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22

Annual report



Our Vision

Montenegro as a fair,
open and free society of active
and free citizens with a government
that serves the public interest.

Our Mission

MANS is non-governmental
organization that fights against
corruption and organized crime
that affect Montenegro.



03



The Executive Director of the Network for the Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) and a member of the Expert Team of the National Council for the Fight against High-Level Corruption expressed concern over the possible connection of the new government with certain persons and activities previously linked to the top officials of the former government and Democratic Party of Socialists. **Only this can explain the lack of reforms and results in certain areas that are extremely prone to corruption.** You can read the complete interview at the link below: <https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/583719/zinuli-i-na-prljave-poslove-dps-a> 03/01/2022

05



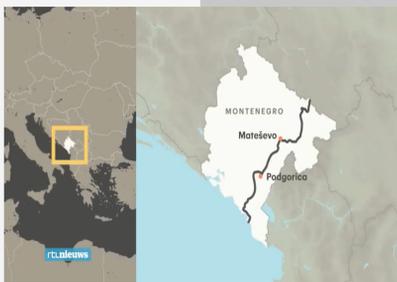
Although the new Law on Free Access to Information enables significantly greater public involvement in the fight against corruption and detection of illicit enrichment, **MANS believes that the proposed norm to start its implementation only at the beginning of 2023 is not good.** The government passed the Bill more than a year after NGO MANS, along with four other NGOs, sent proposals to the relevant ministry to improve the legal text. On that occasion, MANS states that they expect that the MPs will ask in the parliamentary procedure for the law to enter into force immediately, so that this Government would keep its promise to be transparent in practice. 05/01/2022

09



In 2020, the Ministry of Defence extended the deadline for the company **Montenegro Defence Industry (MDI)** to collect surplus firearms worth **1.72 million euros**, which the company from Podgorica bought from them in May and November 2019. NGO MANS submitted official documentation on the sale and postponement of payment deadlines to MDI, until recently classified as internal, to the current management of the relevant ministry on the basis of a request for free access to information and removed that mark. **It shows that the state-owned company paid for the firearms a year and a half late, thus distorting competition and potentially causing damage to the state budget.** 09/01/2022

13



During a tour of the works on the construction of the most expensive piece of asphalt in the world, one of the interlocutors of **BBC radio and Dutch RTL television** was a representative of the MANS Investigative Centre. **For the project of the 170 km-long part of the highway, the price for the first 42 kilometres of asphalt was an incredible billion dollars - most of which was borrowed from a Chinese bank.** There are still questions in Montenegro why the project started when some experts said it was not sustainable, as well as whether everything is as it seems. See the complete interview and article on the links below: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00139p2> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUmNPu3PyTI> 13/01/2022

26



After four NGO activists, members and the head of the expert team left the **National Council for the Fight against High-Level Corruption**, two members remained in that government body. **The Council, among other things, published documentation on the allocation of apartments and loans to public officials.** Based on the agreement with the former chairman of this body and after creating technical preconditions, the Ministry of Capital Investments (MCI) started publishing documentation related to the realization of the **Bar-Boljare highway project** in November last year. 26/01/2022

27



Despite the opposing of the locals and the Municipality of Kotor, but also the obvious violation of the legal procedure, and although at the end of last year it withdrew the decision on the concession act for the quarry in Krimovica without explanation, the Government of Montenegro still gave the green light to the **Ministry of Capital Investments**. Thus, MCI is finally given a free hand to conduct a public call that openly favours the company **"Carinvest"**, current concessionaire at that location, while **the president of the Municipality of Budva, Marko Carević**, is allowed to continue exploiting stone in Krimovica for another 30 years. 27/01/2022

30



After the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) informed them about the illegal construction at the end of July 2021, the Inspectorate for Urban Development and Construction filed a criminal complaint with the Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Kotor against **Carinvest** and the responsible person in that company, **Milan Carević**, on September 24 last year. **The Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Kotor is investigating whether the company "Carinvest" owned by the family of the mayor of Budva, Marko Carević, illegally built a 600-square-meter facility in the base in a plot in Krimovica.** 30/01/2022

31



It will soon be 4 months since the opening of the **"Pandora"** case, and the State Prosecutor's Office has not yet pointed out to possible guilt or innocence. Regarding this fact, the director of the MANS Investigative Centre points out that **"Since the very opening of the "Pandora Papers" case, which showed that the head of state and DPS leader Milo Đukanović and his son were preparing a complex international scheme for hiding income and property in offshore destinations, we harbour no illusions that the State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro is going to achieve any more serious results."** 31/01/2022

January in photos



January, 2022.

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11



The intention of the Government of Montenegro to spend more than half a million euros from the state budget on social welfare in the election year is a continuation of the worst practice of all previous DPS governments when this money was distributed behind closed doors and without clear criteria. **MANS has previously warned the Government of Montenegro and the Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare that it is necessary to define precise and transparent criteria for the allocation of this welfare, which did not happen even after a year of this government's mandate.** In this way, these half a million euros will be allocated in the same manner that previous governments did. 11/02/2022

12



The Special State Prosecutor's Office is still investigating the Pandora Papers case and collecting the necessary documentation. At the same time, **MANS announced new information related to certain investments in Montenegro, stating that tens of millions of euros entered into Montenegro, and that no one questioned where the money came from.** More than four months ago, MANS revealed that the President of Montenegro and his son signed secret agreements in 2012 to manage their property, hiding behind a network of related companies from Great Britain, Switzerland, the British Virgin Islands, Panama and Gibraltar. 12/02/2022

17



This morning, as a guest of **Boje jutra** show on TV Vijesti, the director of the NGO MANS' Investigative Centre commented on the press review and the most current topics. On that occasion, he pointed out that we **must not be satisfied with the retirement of the Chief Special Prosecutor alone, which is important for liberation of the State Prosecutor's Office, but not enough. The Prosecutorial Council must examine and audit the work of the Special State Prosecutor's Office profoundly and thoroughly, determine responsibility and reopen cases that have been closed due to political pressure.** 17/02/2022

18



NGO MANS assesses the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, that in addition to politicians, mafia and criminals, non-governmental organizations are also among those who stand in the way of Montenegro's European path, is part of the public discourse of top officials for which we believed that no longer belonged on the public scene after thirty years of DPS' rule. **Targeting NGOs as a "disturbing factor of democracy" is something that marked a good part of the rule of Milo Đukanović and his party, and this type of label was the only response to public criticism of corruption and organized crime. MANS reports that such a narrative is absolutely unacceptable and cannot be part of the process of Europeanization of society.** 18/02/2022

24



As a guest in the show **Načisto** on TV Vijesti, the director of the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) addressed all current topics.

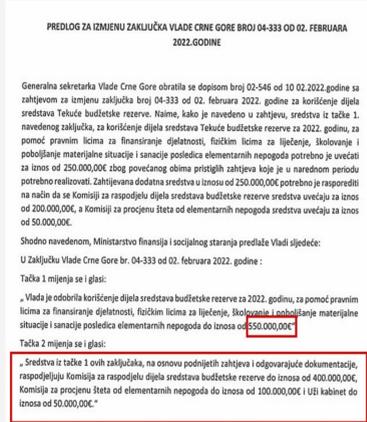
- Why the National Council for the Fight against High-Level Corruption could not yield results,
- what obstructions she encountered as a head of this government body,
- what is the result of prosecutorial reforms without establishing anyone's responsibility,
- party employment, are only some of the topics she addressed.

You can watch the complete interview at the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=4VHKg9UPYxE> 24/02/2022



Legal assistance for submitting requests for access to information in Montenegro. By installing a mobile application for free access to information, you can submit requests for information to any institution in Montenegro, and we will conduct all prescribed legal procedures to provide you with access to data. Link for download:
for Android advices: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.co.mans.pitajte_institucije
for iPhone/iPad: <https://apps.apple.com/.../pitajte-nstytucije/id1594618199>

February in photos



01



MANS called on the Government of Montenegro and line ministries to **inform the public without delay on concrete measures they will take so that the territory of Montenegro would not become a safe zone for hiding the property of Russian oligarchs who are subject of or threatened with international sanctions.** That our country is a safe address is evidenced by the intention of the Russian oligarch and co-owner of the powerful Russian oil company **LUKOIL, Vagit Alekperov**, to transfer his expensive yacht from Spain to Montenegro, on which the **British Guardian** also reported a few days ago. 01/03/2022

07



- Have the circumstances of the disappearance of cigarettes in the Port of Bar been investigated?
- Who had to prevent another theft?
- Is the state losing the battle with smugglers? - are just some of the topics of the show "Naglas" on RTCG, in which the guest was the Executive Director of NGO MANS.

On that occasion, she pointed out that **the Free Zone was known to be a "cancer to Montenegrin organized crime", and the way the Free Zone was organized for years suited only those who used it for smuggling.** You can watch the complete show at the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8unOnDobjaj> 07/03/2022

15



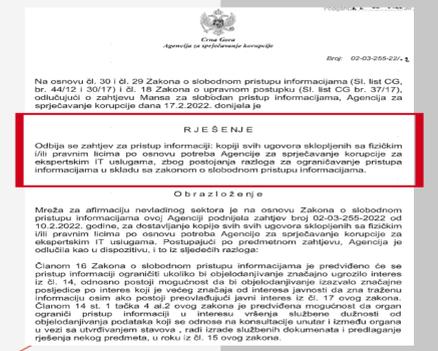
It has been three weeks since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and **Montenegro** is yet to make a formal decision on the imposition of sanctions on Russian natural and legal persons that are on the list of EU sanctions. Adoption of this decision would operationalize Montenegro's joining to EU sanctions, which is for now only declarative, and issue specific orders to Montenegrin state institutions. **From the NGO MANS says that any further delay in the adoption of this decision directly jeopardizes the integration process of Montenegro, and sends a dangerous message that there is room for our country to once again be recognized as a safe haven for dirty capital and oligarchs who are trying to preserve their property under international sanctions.** 15/03/2022

21



Data obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre within cooperation in the investigation of the assets of Russian oligarchs conducted by the OCCRP and the Guardian shows how **the family of Putin's prosecutor built in Montenegro.** A company "Monte biser" from Herceg Novi, linked to Moscow's chief prosecutor **Denis Popov**, has received more than 1 million euros in loans from offshore companies registered in the British Virgin Islands and the island of Nevis in the Caribbean sea. Kompletnu priču sa svim detaljima možete pročitati na linku u nastavku: <https://www.mans.co.me/russian-asset-tracker/> 21/03/2022

25



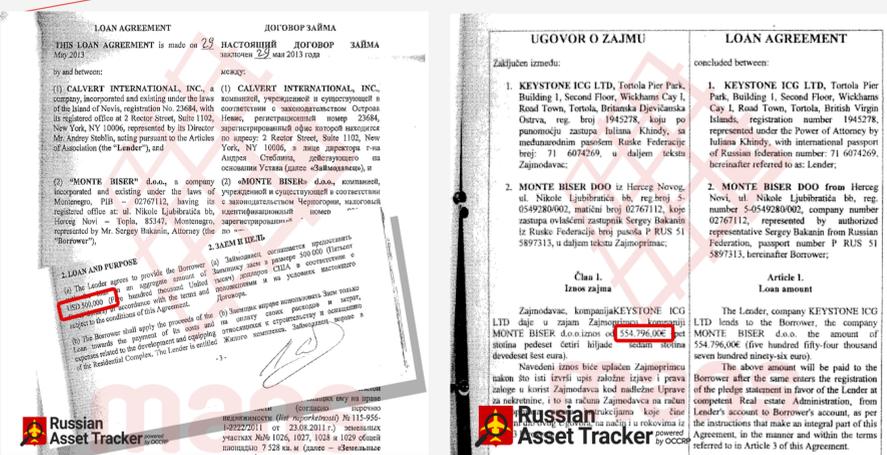
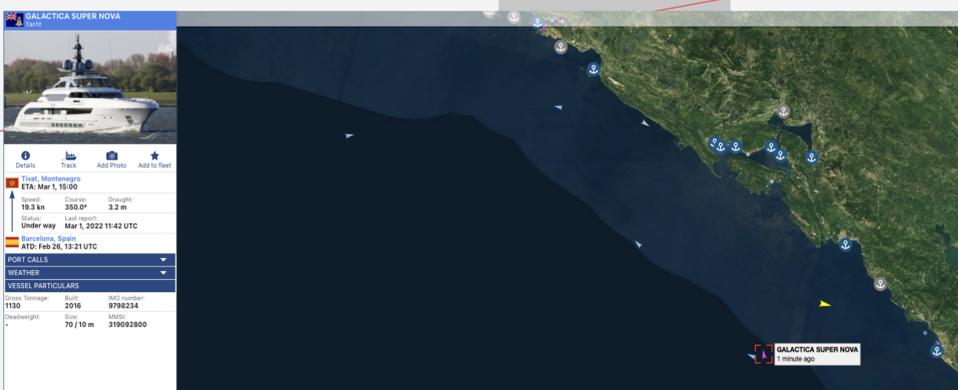
The latest action of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) shows that it continues the practice of withholding the information of public importance. After MANS submitted the request for information, APC banned access to consulting contracts with information technology experts, citing intellectual property rights as the reason. **There is no valid reason for the Agency to hide how much it spent on consulting contracts, or with whom they were concluded, and that information certainly cannot be qualified in the way the Agency did.** MANS points out that **the interpretation of the Law on Free Access to Information, which is to the detriment of the public's right to know, is unacceptable, especially by the institution in charge of the fight against corruption.** 25/03/2022

30



Basic Court in Podgorica passed a judgment **dismissing the lawsuit of Zoran Bećirović and his Cypriot company "Caldero Trading LTD" against MANS, all because of the article of the MANS Investigative Centre about the affairs between Bećirović and former President of the Supreme Court, Vesna Medenica.** The discovery of MANS was followed by a series of press releases and a public debate on whether the price at which the land was sold was too high, and whether Vesna Medenica had violated the law by not reporting exceptional income to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC). 30/03/2022

March in photos



March, 2022.

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01



The data obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre show that the Ministry of Capital Investments (MCI), headed by the Minister Mladen Bojanić, had grounds to terminate the concession agreement with Marko Carević's company - "Carinvest" back in October last year, which refers to the exploitation of stone from the bearing "Platac" in Grbalj, which did not happen. Instead of terminating the concession agreement, minister signed a decision which allows "Carinvest" to exploit stone at the "Platac" site for another 30 years. MANS filed a criminal complaint against Bojanić with the Special State Prosecutor's Office due to that and suspicion of unlawful granting of the new concession to Carević. 01/04/2022

07



NGO MANS submitted to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) requests to initiate proceedings against Dritan Abazović, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro and Filip Adžić, his advisor, because they did not refuse a gift in the form of paid travel and accommodation expenses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi (UAE) in December last year. On that occasion, Abazović and Adžić were in the United Arab Emirates at the expense of Mohammed Al Shaibani, who is the head of the Ruler's Court and the executive director of the Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), a company that owns Porto Montenegro in Tivat. Not only they did not refuse the gift, but also did not report it to the Secretariat-General, which recently handed over the records of gifts to APC, in which no trip to the UAE was mentioned. 07/04/2022

11



That the outgoing government was unprepared to deviate from the practice of withholding information inherited from the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) for 30 years the proof is the fact that at the end of last year extended the validity of the decision to mark the audio minutes from the Government sessions as confidential. MANS received this answer for the session at which the decision on announcing a public call for a concession for the quarry "Platac" for a period of 30 years was discussed and finally adopted, which was awarded to a company owned by the family of Budva Mayor, Marko Bato Carević. 11/04/2022

12



As part of the global investigation "Pandora Papers Russia" led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists - ICIJ, the MANS Investigative Centre obtained documentation indicating suspicions of money laundering on Montenegrin coastline. In the period from 2015 to 2019, Russian businessmen, brothers Pavel and Valery Zadorin, managed to bring at least 15 million euros into Montenegro, using a complex network of offshore companies. That money was invested in the purchase and construction of luxury real estate on Montenegrin coastline through fictitious loans to local companies. The complete story with all the accompanying documentation, you can read at the link below: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/pandora-papers-russian-offshore-millions-for-luxury-real-estate-in-montenegro/>. 12/04/2022

15



MANS Investigative Centre came across data indicating unusual business transactions between the family of former influential police and secret service operative, Zoran Lazović, and Bemax company. Investigation showed that the company "Bemax" sold the property of 104 m2 in the so-called Tološki apartments in Podgorica, to the son of Lazović at a price of 1000 euros/m2, far below the market price not only for that part of the city, but also in relation to the building in which this apartment is located. The complete story about property of former operative of public and secret police service with all details, available at MANS web portal link below: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/close-family-friends-and-or-trading-in-influence/> 15/04/2022

26



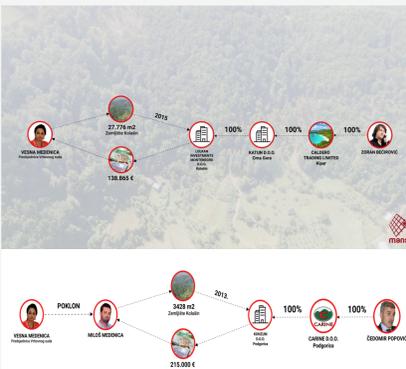
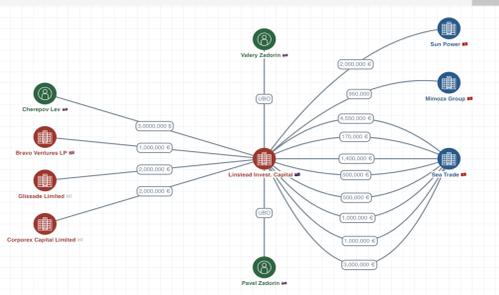
Data obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre show that in mid-2018, Marija, daughter of the former President of the Supreme Court, Vesna Medenica, received a land in Kolašin worth 21,000 euros as a gift from the controversial businessman Rado Arsić from Tivat. Today, there is a splendour villa on that plot, and Arsić claims that it is a friendly relationship, not a business relationship. You can read how the Medenica family acquired valuable real estate in Kolašin at the link below: <https://www.mans.co.me/kako-je-porodica-medenice-stekla-vrijedne-nekretnine-u-kolasinu-od-kuma-plac-kuca-kostala-najmanje-125-000-eura/> 26/04/2022

28



MANS Investigative Centre published data showing that at the beginning of last year, son of the former President of the Supreme Court, Vesna Medenica, sold his unfinished villa in Krašići for 700,000 euros, while data obtained by analysing documentation show that only 16,000 euros was invested in the construction of the facility, and the rest was financed by a businessman from Tivat, Rado Arsić. You can read the entire investigative story, with all the details on how Miloš Medenica "earned" a villa worth 700,000 euros, at the link below: <https://www.mans.co.me/kako-je-milos-medenica-zaradio-vilu-od-700-000-eura/> 28/04/2022

April in photos



05



Documentation obtained by MANS shows that son of the former influential police and secret service operative **Zoran Lazović**, as a 19-year-old in 2009, paid 40,000 euros for a vehicle, and four years later, he bought another car for 35,000 euros. **The data indicate quite a luxurious lifestyle of children of certain public officials suspected of not being based on real or legal sources of income, which is usually the first indicator of corrupt practices or behaviour.** Lazović's name was mentioned in a Europol document on the connections of police officers with the criminal "Kavač clan".

05/05/2022

06



As a guest in the *RTCG morning programme*, the director of the MANS Investigative Centre commented on the current events that shake Montenegrin security system and the connections of organized crime with the authorities in Montenegro.

You can see the complete appearance at the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z6oFXPLfN8>

06/05/2022

09



In May 2019, MANS filed a criminal complaint against the *President of the Commercial Court, Blažo Jovanić*, due to illegal tenders for the sale of the land of *JSC Salina Bajo Sekulić* in bankruptcy. **For months, Jovanić ignored warnings about the illegal behaviour of the bankruptcy trustee of Salina, because the tender offered land that was not owned by the company "Bajo Sekulić", and in the end he stated that "everything is fine".** This is not the only affair connected with Jovanić. Controversial decisions he made also relate to *Casino Avala in Budva, Uniprom's intention to buy Aluminium Plant Podgorica (KAP), and regarding the operations of the Budva Riviera, as well as EPCG.*

09/05/2022

12



Aleksa Stanković, son of the former Supreme State Prosecutor of Montenegro, was photographed in the company of **Darko Šarić**, a drug boss accused of international smuggling of 5.7 tons of cocaine to Europe and laundering over 20 million euros suspected of being acquired through the sale of narcotics. **When asked by the MANS Investigative Centre on what occasion he was in Šarić's company, Stanković did not provide an answer.** The photos were taken on April 6 this year in Belgrade, in front of the entrance to the Court of Appeals, where presenting of appeals against the verdict, by which Šarić and his group were convicted of laundering more than 20 million euros, was completed that day. The photos were provided to the MANS Investigative Centre by colleagues from Belgrade's KRIK.

12/05/2022

16



As a guest in the morning programme of *TV Vijesti - Boje jutro*, the Executive Director of the NGO MANS spoke on all current topics.

The appearance, with a review of the situation in the State Prosecutor's Office and why the scenario of the Government of Montenegro selling smuggled cigarettes from the warehouse of the Free Zone of the Port of Bar is not realistic, is available at the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpKYaFbUObU>

16/05/2022

20



In an interview with *Vijesti* on the *European Commission's* non-paper review of the work of the *Agency for Prevention of Corruption*, the director of the MANS Investigative Centre points out that **the Agency continues to act according to the system of protection of top state officials, which is no longer reserved only for DPS staff.** Data from the informal document (non-paper) of the *European Commission*, which refers to the situation in the negotiation chapters 23 and 24, again testify to the fact that **the Agency for Prevention of Corruption continues to be one of the obstacles to a sustainable fight against high-level corruption.**

20/05/2022

27



MANS expect a prompt reaction from the *Supreme and Special State Prosecutor's Office* after the *High Court of Montenegro*, made a decision that **former mayor of the Capital did not abuse his official position in the sale of city construction land to the company "Carine".** **"We insist that Acting Supreme State Prosecutor, determine without delay whether there were omissions in the work and investigation, and of course, that the Special State Prosecutor's Office file an appeal against such a verdict. This is a case that is extremely important for the integrity of the new composition of the State Prosecutor's Office and possible highest-level corruption. Any "useful error" and/or "ambiguity" in conducting this investigation should be investigated and severely sanctioned."**

27/05/2022

May in photos



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05



Latest examples of the prosecution of high-ranking officials by the judiciary have confirmed that **the Agency for Prevention of Corruption is not doing its job properly**. Nearly two years after the change of government, although criticized in the reports of the **European Commission (EC)**, the **Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC)** is acting in its usual manner. Instead of the umbrella anti-corruption institution pointing out the apartments, houses, estates, cars, expensive watches, accounts of high-ranking officials to the competent authorities and the public, APC seems to have left its authority to the civil sector and the media.

05/06/2022

08



The results of the analysis of the Public Procurement Plan of **Montefarm** and the **Ministry of Health** were presented at the conference "**Unions as correction factors of society**", organized by the **Union of Doctors of Medicine of Montenegro**, the **European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI)** and **MANS**. On that occasion, it was noted that with the contracted purchases of around **80 thousand LAMP tests** and **50 thousand serological tests** for the coronavirus in 2021, which were not used, Montenegro wasted money that could have been used for the purchase of six fully equipped PCR laboratories.

08/06/2022

14



MANS called on the Government of Montenegro to abolish the remaining illegitimate restrictions on the right to access information, and to adopt amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information, which it withdrew from the parliamentary procedure, as a matter of urgency. This law is a key tool of the media, NGO sector and citizens in the fight against corruption, but also control of the government work. The draft submitted by the previous government contained very important improvements related to access to information on the assets and income of public officials, as well as other norms that would enable access to data on the basis of which irregularities can be detected.

14/06/2022

15



NGO MANS joined the initiative of 16 NGOs addressed to the **President of the Parliament of Montenegro** to put on the agenda the Proposal of the Government of Montenegro from June 6, 2022, regarding the **ratification of Protocol 16 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**, as a matter of urgency. The ratification of the Protocol will enable the highest national courts in Montenegro to request advisory opinions from the **European Court of Human Rights**. At the same time, Montenegro will have the opportunity to eliminate potential violations of human rights in its legal system and reduce the number of petitions before the **European Court of Human Rights**.

15/06/2022

17



The **Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector** considers "dangerous" the interpretation of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, which took the position of suspending the ban on social welfare payments from the budget reserve during the pandemic of the communicable disease Covid-19. **According to MANS, despite the fact that the payment of social welfare in a procedure that is far from transparent has already been recognized as one of the mechanisms for buying votes and exerting illegal influence on voters, it is quite clear that in the eve of new local elections, there is no political will among political parties to put an end to such practice.**

17/06/2022

22



Administrative Court made yet another judgement which once again shows that the lack of political will is still a key issue in the work of the Agency, as well as a confirmation of the European Commission's findings in the latest progress report on Montenegro - that this institution still has a problem with selectivity in the treatment of public officials. The Court annulled the decision of the APC, which rejected as unfounded the initiative of the **Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS)** to determine how the former high official of the **Police Administration, Enis Baković**, acquired a plot and a cottage in Žabljak.

22/06/2022

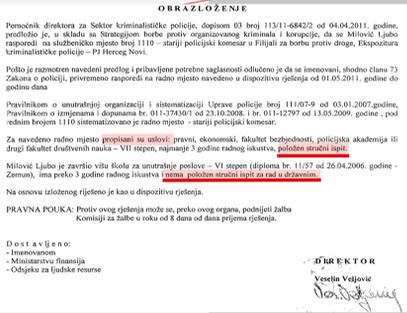
24



MANS presents a documentary show "Power is stronger than the law" in which specifically dealt with the problem of drug smuggling and key seizures as indicators of success in the fight against organized crime. How years and decades of impunity for serious crimes, elaborate routes and coordinated schemes for smuggling narcotics, weapons and cigarettes, as well as close ties between criminals and the police and the judiciary, have made Montenegro a desirable business destination for criminal clans and complete show you can watch at the link below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISnd9uNacUc

24/06/2022

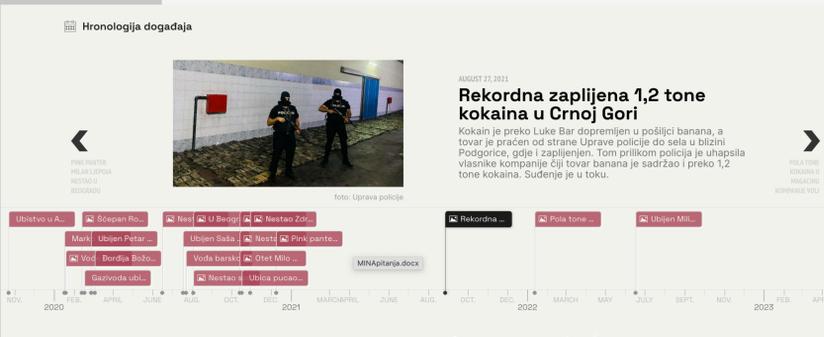
29



MANS' data show that **police officer Ljubo Milović, is suspected in EUROPOL's files of cooperation with the Kavači criminal clan, revealing information about police actions and active participation in drug trafficking, was unlawfully employed in the Police Directorate for years.** However, data of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) show that the year after dismissal from work managed to save **12,000 euros** the following year, which was more than his annual salary as a police inspector. Complete research story with all the details is at the website below: <https://www.mans.co.me/en/milovic-was-unlawfully-employed-in-the-police-directorate-for-years/>

29/06/2022

June in photos



KRIMINAL.ME
SVE O KRIMINALU NA JEDNOM MJESTU

- zaplijene narkotika
- profili ključnih ljudi
- mapa ubistava
- istrage i suđenja

02



On the occasion of ten months since the publication of the documents from the "Pandora" case director of the MANS Research Center said that **Pandora papers and the offshore scheme for hiding assets and income established by the President of Montenegro, Milo Đukanović, and his son remain a test for the new, reformed prosecution and an indicator that will show whether Đukanović and his clique still have "their people" in that system.** Apart from political support, the key factor will be the courage of the new prosecutor to speak publicly about Pandora and how far the investigation has come, whether there are pressures to stop it or make it meaningless.

02/07/2022

08



In an interview for the independent weekly Monitor, the executive director of the NGO MANS points out that "No government, especially a minority government, can have the legitimacy to negotiate such important matters, such as the contract with the SPC, which deeply divides the Montenegrin public, behind its back". The complete interview "Divisions instead of the fight against corruption" you can read at the link below: <https://www.monitor.co.me/vanja-calovic-mans-podjele-umjesto-borbe-protiv-korupcije/>

08/07/2022

14



After three years of delay the first section of the highway Smokovac - Mateševac was ceremonially opened on National Day, July 13, whereby the deadline for the completion of the work was breached twice. In the meantime, the price of the project was increased by at least 100 million. MANS insists on the question of responsibility, due to the fact that 41 kilometers of highway, were built for seven years, which, is unprecedented in the world. MANS filed two criminal charges in 2018 and 2019 against CRBC for large-scale environmental pollution, but both were dismissed by the previous prosecution.

14/07/2022

15



Documents obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre show that the company "Carinvest", owned by the family of the president of the Municipality of Budva, Marko Bato Carević, is trying to force the Government of Montenegro to sell the land in Krimovica to it for 1.2 million euros, which this company has usurped since 2015. As part of the documentation submitted by Carević in an attempt to legalize one of the buildings built in Krimovica, he declared before a notary "that he built a facility that was the subject of legalization with his own funds on someone else's land, under full moral, material and criminal responsibility" and thereby admitted the commission of the criminal act of usurpation of state land.

15/07/2022

26



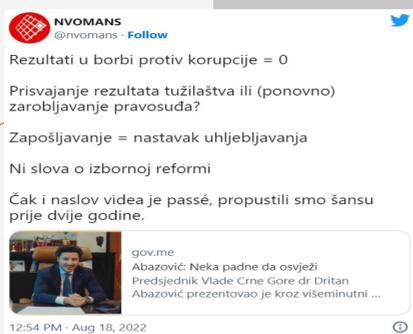
TRT World in the program "Across the Balkans" did a reportage about the construction of the Montenegrin highway worth about one billion euros, in which one of the interlocutors was a representative of the NGO MANS Research Center. Although after three years of delay, the first section of the Bar-Boljare highway was officially opened, questions are still being raised as to why it took seven years to build the 42km. According to indications, the construction was accompanied by numerous suspicions of corruption.

You can see the full reportage at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAw1baqEemQ>

26/07/2022

18

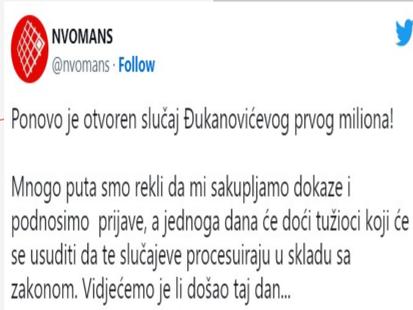


The Network for Affirmation of the Non-Governmental Sector (MANS) commented on the message of Prime Minister **Dritan Abazović on the occasion of the 100th day of the Government**, in which he pointed out that incredible things have been done in a very short period and that everything promised has been done.

"Results in the fight against corruption = 0
The prosecution's results or the (re)capture of the judiciary?
Employment = continuation of political patronage
No mention of electoral reform

Even the title of the video is passé, we missed our chance two years ago." 18/08/2022

23

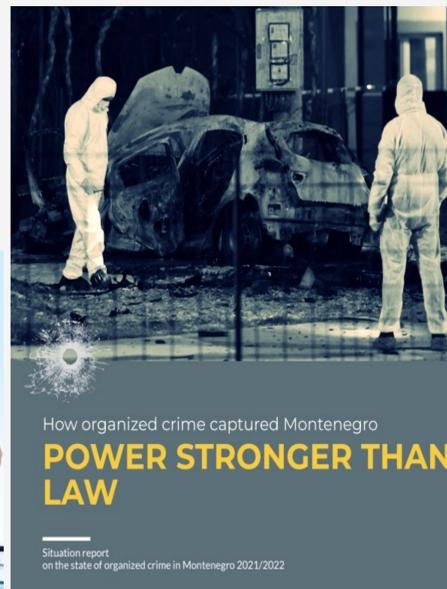


Chief Special State Prosecutor reopened the investigation regarding the criminal complaint that the NGO MANS submitted to the prosecutor's office on February 4, 2019 against the President of Montenegro Milo Đukanović, the President of the Atlas Group, Duško Knežević, Duško Ban, Željko Mihailović and former director of the Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering Predrag Mitrović, due to the suspicion that they committed the criminal offense of money laundering in an organized manner. MANS welcomes the move of the prosecution in order to finally know the truth about that famous first million.

What should accompany the entire case is the determination of responsibility regarding the rejection of the last year report from SDT and the objection that MANS sent to the decision of the now former SDT.

23/08/2022

July/August in photos



July/August, 2022.

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04



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

10



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

13



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

14



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

15



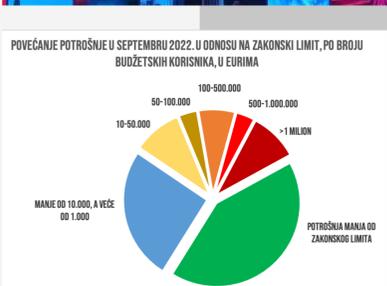
On expenses based on the payment of temporary employment contracts, from the beginning of August, when local elections were called, until mid-September, around 1.6 million euros was spent, which is 300 thousand euros more than in the same period of the previous year. Detailed data on spending during 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

17



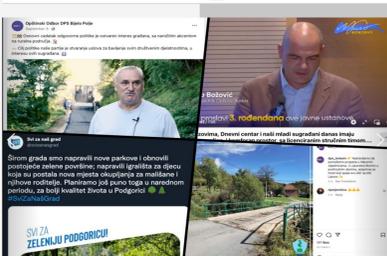
Thanks to the position that the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) took during the campaign for the latest parliamentary elections in 2020, political parties again have the opportunity to advertise on Pink M television, at rates and conditions that are not available to the public. Bearing in mind 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

19



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

21



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

27

October in photos



October, 2022.

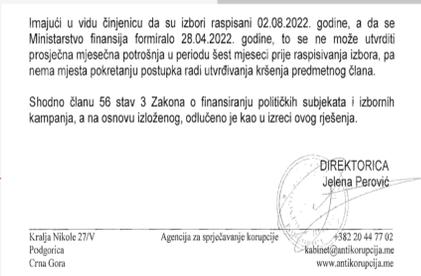
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01



MANS called on the MPs to submit amendments to the proposed changes in the Law on Administrative Disputes which is on the agenda of the Parliament session, and protect citizens from arbitrariness and unlawful work of the state administration. With the proposed amendments stimulate the untimeliness of the state administration which violates the rights of citizens, because for years, it does not meet the deadlines for decision-making, and the costs of such actions are transferred to citizens whose rights have already been violated. MANS has sent draft amendments to all parliamentary groups that can improve the proposed changes in the Law and called them to amend them, not to support the amendments to this law unless they are in line with international standards. 01/11/2022

09



The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) rejected 23 complaints filed by MANS against several institutions at the state and local level due to suspicion that during August, they violated the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns, i.e. they spent more than prescribed by the Law. At the same time, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education, which spent 19 million more than the legal limit in one month of the election campaign alone, are completely exempt from application of the Law. With this interpretation the law and regulations governing the financing of political entities and election campaigns, the APC continued to create harmful precedents that will continue to be an incentive for electoral abuses and political corruption in the future. 09/11/2022

13



Although the new Special State Prosecutor's Office launched numerous investigations in eight months and issued indictments against the former top officials of the Montenegrin judiciary, the judiciary still has no answer to numerous cases in which high corruption is suspected and which have burdened society for years. MANS suspects that in previous years, there has been a synchronization between the State Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary in some big cases which were dismissed despite the large amount of evidence, and the progress is not visible even today. For years, as a rule, the only disciplinary proceedings against judges and prosecutors were initiated due to failure to report property records, while prosecutors were always given the best score for the quality of their work. 13/11/2022

14



What will be the outcome of the "Apartments" affair is the topic of the TV show "Naglas" (TVCG), whose guest was the Executive Director of the NGO MANS, who emphasized the importance of publishing the names of the officials who received apartments and housing loans at favourable prices, as well as that one should not wait for the elections in order to do that. Among other things, she also reminded:
- How the Government of Montenegro serviced the housing needs of the judges of the Constitutional Court, whereby out of seven judges, five got apartments in a manner that was contrary to the law;
- How the former Protector of Property and Legal Interests of Montenegro, today a candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court, tried to hide that she had received an apartment from the state;
- Was party engagement a recommendation for getting apartments? 14/11/2022

17



The High Court accepted the bail for son of former influential police and secret service operative, Zoran Lazović, arrested on suspicion of being part of a criminal group involved in international cocaine smuggling. The decision to accept the bail comes only two weeks after the same court rejected the guarantee of 1.2 million euros offered by his family for Lazović, thus, it is not clear why the council of the High Court changed its decision. MANS requested that the complete documentation be made available to the public, including the assessment of the immovable property offered as bail, as well as to publicly announce the basis of the new assessment that there is no longer any danger of Petar Lazović running away. 17/11/2022

17



How did the cyber-attack lead to the fact that no one has seen the Draft Law on Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime?

Instead of making the officials who violate the rights of citizens pay the expenses, the Minister of Justice proposes the ideas of DPS as reforms. The government of D. Marković held a public debate on that law after it collapsed, and zero citizens participated in it.

You can watch the entire show "Načisto" and TV debate between the Minister of Justice and the Executive Director of MANS on these and other current topics at the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VyNAd558dI&t=4498s> 17/11/2022

22



MANS submitted to the institution of the Protector of Property and Legal Interests of Montenegro a report to initiate proceedings against the Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (ASK), Jelena Perović, with a request to ask for compensation for damages on behalf of the State of Montenegro due to non-fulfilment of the contract obligations when purchasing an apartment under favourable conditions. As Perović clearly did not fulfil the contract obligation regarding the minimum number of years she had to spend as a judge after purchasing the apartment, the conditions were met for the Government of Montenegro to initiate legal proceedings against the current director and request that she compensate the market price of the apartment in this particular case. 22/11/2022

November in photos



Državnim i lokalnim budžetskim potrošačkim jedinicama, osim DIKu i OIKovima, **zabranjena** je mjesečna potrošnja veća od prosječne mjesečne potrošnje u prethodnih šest mjeseci **od dana raspisivanja do dana održavanja izbora**, osim u slučajevima vanrednog stanja, u skladu sa zakonom.

Član 38.

Zakon o finansiranju političkih subjekata i izbornih kampanja



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November, 2022.
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09



On the occasion of the **International Anti-Corruption Day**, NGO MANS traditionally organized **15th National Anti-Corruption Conference**. The focus of this year's conference is on **plans for the reform of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns and challenges in its application and supervision of the implementation**. With the aim of improving the existing legal solution and harmonizing it with the legal acquis of the European Union, through three working panels, an opportunity was provided for the exchange of opinions and relevant experiences by representatives of political parties, international experts as well as representatives of institutions and the civil sector.

09

NGO MANS presented a database on the finances of parliamentary political parties in Montenegro, which was implemented with the help of the **National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**. The database, specific documents that indicate how the parties are financed and spend money can be found on the specialized MANS portal www.cistakampanja.me, which is dedicated to the electoral process in Montenegro.

09



NGO MANS published a report about financing recently of the recently held local elections which provides a clearer picture of compliance with legal restrictions on the use of public funds in the pre-election period, in order to reduce the possibility of unlawful influence on voters. **This document analyses the spending of state bodies and institutions of the Capital City during the campaign for local elections held in 14 municipalities, also presents data on employment and operations of the largest companies as well as the use of institutional advantage.** A special chapter is devoted to concrete cases and decisions of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption that cause serious issues in practice are presented. Complete report is available at: <https://www.mans.co.me/en/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Report-on-the-financing-of-2022-local-elections.pdf>

11



That some parties do not show accurate data on expenses during the election campaign, which raises the suspicion that they spend much more than the legal limits is shown by the study of the NGO MANS on the example of the **Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)** during the last parliamentary elections. The data from the research on the finances of political parties show a **tendency that the costs of regular business operations of parties, as well as turnover through regular accounts, increase significantly during the election year compared to the non-election period.** Complete analysis of financing of the parliamentary political parties in Montenegro is available at: <https://www.mans.co.me/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/MONEY-IN-POLITICS.pdf>

16



NGO MANS called on the MPs in **Parliament to return to the public discussion the Draft Amendments to the Law on Confiscation of Material Benefit**, adopted by the Government, and for which we have been fighting for over a decade. **This law received a negative opinion by the European Commission which points out that it is necessary to significantly improve it and organize public consultations. Not only did those consultations not take place, but the Government hid the document from the public for months, despite the promises of the line minister. The adoption of this Law will certainly not bring results in practice and may greatly jeopardize the confiscation of property that is hidden abroad.**

20



In Montenegro, dubious investments from countries that are not democratic have been tolerated for a long time due to short-term interests and filling the budget, CDT's "ACTION" podcast assessed. **The interlocutors of the podcast agree that various foreign influences come to Montenegro, but that the malignant ones are clearly different from the influence of the European Union (EU), and that a good part of the influence is realized through the so-called corrosive capital.** Complete podcast on the topic **"Can Montenegro fight negative foreign influences?"** you can watch at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4YGWrdm-Hg>

20



As a guest in the show **Reflektor** on TV **Vijesti**, the director of the NGO MANS assessed that **the proposal for a law on amendments to the Law on confiscation of property benefits obtained through criminal activity which adopted by the Government, is structurally wrong. Pointing out several flaws in the law, among other that without confirming the indictment of the special prosecution, there is no procedure, meaninglessness of international cooperation, time limit of 10 years, she indicated the reasons why it is necessary to return the text of this regulation to a public debate before it reaches the parliament.** You can watch the entire show at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CcxXGxZvDU>

25

Savjet Agencije, na osnovu prednje izloženo, smatra da je u ovom postupku nadzora pravilno i potpuno utvrđeno činjenično stanje i pravilno primijenjeno materijalno pravo te da je ASK, kao rukovalac zbirke ličnih podataka, povjerila poslove obrade iz svog djelokruga vezano za uslugu održavanja i nadogradnje aplikativnog informacionog sistema "Prozone" čiji ima sjedište u Republici Srbiji, a na osnovu koje su lični podaci javnih funkcionera i zaposlenih službenika ASK kroz IS putem VPN aplikacije otkriveni i dostupni ovom privredno društvu, bez pisanog ugovora i bez prethodne saglasnosti Agencije kao nadzornog organa, čime je došlo nezakonite obrade ličnih podataka suprotno članu 10 Zakona, kao i nezakonitog povjeravanja poslova i povrede člana 16 i člana 41 Zakona a u vezi članom 2 stav 1 i članom 4a stav 3 Zakona o zaštiti podataka o ličnosti.

The case of illegal disclosure of personal data of thousands of public officials and persons connected with them outside the borders of Montenegro represents a new compromise of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APC), although they should represent an example of compliance with laws and regulations in society. The Council of the Agency for the Protection of Personal Data and Free Access to Information (AZLP) recently made a decision that the APC violates the **Law on the Protection of Personal Data**, because information about public officials and members of their households was disclosed and processed outside of Montenegro. The initiative to initiate proceedings before the AZLP was submitted by MANS back in April of this year.

28

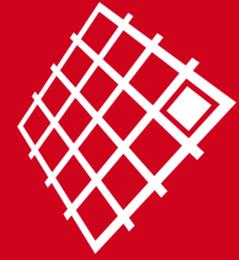


Representatives of the civil sector continue to point that proposed changes to the **Law on Free Access to Information**, which after the formation of 43. Government, returned from the parliamentary procedure, envisage a number of good solutions, but that there are also shortcomings. **MANS emphasize execution as a good solution and the introduction of the institute of controllers, while the key flaw in the proposed text is the reduction of the level of privacy of public officials, treating the institute of tax secrecy, removing proactive publication of information regarding the tenders, as well as a decision on information that is marked with a level of secrecy.**

December in photos

<p>XV NACIONALNA ANTIKORUPCIJSKA KONFERENCIJA XV NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE</p> <p>Hotel CUE Podgorica, 9. decembar 2022. CUE hotel Podgorica, 9th December 2022</p> <p>Svečano otvaranje - 10:00h / Official opening - 10:00am</p>	<p>XV NACIONALNA ANTIKORUPCIJSKA KONFERENCIJA XV NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE</p> <p>Hotel CUE Podgorica, 9. decembar 2022. CUE hotel Podgorica, 9th December 2022</p> <p>PANEL I: Dometti i planovi za reformu Zakona o finansiranju političkih subjekata i Izbornih kampanja - 11:00h / Scope of plans for the reform of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns - 11:00am</p>	<p>XV NACIONALNA ANTIKORUPCIJSKA KONFERENCIJA XV NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE</p> <p>Hotel CUE Podgorica, 9. decembar 2022. CUE hotel Podgorica, 9th December 2022</p> <p>PANEL II: Međunarodna Iskustva i preporuke - 13:00h / International experience and recommendations - 13:00am</p>	<p>XV NACIONALNA ANTIKORUPCIJSKA KONFERENCIJA XV NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE</p> <p>Hotel CUE Podgorica, 9. decembar 2022. CUE hotel Podgorica, 9th December 2022</p> <p>PANEL III: Problemi u primjeni Zakona - 14:30h / Challenges in the implementation of the Law - 14:30pm</p>
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