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The Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism reacted to the initiative of the NGO MANS regarding the announcing of public tenders for the development of urban and architectural designs for the construction of facilities at three locations in Herceg Novi. After reviewing the documentation, **the Ministry concluded in all three cases that there was no planning basis for announcing public tenders for the development of urban and architectural designs. It is proposed to the Secretariat for Spatial Planning and Construction of the Municipality of Herceg Novi to suspend the implementation of the mentioned competitions, i.e. to revoke the decision on their announcing.** 02/02/2021

02



The Administrative Court of Montenegro instructed the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) to make a new, legal decision upon the initiative of NGO MANS in order to review whether the President Milo Đukanović violated regulations in 2011 **by allegedly not reporting a gift of nearly 30,000 euros – a trip and stay in Dubai.** Earlier, at the end of October last year, the Administrative Court passed another verdict that referred to Đukanović's companion on his trip to Dubai, Branimir Gvozdenović, and instructed APC to make a new decision. However, **three months after that, a new decision was not made, nor does the new APC management have an answer to the question why Gvozdenović did not report a paid trip to the Emirates as a gift from Duško Knežević.** 02/02/2021

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Given that the recently launched scandals (loan from the "Abu Dhabi Fund", "Plantaže") remain with the perpetrators at the levels of the state administration which did not have the essential decision-making power, NGO MANS is not optimistic that high-level corruption cases in Montenegro are going to be investigated. **"Top officials of the previous regime are not covered by the investigation, although the State Prosecutor's Office is now opening drawers that have not been opened for 30 years. But in this case as well, it will turn out that some documentation, which indicates criminal acts, will not be usable because the statute of limitations will run out due to the fact that we have been silent on the issue of prosecuting high-level corruption for the last 30 years",** MANS stated. 10/02/2021

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By visiting Marko Carević's farm in Krimovica, **the Minister of Agriculture, Aleksandar Stijević,** reaffirmed lawlessness and the seizure of state property as a recipe for illicit personal enrichment at the expense of citizens of Montenegro. **The farm in Krimovica, to which the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management refers to as "an exceptionally arranged agricultural farm", was built on nearly half a million square meters of state land that Carević has been usurping for years, without any compensation or sanction.** Public promotion of such projects for which there is very concrete evidence that they are illegal, is not a way to restore citizens' trust in institutions, but on the contrary, it can only result in their further collapse. 16/02/2021

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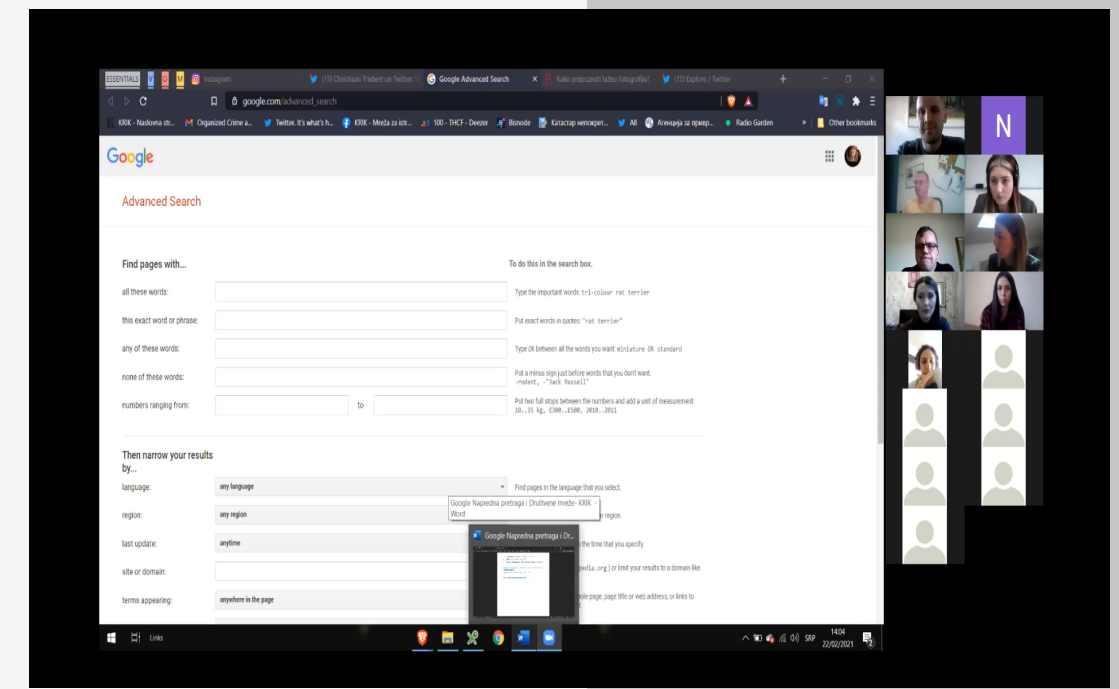
The director of the NGO MANS participated as a panellist in the conference **"How to achieve electoral integrity",** organised by the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT). On that occasion, she pointed out the constant absence of results by the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. **"APC does not take into account the essence of the law. There is no way we can understand that APC is hiding key data, and it is hiding it to the point where former director Sreten Radonjić, now head of the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, is revoking APC's decisions."** It was assessed at the conference that the penalties for violating the Law on Financing of Political Entities are inadequate and that it practically "pays off" for the parties to violate the law in order to win more seats. 17/02/2021

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**MANS called on the Government of Montenegro to withdraw the Conclusion on the use of the current budget reserve for the first three months of this year without delay, until it changes the rulebook on its use and defines clear and transparent criteria for spending the money of citizens of Montenegro.** According to the Conclusion, the funds intended for assistance to legal entities for financing of the activities, to natural persons for medical expenses, education and improvement of financial situation and rehabilitation of natural disasters, would be spent in accordance with the Rulebook adopted by the **DPS' Government** in 2009, which does not meet even the minimum requirements for ensuring full transparency in the distribution of state money, and is a legacy of the previous government. 19/02/2021

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NGO MANS held an online two-day training for about 20 journalists from various Montenegrin media, who had the opportunity to master or improve their skills in online and offline research, searching of domestic and foreign registers of persons and companies, free access to information and fact-checking. The training was held in cooperation with the organization KRIK from Belgrade, with the support of the U.S. Embassy Podgorica within the project "Support to Investigative Journalism in Montenegro", implemented by the NGO MANS. 24/02/2021

## February in photos

