



FCD

FONDACIJA
CENTAR ZA DEMOKRATIJU
CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION IN 2021

Introduction

During 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation implemented its activities in accordance with the Strategic Development Plan and the Action Plan for 2021, adopted at the CDF Founder's Assembly held on February 22, 2021, which determined priorities, specific goals and measures for their achievement. Foundation continued to act through three main programs: Program 1 - EU integration, rule of law and good governance; Program 2 - Employment, labour rights and social cohesion; and Program 3 - Public dialogue. During 2021, the Foundation continuously dealt with topics that represent the main field of its activity in accordance with the organization's mission. In this period, FCD managed to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, preserve its resources and open perspectives for growth and development in the coming year. Special attention is devoted to the development of new educational programs and models in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In 2021, a three-year regional project **Regional Youth Compact for Europe** was completed. Also, the **Connecting the Dots** project was completed. Continuity was achieved in the project **Labour Rights are Our Rights**. Work on the **Sustainable Development for All Platform** continued. The second phase of the **Impact of Reforms on Society** project continued. Cooperation on the **Inclusion of Roma and other marginalized groups** project was deepened. The traditional project **Dialogue in the Center** continued. Within the framework of the National Convention on the EU, CDF continued to coordinate the work of the Working Group for Negotiation Chapters 2 and 19, as well as the Interdepartmental Working Group for Regional Cooperation (Berlin Process). The Foundation participated in the working group for the development of the Strategy for Gender Equality, the Strategy for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination, and the Strategy for Creating an Encouraging Environment for the Work of Civil Society.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACHIEVED RESULTS

Results in 2021



The most important events in 2021:

-  Within the framework of the project „Regional Youth Compact for Europe“:
 -  Digital educational platform www.politeia.institute was launched - an innovative online portal for the education of citizens from the Western Balkans
 -  Regional "POLITEIA Western Balkans School for Youth Participation" was held (7- 29 May 2021)
 -  "EU and the Western Balkans: Towards Renewed Trust", the final project conference of the "Regional Youth Compact for Europe" (1 July 2021)



-  „Is there Socioeconomic Development Without Rule of Law?“ – final annual conference within the framework of the project „Connecting the Dots“ (24 February 2021)

-  „Public reading of the European Commission 2021 Report on Serbia“, in cooperation with CDF/CFP/EWB, supported by Olof Palme International Center (25 October 2021)



- FCD
 The publication **"Impact of public policies on society"** was published, as part of the project "Policies Beneficial to All: Measuring the Social Impact of Public Policies through Empowerment and Inclusion of Citizens" (27 October 2021)
- FCD
 Public debate: **"Agenda 2030 and the Law on Gender Equality - how to achieve successful implementation"**, within the "Sustainable Development for All" Platform (29 October 2021)
- FCD
 National conference – „**National Dialogue on Social Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Roma Men and Women Returnees - Through Cooperation and Good Practice to Sustainable Solutions**" within the German Development Cooperation Programme "Inclusion of Roma and other Marginalized Groups in Serbia" (7 December 2021)
- FCD
 Annual conference **"Decent work and economic growth in Serbia - do they go together?"** within the project "Labour rights are our rights" (21 December 2021)
- FCD
 National Convention on the European Union –"**Book of recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union 2020**" was published, with recommendations for 2021; the Ninth Plenary Session of the National Convention on the EU held; Meeting of the NCEU Working Group for Negotiation Chapters 2 and 19 was held (CDF coordinator).
- FCD
 Debates "Dialogue in the Center - social dialogue", in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung:
 - FCD
 „Two Decades of Social Dialogue in Serbia“ Debate (29 April 2021)
 - FCD
 „Patronage Appointment and Discrimination“ Debate (8 Jun 2021)
 - FCD
 „Fair Energy Transition in Serbia and Potential Social and Economic Consequences“ Debate (29 Jun 2021)
 - FCD
 „(Un)Dignified Ageing and Old Age“ Debate (14 July 2021)
 - FCD
 „Social Rights and the Media“ Debate (25 October 2021)



Projects:

Program I - Promotion of European values in Serbia - democracy, rule of law and human rights



The regional three-year project, which is coordinated by the Center for Democracy Foundation, with the participation of 13 partner organizations of the Western Balkans, Turkey and the EU, and with the financial support of the EU and the co-financing of the Balkan Fund for Democracy, has entered its final phase in 2021. Regional POLITEIA School for Young People, presentations of projects implemented through the We Have A Say Youth Fund, Regional Youth Compact Thematic Forums were held, as well as the big final conference "EU and the Western Balkans: Towards Renewed Trust", where recommendations were adopted on accelerating reforms and strengthening the European integration process. A report on the implementation of the project was published in English.

The most important activities in 2021:

- ✚ **POLITEIA INSTITUT – Digital educational platform www.politeia.institute**

A digital educational platform was launched within the framework of Politeia Institut and through the RYCE project, which represents an innovative online space for educating citizens from the Western Balkans.



The **Politeia Institute**¹ is a regional educational platform for young people who wish to enrich their knowledge, contribute to the development of the society, through exchange with young people in their country, in the countries of the Western Balkans and in the European Union.

✚ **Final conference: European Union and the Western Balkans – Trust and New-Found Enthusiasm in the EU Integration Process**

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised a final conference entitled **European Union and the Western Balkans – Towards Renewed Trust**², where regional CSOs, partners of the Regional Youth Compact for Europe project adopted recommendations³ for expediting reforms and encouraging the EU integration process, subsequently submitted to the European Union and the governments of the West Balkan countries. At the conference, relations between the European Union and Western Balkans were discussed in three panel discussions, seen through the prism of EU integrations and youth participation.



Opening of the conference: Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia, **Mateja Norčić Štamcar**, The Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković**. In the first panel “**European Union and the Western Balkans – Renewed Trust and New-Found Enthusiasm for Expansion/Integration**”, the central topic was current relations between WB countries and the European Union. **Antonella Valmorbida** (Secretary General, European Association for Local Democracy ALDA, France), **Sonja Licht** (President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Serbia), **Prof. dr Gordana Đurović** (Faculty of Economics, University of Podgorica, Montenegro), **Daša Šašić Šilović** (Chair, CEE Network for Gender Issues, Croatia; President, European Partners for the Environment), **Saša Magazinović** (Member of Parliament, Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Remzi Lani** (Executive Director of the Albanian Media Institute, Albania), **Nataša Vučković** (Executive

¹ <https://politeia.institute/en/homepage/>

² <https://politeia.institute/en/european-union-and-the-western-balkans-trust-and-new-found-enthusiasm-in-the-eu-integration-process/>

³ <https://politeia.institute/en/recommendations-resulting-from-the-conference-european-union-and-the-western-balkans-towards-renewed-trust/>

Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia), **Ana Krstinovska** (Founder and Director, ESTIMA, North Macedonia), spoke at the panel, moderated by **Antonela Riha**, Journalist. The second panel “**West Balkans Youth – Between Expectations and Reality**” was dedicated to the youth and their expectations of EU integration. **Dragan Srećković** (Researcher, Serbia), **Djordjo Cvijović** (RYCO, Serbia office), **Anja Jokić** (National Youth Council of Serbia, KOMS, Serbia), **Ivana Jacheva** (Northern Macedonia), **Marjana Koceku** (Albania), spoke about this topic. Moderator: **Stefan Simić** (Program Coordinator, Center for Democracy Foundation). During the panel, research on Western Balkan youth participation in EU integration was presented, which was implemented as part of this project. The third panel “**Local democracy: Active Citizens – Sustainable Communities**” dealt with democracy at the local level and citizens’ initiatives, where the panellists were representatives of organisations engaged within local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia. Panelists: **Stanka Parać** (LDA Subotica, Serbia), **Maja Vejzović** (LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Kerim Međedović** (LDA Nikšić, Montenegro). Moderator: **Katica Janeva** (ALDA Skopje).

Comparative Study: Youth Transformative Potential in the EU Integration Processes and Post-Covid-19 Developments in the Western Balkans

Research on the participation of young people in the Western Balkans in the process of European integration was presented at the annual conference, which was carried out within the framework of this project by CRTA , one of the partners in the project (published in the languages: ENG, SRB, ALB, MKD).⁴

The regional POLITEIA School for youths residing in the Western Balkans and Turkey „POLITEIA Western Balkans School for Youth Participation“

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised the regional **POLITEIA Western Balkans School for Youth Participation**⁵ within the Regional Youth Compact for Europe project. Young experts from the WB and Turkey participated in the school.

The Politeia School was held from 7 to 29 May 2021 in a new, digital format, with approximately 30 participants, interested and dedicated young adults, a large number of prominent lecturers and experts, decision makers and representatives of academia within the region and Europe, where quality discussions were held on current topics of relevance.

⁴ <https://politeia.institute/en/youth-transformative-potential-in-the-eu-integration-processes-and-post-covid-19-developments-in-the-western-balkans/>

⁵ <https://politeia.institute/en/politeia-western-balkans-school-for-youth-participation-2021/>



- Opening Panel: **Youth in the Western Balkans – Agents of Change** (7.5.2021)⁶
- Panel Debate: **3E – Economy, Energy and Environment in the Western Balkans** (20.5.2021)⁷

The Politeia School attendees were addressed by the following speakers through panel debates and discussions: **Liselotte Isaksson** (European Commission, DG NEAR, Head of Sector, Society, Social Inclusion and Human Capital), **Snežana Samardžić Marković** (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe), **Jan Zlatan Kulenović** (Director of Programs, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, RYCO), **Antonella Valmorbida** (Secretary General of the European Association for Local Democracy, ALDA), **Prof. Dragoljub Mićunović, PhD** (President of the Board of Directors of FCD, former MP and President of the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia), **Kori Udovički** (President of the BoD, CEVES, Belgrade, and former Minister of Energy and Mining of the RS Government), **Aleksandar Kovačević** (Energy expert, Belgrade), **Prof. Vladimir Janković, PhD** (University of Manchester, Great Britain), **Linda Čavdarbasha** (Deputy Minister of Environment, Government of Kosovo*), **Ana Marjanović Rudan** (Public Policy Consultant, Praxis Development), **Jasmina Murić** (Head of Human Resources, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, RS Government), **Jovan Protić** (ILO in Serbia), **Đorđo Cvijović** (Regional Youth Cooperation Office RYCO), **Marijana Koceku** (WPS Albania), etc.

⁶ <https://politeia.institute/en/opening-of-the-politeia-western-balkans-school-for-youth-participation/>

⁷ <https://politeia.institute/en/panel-debate-3e-in-the-western-balkans-economy-energy-and-environment/>



The following group shared their knowledge and experiences through lectures and interactive conversations with the young attendees: **Ivan Vejvoda** (Institute of Social Sciences, Vienna), **Prof. Gordana Đurović** (Faculty of Economics, University of Podgorica, Montenegro), **Vesna Pusić, PhD** (former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Government of the Republic of Croatia), **Prof. Andreas Gross** (former member of the Swiss National Council and member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe), **Prof. Eralda Çani** (Faculty of Law, University of Tirana and former Deputy Minister for Integration in the Government of Albania), **Natalija Mićunović**, PhD (Senior Research Associate, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade), **Mirna Jusić** (PhD student at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Public Policy, Karlov University of Prague), **Aleksandra Vladisavljević** (Gender Policy and Budget Consultant), among others.

We Have A Say Youth Fund – presenting the results of youth projects

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised a closing event for the **We Have A Say Youth Fund**⁸, implemented via the Regional Youth Compact for Europe project. Through this Youth Fund, the CDF supported 13 local organisations operating within the region (North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia) and the projects they organised aimed to increase the participation of youths and strengthen local democracy in the WB.



⁸ <https://politeia.institute/en/we-have-a-say-youth-fund-presenting-the-results-of-youth-projects/>

The following organisations presented their projects and the results achieved within their respective local communities: **Art Aparat** (Belgrade, Serbia), **Youth Voice Network** (Albania), **Team 42** (Leskovac, Serbia), **Eco Action** (Tetovo, North Macedonia), **InterLingua** (Podgorica, Montenegro), **NYGEA** (BiH), **Ogledna Bašta** (Niš, Serbia), **National Youth Congress** (Albania), **Brus Youth Centre** (Brus, Serbia), **Young Active Gračanica** (Gračanica, Kosovo*), **Student Union Vršac** (Vršac, Serbia), **Trade Union Education Centre** (BiH), **Balkan Development Centre** (Kraljevo, Serbia).

Balkan Youth for Europe – Second Regional Thematic Network Forum

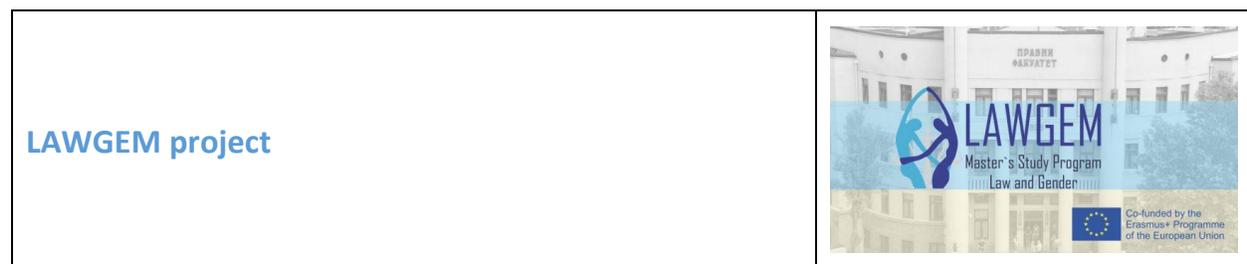
The second Regional Thematic Network Forum, under the Balkan Youth for Europe project was held on 25 and 26 March 2021, organised by our partner the LDA Subotica.⁹

Regional Youth Network Forum – a representation of a comparative study conducted within the framework of the RYCE project

On 23 July 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the **Regional Youth Network Forum** via the Regional Youth Compact for Europe project, whereby a comparative study entitled ‘Youth Transformative Potential in the EU Integration Processes and Post-Covid-19 Developments in the Western Balkans’ was presented.¹⁰

Project Report

Regional Youth Compact for Europe – **Project Report**¹¹



The Center for Democracy Foundation is an associate media partner of the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade on the project: **New Quality in Education for Gender Equality - Strategic Partnership for the Development of Master`s Study Programme LAW AND GENDER**, or the **LAWGEM project**.

The Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade is coordinating this European project (LAWGEM) in collaboration with partners of the consortium from the University of Cadiz Spain, the University

⁹ <https://politeia.institute/en/balkan-youth-for-europe-second-regional-thematic-network-forum/>

¹⁰ <https://politeia.institute/en/regional-youth-network-forum-a-representation-of-a-comparative-study-conducted-within-the-framework-of-the-ryce-project/>

¹¹ <https://politeia.institute/en/regional-youth-compact-for-europe-project-report-eng/>

of Lums Italy, the University of Orebro Sweden and the University of Saarland / Europe Institute Germany. The most important planned result of the LAWGEM project is the formation of a curriculum that will consist of 17 individual curricula, all aiming to establish/accredit and implement future master studies in LAW AND GENDER.

Project Activities:

- ✚ Interview with **Prof. Dr. Dragica Vujadinović - LAWGEM project**. Prof. Dr. Dragica Vujadinović is heading this European project, and we spoke to her about its importance, aims, and anticipated results¹²
- ✚ Conference: **New Quality in Education for Gender Equality**, Europa-Institut of Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany (13.4.2021)¹³
- ✚ International Congress **„Gender and Law in Practice and Education“**, Cádiz, Spain (19.7.2021)¹⁴
- ✚ Conference: **Gender (In)Equality of Persons with Disability, Faculty of Law of University of Belgrade** (20.9.2021)¹⁵



At the beginning of 2021, final events were organized within the "Connecting the Dots" project, which aimed to regularly monitor reforms in the area of social and economic rights and inform citizens, as holders of social rights, about the importance of the European integration process. The project was realized with the financial support of the Balkan Fund for Democracy (GMF/BTD) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Belgrade.

- ✚ **Final Conference of the Year: ‘Is there Socioeconomic Development Without Rule of Law?’**

¹² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12439/interview-with-prof-dr-dragica-vujadinovic-lawgem-project>

¹³ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/dogadjaj/12301/novi-kvalitet-u-obrazovanju-za-rodnu-jednakost>

¹⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12386/lawgem-project-international-congress-gender-and-law-in-practice-and-education>

¹⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12427/gender-inequality-of-persons-with-disability-conference-2092021>

On 24 February 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a final conference of the year entitled **'Is there Socioeconomic Development Without Rule of Law?'**¹⁶. **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director at the Center for Democracy Foundation, opened the conference by thanking all participants, associates, representatives of government and independent institutions, embassy representatives, civil society associates from political and economic spheres, for expressing an interest and desire to discuss this important topic. The conference was the final activity under the Connecting the Dots project.



The following persons opened the conference: **Gordana Čomić** (Minister of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, RS Govt.), **Françoise Jacob** (UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia), **Geir Håkon Johansen** (Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade), **Yngve Engstroem** (Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Serbia), **Gordana Delić** (Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy). Presentation of the Connecting the Dots project: Research, reports, debates, blogs, analyses, training, good practices - **Vesna Marjanović** (Center for Democracy Foundation). Panel I: **Rule of Law - A Condition of Economic Development** - **Prof. Pavle Petrović, PhD.** (President of the Fiscal Council), **Prof. Dejan Šoškić, PhD.** (Faculty of Economic in Belgrade), **Vladimir Međak** (European Movement in Serbia), **Biljana Stepanović** (Director, Business Info Group), **Omer Hadžiomerović** (Judge, Appellate Court), **Brankica Janković** (Equality Commissioner). Panel II: **Transparency and the Impact of the Citizenry on Developmental Policy** - **Danijel Dašić** (National Coalition for Decentralisation), **Nebojša Zelenović** (former Mayor of Šabac), **Ivan Sekulović** (Public Policy Advisor, Center for Democracy Foundation), **Dragan Dobrašinović** (Toplica Center for Democracy and Human Rights). Panel III: **Rule of Law and Social Justice** - **Prof. Zoran Stojiljković, PhD.** (President of the United Branch Trade Union

¹⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12330/final-conference-of-the-year-is-there-socioeconomic-development-without-rule-of-law>

Independence), **Prof. Mario Reljanović, PhD.** (Director, Centre for Decent Work), **Sarita Bradaš** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Simo Vuković** (Public Health Consultant).

Final publication „Connecting the Dots“¹⁷

This publication brought together several analyzes and researches carried out within the framework of this project:

- **Alternative report on the implementation of the Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP) for the period 2016-2020¹⁸** (contribution to the monitoring of social and economic reforms in Serbia)
Authors: dr Snežana Simić, dr Ksenija Petovar, dr Katarina Stanić, Sarita Bradaš, dr Mario Reljanović and Ivan Sekulović
- **Research: Employment policy in the public sector - consequences in the health care sector¹⁹**
Author: Ksenija Petovar
- **6 analyzes authored by** Ivan Vejvoda, Simo Vuković, dr Irina Subotić, dr Ksenija Petovar, Vesna Marjanović
- **Analysis: Social cards - no way out of poverty²⁰**
Author: Sarita Bradaš

Training „Social and economic rights in public policy“

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised training on the topic **Social and Economic Rights in Public Policy²¹** under the Politeia Institute and the Connecting the Dots project. Politeia training was held via an online platform, with 36 participants from local communities i.e., representatives of CSOs, local self-government, companies, and so on.

Politeia Training lecturers were: **Aleksandra Petrović**, UN Human Rights Team Program Expert (OHCHR), **Ivan Sekulović**, Public Policy Advisor at Center for Democracy Foundation, **Assoc. Prof. Marina Savković, PhD.** (University of Singidunum, Belgrade), **Ljiljana Lučić**, former State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy, **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director FCD, **Sarita Bradaš**, Researcher at FCD, **Vesna Marjanović**, Communications Manager and Executive Director and **Stevan Vujasinović**, RES Foundation.

¹⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-cod-publikacija.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-program-reformi-politike-zaposljavanja-i-socijalne-politike.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-ksenija-petovar-zabrana-zaposljavanja-u-javnom-sektoru-posledice-u-sektoru-zdravstvena-zastita-gradjana.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-sarita-bradas-socijalne-karte-bezizlaz-iz-siromastva.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12328/the-politeia-institute-social-and-economic-rights-in-public-policy>



Program II: Promotion and protection of social and economic development based on human rights

<p>Labour Rights are Our Rights</p>	
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"Labour Rights are Our Rights" project is a continuation of long-term cooperation with the Olof Palme International Center, which the following topics set as priorities in its strategy for the Western Balkans: problem of changes and implementation of labour legislation, cooperation of civil society with trade unions and networking of civil society organizations that deal with this questions. The Center for Democracy is seen as one of the key partners in Serbia and the Western Balkans region.

During 2021, activities continued in the area of promotion and protection of labor rights, development of cooperation between the NGO sector and trade unions, monitoring of government policies, monitoring of progress in the area of harmonization with EU regulations, etc.

Main activities in 2021:

- ✚ **Key Findings of the Analysis of the Proposed National Employment Strategy for the Period 2021-2026**

As the public debate on the **Proposed National Employment Strategy** (Draft) winds down, we hereby provide the key findings of the **NCEU Working Group for negotiating chapters 2 and 19 - Social Policy and Employment** (...) (18.1.2021).²²

Seasonal Work in Serbia - Debate

On 16 April 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate on the topic: **Seasonal Work in Serbia**²³, as part of the Labour Rights Are Our Rights project. The opening statements of the debate were made by the **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Saša Dimitrijević** (United Branch Trade Union Independence), **Marija Srdić** (Union of Employers of Vojvodina), **Aleksandra Lakić** ('Zajedničko' Association), **Sarita Bradaš** (FCD), the debate was moderated by **Miloš Đajić** (Centre of Modern Skills), and also participating in the discussion were **Miloš Vučković** (Radnik.rs portal), **Dragan Cvetković** (Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia) and others.

Training Organised for Trade Unions – Gender Perspective in Designing and Monitoring Public Policies

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised training for trade unions on the topic **Gender Perspective in Designing and Monitoring Public Policies**²⁴ on 17 and 18 June 2021. The training participants included representatives of the United Branch Trade Union Independence, Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia, Association of Free and Independent Trade Unions, and the lecturers were **Miloš Đajić** (Center for Modern Skills) and **Sarita Bradaš** (Center for Democracy Foundation).

Debate: New Gender Equality Law within the Context of Economic Empowerment of Women and Improvement of Labour Rights

The Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate on 14 June 2021 within the framework of the Labour Rights Are Our Rights project: **New Gender Equality Law within the Context of Economic Empowerment of Women and Improvement of Labour Rights**²⁵. Keynote Speakers: **Branka Janković** (Equality Commissioner), **Jelena Stojanović** (Deputy Ombudsman), **Prof. Marijana Pajvančić PhD**, **Melanija Lojpur** (Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia), **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Miloš Đajić** (Centre of Modern Skills), and the discussion was moderated by **Ljubica Gojgić** (journalist).

Training „Social and Economic Rights and Youth Generation“

²² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12326/key-findings-of-the-analysis-of-the-proposed-national-employment-strategy-for-the-period-2021-2026>

²³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12343/seasonal-work-in-serbia-debate>

²⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12399/training-organised-for-trade-unions-gender-perspective-in-designing-and-monitoring-public-policies>

²⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12396/debate-new-gender-equality-law-within-the-context-of-economic-empowerment-of-women-and-improvement-of-labour-rights>

Training for members of the youth section of trade unions, non-governmental organizations and political parties on the topic „Social and Economic Rights and Youth Generation“ was held on October 14-15, 2021 at Fruška Gora. The training was held by Melanija Lojpur (SSSS) and Igor Jojkić (Center of Modern Skills).

Public reading of the European Commission 2021 Report on Serbia

On 25 October 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation and the Centre for Contemporary Politics organised the **Public reading of the European Commission 2021 Report on Serbia**²⁶, with the support of the Olof Palme International Center. Partaking in the discussion were: **Mateja Norčić Štamcar**, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director of the CDF, **Nemanja Todorović Štiplija**, Executive Director of the Centre for Contemporary Politics, **Jovana Spremo**, Adviser on EU integration related policies, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), **Vladimir Međak**, Vice President of the European Movement in Serbia, **Bojan Elek**, Senior Researcher at Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), **Kori Udovički**, President of the Board of the Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), **Nikola Burazer**, Programme Director at the Centre for Contemporary Politics.

Position of Foreign Workers in Serbia - Debate

On 30 November 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate on the topic: **Position of Workers in Serbia**²⁷, as part of the Labour Rights Are Our Rights project. Keynote speakers during the debate included: **Nebojša Miletić**, Union of Employers; **Saša Torlaković**, Construction Workers' Trade Union; **Ivana Gordić-Perc**, Journalist, VOICE, **Andrijana Radoičić-Nedeljković**, ATINA; **Olga Vučković-Kićanović**, Consulting in Labour Rights and HR Fides; **Branislav Markuš**, Zrenjanin Social Forum; **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation. The debate was moderated by (journalist) **Ljubica Gojgić**.

Annual Conference: Decent Work and Economic Growth in Serbia – Do They Go Hand in Hand?

On 21 December 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the Annual Conference entitled **Decent Work and Economic Growth in Serbia - do they go hand in hand?**²⁸ within the framework of the Labour Rights are Our Rights project. The following persons opened the conference: **Nataša Vučković** (Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation); **Johan Schmidt** (Olof Palme International Center, Sweden); **Brankica Janković** (Commissioner for the Protection of Equality); **Françoise Jacob** (UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia). The debate was moderated by (journalist) **Ljubica Gojgić**.

²⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12457/public-reading-of-the-european-commission-2021-report-on-serbia>

²⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12517/position-of-foreign-workers-in-serbia-debate>

²⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12495/annual-conference-decent-work-and-economic-growth-in-serbia-do-they-go-hand-in-hand>

Panel I: **Labour Rights in Serbia – between the law and practice**. Keynote Speakers: **Prof. Bojan Urdarević**, Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac; **Mila Petrović, PhD**, Conciliator before the Republic Agency for Peaceful Settlement of Labour Disputes; **Dragana Savić**, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs; **Prof. Mario Reljanović, PhD**, Institute for Comparative Law; **Jovan Protić**, National coordinator for Serbia, International Labour Organization; **Čedanka Andrić**, President, United Branch Trade Union Independence; **Danilo Milić**, Olof Palme International Center. Panel II: **Unemployment Structure and Labour Market Needs – Why Do We Lack Workers?**. Keynote Speakers: **Prof. Mihail Arandarenko, PhD**, Faculty of Economy, University of Belgrade; **Prof. Vladan Ivanović, PhD**, Faculty of Economy, University of Kragujevac; **Sarita Bradaš**, Center for Democracy Foundation; **Tanja Jakobi**, Public Policy Research Centre; **Svetlana Budimčević**, Union of Employers of Serbia. Panel III: **Vulnerable Groups and Employment with Focus on Education and Training**. Keynote Speakers: **Osman Balić**, League of Roma; **Gordana Savić**, Užice Center for Human Rights; **Jovana Krivokuća**, Forum of Youth with Disabilities; **Bojana Tamindžija**, Center for Policies of Emancipation; **Irena Pejić**, The Machine; **Dragana Todorović**, ERA - LGBT Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey.



- ✚ Analyzes and annual report on the state of labour rights
 - 🕒 Annual "Report on the State of Labor Rights in Serbia for 2021"²⁹
Authors: Dr Bojan Urdarević i dr Mila Petrović
 - 🕒 Analysis „Minimum wage in Serbia“³⁰
Author: Sarita Bradaš

²⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Izvestaj-o-stanju-radnih-prava-u-Srbiji-za-2021-godinu.pdf>

³⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Sarita-Bradas-Minimalna-zarada-u-Srbiji.pdf>

- Analysis: „**The regional labour market in the Western Balkans - an objective need in unfavorable conditions**“³¹
 Author: Prof. dr Vladan Ivanović
- Analysis: "The Social Dimension of the Energy Transition - is a 'Just Transition for All' Achievable?"³²
 Author: Prof. dr Ksenija Petovar
- Analizes: „**Ecology and Democracy**“³³ i „**Educational Strategy**“³⁴
 Author: Prof. dr Dragoljub Mićunović



Reforms Beneficial to All: Public Participation Toward Better Public Policies and Sustainable Socio-economic Development, is the continuation of the project implemented by the Center for Democracy Foundation in 2021, with the support of the Open Society Foundation Serbia.

Project objectives:

- 1) To contribute to the opening of dialogue and advocacy of socially sustainable policies, solidarity and justice, in particular, in the areas of protection of social and economic rights and urban development;
- 2) Affirmation of democratic and European values and contribution to the improvement of policies and legislation in the process of European integration by strengthening the social aspect of the process of Serbia's accession to the EU;
- 3) To enable the direct participation of citizens and their organisations in public affairs at all levels - by applying the following methodology: to analyse the effects of policy proposals on society: a) at the local and national levels, through direct participation of citizens in the analysis of reform

³¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Vladan-Ivanovic-Regionalno-trziste-rada-na-Zapadnom-Balkanu.pdf>

³² <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Ksenija-Petovar-Socijalna-dimenzija-energetske-tranzicije.pdf>

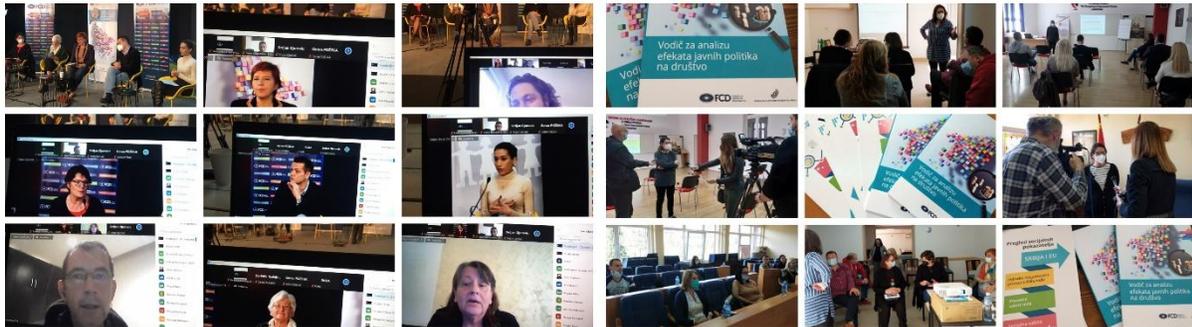
³³ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Dragoljub-Micunovic-Ekologija-i-demokratija.pdf>

³⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/Dragoljub-Micunovic-Strategija-obrazovanja.pdf>

impact, and: b) in analysing reforms, primarily within the context of exercising social and economic rights.

🚩 **Publication: Social Impact of Public Policies - Download PDF³⁵ (Serbian)**

The publication was prepared by the Center for Democracy Foundation with the financial support of the Open Society Foundation.



Activities in 2021:

- 🚩 Presentation of the Guide to Analysing the Social Impact of Public Policies in **Zrenjanin** (23.04.2021), **Čajetina** (26.04.2021) and **Leskovac** (27.04.2021)³⁶
- 🚩 Discussion on the Effects of Public Policies on Society in **Leskovac**, **Čajetina** and **Zrenjanin**³⁷
- 🚩 Debate: **Waste Management in Leskovac: Mechanisms, Practices and Challenges** (15.9.2021)³⁸
- 🚩 Debate: **Youth Policy in Požega** (30.9.2021)³⁹
- 🚩 **Alternative Report on the Local Employment Action Plan for Youth - Zrenjanin** (7.10.2021)⁴⁰
- 🚩 Presentation of the Publication: **Social Impact of Public Policies** (27.0.2021)⁴¹. Keynote speakers: **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, **Srđan Đurović**, Open Society Foundation Serbia, **Tara Petrović**, Civic Initiatives. Session I: Presentation: **Analysis of Civil Society Organisations - Milica Lupšor**, ROZA Women's

³⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-fod-uticaj-javnih-politika-na-drustvo.pdf>

³⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12345/presentation-of-the-guide-to-analysing-the-social-impact-of-public-policies>

³⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12412/reforms-beneficial-to-all-discussion-on-the-effects-of-public-policies-on-society>

³⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12466/reforms-beneficial-to-all-debate-waste-management-in-leskovac-mechanisms-practices-and-challenges>

³⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12467/reforms-beneficial-to-all-debate-youth-policy-in-pozega>

⁴⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12468/reforms-beneficial-to-all-alternative-report-on-the-local-employment-action-plan-for-youth-zrenjanin>

⁴¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12512/presentation-of-the-publication-social-impact-of-public-policies>

Rights Association, Zrenjanin; **Ana Pecarski**, Team 42, Leskovac; **Goran Đukić**, Forca, Požega. Session II: Presentation: **Analysis of the Effects of Sectoral Public Policies on Society** - **Sarita Bradaš**, **Darinka Radojević**, **Ksenija Petovar**, **Marina Savković**, **Simo Vuković**, **Ana Pecarski**.

Sustainable Development Goals for All Platform

FCD CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The Center for Democracy Foundation is one of the partners on the **Sustainable Development Goals for All platform project**⁴², collaborating alongside the Ana and Vlada Divac Foundation and working to spread knowledge, the inclusion of all key actors, proposing priorities and policies concerning a few of the core goals of sustainable development: Goal 1 – No Poverty, Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, Goal 3 – Good health and Well-being, Goal 4 – Quality Education, Goal 5 – Gender Equality.

The SDGs for All platform project was launched at the beginning of March with an official presentation during which the goals of the three-year project and activities to be implemented within three pillars - social, economic and environmental, were presented. The first, i.e. the social pillar will be coordinated by the Ana and Vlada Divac Foundation with the Center for Democracy Foundation. The second pillar will be covered by the Centre for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), and the third pillar will be coordinated by the Belgrade Open School side-by-side with the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence. The project is supported by the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Main activities in 2021:

Availability of Healthcare, Prevention and the Treatment of other Illnesses During the COVID-19 Era

The Center for Democracy Foundation and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation organised the following Webinar entitled: **Availability of Healthcare, Prevention and the Treatment of other Illnesses During the COVID-19 Era**⁴³ was held on 11 March 2021. Our panellists were: Dr. Simo Vuković, healthcare consultant, Prof. Dušan Milisavljević, PhD at the Faculty of Medicine,

⁴² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/project/1784/sustainable-development-goals-for-all-platform>

⁴³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12336/availability-of-healthcare-prevention-and-the-treatment-of-other-illnesses-during-the-covid-19-era>

University of Niš, Prof. Dr. Snežana Simić, Public Health Expert, Sarita Bradaš, Researcher at the Center for Democracy Foundation. Panel moderator: Ljubica Gojgić, Journalist.

✚ Establishment of the Advisory Thematic Group Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

The Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and the Centre for Democracy Foundation organised a meeting with the aim of forming the **Thematic Group Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls**⁴⁴. The meeting was opened by **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director, the CDF, and **Ivona Gvozdenović**, AVDF Project Manager, and the participants were addressed by Minister **Gordana Čomić**, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, **Bogdan Gavanski**, Project Manager, GiZ, **Brankica Janković**, Equality Commissioner. Also participating in the discussion were: **Marina Savković**, Assistant Professor, Singidunum University, **Svetlana Ilić**, Activist, Women's Roma Center Bibija, **Jelena Marinković**, Executive Director, Lav Women's Association, **Marija Penčić**, Executive Director, Women of the South, Women's Association, **Miloš Đajić**, Executive Director, Center for Modern Skills, **Sarita Bradash**, Researcher, the CDF, and others.

✚ Public Debate: 2030 Agenda and the Law on Gender Equality - How to Achieve Successful Implementation

On 29 October 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation and the Ana and Vlade Devac Foundation organised the following public debate: **2030 Agenda and the Law on Gender Equality - How to Achieve Successful Implementation**⁴⁵. Partaking in the debate were: **Prof. Marijana Pajvančić, PhD**; **Katarina Štrbac**, Special Adviser on Gender Equality to the Minister of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue; **Brankica Janković**, Equality Commissioner; **Nataša Gospić**, Serbian Chamber of Engineers; **Assoc. Prof. Marina Savković, PhD**, University of Singidunum, Belgrade; **Miloš Đajić**, Center for Modern Skills; **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation; **Ivona Gvozdenović**, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation; **Sarita Bradaš**, Researcher, Center for Democracy Foundation; **Marija Srdić**, and others.



⁴⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12389/establishment-of-the-advisory-thematic-group-achieve-gender-equality-and-empower-all-women-and-girls>

⁴⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12513/public-debate-2030-agenda-and-the-law-on-gender-equality-how-to-achieve-successful-implementation>

Thematic Group “Eradication of Poverty” established

The Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and the Center for Democracy Foundation organized a meeting on December 16, in order to set up a **thematic group on poverty eradication**⁴⁶. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the national level decision-makers, experts in this field, representatives of civil society organizations and the media, including **Natasa Vuckovic** (Center for Democracy Foundation), **Ivona Gvozdenovic** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation), **Slavica Djukic Dejanovic** (Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia for the 2030 Agenda); **Ljiljana Lucic**; **Osman Balic** (Roma League); **Snezana Santic** (Municipality Stari Grad Association of Pensioners), **Marija Drazovic** (Praxis, Kraljevo); **Suzana Ilic** (Association of Rome); **Jovana Krivokuca Milovanovic** (Youth with Disabilities Forum); **Marija Jovanovic** (Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation); **Sarita Bradas**, **Milena Micovic Trajkovic** (Center for Democracy Foundation) and others. The thematic group will also include **Nada Lazic** (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue); **Zarko Sunderic** (Center for Social Policy); **Marijana Lukovic** (Praxis, Kraljevo) and **Tamara Skroza** (journalist).

Public Policy Proposals

Center for Democracy Foundation published the following public policy proposals, as part of "Sustainable Development for All" Platform:

Policy recommendation: Eradicating Poverty as Serbia’s Number One Strategy⁴⁷

Within the “SDGs for ALL” Platform, Center for Democracy Foundation has developed a policy recommendation **“Eradicating Poverty as Serbia’s Number One Strategy”** which aims to contribute to the formulation of a new strategic approach to combatting poverty in Serbia, on the basis of the standards set forth in the UN and EU Sustainable Development agendas.

Policy Recommendation: Fulfilment of International Labour Organisation Standards as a Precondition of Sustainable Development in Serbia⁴⁸

Within the “SDGs for ALL” Platform, Center for Democracy Foundation has developed a policy recommendation **“Fulfillment of International Labor Organization Standards as a Precondition of Sustainable Development in Serbia”**, which aims to contribute to the fulfillment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Serbia, with the focus on SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth. The subject of this analysis is an assessment of the degree to which Serbia’s labour rights are harmonized with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards of relevance to our country on many levels.

⁴⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12528/thematic-group-eradication-of-poverty-established>

⁴⁷ <https://sdgs4all.rs/en/documents/policy-recommendation-eradicating-poverty-as-serbias-number-one-strategy/>

⁴⁸ <https://sdgs4all.rs/en/documents/policy-recommendation-fulfilment-of-international-labour-organisation-standards-as-a-precondition-of-sustainable-development-in-serbia/>

✚ **Analyzes, publications, announcements:**

- Analysis of "Gender equality in the context of sustainable development and solutions contained in the Law on Gender Equality" authored by Prof. Dr. Marijana Pajvančić⁴⁹
- The publication "Gender Perspective in the Development Plan of the City of Pirot and Recommendations for the Preparation of a Medium-Term Development Plan" authored by Sarita Bradaš⁵⁰
- The publication "Gender mainstreaming of local sustainable development policies in Užice" authored by Sarita Bradaš⁵¹
- Statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: By advancing gender equality and empowering women to eliminate violence (November 25, 2021)



As part of the German Development Cooperation Program **"Inclusion of Roma and other marginalized groups in Serbia"** implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the following events were held in 2021 in cooperation with the Center for Democracy Foundation:

✚ **Platform for the exchange of experiences "Development planning and inclusion of Roma men and women at the local level"**

The second platform for the exchange of experiences between partner cities and municipalities on the topic "Development planning and inclusion of Roma men and women at the local level" was held on Monday, May 31, 2021, within the German Development Cooperation Program "Inclusion of Roma and other marginalized groups in Serbia" implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), in cooperation with the Center for Democracy Foundation.

⁴⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-sdgs4all-marijana-pajvancic-rodna-ravnopravnost-u-kontekstu-odrzivog-razvoja.pdf>

⁵⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-sdgs4all-rodna-perspektiva-u-planu-razvoja-grada-pirota.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/fcd-sdgs4all-urodnjavanje-politika-lokalnog-odrzivog-razvoja-u-uzicu.pdf>

🇺🇦 National Dialogue on Social Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Roma Men and Women Returnees

On December 7, 2021, the National Dialogue on Social Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Roma Men and Women Returnees was held in Belgrade - entitled "**Through Cooperation and Good Practice to Sustainable Solutions**".⁵² German Development Cooperation Programme "Inclusion of Roma and other Marginalized Groups in Serbia", implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, as a political partner and the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social issues as a key partner, and the Center for Democracy Foundation, organized a National Dialogue in the form of a national conference.

Conference opening / Introductory words: **Gordana Čomić**, Minister, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue; **Dušanka Golubović**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs; **Ane-Kristin Piplica**, Head of the department for economic cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Serbia; **Nataša Vučković**, Director, Centre for Democracy Foundation. **Panel I:** Partnership and cooperation of the public, private and civil sector in the social inclusion policy of Roma and returnees – formulating public policy recommendations through good practices. **Panel II:** Education, employment, and economic empowerment of Roma and returnees – main challenges and possible solutions in the social inclusion process.



For the purpose of organization of the conference, four expert analyzes prepared by the Foundation's expert team were used, among which in particular the analysis of the strategic and legal framework for the inclusion of Roma men and women and returnees, and the analysis of the potential economic contribution to the greater inclusion of Roma men and women in the labour market in Serbia.

⁵² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12489/national-dialogue-on-social-inclusion-and-economic-empowerment-of-roma-men-and-women-returnees>

SMELT Project



The Center for Democracy Foundation has begun the implementation of the new two-year **Erazumus+** project **SMELT - Skilled Marginalised People to Enter the Labour Market**.

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.

SMELT Workshop: Empowerment Toward Active Participation within the Labour Market⁵³

As part of the SMELT project, a workshop was organised aiming to increase participant capacities and knowledge concerning labour rights and to encourage active participation in the labour market. The workshop was comprised of two modules. The first was held 14 - 16 December 2021 and the second 20 - 22 December 2021.

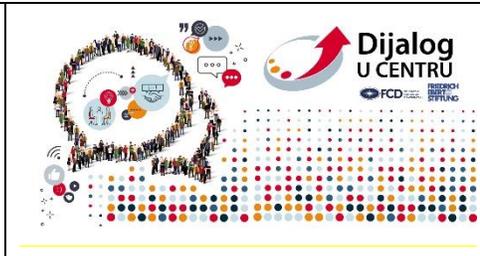


Program III: Public Dialogue

The Center's public debates are realized through various projects. In 2021, 14 public debates were held.

⁵³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12523/smelt-workshop-empowerment-toward-active-participation-within-the-labour-market>

DIALOGUE IN THE CENTER – SOCIAL DIALOGUE



Public dialogue - in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, five debates on current topics were held in 2021:

- ✚ **Two Decades of Social Dialogue in Serbia – Debate.** On 29 April 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the following debate: Two Decades of Social Dialogue in Serbia. The debate was initiated by **Dr Max Brändle**, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung regional office for Serbia and Montenegro. The opening statements of the debate were given by **Darija Kisić Tepavčević**, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs; **Prof. Zoran Stojiljkovic, PhD**, United Branch Trade Union Independence; **Miloš Nenezić**, Union of Employers of Serbia; **Prof. Mihail Arandarenko, PhD**, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade and **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation. The debate was moderated by **Ljubica Gojgić**, a journalist at RTV. We organised the debate in collaboration with United Branch Trade Union Independence and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation through the CENTER DIALOGUE – SOCIAL DIALOGUE project.⁵⁴
- ✚ **‘Patronage Appointment and Discrimination’ Debate.** The Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate entitled ‘Patronage Appointment Employment and Discrimination’. The debate was opened by **Dr Max Brändle**, Head of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional Office for Serbian and Montenegro and **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director of the CDF. Keynote Speakers: **Nebojša Zelenović**, President of Together for Serbia and the former Mayor of Šabac; **Aris Movsesijan**, President of New Party; **Sanda Rašković Ivić**, Vice President of the People’s Party; **Ranka Savić**, President of the Association of Free and Independent Trade Unions; **Stefan Đorđević**, National Youth Council of Serbia, and the discussion was moderated by journalist **Antonela Riha**.⁵⁵
- ✚ **Fair Energy Transition in Serbia and Potential Social and Economic Consequences debate.** On 29 June 2021, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised a debate entitled Fair Energy Transition in Serbia and Potential Social and Economic Consequences. Keynote speakers during the debate included: **Aleksandar Kovačević**, Energy Expert; **Ksenija Petovar**, Full Prof. (retired)

⁵⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12346/two-decades-of-social-dialogue-in-serbia-debate>

⁵⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12395/patronage-appointment-and-discrimination-debate>

Faculties of Architecture and Geography, University of Belgrade; **Ilija Batas Bjelić** (Institute of Technical Sciences of SANU); **Aleksandar Jovović**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade; **Aleksandra Mirković**, Coordinator for Regionalisation and Development of the United Branch Trade Union Independence Network, **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, and the discussion was moderated by **Ljubica Gojgić**, Journalist.⁵⁶

✚ **Debate: (Un)Dignified Ageing and Old Age.** On 14 July, 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: (Un)Dignified Ageing and Old Age in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Keynote speakers during the debate included: **Brankica Janković** (Equality Commissioner); **Mirjana Rašević**, Institute of Social Sciences; **Snežana Šantić**, Stari Grad Pensioners' Association; **Milan Grujić**, Association of Pensioners' Trade Unions; **Nadežda Satarić**, Amity Association – the Power of Friendship, and the discussion was moderated by **Ljubica Gojgić**, Journalist. On behalf of the organisers, the debate was opened by **Bojan Lađevac** from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Executive Director of the CDF, **Nataša Vučković**.⁵⁷

✚ **Debate: Social Rights and the Media.** On 25 October, 2021, the Center for Democracy Foundation organised the debate: Social Rights and the Media in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The debate was initiated by **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director at the Center for Democracy Foundation, and the opening statements were given by: **Danijela Ilić-Krasić**, N1; **Svetozar Raković**, Nezavisnost; **Aleksandar Milošević**, Danas; **Katarina Baletić**, Nova ekonomija. The debate was moderated by journalist **Ljubica Gojgić**.⁵⁸



⁵⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12402/fair-energy-transition-in-serbia-and-potential-social-and-economic-consequences-debate>

⁵⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12414/debate-undignified-ageing-and-old-age>

⁵⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12511/debate-social-rights-and-the-media>

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 2021:

Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union

In the middle of 2021, the annual "**Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union 2020**" was published⁵⁹, which contains the presentation and status of the Chapters, an overview of the situation and the main grades, an evaluation of the previous recommendations of the NCEU, as well as recommendations for 2021.

Book of Recommendations of the NCEU - Working Group for Chapters 2 and 19

Recommendations of the Working Group for the National Convention on the European Union for Chapters 2 (Freedom of Movement for Workers) and 19 (Social Policy and Employment)⁶⁰

For more information (overview and status of the chapters, overview and main assessments, evaluation of previous recommendations of the NCEU working group, etc.) see the complete **Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union** (in Serbian)⁶¹.



Key Findings of the Analysis of the Proposed National Employment Strategy for the Period 2021-2026

⁵⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/userfiles/files/publikacije/nkeu-knjiga-preporuka-nacionalnog-konventa-o-eu-2020.pdf>

⁶⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12411/book-of-recommendations-of-the-nceu-working-group-for-chapters-2-and-19>

⁶¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1849/knjiga-preporuka-nacionalnog-konventa-o-evropskoj-uniji-2020>

As the public debate on the **Proposed National Employment Strategy** (Draft) winds down, we hereby provide the key findings of the NCEU Working Group for negotiating chapters 2 and 19 - Social Policy and Employment (...)⁶²

Announcement of the National Convention on the EU regarding the draft amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance

Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance - the new draft threatens the achieved level of citizens' rights - announcement regarding the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (28 May 2021).

Speech Made by Nataša Vučković at the 9th Plenary Session of the National Convention on the EU

Speech made by the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković**, Coordinator of the Working Group for the National Convention on the European Union for Chapters 2 (Freedom of Movement for Workers) and 19 (Social Policy and Employment), at the **9th Plenary Session of the National Convention on the European Union** held 5 November 2021 at the House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. (video: <https://youtu.be/B9cxeEeUwX4>)

Meetings of the Working Group of the National Convention on the EU for Chapters 2 and 19

Three sessions of Working Group of the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) for Negotiation Chapters 2 (Free movement of workers) and 19 (Social policy and employment) were held. At the last one, on December 13, 2021, in an online format, the plan of activities for monitoring the reforms foreseen in 2022 was discussed.

A session of **Working Group 17 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 13 December 2021 on an online format. Discussions were held concerning the work of the Government in the areas of social policy and employment, adopted public policy documents and laws, the implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 19, and public policy laws and documents which are under development. During the session, held at the proposal of the Working Group Coordinator, **Nataša Vučković** (CDF), the following WG members participated: **Žarko Šunderić** (Centre for Social Policy), **Jovan Protić** (International Labour Organization), **Tanja Jakobi** (Public Policy Research Centre), **Milja Dimitrijević** (Serbian Trade Union of Doctors and Pharmacists), **Zora Veselinović** (Autonomous Trade Unions of Novi Sad and Municipalities), **Marina Kostić** (Caritas Serbia), **Mirjana Pantelić** (UIPS), **Osman Balić** (Liga Roma), **Marija Martinić** (United Branch Trade Union Independence), **Bojana Bijelović Bosanac** (Association of Independent Trade Unions Serbia), **Sanja Paunović** (Association of Independent Trade Unions

⁶² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12326/key-findings-of-the-analysis-of-the-proposed-national-employment-strategy-for-the-period-2021-2026>

Serbia), **Ljiljana Pavlović** (Serbian Association of Employers), **Miljana Stojšić Stojanovska** (Association of Employers of Vojvodina), **Sarita Bradaš** (CDF), as well as, at the invitation of the coordinator, the representative of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy **Ivana Banković**, and **Aleksandra Lakić** (Zajedničko Association).⁶³



Participation in conferences and public discussions

✚ **Nataša Vučković participated at the social dialogue dedicated to the Law on Gender Equality**

On February 10, 2021, the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković**, participated in a thematic social dialogue regarding the starting points for the drafting of the Draft Law on Gender Equality, organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the support of the Agency of the United Nations for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

✚ **Nataša Vučković at the meeting of CSO representatives and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue**

The Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković** participated in the meeting of CSOs representatives and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Collaboration with CSOs Division. The meeting was held 25 February 2021 at the Palace of Serbia (SIV), with the participation of Minister **Gordana Čomić** and approximately 20 CSO representatives most active in terms of social protection.⁶⁴

✚ **Meeting of the Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals within UN Global Compact Network**

On March 25, 2021, a meeting of Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals within the UN Global Compact dedicated to the topic of Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Gender

⁶³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12524/session-held-of-working-group-17-for-the-national-convention-on-the-european-union>

⁶⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12334/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-meeting-of-cso-representatives-and-the-ministry-of-human-and-minority-rights-and-social-dialogue>

Equality, was held. A member of the UN Global Compact Network in Serbia, Nataša Vučković, Executive Director of CDF, participated in the Working Group meeting.

✚ **Speech by Nataša Vučković on the Talks Between the NCEU and the Prime Minister of Serbia Concerning Sustainable Development**

On March 29, 2021, the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, Nataša Vučković, participated in the dialogue between the National Convention on the European Union (NKEU) and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia on the topic of sustainable development, with a focus on economic and social issues.⁶⁵

✚ **Nataša Vučković at the RE-SET the Economy conference**

Nataša Vučković, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation announced during the **RE-SET the Economy** conference that this issue of poverty is a pressing issue in Serbia and that its eradication should be one of the priorities of the Government.⁶⁶

✚ **Climate Change, Local Communities and the Participation of the Citizenry: Nataša Vučković at the roundtable of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

Nataša Vučković, Executive Director at the CDF participated in the roundtable **Let's Talk Local: Cities and Citizens in the Fight Against Climate Change** organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRA) via the **World Forum for Democracy** held 26 April 2021.⁶⁷

✚ **Nataša Vučković at a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office**

Nataša Vučković, Executive Director, the CDF, participated in a working meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, **Ann Linde**. The participants of the roundtable, held at the headquarters of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade, included representatives of civil society and youth representatives in Serbia. Gender



⁶⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12338/speech-by-natasa-vuckovic-on-the-talks-between-the-nceu-and-the-prime-minister-of-serbia-concerning-sustainable-development>

⁶⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12344/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-re-set-the-economy-conference>

⁶⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12388/climate-change-local-communities-and-the-participation-of-the-citizenry-natasa-vuckovic-at-the-roundtable-of-the-congress-of-local-and-regional-authorities-of-the-council-of-europe>

equality, youth in Serbia, social dialogue and other topics were discussed.⁶⁸

Gender Policy Forum - Constitutional Changes - Gender Mainstreaming or Defence?

The **First Gender Policy Forum - Constitutional Changes - Gender Mainstreaming or Defence?** was held on 27 June 2021 under the organisation of the Women's Platform for the Development of Serbia and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Keynote speakers in the debate were: **Prof. Marijana Pajvančić, PhD** (Women's Platform for the Development of Serbia), **Sofija Mandić** (Women's Platform for the Development of Serbia) / Peščanik) and **Nataša Vučković** (Center for Democracy Foundation). The discussion was moderated by **Jelena Petrović**, Journalist at N1.⁶⁹

Second Meeting of the Special Working Group for Drafting the Proposed Gender Equality Strategy for the Period 2021 - 2030

On 6 July 2021, the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković**, participated in the second meeting of the **Special Working Group for Drafting the Proposed Gender Equality Strategy for the Period 2021 - 2030** and the Proposed Action Plan for the Application of the National Strategy (2021-2023).⁷⁰

Nataša Vučković at the Sustainable Development and Gender Equality conference

Nataša Vučković, Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, participated in a gathering held in Korčula, Croatia from 27 to 29 August 2021 entitle **'Recover, Restart, Retool 2021'**, as part of the Korčula School Think Tank (Transforming Politics through a Gender Lens). At roundtable III: **'Green Deal and Sustainable Development'**, held under the discussion 'Restart: the what and the how', **Nataša Vučković** highlighted the fact that European integration of the Western Balkans is a key issue and the importance of utilising regional capacities to this end.⁷¹

Sarita Bradaš (FCD): Instead of implementing a dual principle, focus is on a dual education system

⁶⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12391/natasa-vuckovic-at-a-meeting-with-the-minister-of-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-the-osce-chairperson-in-office>

⁶⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12462/gender-policy-forum-constitutional-changes-gender-mainstreaming-or-defence>

⁷⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12463/second-meeting-of-the-special-working-group-for-drafting-the-proposed-gender-equality-strategy-for-the-period-2021-2030>

⁷¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12425/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-sustainable-development-and-gender-equality-conference>

As part of the **Strategical Directions of Serbia's Development** series of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, on 17 and 18 September 2021 the Scientific Conference: **Education: Status, Perspectives and Role in the Development of Serbia** was held. One of the topics of educational policy that was discussed on the second day of the event was the Position of Dual Education in the Educational System. Center for Democracy Foundation Researcher, **Sarita Bradaš**, pointed out a number of shortcomings that accompanied the adoption of the Law on Dual Education in her introductory speech.⁷²



🚩 CDF Executive Director with the President of the UN General Assembly

On 12 October, **Nataša Vučković**, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation met with the President of the United Nations General Assembly, **Mr Abdulla Shahid**, who is currently visiting Belgrade. Topics of discussion included the Sustainable Development Goals, gender equality, participation of women in politics, status of women with disabilities as well as concrete suggestions for the promotion of gender equality in Serbia. The meeting was held as part of consultations held between President of the United Nations General Assembly, representatives of women's NGOs and gender equality experts in Serbia.⁷³



🚩 Lecture by Nataša Vučković at the Invitation of the Academy for European Integration and Accession

The Executive Director, Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković** held a lecture at the invitation of the **Academy for European Integration and Accession**, organised by AIEN (Albania), within the framework of the Jean Monnet Programme under the European Commission (20.11.2021).⁷⁴

🚩 Nataša Vučković at the ALDA Board of Directors Session

⁷² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12464/sarita-bradas-fcd-instead-of-implementing-a-dual-principle-focus-is-on-a-dual-education-system>

⁷³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12470/cdf-executive-director-with-the-president-of-the-un-general-assembly>

⁷⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12515/lecture-by-natasa-vuckovic-at-the-invitation-of-the-academy-for-european-integration-and-accession>

Nataša Vučković, Executive Director at CDF, participated in the **BoD session of the ALDA**, the European Association for Local Democracy. At this session, the ALDA adopted its work strategy for the Western Balkans, aiming to achieve regional collaboration, European integration of the Western Balkans, democracy and citizen participation. The ALDA BoD also considered and discussed future steps and initiatives for 2022. (2.12.2021).⁷⁵

Nataša Vučković Participates in the Human Rights Forum

Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, **Nataša Vučković**, participated in the **Human Rights Forum** held 10 December 2021, organised by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.⁷⁶

Press releases in 2021:

-  Key Findings of the Analysis of the Proposed National Employment Strategy for the Period 2021-2026 (NCEU) (18 December 2021)⁷⁷
-  Announcement Commemorating World Day of Social Justice (20 February 2021)⁷⁸
-  Amendments to the law as a prelude to further labor exploitation - joint statement of a group of NGOs on the occasion of amendments to the Law on Seasonal Jobs (7 April 2021)
-  Congratulations to the Serbian citizens on the occasion of Europe Day (9 May 2021)
-  The stagnation of European Integration is harmful to the Citizens of Serbia, Nataša Vučković (14 Jun 2021)⁷⁹
-  Expediate Reform and Improve Political and Democratic Dialogue in Serbia, Nataša Vučković (23 Jun 2021)⁸⁰
-  CDF Supports Trade Unions in the Fight for Labour Rights and Decent Work (2 September 2021)⁸¹
-  Announcement Commemorating World Day of Decent Work (7 October 2021)⁸²

⁷⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12519/natasa-vuckovic-at-the-alda-board-of-directors-session>

⁷⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12522/natasa-vuckovic-participates-in-the-human-rights-forum>

⁷⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12326/key-findings-of-the-analysis-of-the-proposed-national-employment-strategy-for-the-period-2021-2026>

⁷⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12327/announcement-commemorating-world-day-of-social-justice>

⁷⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12398/the-stagnation-of-european-integration-is-harmful-to-the-citizens-of-serbia>

⁸⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12401/expediate-reform-and-improve-political-and-democratic-dialogue-in-serbia>

⁸¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12424/cdf-supports-trade-unions-in-the-fight-for-labour-rights-and-decent-work>

⁸² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12465/announcement-commemorating-world-day-of-decent-work>

-  Announcement Ahead of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2021)⁸³
-  Announcement on the occasion of the International Day against Violence against Women, with SDGs partners (25 November 2021)
-  CDF: Stop Violence and Ensure the Protection of the Rights of All (Announcement) (3 December 2021)⁸⁴
-  Announcement Ahead of International Human Rights Day (10 December 2021)⁸⁵

CDF in media:

During 2021, the Foundation had significant media representation - 117 articles were published in print and electronic media about the CDF activities, appearances/interviews were arranged on televisions with national coverage (RTS, TV N1, NewsMaxAdria) and radio shows (Radio Beograd 1, Radio Belgrade 2), and journalists regularly covered all our big events.

Selection of media announcements:

	Nedeljnik Nataša Vučković, Coordinator NCEU for Chapters 2 and 19
	Radio Slobodna Evropa Youth unemployment in the Western Balkans is twice as high as the EU average (CDF Researcher Sarita Bradaš)
	Politika Renewed trust between Brussels and the Western Balkans (EU and Western Balkans Conference - Renewed Trust)
	NIN New enthusiasm for the European integrations of the Western Balkans
	N1/Beta News Agency Vučković: EC report has received positive reviews because the Government presented it that way
	FoNet News Agency EC Report on the progress of Serbia - No fight against corruption

⁸³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12510/announcement-ahead-of-the-international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty>

⁸⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12520/cdf-stop-violence-and-ensure-the-protection-of-the-rights-of-all>

⁸⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12521/announcement-ahead-of-international-human-rights-day>

	Novi magazin Center for Democracy Foundation: The majority of Serbian citizens are denied the decent work
	Nova S Serbia on dry bread: For two thirds of citizens, the average salary is unattainable
	Beta News Agency Center for Democracy Foundation: Unsatisfactory level of respect and protection of numerous human rights in Serbia
	Tanjug News Agency Center for Democracy Foundation: Support for the trade unions' demand that the minimum wage be 39,000 RSD
	NewsMaxAdria Video clip "NewsMaxAdria – Pregled dana" from the CDF's debate "Position of Foreign Workers in Serbia"
	Nova ekonomija Nataša Vučković, „Labour rights are forgotten, the most important are investments“

Complete list of media releases: <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/fcd-u-medijima/aktuelno>

Selection of interviews and author's texts:

-  Nataša Vučković for RTS: We're All Paying for the Poor Image of the Western Balkan Region, And We Have to Get Ahead of This (30 November 2021)⁸⁶
-  Interview ("Iza Vesti", N1 TV) - Vučković: The Government Has Trouble Uttering Two Words - Poverty and Democracy (23 November 2021)⁸⁷
-  Institutional Weakness and the Path to Europe - Nataša Vučković, author of the text, for NIN weekly newsmagazine (18 November 2021)⁸⁸

⁸⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12518/natasa-vuckovic-for-rtswere-all-paying-for-the-poor-image-of-the-western-balkan-region-and-we-have-to-get-ahead-of-this>

⁸⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12516/vuckovic-the-government-has-trouble-uttering-two-words-poverty-and-democracy>

⁸⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12478/institutional-weakness-and-the-path-to-europe>

-  Interview, Nataša Vučković, UGS Nezavisnost portal: Neoliberalism has convinced people that there is no alternative (3 November 2021)
-  Interview with Nataša Vučković published in Blic daily newspaper: After 5 October, we overlooked the importance of empowering our youth (10 October 2021)
-  Interview, Sarita Bradaš, UGS Nezavisnost portal: Serbia's political scene lacks an authentic labours' party (5 October 2021)⁸⁹
-  Author's text, Ivan Kuzmanović, NIN: New enthusiasm for the European integrations of the Western Balkans (15 July 2021)
-  Interview, Sarita Bradaš, portal UGS Nezavisnost: Serbian society rests on the exploitation of women's work (7 March 2021)

In Belgrade, December 2021

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⁸⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12469/interview-with-natasa-vuckovic-published-in-blic-daily-newspaper-after-5-october-we-overlooked-the-importance-of-empowering-our-youth>