

21 December

## CEDEM Opinion Poll in December



If Montenegro would hold a referendum today, 38 percent of the population would support Montenegro's membership in NATO, while 36 percent would be against, according to a survey of the political opinion conducted by the Center for Democracy and Human Rights - CEDEM.

Methodologist Milos Besic said that the latest survey has shown increased confidence in almost all institutions and organizations, including international

ones.

„This is the first time since we have been conducting this opinion poll that we have a higher number of those who support NATO accession”, CEDEM analyst Milos Besic said at a news conference. 26 percent of citizens do not have a stand on NATO membership.

Also, support for the EU membership is growing, which is now at 66 percent, while in September it was at its lowest point, 62 percent. 14 percent of the citizens is against joining the EU, while one fifth of citizens does not have an opinion on the issue.

8 December

## Samardzic gives an Afghan school a donation



Chief of the Armed Forces of Montenegro Vice Admiral Dragan Samardzic during his visit to the IV Montenegrin in ISAF, Afghanistan, visited the Elementary School “Bigim Shad” in Pol-e Khomri, which has the largest number of educated girls in the province of Baghlan. The school has classroom capacity for 600 students, but it is educating about 2500 children. In the absence of a large number of classrooms classes are held outdoors as well.

During this visit Vice Admiral Samardzic presented the donation of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Montenegro, which consisted of 500 sets of school supplies. Delivery of the donation was attended by Commander of the Hungarian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), Commander of the IV Montenegrin contingent, the school management and representatives of local media. In his address, Admiral Samardzic reminded that members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, with their Hungarian colleagues from PRT, are intended to contribute to the efforts of the international community to establish a safe and prosperous

environment in Afghanistan. This way the children of Afghanistan will have a chance to grow up worry-free and get proper education.

Director of the school thanked Admiral Samardzic on his visit and the donation and emphasized the importance of these and similar projects that encourage education of Afghan children. On that occasion, she particularly emphasized the lack of classrooms and asked Admiral Samardzic to consider the possibility of further donations after returning to Montenegro, which would improve conditions for education of children in this school.

## 8 December

### Brussels talks on the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Milan Rocen participated in Brussels at a meeting of foreign affairs ministers of NATO ISAF contributor countries, which discussed the future of the mission in Afghanistan in accordance with the conclusions of an international conference held three days earlier in Bonn. Minister Rocen said that Montenegro will plan and adjust its further engagement in Afghanistan and ISAF in accordance with the needs arising from the process of transition and decade of transformation.

The meeting, chaired by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, was attended by ministers of 50 countries of the ISAF mission contributors, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Zamal Rasul, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and foreign affairs ministers of Great Britain, Germany and Canada William Haig, Guido Westerwelle and Peter MacKay.

## 12 December

### Montenegro, Bosnia and Macedonia together in "smart defence"



Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia will soon start a project of creating a joint air defence system through a partnership that is realized in the framework of the US-Adriatic Charter, Minister of Defence of Montenegro Boro Vucinic said, noting that the joint activity of the three countries was agreed at a meeting in Albania.

- There has been agreement that the Western Balkan countries, with the support of NATO, will start the study on protection of airspace. Thus, beside Montenegro, the project will include Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is very important in terms of regional cooperation and joint use of facilities, applying the concept which was advocated at the last NATO summit – „smart defence” concept” Vucinic said.

- Now we are, specifically, in the best position to implement this concept through a principle of regional cooperation and I think this is also important in terms of our cooperation in other

areas of defence and security, such as emergencies. Regional cooperation in emergency situations through use of common facilities and centralization and sharing of material resources is very important. This way we will be able to apply “puling and sharing” system which is insisted on by the European Union, Vucinic concluded.

The Defence Minister stressed that the meeting in Albania welcomed the progress of Montenegro in its NATO integration.

- Meeting in Tirana was an opportunity to hear evaluation about previous results by the member states of this regional initiative. In a joint statement it was stated that Montenegro has made significant progress in accession to NATO, which is certainly encouraging in the time when major global events are awaiting, Vucinic stated, stressing that the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia in the process of accession to NATO was also commended.

## 14 December

### Gasparic: Soon at the same table in NATO



Montenegro is making secure steps towards Euro-Atlantic integration, and with both our and international support I can be certain that we will soon be sitting at the same table in NATO, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Vladimir Gasparic said at a reception for members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro who participated in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The reception was organized by the Embassy of Slovenia in NATO, CPE for NATO.

We monitor and support participation of Montenegro in peacekeeping missions, so I want to thank every soldier for their courage and willingness to go to the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. We appreciate your role in establishing peace in that part of the world. I hope that you will make good use of the experience gained so far in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration - Gasparic said.

Minister of Defence Boro Vucinic expressed his gratitude to Montenegrin soldiers and their families “on what they have done in Afghanistan, the quality and professionalism with which they performed their duties.” Montenegro, although a small country, in cooperation with its partners is on track to become part of NATO and global security structures. We are prepared to continue to be part of the peacekeeping missions because we, as a member of the UN committed ourselves to contributing to global peace in the region, to cooperate and to be present in peacekeeping missions - Vucinic said. The Minister recalled that currently, Montenegro, except for the ISAF mission, also takes part in the UN mission in Liberia and EU-led Atalanta mission.

The Commander of the II contingent, Major Veljko Mališić stressed that they went to Afghanistan with two main objectives “to do the job as professionals and to present their country in a dignified manner.”

After evaluation of all relevant factors, both tasks were done successfully, Veljko Mališić said.

**28 December**

## **Recognition for our troops in Afghanistan**



Members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro captain Todor Goranovic and Sergeant First Class Miodrag Jakanovic, who joined the Military Police School in Kabul in September, were commended by the Commander of the XVIII Croatian contingent.

„On behalf of the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and the XVIII Croatian contingent I give you recognition for your commitment to service, extraordinary tasks performance during your engagement, and professionalism within the 3. Multinational Mentoring Team at the Military Police School of the Afghan National Army in NATO-led ISAF mission.”

Captain Todor Goranović and Sergeant First Class Miodrag Jakanovic are the first representatives of the Armed Forces of Montenegro within the Joint Team of the U.S. - Adriatic Charter and Slovenia, which has a mission to train and mentor members of the Military Police School of the Afghan National Army. Croatia is the leading nation in this project, and the 3. Mentoring Team which is performing tasks in the mission is subordinate to the XVIII Croatian contingent.

**20 December**

## **Kurt Volker: Montenegro is doing well on its way to NATO**

Montenegro is doing well on its way to NATO and has a real chance to become a NATO member, former United States Permanent Representative to NATO Kurt Volker said. However, he does not believe that this will happen next year at the Chicago Summit. Former U.S. diplomat briefly commented on the situation in Montenegro for Montenegrin public TV station - RTCG, citing that Montenegro needs to achieve additional progress when it comes to political pluralism and the fight against corruption, as the case is with other countries, he emphasized, but Montenegro is in a good position.

„They did a lot for a short time since regaining their independence. Recently they have received a signal from the European Union that accession negotiations will soon begin. It is a good position and I hope they will be able to quickly close the first chapters and continue the swing. I hope that we will be able to use Montenegro as a proof that the European Union and NATO are still serious about their enlargement and completion of work that began in the Balkans“ Volker said.

Montenegro is welcome to NATO, Volker said. Volker believes that further enlargement of the

European Union is in the shadow of the current debt crisis, and that Brussels and Washington need to redirect their commitment to resolving remaining issues in the region.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION TEAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND ITS PARTNERS

4 – 23 December

### Simulation of the parliamentary session

Faculty of Administrative and European Studies in cooperation with the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro organized a "Simulation of a parliamentary session on making the decision about Montenegro's accession to NATO." Participants in the realization of this event were 81 youth representative of Montenegrin political parties' youth, who for the first time had an opportunity to discuss and exchange opinions on Montenegro's accession to NATO.



Political parties' youth, as their older colleagues, had an opportunity to make a decision about how Montenegro should decide on its NATO accession at a plenary session of the Parliament of Montenegro, after the discussion on this topic.

At the Faculty of Administrative and European studies on 2 December 2011 a press conference was held on the occasion of announcing "Simulation of a parliamentary session on making the decision about Montenegro's accession to NATO". Speakers at the press conference were the Head of the Coordination Team for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro Mr. Dragan Pejanovic, Manager of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies Mr. Ivan Radević and representatives of political parties' youth in Montenegro.

Coordinator Pejanovic emphasized the importance of this activity, carried out within the project "Pristajem NA TO": „This activity is very important for young people because it is aimed at increasing awareness and educating young people, members of Montenegrin political parties about the process of Montenegro's integration into NATO, NATO functioning and various NATO lines of action" Pejanovic said.

„In order to improve the simulation organizers will hold two training sessions with youth representatives of political parties. The first training will tell the participants about the nature of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, the functioning of NATO and NATO lines of action. At the second training all participants will become more familiar with parliamentary procedures and Rules of the Parliament of Montenegro," Pejanovic said.

Faculty Manager Ivan Radević said that all the political parties that have seats in the Parliament have accepted participation in this project, and he thanked them for that decision. Radevic concluded that this gesture showed that Montenegro has young people who are able to answer some of the key issues that both are and will be put in front of our country. Faculty of Administrative and European Studies is through its mission focused on young people, and this project is recognized as an additional incentive to youth in Montenegro, to engage, discuss and debate the crucial issues in our country, and as he said, „with a higher youth participation in decision making at all levels of the country, the quality of those decisions will be higher."

Expressing satisfaction that they are given an opportunity to express their opinions and participate in a simulation of a parliamentary session, youth representatives of political parties thanked the organizers for the invitation.



The first training session was held on 4th December in Cetinje, in order to prepare for quality discussion. This training included five segments of Euro-Atlantic integration, and the speakers were Head of the Government's Coordination Team Mr. Dragan Pejanovic who spoke on the topic "NATO after the Lisbon Summit – the New Strategic Concept", representative of the

Ministry of Defence Colonel PhD Mehmedin Tahirović on "NATO and Montenegro", Deputy Minister of Interior Mr. Zoran Begovic on "NATO and emergency situations", Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Ms. Daliborka Pejovic on "NATO and environmental protection" and representative of the Police Directorate Mr. Jaksa Backovic on "NATO and Cyber Crime". Young people had the opportunity to raise the level of information and knowledge about Euro-Atlantic integration and exchange views on foreign policy priorities of Montenegro through discussion and Q&A session.

The second training session was organized in Cetinje on 10 December in order to introduce the parliamentary system in Montenegro, and the way the Parliament of Montenegro works, in accordance with the current Rules of Procedure of the Parliament to the youth of political parties. In the theoretical part, youth representatives were held lectures on the following topics: "Parliamentarism in Montenegro", held by Dean of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies Professor PhD Đorđije Blazic, and "Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of

Montenegro and parliamentary procedures", held by Associate in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation of the Parliament of Montenegro Mr. Vlatko Šćepanović. After the theoretical part of training, young people had the opportunity to learn about the procedures of administrating and leading a discussion on a particular topic through practical examples, the way their older colleagues in the Parliament do it.

The main event - Simulation of a Parliamentary Session was held on 23 December 2011 in Cetinje.

At the start of the event, attendees were addressed by Head of the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro Mr. Dragan Pejanovic and Dean of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies Professor PhD Đorđije Blazic.

- I do not want to believe that you are only the future of this country. On the contrary, I believe that you are its present, and you are recognize here as someone who is almost 25% of the population of our country - the young population - Pejanovic said during the opening session.

He stressed the importance of the fact that young representatives of all parliamentary political parties and students - future leaders are gathered in one place, in the Royal Capital of Montenegro.

- I am pleased to be able to address you, because today you are the decision-makers. The responsibility is solely on you, on behalf of the citizens of Montenegro - Professor Blazic said to the simulation participants.

Participants, through simulation of a parliamentary session, discussed whether Montenegro should be, and how should it become a member of the North Atlantic Alliance. During the simulation, youth of all parliamentary political parties had a number of representatives which is equivalent to the number of seats their party had in the Parliament.

At the end of the Simulation of a Parliamentary Session, decision was adopted on how the decision on Montenegro's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty should be made, which stipulates that the aforementioned issue should be decided by the Parliament of Montenegro.

**1 December**

**Website Čuvaj.me is online!**



Website of the Centre for International Security Studies titled Čuvaj.me was officially put into operation on 1st December 2011. The Centre for International Security Studies has been developed at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica, as an organization aimed at informing and including young

people in the security integration process of Montenegro.

Students interest in this subject is important not only because of the elimination of possible confusion and stereotypes, but also because they have to participate in social events and actively participate in processes that are of great importance for their future and which will determine quality of their lives.

Since young people, primarily high school and university students, have so far rarely been able to timely inform, create and express their position on this issue, the Centre has designed the project - development of web portal Čuvaj.me.

This website is a channel of communication between students and other structures, but also with each other, in the area of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and particularly security, and the website will promote their activities, works and events.

This portal will provide an opportunity to students of political science, security studies, law and other sciences, who are uninformed or do not have the opportunity to be informed about these matters, and especially not from their peers - to meet the work of fellow students on the topic of NATO and the EU membership, and to read the facts and news on this topic.

This project is designed to encourage young people in their further work and development in order to contribute to further integration of our country into global political and security alliances.

In addition, goal of the portal Čuvaj.me is to create a network of young people who will use the knowledge and experience gained in their further development towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

**12 December**

**NATO codification system and BULCOD software presented in Montenegro**



software".

Within NATO GEPSUS project, jointly carried out by the Electrical Engineering Faculty and the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Centre for Quality at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty, in the Rectorate Hall of the University of Montenegro a lecture was held on "Characteristics of NATO codification system and BULCOD

Partner Director of the GEPSUS project Professor PhD Radovan Stojanovic welcomed guest lecturers at the beginning of the event, and spoke on the importance of cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro and Electrical Engineering Faculty under the auspices of NATO Project „Science for Peace and Security".

Professor PhD Mitar Mišović and PhD Aleksandar Vujovic from the Centre for Quality at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty spoke about the importance of cooperation with the University of Montenegro in this field of quality. The guests were also welcomed by Dragan Pejanovic, Head of the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration.

After that, Head for Standardization and Codification Department of the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro Lt. Col. PhD Marinko Aleksic spoke about the codification system and plans of Montenegro in this area. BULCOD Software was presented by the Bulgarian National Codification Bureau Colonel Stojan Kunin.

Attendees were listening to the lectures carefully in the full Hall, and afterwards the lecturers and BULCOD instructors Krasimir Kirova and Petar Ivanov responded to numerous questions from the field of codification system.

Participants also visited the laboratory of Electrical Engineering Faculty, which was equipped and designed for the GEPSUS project.

## **22 December**

### **Report on Implementation of the XVIII Action Plan adopted**

Placing particular emphasis on European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and starting from the commitment that NATO membership is the right model for achieving long-term stability, economic and social prosperity, the Government of Montenegro at its session on 22 December, within implementation of its foreign policy priorities, adopted the Report on Implementation of the XVIII Action Plan for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration for period 1st July – 31st December 2011. The Government concluded that a number of activities implemented with an aim to inform citizens about the essence of the political and security significance of the North Atlantic Alliance in global terms contributed to an increased public awareness about this organization.

In order to achieve complete transparency, the Report adopted is publicly available on the web site of the Coordination Team [www.nato-montenegro.me](http://www.nato-montenegro.me).

## **23 December**

In order to continue good cooperation between the Coordination Team for implementation of the Communication Strategy and non-governmental organizations, media and marketing agencies, a workshop was held on 23 December, aimed at presenting ideas and projects on Euro-Atlantic integration. The conclusions of this meeting represent the basis of IX Action Plan for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration for period 1st January – 30th June 2012.

**26 December**

## **Pejanović meets Gasparič**



Head of the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro Dragan Pejanovic received the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Montenegro Mr. Vladimir Gasparic.

The topic of discussion was to review previous and joint planning of future activities in the implementation of the Communication Strategy through six-month action plans.

Special emphasis was placed on strengthening the role of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, as a Contact Point Embassy for Montenegro, in the process of informing people about Euro-Atlantic integration.

Coordinator Pejanović informed the Ambassador about the current activities of the Coordination Team, which were conducted both independently and in collaboration with numerous partners, as well as upcoming activities that will be included in the IX Action Plan. Pejanović expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to Ambassador Gasparič for his participation in a number of activities in the VIII Action Plan for Implementation of the Communication Strategy.

Ambassador Gasparič, recalling the results of the latest opinion poll, commented on positive effects of the activities conducted by the Coordination Team. Gasparič stressed the importance of coordinated action of all actors of the Euro-Atlantic processes in Montenegro, based on which Montenegro can expect comprehensive support from Slovenia.

Both parties jointly assessed current cooperation between the Coordination Team and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Montenegro as a successful one, with the hope that this cooperation will in the future go upwards, towards the accomplishment of common goals and further development of partnership relations between the two countries.

**20 December**

## **Safe Compass Awards ceremony held**

Message that Montenegro wants to join the European Union (EU) but not NATO, is unsustainable, President of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapic said, stating that there can be no European integration without the security guarantor. At the Safe Compass Award ceremony, where this award is given for the contribution to promoting euroatlanticism in Montenegro, Krivokapic said that „Montenegro should break off with messages such as – a yes for the EU but a no for NATO.”



- The message that appears in public is that we want to join the EU but not NATO, is unsustainable in the region where more than 100 thousand lives were recently lost. With this precondition Montenegro has to go to the EU, and it should break off with messages such as – a yes for the EU but a no for NATO“. According to him, the basic value that Montenegro is committed to is to never have a war in this

region again. „Never to make war with our brothers again. This is a fundamental value that we defend in missions in Afghanistan, Liberia, and Somalia" Krivokapic explained.

Award ceremony was organized by the NGO Alfa Centar. Prizes were awarded to the Ngo Euro-Atlantic Youth Association, Faculty of Administrative and European Studies, and the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica. The individual award winners are politicologist Mr. Dritan Abazovic, Director of Environmental Protection Agency Ms. Daliborka Pejovic and the Partner, magazine of the Ministry of Defence.

Secondary school Spasoje Raspopović and High school Slobodan Škerović, received letters of appreciation from the NGO Alfa Centar. Director of the NGO Aleksandar Dedović said that their work was difficult at the beginning.

- Challenges were great because we did not have an understanding from institutions, let alone people who had a negative attitude towards the Euro-Atlantic integration then, he said. Dedović said that NATO brings together countries and communities that share democratic values, and provides security, stability and lasting peace among its members. With strong partners, Montenegro will be stronger and safer as well, Dedović said.

The Safe Compass Award, unique in the region, was established on 22 January last year, is given for the second time, for exceptional contribution in promoting the importance of international cooperation, security and promoting the idea of euro-atlanticism in Montenegro.

A total of two awards in individual categories, two awards in the category of institutions/organizations, one in the NGO category and one for a media were given at the Award Ceremony.

## **8 December**

### **NGO Spona: Panel Discussion in Mojkovac**

Like any newly-received member of NATO, Montenegro must meet standards not only in the field of security and military compatibility with NATO member states, but also in the protection of human rights, fight against organized crime, and environmental protection, in order have full membership in the Alliance - president of the NGO Spona Sasa Radunović said, among other things, at the debate held in Mojkovac, on 8 December 2011.

Responding to a question from the audience on what are the benefits offered by NATO membership in relation to Montenegro's current status in the Partnership for Peace, Radunovic emphasized the need to consider the fact who ensures greater security than NATO, to ask do other countries have such protection of collective and individual human rights as the NATO Member States have, and to ask which countries fighting crime and corruption such as the Member States, which also have high investments in environmental protection.



"This means that not only the Armed Forces or the defence system enter NATO, but all the structures of a country and society. For this reason, NATO membership is compatible with the EU system of values, but in order to achieve full membership in NATO it is necessary to meet less demands than for the European Union", Radunovic said.

Panel discussion in Mojkovac was held within the project "NATO info point in the north of Montenegro", implemented by NGO Spona since May 2011.

Beside NGO Spona, NGOs "Montenegro herc" and "Mreza 9" from Plav participated in the event organisation. These are two out of 48 NGOs from the north of Montenegro, which together with NGO Spona formed a network of NGOs that supports Montenegro's membership in NATO. Jugoslav Rabrenović, philosophy professor in Mojkovac also participated in the panel discussion.

## "NATO-Info" broadcasted on TVCG



"NATO-Info" is a short, informative journalistic form, which is usually broadcasted twice a month, and it deals with current issues from NATO, from NATO member states and partners, as well as from Montenegro on its way to NATO. There were four episodes broadcasted in November (Thursdays at

13:05h, replay at 17h), as follows:

**1 December** – Topic: A conversation with the Ambassador of Turkey to Montenegro Ms. Emine Birgen Keşoğlu.

**15 December** – Topic: Ministerial meeting of the A5initiative (US-Adriatic Charter) in Durres and the statement of the Minister of Defence Mr. Boro Vucinic following the meeting

**22 December** – Topic: CEDEM Research on Euro-Atlantic integration, analyst Milos Besic.

**30 December** – Topic: Retrospective of statements about Euro-Atlantic integration (statements of President of the Democratic Party of Socialists Milo Djukanovic, Ambassador of Slovenia to

Montenegro Vladimir Gasparic, judoka Srdjan Mrvaljevic, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Sue Kay Brown, Minister of Defence Boro Vucinic, Slovak Ambassador to Montenegro František Lipka, CEDEM analyst Milos Besic, President of SNP Srdjan Milic, Head of the Pentagon delegation Celeste Wallander, Ambassador of Turkey to Montenegro Emine Birgen Keşoğlu, President of CDT Milica Kovacevic, representative of NGO CEMI Nikoleta Tomovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Dusko Markovic, President of the Atlantic Alliance of Montenegro Savo Kentera, Dean of FDES Đorđije Blažić.

## “NATO-Info” aired on Radio Crna Gora



"NATO-Info" is a half-hour program about NATO, aired on Channel 1 of Radio Crna Gora, and one of the information activities defined by the Action Plan which primarily discusses key NATO topics, with various and numerous guests, and with direct contact with the listeners. It is broadcasted twice a month, on Thursdays. In each programme, a report is

given on the status of our soldiers in the 4<sup>th</sup> Contingent in the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan.

**8 December** - Guest of the programme was Nada Drobnjak, President of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, who spoke on the need for training of the members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro on gender equality, with special reference to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

UDRUŽENI U EVROPI,  
BEZBJEDNI U NATO.