/or forced them to resign from membership in boards of directors.
- The European Commission requires amendments to the Law on Conflict of Interest, and the Government has envisaged amendments to the law in the Action Plan for Fight against corruption and organized crime, while MANS formed a work group for elaboration of the new law in which representatives of 2/3 of the National Parliament participated. (2006-2007)
- Awareness raising and public campaign conducted in partnership with international organizations have led to adoption of the Acton Plan for Fight against Corruption and Organized Crime by the Government, and creation of the National Commission for monitoring of its implementation. (2007)
- After our public campaign the Government formed a Work Group which was to develop local anti-corruption plans, using our model as the staring material. (2007)

Free Access to Information and Free Legal Assistance to Citizens

- Institutional practice has been created in the field of free access to information through over 8000 requests for access to information and 38% of obtained information, published in on-line data base, with 70% of complaints resolved to our benefit (2006-2007)
- Court practice has been created through 524 decisions of the Administrative Court with 66% of decisions made to our benefit, and 26 by the Higher Court with 50% of decisions to the benefit of MANS (2006-2007)
- After the media campaing of MANS, the first contract on privatizaiton was published and it was the contract of the Aluminium Plant Podgorica, after a two year legal process (2007)
- After a court decision passed upon an initiative of MANS, the Agency for Nacional Security was forced to publish the number of persons who were subjects of secret surveillanace during 2005, which was the only such case in Europe (2006)
- After a crime report of MANS referring to access to information on the environment, the first criminal proceeding was opened against a public official refusing to submit informaton (2007)
- Over 200 citizens used free legal advice in the procedure of access to information in the possession of public institutions (2006-2007)

Corruption in space planning and development

- Monitoring of the local self-government work and the public campaigning of MANS stopped violation of the human right to residence through destruction of illegally constructed objects with people living in them at the territory of Municipality Podgorica, with no provision of alternative accommodation. (2006)
- Our research in the field of space planning and development has led to several investigations due to criminal acts, and after that indicators for monitoring of money laundering by the administration for money laundering were established. At the training organized for public prosecutors and police officials by the Ministry of Justice of USA, MANS was presented as credible source of information on existence of corruption and organized crime (2006-2007)
- After a public petition due to reduced prices of electricity for big industrial consumers which was signed by over 30.000 citizens, and which represents the biggest public support for a civil initiative so far, the Government developed a social program for vulnerable categories of population, while the Regulatory Agency for Energy eliminated oscillations in the prices of electricity for households and small and medium size companies, caused by import consumed by big industrial consumers. (2007)
- Activation and involvement of citizens and NGOs into public debates regarding the National Physical Plan resulted in elimination of the planned hydro power plants on the river Tara and reduction in the planned number of big hydro power plants in other river systems, and the Government took the obligation to conduct environment impact assessments for them. (2007)

Activities related to the monitoring of the Parliament

- Four members of the Parliament, identified as least active by the monitoring report produced by MANS, resigned, while their parties stated they would introduce more professional approach to performance of MPs' functions. (2007)
- After indicating the key deficiencies in access to information on public voting of MPs in the Parliament, the parliamentary administration began a procedure for improvement of voting procedures through installing of the necessary technical equipment. (2007)

Public participation and civil society

- Established and enabled self-sustainable Internet – based lists for exchange of information within the NGO community: general list (e-network) with over 600 NGO members and 9 sector e-networks with over 2000 members (2001-2007).
- An increased number of NGOs participating in development of Government policies on poverty and space planning; the first initiative for social groups affected by illegal construction was started and supported. (2005-2007)
- Increased public awareness on the problem of poverty and Millennium development aims in Montenegrin context through 8 40-minute documentaries and the campaign conducted in cooperation with the Government, over 60 NGOs and three national television networks. (2006)
- A model of procedures for awarding of grants for NGOs was established in Podgorica, which was later taken over in other municipalities. (2005)