



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY 2019-2022

FOR YOUR RIGHTS:
TOWARDS
EUROPEAN STANDARDS

Podgorica, 19/11/2020

INVITATION LETTER

Dear Mr/Ms,

It is a pleasure to invite you to participate on the panel discussion „**Patterns and degree of discrimination in Montenegro – 2020**“ that **Center for Democracy and Human Rights – CEDEM, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, will hold on Friday, 27th of November, in ZOOM platform.**

In order to support the national institutions in combating discrimination and ensuring a more inclusive society in this emergency, the Council of Europe, in consultation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and with the Ombudsperson's Office, decided to launch a country-wide survey on discrimination patterns, against vulnerable groups as per the ECRI 2017 report on Montenegro and issues identified therewith. The survey is among the activities implemented in the framework of the action on 'Promotion of diversity and equality in Montenegro', part of the EU-COE programmatic framework Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

In this regard, **CEDEM conducted the research from 11th to 19th September 2020 and the results and recommendations will be presented, accompanied with a panel discussion on key findings with representatives of CSOs dealing with vulnerable groups. The draft agenda of the event is enclosed below.**

In addition, the survey aimed at identifying whether discrimination against vulnerable groups has changed due to the COVID outbreak. The survey provides information on individuals' perceptions and direct experiences of human rights violations as well as their knowledge and assessment of the work of human rights institutions in Montenegro. It also generates data, which will serve the Ombudsperson's Office to identify which human rights related issues are of concern to persons living in Montenegro, so it could develop appropriate counter measures.

Best regards,



Milena Bešić, Director, CEDEM

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Panel discussion “Patterns and degree of discrimination in Montenegro – 2020”

Podgorica, 27/11/2020
(online in ZOOM, <https://bit.ly/35K3Je5>)

Friday, November 27th 2020

- 09:45** Technical checks and testing of interpretation
- 10:00** Opening remarks
- **Ms Milena Bešić**, Director, Center for Democracy and Human Rights
 - **Mr Hermann Spitz**, Head of Cooperation Section, EU Delegation in Montenegro
 - **Ms Evgenia Giakoumopoulou**, Head of Operations, Council of Europe
- 10:15** **Keynote: Ombudsman’s assessment on the current situation of anti-discrimination in Montenegro and key challenges**
Ms Nerma Dobardžić, Deputy Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro
- 10:30** **Presentation of the results and key findings of the research „Patterns and degree of discrimination in Montenegro – 2020**
Mr Miloš Bešić, Author of the research and CEDEM’s main methodologist
- 11:00** Break
- 11:15** **Plenary Discussion**
- 1) What are reflections on the key findings of the research?
 - 2) What has been done to tackle some of the outlined findings in the past years?
 - 3) How do these findings affect different groups, such as women, LGBTI persons, minorities, persons with disabilities, young people etc?
- **Ms Božena Jelušić**, Member of Parliament of Montenegro
 - **Ms Blanka Radošević Marović**, Director General of the Directorate for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms
 - **Mr Elvis Beriša**, Executive Director, NGO Phiren Amenca
 - **Mr Danijel Kalezić**, President of the Board of Directors, Queer Montenegro
 - **Ms Maja Raičević**, Executive Director, NGO Women’s Rights Center
 - **Mr Milenko Vujačić**, Senior Program Advisor, UMHCG
- Moderator: Mr Marko Pejović**, Program Manager, CEDEM
- 12:00** **Key recommendations**
Mr Miloš Bešić, Author of the research and CEDEM’s main methodologist
- 12:15** **Closing remarks**
Ms Angela Longo, Programme Manager, Anti-discrimination department, Council of Europe