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The Ambassador of France in Montenegro awarded the title of Knight of the National Order of Merit to the executive director of the NGO MANS in recognition of her constant engagement in the areas of transparency and freedom of information in Montenegro. *The Medal of the National Order of Merit is awarded to French and foreign nationals as a reward for distinguished achievements in performing public, civil or military service, or private business. It was established by the decree of General Charles de Gaulle in 1963.* The video from the awarding ceremony available at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72SVs4Hvtzo>
04/10/2022

07



"As long as only storekeepers, drivers and shippers are arrested for cigarettes and narcotics, there is a huge doubt that smuggling is (and still is) a business under the protection of state bodies and individuals within them for whom the public interest is still not in the first place." Read the full interview "Still according to DPS rules" of the director of the NGO MANS Research Center with the weekly Monitor about current events, the political, institutional and economic crisis the country is in, at the link below: <https://mans.co.me/intervju-za-monitor-i-dalje-po-pravilima-dps-a/>
07/10/2022

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According to an analysis by the NGO MANS several state institutions violate the restriction on the use of budget funds during the election campaign. The Employment Agency of Montenegro (ZZZCG) takes the lead among the institutions by spending 1.1 million euros more in August than the six-month average spending of that state institution. Article 38 of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns restricts the use of state funds and the restriction was introduced as a response to the widespread practice of certain state institutions which use budget funds on various grounds precisely during the election campaign, in order to influence the freedom of choice of voters.
10/10/2022

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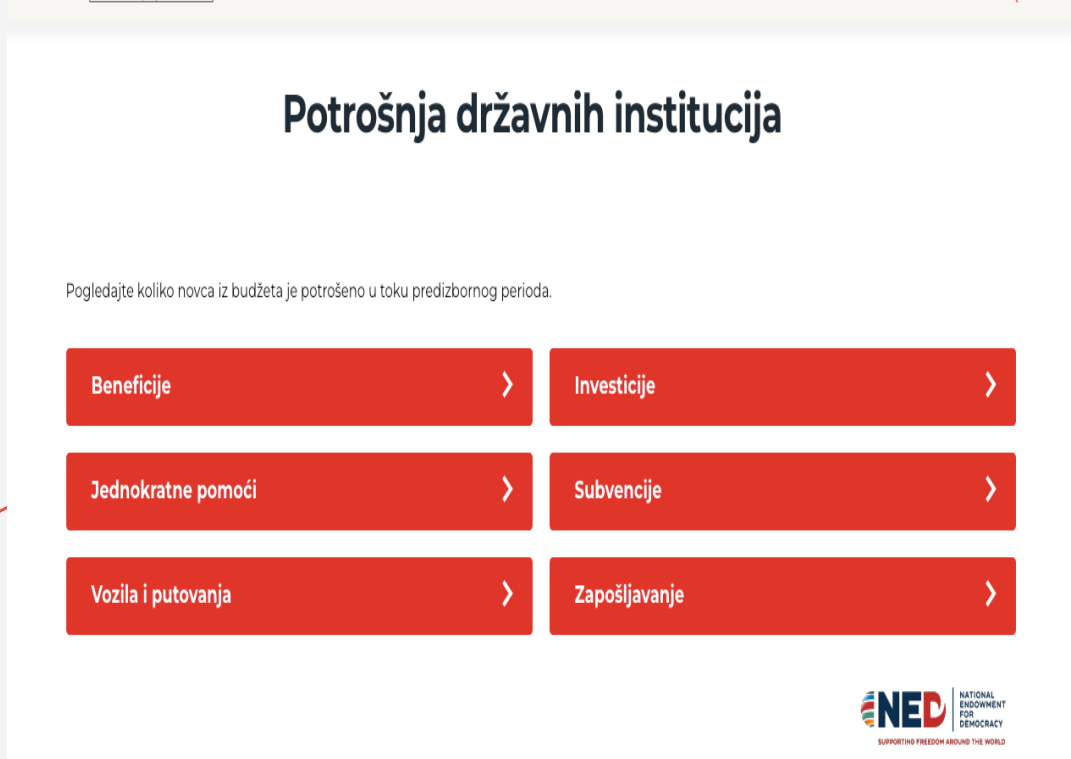
Deciding on the initiatives of MANS, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) fully accepted the interpretations of the former and current Prime Ministers, Milo Đukanović and Dritan Abazović, that they did not go to Dubai on an official occasion, but as natural persons, and that the gift in the form of paid trips was not "in connection with the exercise of public office". Therefore, decisions were made that paid trips by third parties cannot be considered a gift in terms of the law that defines the conflict of interest. Such decisions are unfortunately a continuation of the practice that directly contributes to the European Commission's assessment of limited progress in the fight against corruption, and reaffirms doubts about its objectivity and impartiality.
13/10/2022

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The official data of the Capital City on the spending of funds ahead of the upcoming local elections show that in the last few months, over 43,000 euros has been paid to natural persons for social welfare from the budget reserve. Most of the payments approved range from 100 to 200 euros, and relate to the improvement of financial situation, help with treatment and education. The allocation of welfare according to non-transparent criteria, creates a huge room for abuse in the pre-election period. At the same time, MANS analysis shows that right before the election, several bodies and public institutions of the Capital City Podgorica violated the limit on the use of budget funds.
14-20/10/2022

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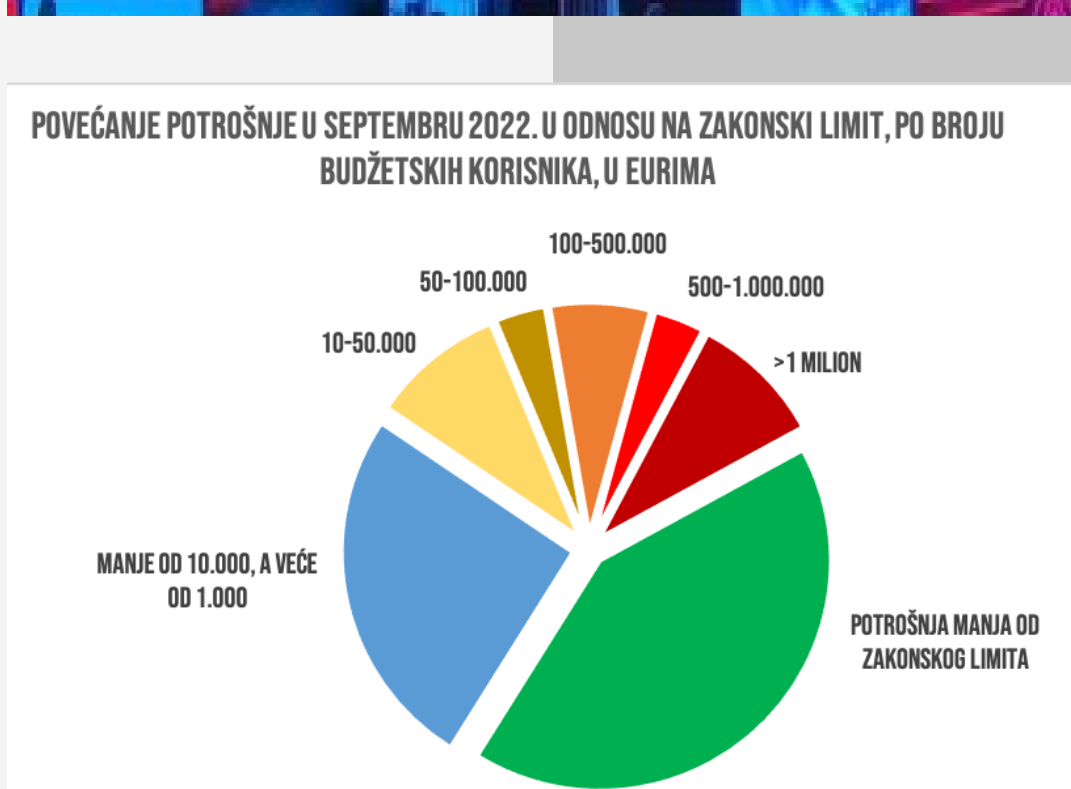
On expenses based on the payment of temporary employment contracts, from the beginning of August, when local elections were called, until mid-September, around 1.6 million euros was spent, which is 300 thousand euros more than in the same period of the previous year. Detailed data on spending during the election period can find at the MANS' specialized portal <https://cistakampanja.me/potrosnja-drzavnih-institucija/>. Also, the data analysed by MANS show that in only a few state-owned companies which are managed dominantly by the staff of the new political majority, close to 900 people have been employed since the beginning of the year, mostly on a fixed-term employment contract and through temporary employment contracts. Employment data is hidden by the largest energy companies, thus, the figures on new employees in the election year are quite likely even higher.
15-17/10/2022

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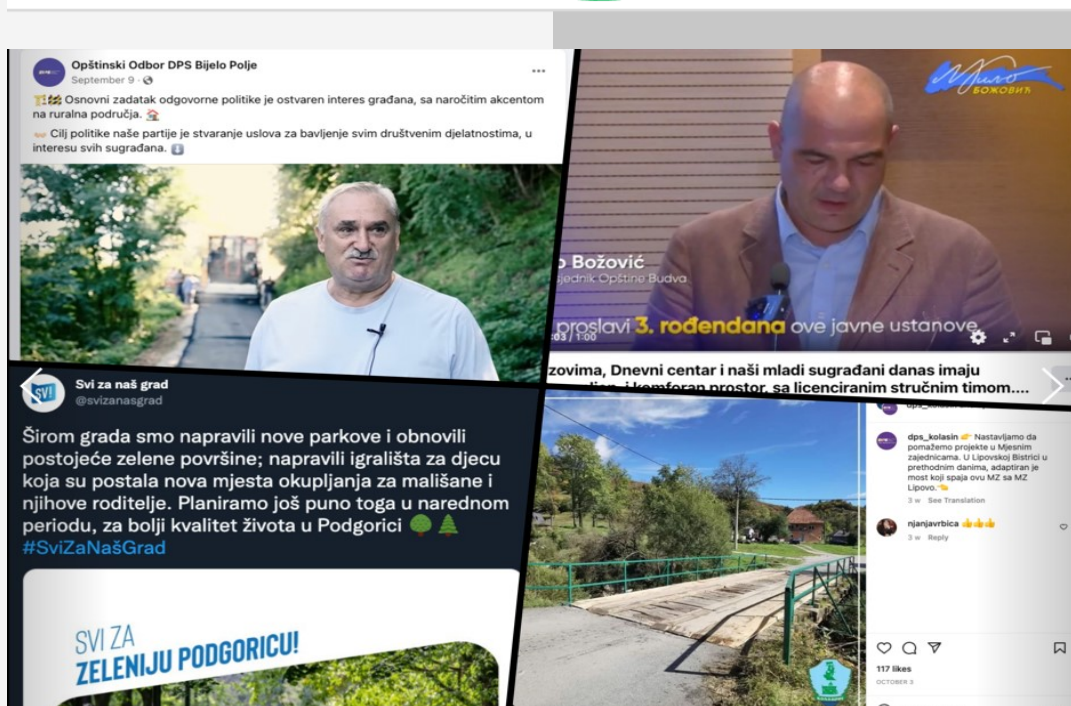
Thanks to the position that the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) took during the campaign for the latest parliamentary elections in 2020, political parties again have the opportunity to advertise on Pink M television, at rates and conditions that are not available to the public. Bearing in mind that it is a television registered outside of Montenegro, such practice creates a vast space for hidden funding from the abroad. In order to ensure full compliance with the laws governing the financing of election campaigns, MANS once again filed a report to the APC and the Council of that institution with a request to revise the position that is now directly contributing to the creation of a vast space for manipulations and unlawful funding of the elections.
19/10/2022

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That the most budget users also during September violate the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns in the view spent more than the six-month average before the elections, shows data analysed by MANS. During the election campaign, several state institutions increased spending for temporary employment contracts, consulting services, aid and subsidies, construction of local infrastructure, official trips and fuel. More detailed data about beneficiaries and the amount of increases in relation to the prescribed restrictions, can be find: <https://mans.co.me/u-septembru-rasle-isplate-za-ugovore-o-djelu-pomoci-asfaltiranje-i-putovanja/>
21/10/2022

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The continuation of the use of institutional advantage and functionary campaign, is a direct consequence of the unreformed electoral legislation, but above all the lack of political will on the part of the majority of parties participating in the electoral process to further regulate this area, and reduce the scope for abuse of state funds for the promotion of political parties. Thus during the last elections, the abuse of institutional advantage was most visible at the municipalities Podgorica, Bijelo Polje and Rožaje, while the functionary campaign was the most intensive in the Capital City, realised through the activities of the chief candidate of the list, Mayor.
27/10/2022

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October in photos



October, 2022.

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