

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION IN 2022

Introduction

During 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation acted in accordance with its program portfolio, which consists of three basic programs: advocating for the European integration of Serbia, encouraging public dialogue and encouraging sustainable economic and social development, including the promotion of economic and social rights.

During 2022, the CDF implemented six projects, actively acted within the framework of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU), within the framework of the the European Association for Local Democracy, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the UN Global Compact.

The CDF has submitted more than 10 project applications to the published tenders of USAID, European Commission and the EU Delegation in Serbia (3 project proposals), the Embassy of Canada and others. In the development of project applications, the CDF acted as the lead partner, together with partner organizations from Serbia, the Western Balkans region and the European Union.

The work of the Foundation is supported by the long-term donors such as Olof Palme International Center, the Open Society Foundation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the European Commission, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and cooperation has been established with new donors - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Established Goals

From the strategic development plan extended to 2022 (due to the Covid19 pandemic, the duration of the strategic plan was extended), work on the realization of the goals continued:

❖ **Strategic direction 1: Improve development programs for different groups of users and the community, based on practical research, within the framework of local, regional and national strategies and accession negotiations with the EU, in accordance with EU standards, supporting cross-sectoral cooperation**

- ✚ Strategic objective 1: Create a platform for public dialogue on strategic and current state and social issues
- ✚ Strategic objective 2: Improve the legal framework and system of protection of economic, social, cultural and labor rights
- ✚ Strategic objective 3: Advocate European values, democratic procedures and the rule of law for the development of an independent judiciary, parliamentary oversight, efficient and responsive public administration and local self-government, and contribution to the fight against corruption and good governance of public resources

❖ **Strategic direction 2: Develop open communication with the environment and encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences**

- ✚ Strategic objective 1: Increase the recognition of the Foundation in the public
- ✚ Strategic objective 2: Strengthen the joint capacities of relevant social actors

❖ **Strategic direction 3: Improve the internal capacities of the organization in accordance with the mission, respecting the principles of permanent learning, the agreed value system and the image of a reliable partner to domestic and international organizations**

- ✚ Strategic objective 1: Harmonize internal human resources with the agreed directions of development of the organization and its activities
- ✚ Strategic objective 2: Establish procedures that ensure optimal use of the organization's resources and effectiveness in work
- ✚ Strategic objective 3: Put the resources of the founders and users of the program into the function of organizational development
- ✚ Strategic objective 4: Develop a network of Foundation collaborators who will strengthen the capacities and reputation of the organization

The objectives were mostly achieved during the period of implementation of the plan, so it is necessary to proceed with the creation of a new development plan by the end of 2022.

CDF 2022 in numbers:

- ✚ Activities realized in Pirot, Zaječar, Knjaževac, Niš, Leskovac, Požega, Užice, Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Apatin, Novi Pazar, Veliko Gradište and others.
- ✚ Three trainings were held for local self-government in the field of development planning and three trainings for representatives of marginalized groups for the protection of rights on the labor market.
- ✚ More than 20 debates and workshops were held with the participation of more than 1000 citizens in vivo and online.
- ✚ More than 50 external associates were engaged in the activities of the Foundation.
- ✚ 24 blogs, analyses, public policy proposals were published.
- ✚ During 2022, the Foundation had very good media representation - 148 articles were published in print and online media about FCD activities.

Project Activities

Labour Rights are Our Rights

Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development is the continuation of the project **Labour Rights are Our Rights**, implemented by the Center for Democracy Foundation in 2022 with the support of the Olof Palme International Center. In its strategy for the Western Balkans, Olof Palme International Center determined the problem of changes and implementation of labour legislation as one of the priorities, then cooperation of civil society organizations with trade unions, and networking of civil society organizations dealing with these issues. The Center for Democracy is perceived as one of the key partners in Serbia and the Western Balkans region. The overall objective of the project **Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development** is the promotion of social and economic rights within the context of EU-oriented reforms in Serbia. This is done through the empowerment of the citizenry in terms of their rights, strengthening trade union and CSO capacities to participate in creating and monitoring public policy in line with the law. This is a human rights-based approach with the expanded collaboration of key actors, which leads to stronger networks at the national and local levels.

Main activities in 2022:

Debate: Labour and Other Social Rights in the Upcoming Election Programmes

Within the framework of the Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development project, the Center for Democracy Foundation, with the support of the Olof Palme International Center, organised a public debate on the following topic: **Labour and Other Social Rights in the Upcoming Election Programmes**

(more than 60 participants live and online). Partaking in the debate were: **Marko Miletić** (Electoral list: We Must) **Željko Veselinović** (Electoral list: Marinika Tepić - United for the Victory of Serbia), **Goran Radosavljević** (candidate for prime minister, electoral list: Boris Tadić - Come on, People), **Ranka Savić** (President of the Association of Free and Independent Trade Unions). The discussion was moderated by **Suzana Trninić**, journalist.¹



Together Toward Achieving the Decent Work Standard for Women and Sustainable Development Workshop

On 27 June 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a workshop entitled **Together Toward Achieving the Decent Work Standard for Women and Sustainable Development** within the framework of the Socioeconomic Rights and Sustainable Development project. The workshop dealt with the challenges and issues faced by women in the labour market from the viewpoint of women’s organisations and the possibility of working with trade unions in overcoming these challenges and the application of the Regulatory Gender Test, in cooperation with National Public Policy Secretariat (NPPS).²

Workshop: Together toward Decent Work Standards for LGBT+ People and Sustainable Development

The following workshop: **Together to the Decent Work Standards for LGBT+ People and Sustainable Development** was organised by the Center for Democracy Foundation, within the framework of the Socioeconomic Rights and Sustainable Development project (15 participants). The workshop was organised at the Miljenko Dereta venue in Belgrade through the programme: **Belgrade EuroPride 2022**.

The workshop dealt with the challenges and issues facing LGBT+ people on the labour market from the viewpoint of civil society organisations (CSOs) and the possibility of working with trade unions in overcoming these challenges. The aim of the workshop was to establish a better sense of understanding

¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12605/debate-labour-and-other-social-rights-in-the-upcoming-election-programmes>

² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12662/together-toward-achieving-the-decent-work-standard-for-women-and-sustainable-development-workshop>

between trade unions and CSOs that represent vulnerable groups in the labour market and which deal with the position of the LGBT+ community. The workshop was led by CSO experts.³



Workshop: Together toward Decent Work Standards for Persons with Disabilities and Sustainable Development

Workshop **Together toward Decent Work Standards for Persons with Disabilities and Sustainable Development** was held on September 15, 2022 in Belgrade (15 participants). The aim of the workshop was to establish a better understanding between trade unions and civil society organizations (CSOs) that represent vulnerable groups on the labor market and deal with the position of persons with disabilities.⁴



Workshop: Together toward Decent Work Standards for Roma men and women and Sustainable Development

Workshop **Together toward Decent Work Standards for Roma men and women and Sustainable Development** was held on September 26, 2022 at the Roma Cultural Center in Nis (21 participants). The aim of the workshop was to establish a better understanding between trade unions and civil society organizations (CSOs) that represent vulnerable groups on the labor market and deal with the position of Roma men and women.⁵

³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12684/workshop-together-toward-decent-work-standards-for-lgbt-people-and-sustainable-development>

⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12676/radionica-zajedno-do-standarda-dostojanstvenog-rada-osoba-sa-invaliditetom-i-odrzivog-razvoja>

⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12688/radionica-zajedno-do-standarda-dostojanstvenog-rada-romaromkinja-i-odrzivog-razvoja>



Debate: Subsidies for Investors, While Workers' Labour Rights Are Violated

On 26 September 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: **Subsidies for Investors, While Workers' Labour Rights Are Violated** in Niš. The debate was held as part of the Socioeconomic Rights and Sustainable Development project (More than 50 participants live and online). Partaking in the debate were: **Željko Veselinović**, Sloga Trade Union; **Zoran Ristić**, United Branch Trade Union Independence; **Zorica Miladinović**, Journalist at Danas; **Danijel Dašić**, National Coalition for Decentralisation; **Miodrag Stanković**, City Councillor of the Niš, My City! Coalition. The discussion was moderated by **Ivan Kuzmanović**, CDF.⁶



Training "How to exercise the decent work right?"

A two-day course on the topic "How to exercise the decent work right?" was held on September 27 and 28, 2022, at the Roma Cultural Center in Nis (22 participants). The course was led by: prof. Dr. Bojan Urdarević, professor of labor law at the University of Kragujevac, Jovana Misailović, associate at the Center for Decent Work, Marija Martinić from the Nezavisnost trade union, Milena Mićović Trajković, CDF. The topics of the course were: decent work; individual labor rights; rights protection mechanisms; trade union organizing etc.⁷

⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12697/debate-subsidies-for-investors-while-workers-labour-rights-are-violated>

⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12690/kurs-kako-do-prava-na-dostojanstven-rad>



Debate in Požega: Formalising Youth Employment

On 10 October 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: **Formalising Youth Employment** in Požega. The event was held as part of the Socioeconomic Rights and Sustainable Development project (more than 30 participants live and online). Partaking in the debate were: **Prof. Bojan Urdarević**, Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac; **Miroslav Tamburić**, FORCA (Forum of Civil Action Požega); **Ivan Bjelić**, National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS); **Vesna Vuković**, Agricultural School of Požega; **Gordana Savić**, Užice Center for Human Rights and Democracy. The discussion was moderated by **Ivan Kuzmanović**, Center for Democracy Foundation.⁸



Training "How to exercise the decent work right for youth in Serbia?"

A two-day course on the topic "How to exercise the decent work right for youth in Serbia?" was held on October 11 and 12, 2022 in Požega (17 participants). The course was led by: Prof. Dr. Bojan Urdarević, professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac; Jovana Misailović, associate at the Center for Decent Work, Vesna Vuković, professor at the Agricultural School, Milena Mićović Trajković, CDF. The topics of the course were: dignified work; individual labor rights; rights protection mechanisms; student entrepreneurship in the form of cooperatives.⁹

⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12755/debate-in-pozega-formalising-youth-employment>

⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12703/kurs-kako-do-prava-na-dostojanstven-rad-mladih-u-srbiji>



Public reading of the European Commission 2022 Report on Serbia

On 17 October 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation and the Center for Contemporary Politics organised the traditional **Public Reading of the EU’s Serbia Report 2022**. (with almost 100 participants live and online). The following attendees spoke at the event: **Plamena Halačeva**, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Serbia; **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director of the CDF; **Nemanja Todorović Štiplija**, Executive Director of the Centre for Contemporary Politics; **Jovana Spremo**, Advisor on EU Integration, Lawyers’ Committee on Human Rights (YUCOM); **Srđan Majstorović**, Chairman of CEP Governing Board, European Policy Centre (CEP); **Bojan Elek**, Deputy Director at the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP); **Nikola Burazer**, Programme Director at the Centre for Contemporary Politics.



The non-governmental organizations, committed to European integration of Serbia, every year organize the public reading of the Report with aim to improve citizens` understanding of the key findings of the EU on the progress Serbia has made in previous year on its EU path. The most significant findings of the European Commission were presented at the public reading. Various areas were examined and the reports of other countries of the Western Balkans were compared with the Serbia Report. Organisations

that have spent years dedicated to Serbia's accession to the EU gave their recommendations on how to improve the process.¹⁰

Debate in Novi Sad: Green Jobs and Socio-economic Rights

On 19 October, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate in Novi Sad: **Green Jobs and Socio-economic Rights**, within the framework of the Socio-economic Rights and Sustainable Development project (more than 50 participants live and online).

Partaking in the discussion were: **Veselina Pelagić, PhD**, President of the Committee at the Foundation for Research and Development, Food Safety & Eco Health; **Vladimir Lalošević**, President of the Association of Employers of Vojvodina; **Vladimir Gvozdenović**, Association of Independent Trade Unions of the City and Municipality of Novi Sad; **Duško Medić**, Media and Environmental Analyst; **Miloš Đajić**, Center for Modern Skills; **Darija Šajin**, Arhus Centre of Novi Sad; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation; **Nada Lazić**, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue; **Đorđe Jovanović**, Metropolitan University; **Boriša Petković**, A Cap for A Smile Association; **Goran Mitrović**, People's Parliament Association, and others. The discussion was moderated by: **Ivan Kuzmanović**, Center for Democracy Foundation.¹¹



Training "How to exercise the decent work right for women?"

A two-day course on the topic "How to exercise the decent work right for women?" was held on October 20 and 21, 2022 in Novi Sad (21 participants). The course was led by: Prof. Dr. Bojan Urdarević, professor of labor law at the University of Kragujevac, Jovana Misailović, associate at the Center for Decent Work, Marija Martinić from the Nezavisnost trade union, Darija Šajin, Arhus Center Novi Sad, Milena Mičović Trajković, CDF.¹²

¹⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12707/public-reading-of-the-european-commission-2022-report-on-serbia>

¹¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12761/debate-in-novi-sad-green-jobs-and-socio-economic-rights>

¹² <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12712/kurs-kako-do-prava-na-dostojanstven-rad-zena>



Analyses and blogs

As part of the projects, During 2022, 4 analyzes and 6 author's blogs were published as a part of the project activities.

Online campaign

During December 2022, an online campaign was conducted on the topic of the advantages of the new model of the Labor Law compared to the current Labour Law. Through this activity, through animated videos, comparative solutions related to the employment relationship, working hours and working on Sundays, minimum and guaranteed wages, termination of employment contracts and organizing a strike were presented to the citizens.¹³

Annual conference „Economic and Energy Crisis, Labour Market and Decent Work in Serbia“

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, Center for Democracy Foundation organized the Annual conference „Economic and Energy Crisis, Labour Market and Decent Work in Serbia“ within the framework of the „Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development“ project (108 participants live and online). During this conference, we discussed economic and social rights, with the focus on labour rights, decent work and economic growth. This year, a special focus was on the impact of the economic and energy crisis on the world of labour, economic and social rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as on the just transition strategy and its impact on economic and social rights.

Opening of the conference: **Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality; **Nataša Vučković**, Secretary General, Center for Democracy Foundation. Panel II: **Labour rights during a crisis - between the law and practice**. Presentation of the Annual report: **Prof. Bojan Urdarević, PhD**, Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac and **Doc. Mila Petrović, PhD**, Faculty of Law, Union University in Belgrade. Keynote speakers: **Prof. Mario Reljanović, PhD**, Institute for Comparative Law; **Čedanka Andrić**, President, United Branch Trade Union Independence; **Svetlana Budimčević**, Union of Employers of Serbia; **Tanja Jakobi**, Public Policy Research Centre; **Jovan Protić, PhD**, National Coordinator for Serbia, International Labour Organization. Panel II: **Vulnerable groups on the labour market in Serbia**. Keynote speakers: **Sarita Bradaš**, Center for Democracy Foundation; **Osman Balić**, League of Roma; **Gordana Savić**, Užice Center for Human Rights; **Jovana Krivokuća-Milovanović**, Forum of Youth with Disabilities; **Bojana**

¹³ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12747/online-kampanja-prednosti-novog-modela-zakona-o-radu>

Tamindžija, Center for Policies of Emancipation; **Irena Pejić**, The Mashine. Moderator: **Ljubica Gojčić**, journalist.¹⁴



Sustainable Development Goals for All Platform

CDF CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Center for Democracy Foundation is one of the partners in the **Sustainable Development Goals for All Platform** project, within which, together with the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, works on spreading knowledge, involving all key actors, and proposing priorities and policies for several important sustainable development goals: Goal 1 - No poverty, 2 - Zero hunger, 3 - Good health and well-being, 4 - Quality education, 5 - Gender equality.

The Sustainable Development Goals for All Platform project is a three-year project started at the beginning of 2020. Project activities are implemented within three pillars - social, economic and environmental protection. The first, social pillar is coordinated by the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation with the Center for Democracy Foundation, the second pillar is covered by CEVES, and the third pillar is coordinated by the Belgrade Open School with the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence. The project is supported by GiZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

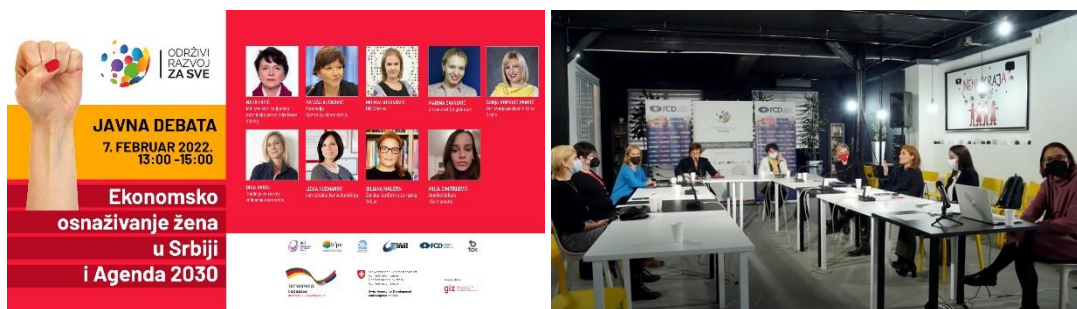
Main activities in 2022:

Public Debate “Economic Empowerment of Women in Serbia and the 2030 Agenda”

¹⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12735/annual-conference-economic-and-energy-crisis-labour-market-and-decent-work-in-serbia>

The Center for Democracy Foundation and Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation organized a public debate On February 7, entitled “**Economic Empowerment of Women in Serbia and the 2030 Agenda**”. The debate was held at the “Miljenko Dereta” conference space in Belgrade and through the online platform Zoom.

The following participants spoke at the event: **Natasa Vuckovic** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Ivona Gvozdenovic** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation), **Nada Lazic** (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue), **Marina Savkovic, PhD** (Singidunum University), **Milana Rikanovic** (UN Women), **Sanja Popovic Pantic** (Association of Business Women of Serbia), **Dina Rakin** (Coalition for the Development of the Solidarity Economy), **Lidija Kuzmanov** (independent consultant), **Biljana Maletin** (Women’s Platform for the Development of Serbia), **Milja Dimitrijevic** (Union of Physicians and Pharmacists), **Sarita Bradas** (Center for Democracy Foundation), representatives of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic Statistical Office of Serbia, National Employment Service, Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities, representatives of civil society organizations and others.¹⁵



Webinar: Discrimination of the Elderly and the 2030 Agenda

The Center for Democracy Foundation, part of the social pillar of the SDGs for ALL Platform, organised a webinar **Discrimination of the Elderly and the 2030 Agenda** on March 15. The webinar featured **Brankica Janković** (Commissioner for the Protection of Equality), **Borka Jeremić** (Assistant Representative and Head of Office at United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA), **Nataša Todorović** (Red Cross Serbia), **Snežana Simić** (Public Health Expert) and **Snežana Šantić** (Association of Pensioners - Stari Grad) as keynote speakers and **Sarita Brađaš** (Center for Democracy Foundation) as the moderator.



¹⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12548/public-debate-economic-empowerment-of-women-in-serbia-and-the-2030-agenda>

One of the key messages was that preparing for economic and social shifts associated with an ageing population is key to achieving 2030 Agenda. It was also emphasized that ageing should be seen as a horizontal issue, reflected in multiple SDGs: poverty eradication, sound health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reducing inequality, sustainable cities, etc.¹⁶

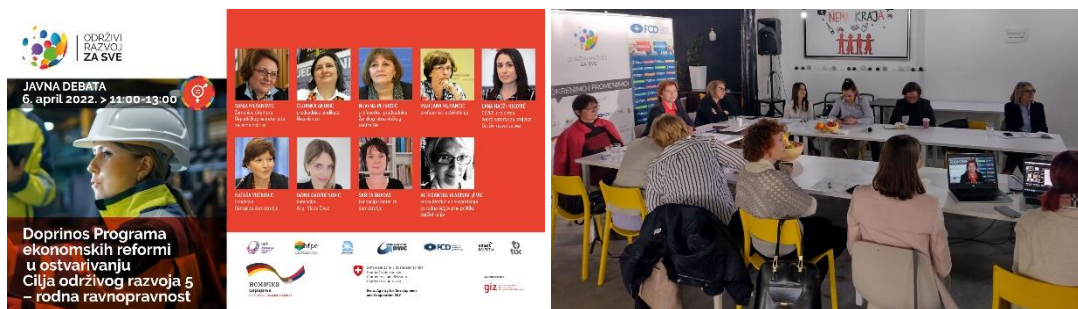
Public debate: Contribution of the Economic Reforms Programme (ERP) to Achieving SDG 5 - Gender Equality

On 6 April 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organized a public debate entitled: **Contribution of the Economic Reforms Programme (ERP) to Achieving SDG 5 - Gender Equality**. The debate was part of the Thematic Group – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls established within the SDGs for All Platform.

Introductory speakers at the debate were: **Sanja Mešanović** (Deputy Director of the Public Policy Secretariat), **Marijana Pajvančić** (Professor and activist), **Sarita Bradaš** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Nevena Petrušić** (Professor and President of the Women’s Research Center in Niš), **Čedanka Andrić** (President of the United Branch Trade Union Independence), **Aleksandra Vladislavljević** (Consultant and Gender Responsive Policies and Budgeting Expert), **Lana Hadži-Niković** (CEVES, Project Coordinator for SDGs for All Platform), **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation) and **Ivona Gvozdrenović** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation). **Gordana Čomić**, Minister (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue), **Ljiljana Lučić** (former State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs), **Nada Lazić** (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue), **Milica Glišić** (Citizens' Association Atina) and others, also took part in the discussion.

During the debate, participants analyzed the extent to which the gender mainstreaming principles were integrated into the ERP, that is: to what extent has gender mainstreaming been integrated into structural reforms and has the impact of such reforms been envisaged and well thought out, in terms of gender inequality and discrimination?¹⁷

Analysis of the **Gender Perspective in the Economic Reform Programme for the period 2022-2024**¹⁸



¹⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12566/webinar-discrimination-of-the-elderly-and-the-2030-agenda>

¹⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12581/public-debate-contribution-of-the-economic-reforms-programme-erp-to-achieving-sdg-5-gender-equality>

¹⁸ <https://sdgs4all.rs/documents/analiza-rodna-perspektiva-u-programu-ekonomskih-reformi-za-period-od-2022-do-2024-godine/>

Public debate: To What Extent Does Energy Saving Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised a public debate: **To What Extent Does Energy Saving Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals**, on 14 April 2022, as part of the SDGs for ALL Platform's thematic group on poverty. The starting point for the debate was the **Energy Poverty analysis**¹⁹, drafted by **Prof. Ksenija Petovar, PhD**, which proposes future actions to be taken within this domain.

Among the participants there were **Siniša Trkulja** (Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure - Sector for Spatial and Urban Planning), **Lidija Radulović** (programme coordinator, Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society), **Aleksandar Macura** (RES Foundation), **Bojan Ivković** (Energy Manager, Town of Pirot), **Aleksandar Kovačević** (Energy Expert), **Prof. Ksenija Petovar, PhD** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Ivona Gvozdrenović** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation), **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Maja Petković** (Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure), **Nada Lazić** (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue) and others. The purpose of the debate was to initiate a broad dialogue on energy poverty and discuss ways how to tackle this phenomenon and protect most vulnerable consumers.²⁰



Public debate: Child Poverty and the 2030 Agenda

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate: **Child Poverty and the 2030 Agenda** on May 23. The public debate was organised as an activity of the Advisory Thematic Group – Eradicating Poverty within the SDGs for ALL Platform. The debate included a presentation of the **Child Poverty and the 2030 Agenda analysis**²¹, drafted by the **Associate Prof. Marina Savković, PhD**, containing recommendations aiming to contribute to the eradication of child poverty.

The introductory speakers included **Prof. Slavica Đukić Dejanović, PhD** (Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on the 2030 Agenda), **Biljana Mladenović** (UNICEF), **Jovana Božičković** (KOMS), **Associate Prof. Marina Savković, PhD** (CDF), **Jelena Tanasijević, PhD** (SOS Children's Villages), **Prof. Nevena Vučković-Šahović, PhD** (UN Children's Rights Committee member 2003-2009; Child Rights Centre) and **Nataša Vučković** (CDF). The debate also brought together the representatives of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour, Employment,

¹⁹ <https://sdgs4all.rs/documents/analiza-energetsko-siromastvo/>

²⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12587/public-debate-to-what-extent-does-energy-saving-contribute-to-the-sustainable-development-goals>

²¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1883/decije-siromastvo-i-agenda-2030>

Veteran and Social Affairs, the Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, National Employment Service Serbia, civil society organizations, researchers, Red Cross, SCTM, social services centres and trade unions. The discussion highlighted that child poverty impacts those who are most vulnerable in society and produces serious long-term effects on the overall development of society.²²



Training "Sustainable Development Goals at the local level" in Zajecar, Pirot and Apatin

The Center for Democracy Foundation, as part of the social pillar of the “SDGs for ALL” Platform, organized training sessions in **Zajecar, Pirot** and **Apatin** on the topic **"Sustainable Development Goals at the local level"**.

Representatives of local self-government, local CSO community, educational institutions, trade unions, business and media participated in the training conducted by experts from the Center for Democracy Foundation and the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia. The topics of the training included the 2030 Agenda implementation at the local level; SDGs and the process of European integration, advocacy and communication; Law on Planning System of the Republic of Serbia; alignment of local development plans with SDGs.²³

Public debate: Elderly poverty in Serbia and Agenda 2030

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate on **Elderly poverty in Serbia and Agenda 2030** on July 13. The public debate was organised as an activity of the Advisory Thematic Group – Eradicating Poverty within the SDGs for ALL Platform. The starting point for the debate was the **Elderly poverty in Serbia and Agenda 2030 analysis**²⁴, drafted by **Lidija Kuzmanov**, with recommendations contributing to the eradication of poverty among the ageing population.

The participants included **Tatjana Prijić** (Commissioner for Protection of Equality, acting assistant to Commissioner), **Borka Jeremić** (Head of Office at United Nations Population Fund in Serbia), **Gordana Čomić**, Minister (Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue), **Žarko Šunderić** (Center for

²² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12628/public-debate-child-poverty-and-the-2030-agenda>

²³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12641/training-sustainable-development-goals-at-the-local-level-in-zajecar-pirot-and-apatin>

²⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1886/siromastvo-starijih-u-srbiji-i-agenda-2030>

Social Policy), **Nadežda Satarić** (Amity Association), **Nataša Todorović** (Red Cross of Serbia), **Lidija Kuzmanov** (freelance consultant), **Irena Cerović** (UNDP Serbia), **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Ivona Gvozdenović** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation), **Sarita Bradaš** (FCD), **Ljiljana Lučić** (former State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs) and others. The debate emphasised that the 2030 Agenda ranks the eradication of poverty as one of the most urgent priorities. Despite the fact that Serbia has taken significant steps to reduce the risk of poverty and the risk of poverty or social exclusion, the population of 65 years of age and older is the only age category which is moving away from the goal, with poverty increasing among this category over the past 5-year period.²⁵



Thematic Groups meeting within the Social Pillar of the "Sustainable Development for All" Platform

The Thematic Groups meeting "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls" and "Eradicating of Poverty", established within the Social Pillar of the "Sustainable Development for All" Platform project, was held on July 13, 2022 in Belgrade.

The content of the work of the Thematic Groups was aimed at analyzing, monitoring and reporting on legal, strategic and other relevant conditions for the implementation of SDGs, for the relevant thematic area. Members of the Thematic Groups had the opportunity to participate independently or in a team in the preparation and presentation of analyses, recommendations, as well as in workshops and public debates where the work of the groups was presented to relevant actors.²⁶

At the invitation of the partners on the Platform, the following activities were carried out:

1. Roundtable was organized on June 2, 2022 in Zaječar on the topic "Sustainable Development Goals at the local level - contribution of gender equality to sustainable development" - Sarita Bradaš presented the findings of the analysis on the implementation of local policies in Zaječar, at the invitation of the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation.
2. Round table was organized on June 15, 2022 in Apatin on the topic "Sustainable Development Goals at the local level - contribution of gender equality to sustainable development" - Sarita Bradaš presented the findings of the analysis on the gender mainstreaming of local policies in Apatin, at the invitation of the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation.

²⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12657/public-debate-elderly-poverty-in-serbia-and-agenda-2030>

²⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaji/12720/odrzan-sastanak-tematskih-grupa-u-okviru-socijalnog-stuba-platforme-odrzivi-razvoj-za-sve>

3. Webinar SDG 5: The implementation of local development policies in the context of the 2030 Agenda (July 1, 2022) - Sarita Bradaš designed and implemented part of the training "Gender Mainstreaming of Local Development Plans", at the invitation of the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation.

4. Advocacy meeting was held on July 6, 2022 in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Sarita Bradaš presented the findings of the Monitoring report for two development priorities "Healthy life and health care available to all" and "Dignity for all Serbian citizens", at the invitation of the Belgrade Open School.

Analyzes and publications:

- ✚ „Analysis of the Gender Mainstreaming in the Economic Reform Programme for the period 2022-2024“ authored by Sarita Bradaš²⁷
- ✚ Analysis „Energy Poverty“ authored by prof. dr Ksenija Petovar²⁸
- ✚ Analysis „Child Poverty and the 2030 Agenda“ authored by doc. dr Marina Savković²⁹
- ✚ Analysis „Elderly poverty in Serbia and the 2030 Agenda“ authored by Lidija Kuzmanov³⁰
- ✚ Publication „Gender Mainstreaming of the Development Plan of the Municipality of Apatin“ authored by Sarita Bradaš³¹
- ✚ Publication „Gender Mainstreaming of the Development Plan of the City of Zaječar“ authored by Sarita Bradaš³²

Closing Conference of the SDGs for All Platform - Recommendations

The closing conference of the current phase of the Sustainable Development for All Platform, held in Belgrade on 8 June 2022, entitled **2030 AGENDA – Together Toward a Sustainable Future**.³³

The results of the current phase of the general social dialogue Sustainable Development for All Platform were presented at the conference. The Sustainable Development for All Platform implies establishing social dialogue among the most influential non-government actors in Serbia, civil societies, for example, the corporate sector, academia and research communities, professional associations, the media and the public. The theme of such social dialogue is the harmonisation of Serbia's developmental priorities with the goals contained in the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda.

²⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1879/rodna-perspektiva-u-programu-ekonomskih-reformi-za-period-od-2022-do-2024-godine>

²⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1880/energetsko-siromastvo>

²⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1883/decije-siromastvo-i-agenda-2030>

³⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1886/siromastvo-starijih-u-srbiji-i-agenda-2030>

³¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1889/urodnjavanje-plana-razvoja-opstine-apatin>

³² <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1890/urodnjavanje-plana-razvoja-grada-zajecara>

³³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12668/annual-conference-2030-agenda-together-toward-a-sustainable-future>

The participants of the conference agreed that in the further work on the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Republic of Serbia, the following Recommendations should be directed to the relevant actors: RECOMMENDATIONS³⁴

Policies Beneficial to All - Improving Monitoring of the Impact of Economic Policies on Society

The **Policies Beneficial to All - Improving Monitoring of the Impact of Economic Policies on Society** is a project which the Center for Democracy Foundation instigates in 2021 and 2022 with the support of the Open Society Foundation Serbia.

The main goals of the project are to contribute to inequality and poverty reduction, the protection of social rights, and mitigation of the negative social effects of the Covid-19 crisis, by advocating for fair socio-economic policies and creating a supportive environment in which the citizenry is included in dialogue concerning public policies. This project is in fact the third phase of the project: Policies Beneficial to All - Public Participation in Monitoring Reforms Toward Better Public Policies and Sustainable Socio-economic Development³⁵, implemented with the support of the Open Society Foundation Serbia.

Main activities in 2022:

Debate: Education and Lifelong Learning Strategy

On 10 March 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate: **Education and Lifelong Learning Strategy**. Partaking in the discussion were: **Ivan Ivić** (Professor at the University of Belgrade), **Vladica Cvetković** (academic, Professor at the University of Belgrade), **Goran Aleksić** (Serbian Association of Employers), **Svetlana Uskoković Bogosavljević** (National Employment Service Serbia), **Sarita Bradaš** (CDF). The discussion was moderated by **Nataša Vučković**, Secretary General of the CDF.³⁶



³⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1891/closing-conference-of-the-sdgs-for-all-platform-recommendations>

³⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/project/1780/policies-beneficial-to-all-reforms-beneficial-to-all>

³⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12603/debate-education-and-lifelong-learning-strategy>

Training - Analysing Social Impact - Instruments, Methods and Techniques

On 15 April 2022 the Center for Democracy Foundation organised training as part of the following project: Policies Beneficial to All - Improving Monitoring of the Impact of Economic Policies on Society. A workshop entitled **Analysing Social Impact - Instruments, Methods and Techniques** was held via a mentoring programme prepared for civil society organisations. The training was attended by representatives of the **Forum 10 Academic Initiative** (Novi Pazar), the **Roma League** (Niš) and the **Zrenjanin Social Forum** (Zrenjanin) and was moderated by CDF researcher, **Sarita Bradaš**.³⁷

Debate in Veliko Gradište: What Flows Through the Pek River?

On 14 October 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate in Veliko Gradište: **What Flows Through the Pek River?** Partaking in the discussion were: **Iskra Krstić**, Organization for Political Ecology - Polekol / Right to Water; **Ljubinka Blažević**, Ecological Association PINKUM; **Miroslav Petrović**, Udruženje Velikogradištanska gitarijada (in English: Battle of the Bands Association of Veliko Gradište); **Aleksandar Stefanović**, Activist; **Bogdan Milić**, Local Action Group; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation, and others.³⁸

Debate in Niš: Availability of Social Services in the Local Community

On 25 November 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate in Niš: **Availability of Social Services in the Local Community**. Partaking in the discussion were: **Dragana Rodić**, Remove the Barriers; **Osman Balić**, Liga Roma (Standing Conference of the Roma Associations of the Citizens) in Serbia; **Miodrag Stanković**, City Councillor of the Niš, My City! Coalition; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation, and others. During the debate, the importance of asking the general public about issues which have a direct impact on it was stressed.³⁹



³⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12612/training-analysing-social-impact-instruments-methods-and-techniques>

³⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12756/debate-in-veliko-gradiste-what-flows-through-the-pek-river>

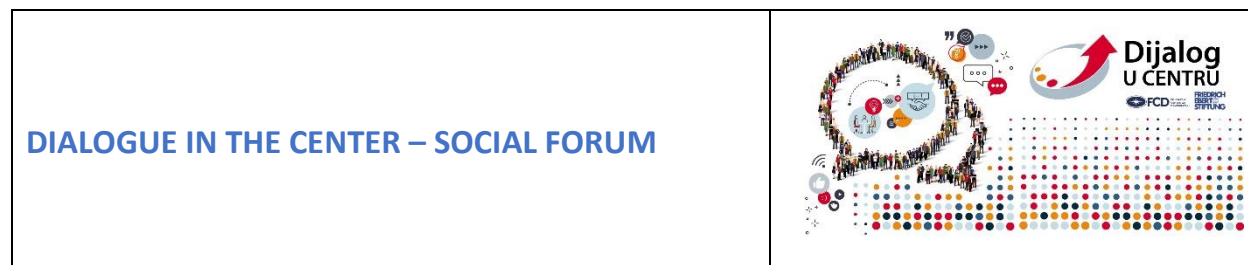
³⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12749/debate-in-nis-availability-of-social-services-in-the-local-community>

Consultative Workshop on the Impact of Economic Policies on Society

The Center for Democracy foundation organised a consultative workshop on 5 December 2022, where the publication **Methodological Framework for Measuring the Impact of Economic Policies on Society**, authored by **Assoc. Prof. Marina Savković, PhD**, was presented.

Partaking in the discussion were: **Assoc. Prof. Marina Savković, PhD**, **Sarita Bradaš**, **Osman Balić**, **Prof. Zoran Stojiljković, PhD**, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, United Branch Trade Union Independence, Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia, SSP and the following CSOs: Zrenjanin Social Forum Association, Academic Initiative, Forum 10, YUROM Centre, Centre of Modern Skills, Partners Serbia, Civic Initiatives, Belgrade Law Conference, Center for Democracy Foundation, and others.

CSOs, participants of the mentoring programme, presented their analyses of the following local public policies during the roundtable held under the title: **Measuring the Impact of Public Policies on Society and Negotiations**: Community Activities Development Strategy for the Town of Zrenjanin (Zrenjanin Social Forum of the Town of Zrenjanin); Focusing on Youths - Analysis of the Effects of Political Employment in Novi Pazar (Academic Initiative Forum 10 from Novi Pazar); Monitoring the Planning and Implementation of Local Policies Toward the Roma Population in the Town of Niš (YUROM Centre from Niš).⁴⁰



Dialogue in the Center - in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, four debates on current topics were held during 2022:

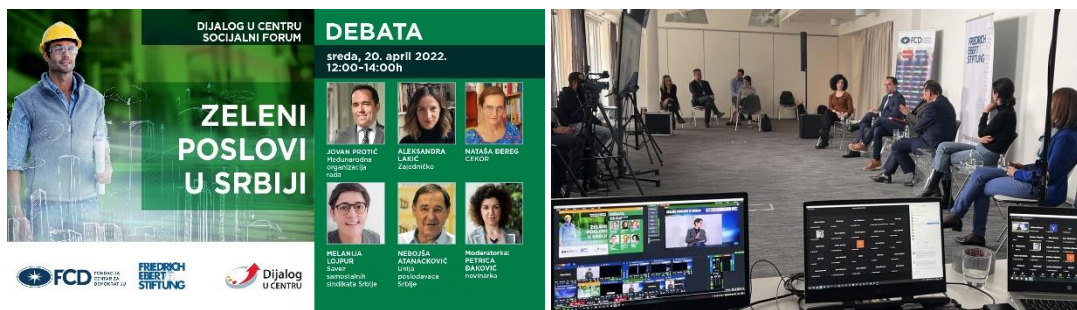
Debate: Green Jobs in Serbia

On 20 April 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: **Green Jobs in Serbia**, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (more than 40 participants live and online). Partaking in the discussion were: **Jovan Protić** (International Labour Organization), **Aleksandra Lakić** (Zajedničko Association), **Nataša Đereg**, CEKOR; **Melanija Lojpur** (Association of Independent Trade Unions Serbia); **Nebojša Atanacković**, National Employment Service Serbia. The discussion was moderated by: **Petrica Đaković**, journalist.

It was pointed out in the conversation that green jobs, according to international definition, must contribute to the preservation or improvement of environmental protection. They must also include a

⁴⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12762/consultative-workshop-on-the-impact-of-economic-policies-on-society>

labour/legal component. Green jobs must be decent jobs that provide equal access to rights for all. They must include decent wages, decent working hours, and are jobs where employees are registered, with paid social benefits and contributions, and jobs that are safe to perform. The democratisation of the economy is a prerequisite for green transformation. It is a positive thing to talk about green jobs and it is good that we have opened Cluster 4 in the process of European integration. Serbia is now drafting an important strategic document - the National Climate and Energy Plan, which will outline Serbia's future energy mix.⁴¹



Artificial Intelligence and the World of Work in Serbia debate

On 23 June 2022, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate entitled **Artificial Intelligence and the World of Work in Serbia** (60 participants live and online). Introductory speakers at the debate were: **Ljubica Ilić Vojnović**, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Department of Technological Development, the Transfer of Technologies and Innovation Systems; **Vladimir Lalošević**, Serbian Association of Employers, President of the Union of Employers of Vojvodina; **Branka Anđelković**, Public Policy Research Centre; **Darko Božičić**, Assistant at the Faculty of Law of Novi Sad; **Tijana Nikolić**, Artificial Intelligence Specialist at Sogeti, Netherlands. The discussion was moderated by **Petrica Đaković**, journalist.

The conclusion drawn during the debate was that AI has the potential to completely transform society and the way we view the world. The swift social changes, resulting from the development of new technologies in the 21st century, are unprecedented in human history. New technologies have the potential to completely change the way all of society will function in just a couple of years. This includes traffic, market conditions, communication which may create new needs and lifestyle. AI cannot be viewed as a phenomenon just at the regional level, it is necessary to include global trends, which are constantly changing and developing. Many countries recognise the need to define an overall action plan and strategic and legislative frameworks to formulate clearly defined AI development goals. Given that man's resources are limited, AI may contribute to societal development, improving labour and work environments. Ethical guidelines are currently being prepared in Serbia, which will serve to regulate what it is that will help to ensure that the application of AI is in line with constitutional provisions, respecting the individual and society. It is important that AI be used for the good of humanity. It is necessary to maintain human autonomy and to keep the human being as the central figure.⁴²

⁴¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12613/debate-green-jobs-in-serbia>

⁴² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12663/artificial-intelligence-and-the-world-of-work-in-serbia-debate>



Debate: Energy Crisis and the Position of the Poor in Serbia

On 21 September 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: **Energy Crisis and the Position of the Poor in Serbia**, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (70 participants live and online). Partaking in the discussion were: **Zoran Ilić**, Ministry of Mining and Energy; **Zoran Ristić**, United Branch Trade Union Independence; **Daniilo Ćurčić**, A11 - Initiative for Economic and Social Rights; **Ksenija Petovar**, retired Professor at the faculties of Architecture and Geography; **Goran Radosavljević**, FEFA Institute; **Iva Đinđić-Ćosić**, Serbian Energy Law Association; **Kirsten Schönefeld**, Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Belgrade; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation. The discussion was moderated by **Miloš Obradović**, Journalist.

During the discussion it was emphasised that the energy crisis further adversely affects the state of poverty of those most vulnerable. The cost of energy that most of the population pay including the cost of fuel, have drastically increased and therefore the following question arises: how will those most vulnerable be able to pay? The energy crisis prompts us to consider how we can help these people. In regard to energy poverty, the Government must react and provide aid to the most vulnerable segments of the population to ensure they do not become victims of severe energy poverty over the coming winter. Accordingly, we have to adapt our social policy to this new situation. For an extensive period now, the Republic of Serbia has lacked a welfare strategy; a strategy to combat poverty. Furthermore, we have been waiting for ages for the adoption of the amendments to the Law on Welfare. Serbia needs to develop a systemic response to the issue of poverty.⁴³



Debate: Civic Activism as the Last Line in the Defence of Democracy

⁴³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12694/debate-energy-crisis-and-the-position-of-the-poor-in-serbia>

On 8 November 2022, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: **Civic Activism as the Last Line in the Defence of Democracy**, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (with almost 80 participants live and online). Partaking in the discussion were: **Predrag Voštinić**, Local Front; **Aida Ćorović**, Art Historian and Civic Activist; **Slobodan Georgiev**, News Director TV Nova S; **Dragoslava Barzut**, Civic Initiatives; **Aleksandra Galonja**, Civic Activist; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation. The discussion was moderated by **Antonela Riha**, Journalist.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that in Serbia there is growing mistrust in state institutions, which goes hand in hand with the crisis facing the opposition. In our country professional journalism, the opposition, civic activism, are all prohibited. We don't have a country; we live in a pseudo-state; we no longer have a society, but rather, consist of rudimentary associations of people. The citizenry are sovereign holders of the right to influence the community in which they live. For civic activism to exist, people must be able to fight for their rights. Activism is not just an anti-political or anti-party act; it is the civic duty of everyone who lives here. In the overall erosion of rule of law, it is important to believe in the 'little guy' who wants to affect change in the local community. Without civic activism, there will be no change for the better. The citizenry is the key here.⁴⁴



„Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness“

The Center for Democracy Foundation in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) conducted activities within the Joint United Nations Program **„Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness“** through 12 focus groups with members of the most vulnerable groups in Niš, Leskovac, Požega, Užice, Zaječar, Knjaževac. The project is supported by the Joint SDG Fund.

The documents "Report on Findings from the Focus Group Discussions" by Sarita Bradaš and the analysis of "Poverty Projection for Older Persons" by Lidija Kuzmanov were published.

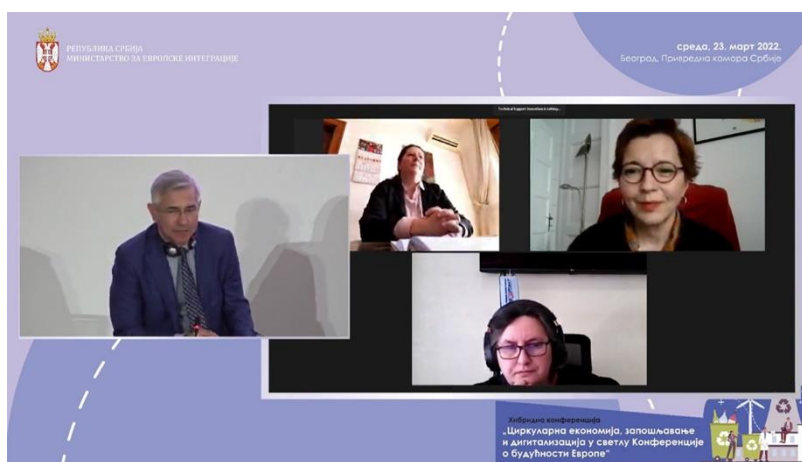
⁴⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12750/debate-civic-activism-as-the-last-line-in-the-defence-of-democracy>

Coordination of the Working Group for Chapters 2 and 19 at National Convention on the European Union

The following activities were carried out within the framework of the National Convention on the EU in 2022:

It is important for the voices of the people of the Western Balkans to be heard at the Conference on the Future of Europe

On 23 March 2022, **Nataša Vučković**, Secretary General of the Center for Democracy Foundation and Coordinator of the Working Group for the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) for negotiation Chapters 2 (Freedom of Movement for Workers) and 19 (Social Policy and Employment) participated at the conference entitled **Circular Economy, Employment, Digitalisation** in light of the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. The gathering was organised by the Ministry of European Integration, as a contribution of the Republic of Serbia to the EU's Conference on the Future of Europe platform.⁴⁵



Meeting - Working Group of the National Convention on the European Union for Chapters 2 and 19

A session of **Working Group for the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) for Chapters 2 (Freedom of Movement for Workers) and 19 (Social Policy and Employment)** was held 12 April 2022 in an online format. Topics of discussion included the proposals of the WG for the NCEU Book of Recommendations, as well as the contributions of the WG to the annual European Commission Report for Serbia. During talks the Action Plan of NCEU Working Group for Chapters 2 and 19 for 2022 were discussed.

During the session, held at the proposal of the Working Group Coordinator, **Nataša Vučković** (CDF), the following members participated: **Jovan Protić** (International Labour Organization), **Tanja Jakobi**, Public

⁴⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12604/it-is-important-for-the-voices-of-the-people-of-the-western-balkans-to-be-heard-at-the-conference-on-the-future-of-europe>

Policy Research Centre, **Prof. Mario Reljanović, PhD** (Centre for Decent Work), **Duško Vuković** (Association of Independent Trade Unions Serbia), **Aleksandra Lakić** (Zajedničko Association), **Prof. Bojan Urdarević, PhD, Mila Petrović, PhD, Sarita Bradaš** (CDF).⁴⁶

Meeting of the NCEU Intersectoral Working Group for Regional Cooperation

The meeting of the Intersectoral Working Group of the National Convention on the European Union for Regional Cooperation was held on June 7, 2022 in online format. The meeting, which was held at the suggestion of the Working Group Coordinator Nataša Vučković (CDF), was attended by: Sonja Licht (Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence), Nataša Dragojlović (National Convention on the EU), Jelica Minic (European Movement in Serbia), Aleksandra Jerkov (Academy for Regional Development - ADD), Miloš Đajić (Centre of Modern Skills), Izabela Kisić (Helsinki Committee for Human Rights), Dr. Goran Vasić, Goran Svilanović, Petar Jovanović, Marko Kovačević (Faculty of Political Science).⁴⁷

Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on European Union 2021

In October 2022, the annual "**Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union 2021**" was published, which contains an overview and status of the Chapters, an overview of the situation and main evaluations, an evaluation of the previous recommendations of the NKEU, as well as recommendations for the year 2022.⁴⁸

As part of the Book of Recommendations, the Center for Democracy Foundation prepared the recommendations of the Working Group for Chapters 2 (Free movement of workers) and 19 (Social policy and Employment).

National Convention on the European Union Welcomes Positive Developments Relative to Regional Cooperation

The **National Convention on the European Union (NCEU)** welcomes the positive developments seen in regional collaboration over the past months. One such example is today's gathering entitled Potential for Investments in Renewable Sources of Energy in the Western Balkans, where the focus is on regional cooperation regarding energy.

Today, the Intersectoral Working Group for Regional Cooperation discussed the results of the renewed Berlin Process, the summit of which was held early in November, as well as the results of other regional initiatives and organisations. Primarily, focus was on progress in implementing a Common Regional Market and the agreements concluded within the framework of the Open Balkan initiative. (...)

⁴⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12586/meeting-working-group-of-the-national-convention-on-the-european-union>

⁴⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12653/sednica-medjusektorske-radne-grupe-nkeu-za-regionalnu-saradnju>

⁴⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1896/knjiga-preporuka-nacionalnog-konventa-o-evropskoj-uniji-2021>

We expect continued reforms in the areas of democratisation, rule of law, fair energy transitions as well as the resolution of the remaining open issues to take place through the Berlin Process and other regional initiatives. The National Convention will support strengthening the role of civil society in improving regional cooperation.⁴⁹



Ending the Fragmentation of Labour Legislation and Application of the Law on Social Cards

The **NCEU Working Group**, which monitors **Chapter 2 - Freedom of Movement for Workers and Chapter 19 - Social Policy and Employment**, came to the following conclusions at its regular session held 30 November 2022: The Working Group is asking the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia to end the fragmentation of labour legislation and for the Government to immediately begin working on drafting a new Employment Act. It is necessary to stop with the enforcement of the Law on Social Cards due to the poor results achieved at the very start of its application. Many socially vulnerable citizens were denied their right to financial social assistance and what's worse, this Law has resulted in the dehumanisation of social protection (...) ⁵⁰



Plenary session of the National Convention on the EU

The plenary session of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) was held on December 21, 2022, in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Secretary General of the Center for Democracy Foundation and Coordinator of the Working Group for Chapters 2 (Free movement of workers) and 19 (Social policy and employment) and the Intersectoral Working Group for Regional Cooperation within the

⁴⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12764/national-convention-on-the-european-union-welcomes-positive-developments-relative-to-regional-cooperation>

⁵⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12748/ending-the-fragmentation-of-labour-legislation-and-application-of-the-law-on-social-cards>

framework of the NCEU, Nataša Vučković, indicated during the discussion that the red alarm for all of us represents a huge reduction in support of the Serbian citizens for the process of European integration, and the support of the citizens is very important, and she asked the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and the Minister for European Integration whether the Government considered the consequences and whether it can ensure a uniform approach of the members of the Government in communicating about the EU values and reforms that should be take Serbia to the European Union.

SMELT – Skilling Marginalized people to Enter Labour Market	
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In 2022, the implementation of the two-year Erasmus+ project **SMELT – Skilling Marginalized people to Enter Labour Market** continued.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with 8 partners - Samarcanda società cooperativa sociale Onlus, Italy, Mosha Pijade Vocational Secondary School, Tetovo, Northern Macedonia, Synthesis Center for Research and Education Ltd, Cyprus, Asociación Mar Violeta, Spain, Sdruzhenie Yuni Partners, Bulgaria, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), France, Ecor International S.p.A., Italy and the Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia.

The project aim is to improve the position of vulnerable groups, the homeless and migrants, in particular, and provide the skills they need to join the labour market. The project is financed by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ program.

As a part of the SMELT project, multilingual manuals (Easy Handbook) "How to find a job?" and a simple manual for supporting professional workers in working with marginalized groups were prepared and published.⁵¹

Transnational meeting of SMELT project partners

On October 17 and 18, 2022, representatives of partner organizations participating in the implementation of the Erasmus+ SMELT project held a transnational meeting in Gijón (Spain).



At the meeting, which was also attended by the representatives of the Center for Democracy Foundation, Dajana Ostojić and Andrea Trajković, the results so far and the activities carried out by the partners in this

⁵¹ <https://sites.google.com/aldaintranet.org/smelt/easy-handbook/serbian-easy-handbook>

project were presented. A plan of future activities that will be implemented by the end of the current year was also presented, and it was agreed that the next transnational meeting of partners, also the final one, will be held on January 16 and 17, 2023 in Schio (Italy).⁵²

Participation in conferences and public discussions:

- Nataša Vučković at the Podgorica Plenum Quo Vadis Balkan? (11.2.2022)⁵³
- Nataša Vučković at the ALDA Board of Directors Session (4-6.3.2022)⁵⁴
- Serbia's sincerity on the path to the EU must be confirmed now and in future - Nataša Vučković for TV N1 from the Kopaonik Business Forum (7.3.2022)⁵⁵
- Dragoljub Mićunović at the Conference of the IFDT (Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory) (9.3.2022)⁵⁶
- It is important for the voices of the people of the Western Balkans to be heard at the Conference on the Future of Europe - Nataša Vučković (23.3.2022)⁵⁷
- Nataša Vučković at the Delphi Economic Forum VII: New Realities (6-9.4.2022)⁵⁸
- Nataša Vučković at the ALDA General Assembly held in Strasbourg (5-6.5.2022)⁵⁹
- Living Wage Declaration signed, Nataša Vučković and Sarita Bradaš (28.6.2022)⁶⁰
- Nataša Vučković at the regional conference Novi Sad Plenum Quo Vadis Balkan? (15.7.2022)⁶¹
- Letter from the signatories of the Living Wage Declaration to representatives of the Government and employers regarding the negotiations on the minimum wage (24.8.2022)⁶²

⁵² <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12719/odrzan-transnacionalni-sastanak-partnera-na-smelt-projektu>

⁵³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12598/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-podgorica-plenum-what-is-the-political-project-of-social-democracy-in-todays-world>

⁵⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12601/alda-dedicated-to-democracy-peace-and-the-european-perspective-of-the-western-balkans>

⁵⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12563/vuckovic-serbias-sincerity-on-the-path-to-the-eu-must-be-confirmed-now-and-in-future-video>

⁵⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12602/dragoljub-micunovic-at-the-conference-of-the-ifdt-institute-for-philosophy-and-social-theory>

⁵⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12604/it-is-important-for-the-voices-of-the-people-of-the-western-balkans-to-be-heard-at-the-conference-on-the-future-of-europe>

⁵⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12608/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-delphi-economic-forum-vii-video>

⁵⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12614/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-alda-general-assembly-held-in-strasbourg>

⁶⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12665/living-wage-declaration-signed>

⁶¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12666/it-is-important-to-recognise-and-support-the-need-to-improve-regional-collaboration>

⁶² <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12670/pismo-predstavnicima-vlade-i-poslodavaca-povodom-pregovora-o-minimalnoj-ceni-rada>

- About EU integrations, regional collaboration and the fighting the ‘captured state’, Nataša Vučković, ‘Recover, Restart, Retool 2022’ (Korčula School Think Tank) (26.8.2022)⁶³
- Sarita Bradaš participated in the address to the public of the signatory organizations of the Living Wage Declaration on the occasion of the session of the Social and Economic Council (12.9.2022)⁶⁴
- Vital Application of the ‘Leave No One Behind’ Principle. The 2030 Agenda in Practice - Nataša Vučković at the presentation of the Instrument “The Tool For The Introduction Of The ‘Leave No One Behind’ Principle Into Legislative And Strategic Acts Of The Republic Of Serbia” (22.9.2022)⁶⁵
- Nataša Vučković - Conference: Platform of Organisations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms (4.11.2022)⁶⁶
- Nataša Vučković participated at the Annual Conference of the The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination "Looking into the future", held on the occasion of the International Tolerance Day (16.11.2022)⁶⁷
- Nataša Vučković participated in the meeting of the Program Council of the National Convention on the EU with the Minister for European Integration Tanja Mišćević (18.11.2022)⁶⁸
- Nataša Vučković participated in the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity in Skopje (Macedonia), organized by FMS Foundation and FEPS (3.12.2022)⁶⁹
- Nataša Vučković participated in the debate on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day held in Novi Sad, organized by the Association of Independent Trade Unions of Vojvodina (9.12.2022)⁷⁰
- Nataša Vučković, Dajana Ostojić and Milena Mićović Trajković participated in the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day, a event in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia "Leave no one behind" - to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue in cooperation with the United Nations Team in Serbia and the OSCE Mission in Serbia. (10.12.2022)⁷¹
- Sarita Bradaš, Nataša Vučković and Dajana Ostojić participated in the presentation of research findings with the most vulnerable population groups within the UNFPA project „„Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness“ (12.12.2022)⁷²

⁶³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12686/about-eu-integrations-regional-collaboration-and-the-fighting-the-captured-state>

⁶⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12681/organizacije-potpisnice-deklaracije-o-plati-za-zivot-minimalnu-zaradu-povecati-odmah>

⁶⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12693/vital-application-of-the-leave-no-one-behind-principle-the-2030-agenda-in-practice>

⁶⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12751/conference-platform-of-organisations-for-cooperation-with-un-human-rights-mechanisms>

⁶⁷ https://twitter.com/Natasa_Vucko/status/1592820207059611648

⁶⁸ https://twitter.com/Natasa_Vucko/status/1593538289411264513

⁶⁹ https://twitter.com/Natasa_Vucko/status/1598972722020724736

⁷⁰ <https://twitter.com/CentarOnline/status/1601216406086819840>

⁷¹ https://twitter.com/Natasa_Vucko/status/1601557055126798338

⁷² <https://twitter.com/CentarOnline/status/1602239424988942337>

- Nataša Vučković participated in the Presentation of The DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement region for the period 2021-2027, organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, in cooperation with the EU project of Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey (EU TACSO 3) (14.12.2022)⁷³
- Nataša Vučković participated in the panel discussion "The impact of the energy crisis on poverty", organized by the Democratic Dialogue Network and the FEFA Faculty (17.12.2022)
- Dajana Ostojić participated in the social dialogue "The role of companies in the protection and promotion of human rights and social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia" organized by UNFPA Serbia and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue (23.12.2022)⁷⁴

Press releases, TV appearances, interviews, author's texts in 2022:

- Referendum - FOR, AGAINST or Boycott? - Nataša Vučković, author of the text for Novi Magazin weekly newsmagazine (14.1.2022)⁷⁵
- Nataša Vučković at a guest appearance on TV N1 to discuss the referendum (16.1.2022)⁷⁶
- CDF Announcement: International Day of Education (24.1.2022)⁷⁷
- Nataša Vučković for TV Nova S: About the photo-robot of the presidential candidate, political (in)consistency... (28.1.2022)⁷⁸
- How does Serbia (should) measure progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals?, author's text by Sarita Bradaš for MONS (31.1.2022)⁷⁹
- More and more poor people in Serbia, and less and less allocations for social assistance, Interview by Sarita Bradaš for Biznis.rs (7.2.2022)⁸⁰
- Announcement Commemorating World Day of Social Justice (20.2.2022)⁸¹
- Announcement of the Network of Non-Governmental Organisations - Democracy, Development and Security (4.3.2022)⁸²

⁷³ https://twitter.com/Natasa_Vucko/status/1602942420521549824

⁷⁴ <https://twitter.com/DajanaaOstojic/status/1606243483148115968>

⁷⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12526/referendum-for-against-or-boycott>

⁷⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12562/natasa-vuckovic-at-a-guest-appearance-on-tv-n1-to-discuss-the-referendum-video>

⁷⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12597/cdf-announcement-international-day-of-education>

⁷⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12595/natasa-vuckovic-for-tv-nova-s-about-the-photo-robot-of-the-presidential-candidate-political-inconsistency-video>

⁷⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12542/kako-srbija-treba-da-meri-napredak-ka-ostvarivanju-ciljeva-odrzivog-razvoja>

⁸⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12546/sve-vise-siromasnih-u-srbiji-a-sve-manja-izdvajanja-za-socijalnu-pomoc>

⁸¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12599/announcement-commemorating-world-day-of-social-justice>

⁸² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12600/announcement-of-the-network-of-non-governmental-organisations-democracy-development-and-security>

- CDF Announcement: International Women's Day (8.3.2022)⁸³
- Natasa Vuckovic: New Reality and the Election Campaign in Serbia, FES Publication Towards a Revival of Democracy: Perspectives on the Elections in Serbia 2022 (14.3.2022)⁸⁴
- NGO Network Calls Citizens to Take Part in the Democratic Election Process (Press Release)⁸⁵
- Announcement on the occasion of the World Day of Safety and Health at Work (28.4.2022)⁸⁶
- Announcement on the occasion of International Labour Day (1.5.2022)⁸⁷
- Announcement of the Network of Organizations "Serbia in the West" on the occasion of Europe Day (9.5.2022)⁸⁸
- Times of Temptation for Both the Government and the Opposition, Alike - Nataša Vučković, author of the text for Novi Magazin weekly newsmagazine (11.5.2022)⁸⁹
- EU membership perspective must be revitalised - Nataša Vučković, Talk show Među nama, TV Nova S (12.5.2022)⁹⁰
- Can there be democracy without the European Union? - Nataša Vučković, author of the text published in Danas newsmagazine (5.6.2022)⁹¹
- Chapters from Cluster 3 important for the life of Serbian citizens, Nataša Vučković interview for European Western Balkans (8.6.2022)⁹²
- An opportunity for the EU to revitalize and speed up the process of integration of the Western Balkans, Statement by Nataša Vučković for Nova.rs (10.6.2022)⁹³
- The Western Balkans needs a clear signal that membership in the EU is an achievable perspective, Nataša Vučković interview for Telegraf (21.6.2022)⁹⁴
- Opening accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania is encouraging news, Natasa Vuckovic (19.7.2022)⁹⁵

⁸³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12565/cdf-announcement-international-womens-day>

⁸⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12567/natasa-vuckovic-new-reality-and-the-election-campaign-in-serbia>

⁸⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12575/ngo-network-calls-citizens-to-take-part-in-the-democratic-election-process>

⁸⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12591/svetski-dan-bezbednosti-i-zdravlja-na-radu>

⁸⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12592/medjunarodni-praznik-rada-prvi-maj>

⁸⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12594/mirni-dan-evrope>

⁸⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12616/times-of-temptation-for-both-the-government-and-the-opposition-alike>

⁹⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12615/vuckovic-eu-membership-perspective-must-be-revitalised>

⁹¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12661/can-there-be-democracy-without-the-european-union>

⁹² <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12633/vuckovic-poglavlja-iz-klastera-3-vazna-za-zivot-gradjana-srbije>

⁹³ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12635/vuckovic-prilika-za-eu-da-revitalizuje-i-ubrza-proces-integracija-zapadnog-balkana>

⁹⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12643/vuckovic-zapadnom-balkanu-je-potreban-jasan-signal-da-je-clanstvo-u-eu-dostizna-perspektiva>

⁹⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12659/vuckovic-opening-accession-negotiations-with-north-macedonia-and-albania-is-encouraging-news>

- The main issue is whether transitioning out of poverty is sustainable - Nataša Vučković, COSMO WDR podcast (17.8.2022)⁹⁶
- Nataša Vučković - Interview for Blic: America's participation in the dialogue is critical (30.8.2022)⁹⁷
- The 5 of October - An Important Day in Serbia's History When the People Chose Democracy and Europe, Nataša Vučković, TV Nova S (5.10.2022)⁹⁸
- Announcement on the occasion of the World Decent Work Day⁹⁹
- Joint press release regarding the Ministry's decision on "controversial" biology textbooks¹⁰⁰
- TV Appearance on N1, Nataša Vučković in the show "Let's Understand" (18.10.2022)¹⁰¹
- Euroscepticism as an excuse to maintain status quo, Nataša Vučković, author of the text for Novi Magazin weekly newsmagazine (7.11.2022)¹⁰²
- Nataša Vučković Makes a TV Appearance on N1 to Discuss the EP Resolution and Serbia's EU Integration (23.11.2022)¹⁰³

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⁹⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12687/vuckovic-the-main-issue-is-whether-transitioning-out-of-poverty-is-sustainable>

⁹⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12685/natasa-vuckovic-for-blic-americas-participation-in-the-dialogue-is-critical>

⁹⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12754/the-5-of-october-an-important-day-in-serbias-history-when-the-people-chose-democracy-and-europe>

⁹⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12704/omoguciti-dostojanstven-zivot-radnica-i-radnika-i-njihovih-porodica>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12705/saopstenje-za-javnost-povodom-odluke-ministarstva-o-spornim-udzbenicima-biologije>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12757/vuckovic-for-n1-serbias-eu-membership-is-an-important-objective-but-the-road-to-membership-has-great-value-in-itself>

¹⁰² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12726/euroscepticism-as-an-excuse-to-maintain-status-quo>

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