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YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
INICIJATIVA MLADIH ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA
NISMA E TË RINJVE PËR TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT

Information on Minority Languages and Contents on Culture and Tradition of Minority Population on Public Services in Montenegro

Human Rights Monitoring in Montenegro

Podgorica, 2009.



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Introduction

Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) in Montenegro conducted research from March till November 2009, on minority population right to informing on mother language. The goal of the research, conducted by the Initiative team composed of five members, was analyzing and bringing accurate and reliable information on respecting article 12 of the Law on rights and freedoms of minorities.¹ This Article prescribes right of minorities to “appropriate number of hours for broadcasting informative, cultural, educational, sport and entertaining program on languages of minorities and persons belonging to them, and programme contents related to life, tradition and culture of minorities as well, and shall provide financial means for funding those programme contents. Contents related to life, culture, and identity of minorities shall be broadcasted at least once a month on official language, through public services.”²

The same Law defines minority as follows: “Minority shall mean any group of citizens of the Republic, numerically smaller than the rest of predominant population, having common ethnical, religious, and language characteristics, different from those of the rest of population, historically connected with the Republic and motivated by desire to express and maintain their ethnical, cultural, linguistic and religious identity.”³ In the Guide for NGOs of the South-East Europe, minorities are “subdominant ethnical, national, religious, and linguistic groups in the country, whose participants show, or that is only understandable, the sense of solidarity directed towards maintenance of their culture, tradition, religion, and language”.⁴

There are 18 public broadcasting services in Montenegro: Radio Montenegro, Television of Montenegro, Radio Bar, Radio Bijelo Polje, Radio Berane, Television Budva, Radio Tivat, Radio Kotor, Radio Pljevlja, Television Pljevlja, Radio Herceg Novi, Radio Niksic, Television Niksic, Radio Cetinje, Radio Danilovgrad, Radio Rozaje, Radio Andrijevica, and Radio Ulcinj.⁵

1 Law on minority rights and freedoms; see the website of Ministry for human and minority rights <http://www.gov.me/minmanj/vijesti.php?akcija=vijesti&id=13716>, visited on September 20, 2009

2 Article 12 Law on rights and freedoms of minorities, see 1

3 Article 2 Law on rights and freedoms of minorities, see 1

4 Advocating minority rights, Guide for NGOs of the South-East Europe, publisher Dragutin Cicak, printed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, revised issue, January 2008, page 13

5 Guide Media in Montenegro, Ministry of culture, sport and media, Podgorica, 2006

Data for the research were collected by using more methodology techniques and the very research had several phases. During the research were used following techniques: legislation analysis, focus groups, questionnaires and half-structured interviews. First phase included analysis of legislation and group conversations with members of minority population in the frame of focus groups. Five focus groups were organized in Podgorica (with representatives of Roma nationality), in Ulcinj (with representatives of Albanian nationality), in Pljevlja (with members of Serbian nationality), in Rozaje (with members of Muslim and Bosniak nationality), and in Kotor (with representatives of Croatian nationality). Focus groups gathered eight to twelve participants of balanced age, gender and educational structure.

The second phase in monitoring was conduction of questionnaire with politicians, NGO activists dealing with minority rights, and with representatives of national councils of minority people. The number of implemented questionnaires was 43. Through an unique questionnaire, they had the opportunity to express their opinion, to assess work of public services and to offer specific recommendations.

The third phase of monitoring included interviews with directors and editors of national and local public services, with most influential journalists and experts from this area. In the frame of this phase, 25 interviews were conducted.

YIHR conducted this research with the aim to, in the context of European integrations and responsibilities of Montenegro, affirm rights and integration of minority population in the society, and to show to which extent the right to informing on mother language is being respected, as one of those rights which protects identity and prohibits violent assimilation of minority population. Taking into account how specific, multicultural and multinational Montenegro is, public services may play very important role in increasing and widening boundaries of tolerance and in breaking evident ethical distances. This role has been noted by drafters of the Constitution and by legislators, which is confirmed by the fact that even they have moved forward and obliged public services, through national legislation, on respecting international regulations, development of tolerance, and respecting minority population identity. Thus, the Constitution of Montenegro guarantees right to information on mother language by Article 79, paragraph 11, and Law on minority rights and freedoms, besides guaranteeing right to informing on mother language, obliges public services and their establishers on broadcasting program that shall guarantee preservation of identity.

YIHR research team would like to express gratitude to all people who contributed with their participation in the research. Also, we are grateful for multiple supports of YIHR regional office and FOSI ROM.

1. Legal analysis

Ratified international documents

Article 9 of the Constitution of Montenegro⁶ prescribes that adopted and published international treaties and generally adopted rules of international law shall be constituent part of internal legal order, having supremacy over national legislation and shall be directly applied when defining relations otherwise than national legislation.

Most important legal act of Council of Europe dealing with this matter in details is Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities⁷, which prescribes right to receiving and publishing information on language of minority, according to Article 9.

Provisions of Article 9 of the Framework Convention refer to right on receiving and publishing information and ideas on language of minority. They also state that this right should be exercised without interference and disturbance of authority. In that sense, it is concretely specified that the country shall not disturb establishing and using press media; it has been prescribed that the country is obliged to issue approvals for broadcasting radio and TV programmes without discrimination and on the basis of objective criteria. The country is obliged to adopt appropriate measures, financial measures also, and to develop specific policies in order to make the accession to means of public informing easier to national minorities.

Pursuant to Article 2 of European Charter on regional and minority languages⁸, each country, in process of ratification, has the opportunity to assume only some of duties prescribed by the Charter.

In accordance with Article 2 paragraph 2 of European Charter, in a view of public informing Montenegro adopts the implementation of Article 11 paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c

6 The Constitution of Montenegro, see the website of Official Gazette of Montenegro, <http://www.sllrcg.co.me/001-2007.pdf>, visited on September 15, 2009

7 Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities of Council of Europe, ratified and came into force on September 1, 2001, Official Gazette SRY number 6/98

8 Montenegro accessed to European Charter on regional and minority languages during the period of existing of the state union Serbia and Montenegro, on March 22, 2005. That Chart was ratified by Federal Parliament on February 15, 2005, and it came into force on June 6, 2006. Law on ratification of European Charter on regional or minority languages (“Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro – International Treaties”, number 18/2005)

(ii), d, e (i), f (ii), paragraph 2, paragraph 3, while it recognized Albanian and Roma language as minority languages.

In the area of means of public informing, Montenegro adopted to provide appropriate provisions by which programme broadcasters would offer contents on regional and minority languages; to encourage or facilitate regular broadcasting of radio programme on regional or minority languages; to encourage or facilitate production and distribution of audio or audiovisual works on regional or minority languages; to encourage or facilitate creation and maintenance of at least one newspaper on regional or minority languages; to implement measures of financial support on audiovisual production on regional or minority languages.

Montenegro also assumed responsibility to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television programme from neighbouring countries, on language which is the same as or similar to regional or minority language, and not to confront to rebroadcasting of radio and television programmes from neighbouring countries on this language.

At the end, Montenegro will advocate that it will not set any limitations, but right to freedom of expression, and free flow on information in the frame of press media on language which is the same or similar to regional or minority language. Enjoying these freedoms, which bear specific duties and responsibilities, may be subjected to such formalities, conditions, limitations, or punishments prescribed by law and which are important in democratic society, in the interest of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for preventing disorder or crime, for the sake of protection of health and moral, for the protection of reputation or for the protection of information that were received in confidence or for sustaining authority and impartiality of judiciary.

The country also assumed obligation by which will provide that interests of users of regional or minority languages to be presented and taken into consideration for possible development of appropriate bodies which would be in accordance with law and responsibilities which exist when freedom and pluralism of media are guaranteed.

Normative Framework of constitutional and legal character

Article 13 of the Constitution⁹ defines that the official language in Montenegro is Montenegrin language while Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian, and Croatian language are in official use.

Furthermore, Article 49 of the Constitution¹⁰ guarantees the freedom of press media and freedom of other means of public informing. It is guaranteed, without approval, the right to establishing newspapers and other means of public informing, with registration in competent bodies, while Article 50 prescribes the prohibition of censure.

⁹ The Constitution of Montenegro, see 6

¹⁰ *Ibid*

Article 79 paragraph 1 item 11 of the Constitution¹¹ guarantees specific – minority right to informing on their language.

Legislation and legal framework

Law on minority rights and freedoms¹²

Article 12 of Law on minority rights and freedoms prescribes provision of freedom on informing for minorities and persons belonging to them, at the level of standards which are set forth in international documents on human rights and freedoms.

Minority representatives have right to free establishment of media and undisturbed work based on freedom of expression of opinion, research, collection, widening, publishing and receiving information, free access to all sources of information, protection of personality and dignity and free flow of information.

Competent administration and programme bodies of media, whose establisher is the Republic, provide appropriate number of hours for broadcasting informative, cultural, educational, sport, and entertaining programme on minority languages and language of persons belonging to them, as well as programme contents related to life, tradition, and the culture of minorities and also provide finances for those programme contents.

Contents related to life, culture, and identity of minority population, are broadcasted at least once a month, on official language, through public services.

The Republic may, in accordance with its finances, provide translation of programme (titles) from languages of minorities to official language.

The Government may undertake encouraging measures to provide broadcasting of programme contents from paragraph 3 of this Article, in the frame of other radio and television programmes.

Media Law¹³

Article 1 of Media Law prescribes that media in Montenegro shall be free, that censorship of media is prohibited, and that Montenegro shall provide and guarantee freedom of information at the level of standards as contained in international documents on human

11 *Ibid*

12 Law on minority rights and freedoms, see 1

13 Media Law, see the website of Center for professionalization of media <http://www.cpm.edu.yu/code/navigate.asp?Id=37> , visited on October 28, 2009

rights and freedoms (the United Nations, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Union).

Also, this Article prescribes that the Law shall be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the principles of European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and shall be governed by the case law practice of the European Court for Human Rights.

Article 2 of the Law prescribes that Montenegro shall guarantee right to free establishment and undisturbed work of media based on: the freedom of expression, freedom of research, collection, dissemination, publishing and receiving information; free access to all sources of information; protection of human personality and dignity and free flow of information. Montenegro shall guarantee equal participation of both national and foreign, legal and physical persons, in receiving information, in accordance with this Law and Broadcasting Law.

According to Article 3 of the Law, Montenegro shall provide part of finances for exercising rights of citizens to informing, guaranteed by the Constitution and law, without discrimination, on the basis of programme contents for informing on Albanian language and language of other minority population. Amount of finances from this Article shall be determined by the budget of the Republic, and the manner and conditions of allocation shall be prescribed by the act of republic administration organ competent for informing matters.

Law on public broadcasting services of Montenegro¹⁴

Activity of public broadcasting services of Montenegro shall be performed by broadcasters, in accordance with the Law and international standards and rules in this area, pursuant to article 1 of the Law on public broadcasting services of Montenegro.

Public broadcasting services of Montenegro, according to article 2 of the Law shall be Radio Montenegro (RCG) and Television of Montenegro (TVCG).

Activity of public broadcasting services is production and broadcasting of programmes which: satisfy democratic, social, educational, cultural and other needs of public interest of all segments of Montenegrin society; provide the exercise of rights and interests of citizens and other subjects in the area of informing, notwithstanding their political, religious, cultural, race or gender orientation, and which timely provide various informative services.

Article 8 of the Law shall provide possibility of establishing the Studio for broadcasting regional radio and television programmes, in the manner by which RTCG may, for the need of some public broadcasting services, establish regional radio and television studios,

¹⁴ Law on public broadcasting services of Montenegro (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, number 79/08, December 23, 2008)

with special obligation of producing and broadcasting regional programme and programme on languages of representatives of minority population and other minority national communities on that territory.

Duties and responsibilities of RTCG are prescribed by article 9 of the Law in the manner which prescribes that RTCG is bound to, with application of high standards of professional ethics and quality, without any form of discrimination or social difference, produce and broadcast programme contents which:

- serve as referent points in a view of strengthening unity and social integration of all individuals, groups and communities;
- are intended for all segments of the society, especially taking into account children and youth, representatives of minority population and other minority national communities, disabled persons, socially vulnerable and other specific groups;
- affirm and take care of Montenegrin national and cultural identity, cultural and ethnic identity of minority population and other minority national communities, European cultural heritage and cultural diversity;
- affirm Montenegrin cultural heritage, encourage and take care of culture and objects of art and widen knowledge on other cultures which exist in Montenegro;
- manifest different ideas and religious convictions in the society with the aim to strengthen understanding and tolerance and promotion of multicultural, multiethnic, and multireligious character of Montenegro.

Means for specified purposes are prescribed by article 17 of the Law, which implies that the budget of Montenegro provides the part of finances for exercising rights of citizens to information, on the basis of programme contents of Radio of Montenegro and Television of Montenegro, which are important for programme contents on Albanian language and languages of minority population.

Manner of using finances from article 17 are prescribed by article 18 in the manner by which public administration body, competent for businesses of media, and RTCG, shall define by the contract mutual rights and duties related to using of finances from article 17 of this Law, not later than 30 days from the day of coming into force of the Law on Budget of Montenegro for the certain year. Manner and conditions of providing finances from the budget of Montenegro may not influence on editorial independence and autonomy of RTCG. Payment of finances from the budget of Montenegro will be in four equal installments, pursuant to the Law on Budget. The contract from paragraph 1 of this article shall be published in the Bulletin on work of RTCG and shall be submitted for the insight of an independent regulatory body for programme contents.

Council of RTCG, pursuant to article 22 paragraph 1 item 11 and item 16, approves the contract on using finances, provided by the budget of Montenegro, for production and broadcasting of programme contents from article 17 of this Law and appoints and dismisses Commission for programme contents on Albanian language and on languages of other minority people and other minority national communities.

Broadcasting Law¹⁵

Pursuant to article 1, Broadcasting Law shall define performing of broadcasting activities in Montenegro, in accordance with the Media Law and at the level of standards which are contained in international documents on human rights and freedoms (UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU, etc).

Law prohibits every form of censorship or illegal interference in the work of electronic media (Article 3, paragraph 1, item 2).

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, item 2 of the Law, broadcaster shall be physical or legal person, who has been registered for production and broadcasting of radio and/or television programme and who has been approved to broadcast signal in accordance with the Law.

In accordance with article 34 of the Law, physical and legal person, who has been registered for production, transmitting and broadcasting radio and/or television programme, after receiving approval for broadcasting and transmitting broadcasting signals, shall attain the status of broadcaster, in accordance with the Law.

Broadcaster may perform activities related to production, transmission, and broadcasting of radio and/or television programme as: 1) republic broadcasting service; 2) local public broadcasting service; 3) commercial broadcasting service.

According to article 95 of the Law, in a view of accomplishing general interest in the area of informing and broadcasting, broadcasters of public broadcasting services:

- shall produce and broadcast programme intended for all segments of society, without discrimination, especially taking into account specific social groups such as children and youth, minority ethnic groups, disabled persons, socially vulnerable persons and persons whose health is seriously impaired, etc;
- shall produce and broadcast programme which represent cultural identity of people, national and ethnic groups;
- shall produce and broadcast programme on mother language of minority population on territories where they live;
- shall mutually cooperate and exchange programme contents of interest for citizens of the Republic.

Pursuant to Article 100 broadcasters of public broadcasting services shall collect revenues from subscriptions and other sources, in accordance with the Law and establishing act. Republic budget or budget of local government units shall provide a part of finances for exercising rights to informing guaranteed by the Constitution and the Law, without discrimination, on the basis of programme contents which are important for development

¹⁵ Broadcasting Law (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro”, 51/02, 62/02, 46/04, 56/04, 77/06; “Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro”, 50/08, August 19, 2008; 79/08 from December 23, 2008; 53/09 from August 7, 2009)

of science and education, development of culture, and informing people with hearing and sight impairments.

For the sake of exercising rights mentioned in previous paragraph, the Republic or local government unit shall provide part of finances for programme contents on mother languages of minority population.

Administration organ competent for business of public informing, in the name of the Government of Republic Montenegro, or competent organ of executive power in the unit of local government and broadcaster of public broadcasting service, shall define mutual rights and duties related to using means for programme contents on mother languages of minority population by the contract.

In case that finances from the Republic budget or from budget of local government units are not sufficient for fulfillment of obligations of broadcasters of public broadcasting services for programme content on mother languages of minority population, fund shortage shall be provided by republic budget or by local government unit budget, under condition that the loss has not occurred without purpose and irrational use of provided finances.

Manner and condition of providing finances for programme contents on mother languages of minority population may not influence on editorial independence and autonomy of broadcasters of public broadcasting service.

The contract between administration organ competent for businesses of public informing, on the behalf of Government of the Republic of Montenegro, or competent organ of executive power in the unit of local government and broadcaster of public broadcasting service shall be published in the manner prescribed by establishing act of broadcaster and shall be submitted to the Agency for the insight.¹⁶

¹⁶ Legal analysis was done by the lawyer Azra Jasavic

2. Albanians

According to the last census, there are 31,163 or 5.03% of Albanians in Montenegro.¹⁷ Most people of Albanian nationality live in Bar 7.61%, in Plav 19.70%, in Podgorica 5.50%, in Rozaje 4.44%, in Ulcinj 72.14%.¹⁸ In other municipalities in Montenegro, there are less than 1% of Albanians.

First programme on Albanian language was broadcasted on Television of Montenegro in 1992.¹⁹ The emission was broadcasted once a week in those times, and it lasted half an hour and was called “At the end of the week”.²⁰ Since 1998, TVCG editorial showed readiness to expand the programme and in that manner redaction on Albanian language was established. Until then, only one journalist of Albanian nationality had worked on realization of the programme.²¹ From 1998, TVCG also included everyday informative newscast “Lajmet” which lasts fifteen minutes, while weekly programme, broadcasted on Saturday “Mozaiku 60” had music and informative character.²² Nowadays, “Mozaiku 60”, which lasted sixty minutes, lasts forty minutes and is called “Mozaiku”. The editor of redaction on Albanian language said that the cause of it were not financial problems because the same number of people worked on the shorter version of the programme. “When we said we did not want shorter version, we received reply from the editor-in-chief who explained that it must be shorter and that same case was with other programmes”,²³ said the editor of the programme on Albanian language of Television Montenegro (TVCG), Frano Camaj.

Asked about the number of employees in the redaction, Camaj said that part of jobs has been done by people who were not strictly related to the redaction, such as cameramen, TV editors, producers etc. Three editors work in redaction of all programmes on Albanian language, journalist correspondent from Ulcinj, redaction secretary, while two

17 Statistics office of Montenegro, available at the web-site <http://www.monstat.org/Popis.htm>, October 22, 2009

18 *Ibid*

19 Interview of the Initiative researcher with Frano Camaj, editor of programme on Albanian language on TVCG, from October 2, 2009; from the Initiative records

20 *Ibid*

21 *Ibid*

22 *Ibid*

23 *Ibid*

TV hosts and a journalist work as part-time employers, as well as outer assistants from Play, Rozaje, Ostros who cover Bar, Pristina, and Skoplje.²⁴

Besides informative newscast “Lajmet” and weekly programme “Mozaiku”, TVCG broadcasts the New Year programme. New Year programme lasts for hour and a half, and it is broadcasted on December 31, from 17:00. Three emissions on Albanian language have been broadcasted on RTCG during whole year, and these emissions are “Lajmet”, “Mozaiku”, and New Year programme.

All journalists of RTCG redaction on Albanian language passed additional trainings, said the editor of redaction, Camaj,²⁵ and according to plans he stated to the Initiative researcher, establishment of the redaction in Ulcinj is being planned.²⁶

Central news on TVCG broadcasts one TV report on Albanian language or languages of other minority population every week at 19:30 and the title²⁷ is on Montenegrin language.²⁸

Redaction of the programme on Albanian language exists on RCG since 1965.²⁹ In those times, RCG had editor, journalist and radio host, and one weekly programme was broadcasted which lasted forty-five minutes.³⁰ Today, redaction has seven employees and the program is broadcasted every day.³¹ Six days a week, except on Sundays, in the frame of Morning programme news on Albanian language are broadcasted and news on Albanian language at 17:30.³² On Saturdays, programme named “At the end of the week” is broadcasted and it lasts thirty minutes, representing TV reports about events at the territory where Albanians are settled.³³

Besides RTVCG, citizens of Albanian nationality in Ulcinj may follow local public service. In conversation with the Initiative researcher, Director of Radio Ulcinj emphasized that the programme is being broadcasted on two languages, Albanian and Montenegrin languages. Save in radio, decision has been made on establishing the television, in the frame of public service.³⁴ About 70% of programme is being broadcasted on Albanian language

24 *Ibid*

25 *Ibid*

26 *Ibid*

27 Meaning - translation

28 Interview of the Initiative researcher with Bogic Rakocevic, Editor of the First programme TVCG, from October 9, 2009; from the Initiative records

29 Interview of the Initiative researcher with Pjetar Ljucaj, Editor of programme on Albanian language on RCG, from September 5, 2009; from the Initiative records

30 *Ibid*

31 *Ibid*

32 *Ibid*

33 *Ibid*

34 Interview of the Initiative researcher with Director of Radio Ulcinj, Esad Mehmeti, from September 24, 2009

and about 30% on Montenegrin, which corresponds to percentage of the population in that town.

Informative newscasts are broadcasted on both languages every hour. Morning programme is also broadcasted on both languages,³⁵ as well as programmes on agriculture, youth, tourism, etc.³⁶

Director of the Radio emphasized there were financial problems. However, opening of the television is expecting to provide better functioning.³⁷

In the focus group which took place on April 24, 2009,³⁸ representatives of Albanian population³⁹ expressed their standpoint about informing on mother language.

Most participants in the focus group said they followed press media more. Majority considered they were better informed in that manner. Younger participants, however, mostly used internet where they easily found comprehensive information. Considering Public services, participants said that they followed contents on Public services approximately two hours a day.⁴⁰

Participants of the focus group emphasized that they mostly follow informative programme of TVCG and programme dedicated to culture and minorities. Out of sixteen participants, only two of them said they were regularly followed press media on Albanian language.⁴¹ Besides Public services, all participants followed other programme because they considered they were better informed. "I can find everything I need on RTVCG, but I also watch Albanians TV stations. I consider that territories where minority population lives should be more broadcasted, which would be the manner for eliminating prejudices of other people, and at the same time that would promote wealth, potentials, and territories where minorities live. Thus, I think that TVCG should devote continuously, or at least once a week programme on Albanians. Contents on Albanian language are not present, and that is very important, because the role of media is very significant. Public service on Albanian language is also very important, as well as representation of culture and economic development of Albanians, and characteristics, not only on programme on Albanian language but also on national television", said one of participants.

35 Morning programme from 8:00 to 10:00 is broadcasted on Albanian language, and from 10:00 to 11:00 on Montenegrin language

36 Interview of the Initiative researcher with Esad Mehmeti, see 34

37 *Ibid*

38 Report from the focus group which took place in Ulcinj, on April 24, 2009; from the Initiative records

39 *Ibid*; Structure, age, and education described in the report

40 *Ibid*

41 *Ibid*

Most participants considered that information, offered by local service, were not sufficient and that they provide only minimum when compared with the needs of an average citizen. Considering national media and information they publish on Albanian language, participants considered that they did not satisfy their needs because those were mostly translated information with poor translation. Also, considering programmes on culture of Albanian people, participants considered they were superficially represented and because of the manner of representation, they were unprofessional.⁴²

“An event which took place in Ulcinj is more interesting to us, but RTVCG is not usually interested in this. In any case, we expect from the national television to broadcast content of better quality at the time provided for broadcasting programme on Albanian language in comparison with local radio Ulcinj, because that is national television and in that manner it has capacities to satisfy needs. I think that, currently, this is not enough. There are programmes on Albanian language but they are not sufficient source for providing information on what is happening only in Ulcinj, but in Montenegro or in the whole region. For that reason, media on Montenegrin language and media from Albania have to be followed”, emphasized one of participants.

Most participants satisfy their needs for information by using internet and observing media from the region via digital antennas. “I think that local media are more attractive because we receive information from our place and those information are not published on public service TVCG or some other commercial media or daily newspapers”, said one of participants.

All participants agreed that “Mozaiku”, the only programme on Albanian language broadcasted by TVCG, does not satisfy their needs and expectations. Information and contents of the very programme are of bad quality, participants assessed. Also, information are old, published so as to represent some old customs and old way of life of Albanian population. Programme does not provide enough information related to youth people and there is lack of research journalism.

One of participants said that it was very important to promote values and culture of all citizens of Montenegro, and Albanians, because “television and media, generally, are very strong and powerful mechanism on which basis, the image of public opinion is being shaped, on you as representative or representatives of specific population”.⁴³

Most participants receive information on Albanian language from local private television⁴⁴ and Albanian private programmes. News on Albanian language at 17:00 publish translated information of news from national television, so they do not have any purpose if they have the same content, because most Albanians know Montenegrin language and

42 *Ibid*

43 *Ibid*

44 This refers to the local television TV Teuta

it happens that citizens of Albanian nationality listen the same information twice. As the town where Albanian population is majority, participants consider that Ulcinj and its citizens do not receive deserved attention on national service. As the problem of quality of content, they mentioned lack of personnel who would influence on the programme quality. Besides programme on Albanian language, it is necessary to publish more programme on Montenegrin language, such as the Chronicle of Ulcinj, Tuzi, etc.⁴⁵

According to participants' opinion, "Mozaiku" the only programme on Albanian language on TVCG, should be transformed. Participants assessed that the programme may not be informative because it is broadcasted once a week, on Saturday, which means that information are usually old. They emphasized that this programme should be of cultural and educational character.

Participants did not positively assess the content of the weekly *Koha Javore*. According to their opinion, the reason is of financial character. Participants consider that the problem is because the newspaper is being issued under auspices of daily *Pobjeda* and because it is not independent newspaper. The registered office of the redaction editing this weekly is also something which needs to be changed. "The registered office is in Podgorica, and people who work as journalists, travel in Podgorica every day and spend time there and work. Thus, the only newspaper on Albanian language does not have any office in Ulcinj, where journalists should work",⁴⁶ said one of participants in the focus group.

Citizens of Albanian nationality have the opportunity to watch media from country of birth via satellite and cable TV. For most citizens, depending where they live, there is the opportunity to watch Albanian national TV TVSH via ordinary land receivers. Although these media do not have contents, reports, and information from Montenegro, citizens of Albanian nationality receive information via those media on their language and about events from the region, about modern culture, education, religion, and similar topics.

Journalists are responsible for better quality of programme on public services.⁴⁷ "Primarily, journalist should know how they will draft their programme. They should work hard and be more creative, and they should know how to represent information and when. Thus, they should deal more with research journalism",⁴⁸ said one of participants. As possible problems, participants mentioned financial instability, incompetence, lack of activity of members of redaction and lack of creativity. It is important to pass additional trainings in a view of improved programme.⁴⁹

45 Report from the focus group, see 38

46 *Ibid*

47 *Ibid*

48 *Ibid*

49 Conclusion of the focus group participants

“I think that new office for Koha Javore in Ulcinj would surely improve the situation. I also think that opening of RTCG studio in Ulcinj would be very useful. We see that there are chronicles of several towns in Montenegro. I do not see the reason why the chronicle of Ulcinj should not exist”,⁵⁰ said one of participants.

Participants do not see improvement of content on Public service and they consider that the content is the same as it was five years ago. There is impression that the programmes are the same and that people watch the same ones all the time.

The President of National Albanian Council in Montenegro, Tahir Tahiri regularly follows media and programme on Albanian language and he said that contents were not satisfying.⁵¹ Therefore, he mostly follows press media and the internet. “I think that programmes for minority population in Montenegro are very little represented on RTCG, while, regarding Albanian minorities, those programmes do not even closely satisfy needs of Albanians in Montenegro. Information are translated and there is no content that would attract attention of an average viewer”, said Tahiri.⁵² According to his statement, not even other programmes satisfy needs of Albanians in Montenegro. Contents related to culture, religion and the way of life of Albanians should be priority for producing programme on Albanian language.⁵³

As specific minority which speaks language different from other minority languages, president of Albanian National Council considered that Albanians should have better treatment on public services.⁵⁴

Minister for protection of human and minority rights Ferhat Dinosa,⁵⁵ said that there were very little programme contents on Albanian language. Taking into consideration that “Albanians are the only linguistic minority in Montenegro, I think that the whole day programme should be included on special TV channel on Albanian language”,⁵⁶ said minister Dinosa. As deficiency of local media and public services, minister Dinosa mentioned that their local character and assessed that national media and services were not sometimes enough national.

“I think that programmes on minorities and for minorities are not sufficiently represented on public service RTCG. Programmes related to Albanian national minority are more represented than others, but also not enough present. All minorities are not equally represented on public services. It is possible that representation of programme for Albanians is conditioned by language characteristics of Albanian national minority”,⁵⁷ emphasized Dinosa.

50 *Ibid*

51 Interview of the Initiative researcher with the President of National Albanians Council, Tahir Tahiri; from the Initiative records

52 *Ibid*

53 *Ibid*

54 *Ibid*

55 Answer of Ferhat Dinosa on questionnaire, July 1, 2009; from the Initiative records

56 *Ibid*

57 *Ibid*

Minister stressed that the offer of cultural values of minorities on media, on Montenegrin language, have to be wider.

Koha Javore journalist Ismet Kalaba said that the expansion of the programme has been considered for a long time but instead of it, it was narrowed.⁵⁸

Parliament representative Genci Nimanbegu⁵⁹ is not satisfied with the content of local and national media. According to his opinion, programmes for national minorities are very little represented on public service of RTCG, both in organizational structure and in the very programme of public service.

“Employed journalists and their redactions did not show readiness to follow specific topics on which they report in qualitative and critical manner. Therefore, those services (radio and television of Montenegro) become media that are not worth to attract attention of average viewer or listener”,⁶⁰ said Nimanbegu. Public service should devote attention to contents such as information on social, cultural and economic position of neighbouring countries and those information should be available even to inhabitants of Montenegro who do not speak Albanian language.

Speaking about programme “Mozaiku”, Nimanbegu stressed he was not satisfied with the content of the programme, that it was shorter than earlier and that existence of one programme a week on Albanian language was very little. According to his opinion, there were enough personnel who could provide more interesting and better programme on Albanian language.⁶¹ Nimanbegu indicated that permanent redaction of RTCG in Ulcinj is needed.

“Surely, a work body should be formed or the council that would be composed of minority members whose function would be to take care of quality and equal representation of all minorities at the level of Montenegro. It would be useful if members of that body or council would be politically independent persons or persons who would not be elected according to their political membership but according to their professional qualities”,⁶² stressed Nimanbegu.

Besides programmes on Albanian language, regular music programme of Public service, except English, Italian, Croatian music, has to represent music on Albanian language.⁶³ Movie programme must contain Albanian movies in their programme schemes.⁶⁴

58 Answer of Ismet Kalaba on questionnaire, July 10,2009; from the Initiative records

59 Answer of Genci Nimanbegu on questionnaire, June 30,2009; from the Initiative records

60 *Ibid*

61 *Ibid*

62 *Ibid*

63 *Ibid*

64 *Ibid*

According to opinion of the Director of local TV Teuta in Ulcinj, Dino Ramovic⁶⁵ public services, national and local, by their character, should be informative, cultural and educational media which would have space for all citizens of Montenegro regardless of their political, national or religious convictions, because all citizens as tax payers directly finance those media. However, public services do not perform that duty good enough.⁶⁶

“Local public services are system failure. They are assisting hand for governing parties in local community and the place for ‘deserved’ party personnel without professional experience in this area. With large number of employees and payments to Administration board and other personnel, local public services become expensive ‘tool’ for poor budget of local communities. Additionally, do not care of their own revenues, because they have provided funds through municipality budget. Perhaps, that is the reason why they do not create programme product which passes media market. On the other hand, commercial media, especially local, behave more as public services because that is the only way for them to survive. They are more rational and efficient, more watched and listened, with real professionals in business”, said Ramovic.

As the solution for functioning of local public service, Ramovic mentioned that the new Law on electronic media opens new opportunities for public and private partnership, as the only way for accomplishing that idea. He said that various models exist for that – from signing business and technical, and programme cooperation of local government and some commercial media who would produce specific programme for municipality, to purchase of some percentage of commercial media for municipality. “According to my findings, interests for this form of cooperation exists in Budva, Niksic, Bijelo Polje, Podgorica and Ulcinj”, said Ramovic.

Conclusions

- As public service RTCG broadcasts informative programme “Lajmet” on Albanian language every day, once a week it broadcasts “Mozaiku”, and New Year programme on Albanian language. Besides regular programme every week, during central informative programme, TV report on Albanian language is broadcasted with translation on Montenegrin language.
- Only Radio Ulcinj functions in Ulcinj, as local public service, with the programme on Albanian language which is broadcasted proportionally to the structure of population in that town. Besides radio, decision has been made on the beginning of work of local television in the frame of Public service.
- Public enterprise “Pobjeda” issues the weekly newspaper on Albanian language “Koha Javore”.
- Participants of the focus group considered that, because of their specific language, content on Albanian language is not sufficient.

⁶⁵ Answer of Dino Ramovic on questionnaire, October 9,2009; from the Initiative records

⁶⁶ *Ibid*

- Most participants assessed that information, offered by local services, were not sufficient and that they satisfied only minimal needs of an average citizen. Considering national media and information offered on Albanian language, participants considered that they did not satisfy their needs because those were mostly translated information from central informative programme, broadcasted in 19:30.
- Considering programme on culture of Albanians, participants considered they were superficially presented and unprofessional because of the manner they were presented. All participants agreed that “Mozaiku”, the only programme on Albanian language broadcasted by TVCG, did not satisfy their expectations and needs. The quality of information and content of the very programme was bad. Also, information were very old, drafted to represent some old customs and old way of life of Albanians. The programme does not provide sufficient information related to youth while there was lack of research journalism.
- Most participants of the focus group get information by using internet and watching media from the region, via satellite programme and private programme of Albania.
- Considering that Albanian population represent majority in Ulcinj, focus group participants considered that their citizens did not receive deserved attention on national service. As the problem of quality of the service, participants stated lack of personnel who would influence on the quality of programme. Save in those programme on Albanian language it is important to represent programme on Montenegrin language, like for example Chronicle of Ulcinj, Tuzi, etc.

Recommendations

- More contents on Albanian language should be broadcasted by RTCG. Special programme for culture, education, tourism, etc, should be introduced.
- “Mozaiku” programme should be more devoted to cultural contents than its informative character.
- RTCG should broadcast more contents related to Albanian literature and history followed by urban Albanian music. Contents should be drafted to be more interesting to other people in Montenegro, also. Except that, it is important to inform public in Montenegro about Albanian minority, about their life, customs, culture, religion, in order to overcome ethnic distance.
- As the town where Albanian people are majority, Ulcinj should be more present on Public service and more cultural and tourism events should be organized. In that manner, prejudices would be eliminated.
- The existence of a daily newspaper on Albanian language or supplement of some of the existing one is required. Koha Javore should be separated as independent subject which would create conditions for transformation into very good newspaper.

3. Bosniaks and Muslims

According to 1991 census, Muslims make 14.57% of population. After specific social and political events, representatives of, until then, an ethnic group, registered themselves on 2003 census as Muslims (3.97%) and as Bosniaks (7.77%).⁶⁷ According to the last census, 919 Bosniaks (2.30%) and 2,575 Muslims (6.43%) live in Bar; while in Berane live 5,662 Bosniaks or 16.15%, and 2,301 Muslims or 6.56%; in Bijelo Polje 11,357 (22.63%) of Bosniaks and 7,936 (15.78%) Muslims; in Budva 24 (0.15%) Bosniaks and 204 Muslims or 1.28%; in Niksic 148 (0.20%) Bosniaks and 695 (0.92%) Muslims; in Plav live 6,809 (49.32%) Bosniaks and 788 (5.71%) Muslims; in Pljevlja 1,865 (5.21%) Bosniaks and 2,913 or 8.14% Muslims; in Podgorica 2,307 (1.36%) Bosniaks and 4,399 (2.60%) Muslims; in Rozaje 18,628 (82.09%) Bosniaks and 1,510 (6.65%) Muslims; in Ulcinj 297 (1.46%) Bosniaks and 681 (3.36%) Muslims. Those communities represent majority in Rozaje and Plav.

Journalist of TV Vijesti Adnan Prekic said: “Programmes for minorities do not exist on public service RTCG. Programmes represented on RTCG as programme on minorities and for minorities may not get that epithet by any standard. Redactions which create that programme are not independent in basic editorial issues, small number of people work on that programme and what is most important all those programme represent minority communities at the level of folklore and entertainment, thus, until nowadays, Public service have never produced any serious project on minority population.”⁶⁸ Professor and member of Council of Bosniaks Serbo Rastoder, emphasized that he followed very little contents on his mother language, because there was small number of them or there were not present at all. “We cannot talk about programme for minorities generally, because one minority is more favorable than others, although I do not consider they have been given more space, but compared with us, who do not receive almost anything or just minimum, however, they are sufficiently represented. Thus, from previous comment it may be concluded that representation of my national minority is unacceptably small“, added Rastoder.⁶⁹ Journalist Sabrija Vulic has similar opinion, saying that programmes for Albanian national community are more represented, while there are no programmes for others.⁷⁰ Vulic said that Muslims in Montenegro are not sufficiently represented in the programme of Public service

67 For this reason, the Initiative researchers decided on researching Bosniaks and Muslims jointly, because of the same tradition and culture.

68 Answer of Adnan Prekic to questionnaire, from June 26, 2009; from the Initiative records

69 Answer of Serbo Rastoder to questionnaire, from July 16, 2009; from the Initiative records

70 Answer of Sabrija Vulic to questionnaire, from June 23, 2009; from the Initiative records

which does not treat them in accordance with the Constitution when it uses term “Bosniaks/Muslims”, despite the fact that those are two different national minorities, according to the last census.⁷¹

Radio Free Europe journalist Sead Sadikovic, considered that current informative programmes on public services satisfied, with their form, needs of citizens whose mother languages are Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian, or Croatian, while the exemption were Albanians whom have to be devoted more attention.⁷² “Initiating contents that would be devoted to culture, tradition, and life of minorities is something that should be work on, which would help them to introduce each other,” said Sadikovic.⁷³

Participants of the focus group, which took place in Rozaje on March 29, 2009, considered that Bosniaks and Muslims were not represented on public services at all.⁷⁴ They also related this with small number of employees on RTCG who are Bosniaks and Muslims.⁷⁵ One participant also emphasized that there was no big need for existence of informative programme on Bosnian language as there was the need for the programme which would deal with life of Bosniaks and Muslims.⁷⁶ Another participant said there was the need for contents on Bosnian language although it is very similar to Montenegrin language, and emphasized that it was the manner of language preservation.⁷⁷

Editor of the First programme of RTCG Bogic Rakocevic said that RTCG gave space for Bosniaks and Muslims through different contents. Thus, Rakocevic said: “We deal with their problems through existent programme, of course, whether those programmes were chronicles of towns. We devote special attention to Bosniaks and Muslims even through educational and science programme. In the structure of that programme, we always have special contents which are intended for customs, culture, religion, and everything else which is related to this national community. Serial named “Mosques in Montenegro” lasted almost two years and was broadcasted once a week. This means that we covered it comprehensively and included the history in it. Speakers were competent persons. Through educational and scientific programme we again had one whole serial on bridges which were constructed in the spirit of that culture and architecture and which remained. Afterwards, we have always followed Muslim and Bosniak authors, however when the art comes in issue, those are universal categories and it would be bad to separate them on national basis. Art belongs to everybody and it is supranational. Moreover, we try to balance as much it is possible, but this is under impact of the very events and activities of some NGOs that are dealing with

71 *Ibid*

72 Answer of Sead Sadikovic from October 3,2009;from the Initiative records

73 *Ibid*

74 Report from the Focus group which took place in Rozaje, on March 29, 2009; from the Initiative records

75 *Ibid*

76 *Ibid*

77 *Ibid*

rights of minority population. This means that we have them more, if they have more of this programme and contents. Besides, there is an completely satisfying continuity and they are present through different programme segments, starting from Morning programme until the Newscast 3. We have special programmes but not regular programmes. We often produce programme from Petnjica and from municipalities where they are majority, meaning that we often have programme from Plav, Gusinje on Montenegrin language about them and their culture. Once a month we have such a programme, whether about culture or economy. These programme contents are intended for these people and through them we take into consideration economic opportunities, and that is something which attracts attention of people who live there.”⁷⁸

Avdul Kurpejovic from the organization “Matica muslimanska” said: “The history, tradition, customs, and national identity of Muslims almost are not represented on programme contents of public services, although it is legislation responsibility.”⁷⁹ He considered that RTCG should eliminate the impact of power coming from functionaries and that RTCG should deal with citizens, so as to become free from everyday politics and politicians.⁸⁰

As we see, there is no agreement between participants of the focus group and representatives of political parties, activists of NGOs, on the one side, and representatives of public services on the other. Suljo Mustafic assessed that there would be more quality of work of public services if representatives of minority communities would be in the Board of public service and if journalists and editors who belong to minority population would participate in creation of minority programme.⁸¹ Focus group stressed that solution of this problem must start from proportional representation of minority representatives in public services, and specific number of journalists, editors, etc.⁸² The Focus group also emphasized that, considering the number of Bosniaks and Muslims in society, programme redaction for Bosniaks and Muslims should exist also.⁸³ One of participants said: “More space should be given to Bosniaks and Muslims on public services, starting from their representation as journalists, and then some higher positions in Public service and generally in the ministry competent for media and minority. I think that Bosniaks and Muslims are simply forgotten and lost from sight and I think that Public service is a good opportunity to make some changes. There should be more personnel in public services from the minority lines.”⁸⁴

Regarding work of local public service Radio Rozaje, participants assesses it as positive.⁸⁵ They said that Radio Rozaje satisfied needs related to information related to events in

78 From the interview with Editor of the First programme of TVCG, Bogic Rakocevic; see 28

79 Answer of Avdul Kurpejovic, from June 25, 2009; from the Initiative records

80 *Ibid*

81 Answer of Suljo Mustafic on questionnaire, from June 23,2009, from the Initiative records

82 Report from the focus group which took place in Rozaje, from March 29, 2009, see 74

83 *Ibid*

84 *Ibid*

85 *Ibid*

Rozaje, however, this radio can not satisfy needs related to information about events in the country, region and worldwide.⁸⁶ Participants considered that journalists on Radio Rozaje were educated and that they worked the best they could.⁸⁷ One of the participants stressed that beside one television and two radios, Rozaje needs one more TV station which would satisfy needs of citizens of Rozaje.⁸⁸ Another participant said that smaller number of programme was about culture, tradition, and life of Bosniaks and Muslims on Radio Rozaje.⁸⁹

Director of Radio Rozaje, Zlatko Tutic, said that Radio Rozaje was opened for everybody.⁹⁰ He said that they always observed all events related to life, culture, and religion of all people in Rozaje through everyday programme.⁹¹ He said that the programme on minorities, their culture and tradition, are being broadcasted at least once a month. The largest problem was to provide speakers because those topics have already been used and large number of this programme was repeated.⁹²

Conclusions

- Programme for Bosniaks and Muslims are not clearly and noticeably conceived as the programme for minorities on RTCG. There is no consent between representatives of those minorities and public services on the amount and character of programme content.
- Informative programme on Bosnian language does not exist on public services. Opinions about the existence of programme content on Bosnian language are divided. Because of large relationship with Montenegrin language, part of participants in the research considered that such programme was not necessary while another part of participants considered that represented the manner for preservation of Bosnian language and Bosniak culture in Montenegro.
- When the assessment of public services comes in issue, participants assessed the work of local public service in Rozaje as positive, while that was not the case with national public service RTCG.

86 *Ibid*

87 *Ibid*

88 *Ibid*

89 *Ibid*

90 Interview of the Initiative researcher with the Director of Radio Rozaje Zlatko Tutic, from September 17, 2009; from the Initiative records

91 *Ibid*

92 *Ibid*

Recommendations

- Broadcasting of special programme which would culturally and historically represent Bosniaks and Muslims in Montenegro should start on local and national public services. It is important to include representatives of Bosniaks and Muslims in production of this programme, experts in this area, and to make the programme visible as the programme for national minorities.
- Considering programme content on Bosnian language, competent ministries and establishers of public services, with participation of other subjects like National council, have to initiate public debate on manner of satisfying legislation regulations in this area.
- Programme on culture and tradition of Muslim and Bosniak people should be introduced on public service RTCG, which would diminish ethnic distance.
- Representatives of minority population have to be involved in work of public services professionally and as organized through employment of specific number of journalists, editors, and others from minority population.

4. Croats

There are 6,811 or 1.10% Croats in Montenegro. Out of this number, in Tivat live 2,663 Croats or 19.54%, in Kotor 1,762 (7.68%), in Herceg Novi 798 (2.42%), in Podgorica 709 (0.42%), in Bar 259 (0.65%), in Budva 178 (1.12%), in Niksic 132 (0.18%) while in other municipalities there are less than hundred Croats.

Journalist Nikola Doncic emphasized that media, and in that manner public services in Montenegro do not have programme contents on Croatian language. Doncic said that he watched programme contents on mother language via media from the Republic Croatia. He assessed that media in Montenegro did not have programme contents on Croatian language while representation of Croatian community in Montenegrin media was very small.⁹³

Similar opinion had the President of Croatian Citizens Initiative (HGI) Marija Vucinovic who said that RTCG did not broadcast programme for Croatian minorities as separated programme and that Croatian minority was eventually mentioned in the context with other contents.⁹⁴

Editor of the First programme of TVCG, Bogic Rakocevic did not agree with previous standpoints and he said: “Regarding public service of TVCG, Croatians have space on RTCG. First of all, I refer to programme Chronicle of Kotor, which is constant. Through this programme we have special blocks on activities of Croatian communities in Boka Bay. We constantly follow Croatian minority through this programme and then even through other programme, first of all through informative programme. Also, via educational and science programme, we give special reference, we have a lot of specialized programmes, starting from the programme named “Skrinja” which comprehensively deals with culture, customs, history, etc, from Boka Bay, where most Croatians live. We have similar contents at least two or three times a month only via educational programme and other programme contents as well.”⁹⁵ In the frame of the First programme of RTCG, among others, there is the programme for minorities containing two redactions, out of which one is redaction of programme on Albanian language, and the other is redaction of programme on languages of other minority communities.⁹⁶

93 Answer of Nikola Doncic on the questionnaire, from June 23,2009; from the Initiative records

94 Answer of Marija Vucinovic on the questionnaire, from July 9,2009; from the Initiative records

95 From the interview of the Initiative research with Bogic Rakocevic, see 28

96 *Ibid*

Most participants of the focus group, which took place in Kotor, on May 20th, 2009, were not satisfied with the work of RTCG and the space that has been given to Croats on RTCG. One of participants said: “In production of the programme on Kotor, Croatian minorities are not mentioned at all, although they participated in development of this culture. Croats are not mentioned also. Simply, all this is being packed as Montenegrin culture. When mentioning museum, it is said ‘Montenegrin museum’ and if anything else is mentioned, instead of Croat is referred to as ‘Montenegrin culture’. Nevertheless, they should mention us.”⁹⁷

However, other standpoints were heard. One participant said: “We may find many deficiencies, but, everybody can find something interesting. I think that topics are general, and different profiles have been invited. There is exchange of information among Croatian Television and TVCG and some specific things may be reprogrammed from both sides. Our experience says that this is possible because we initiated some programme contents on TVCG and we did not face with resistance.”⁹⁸

When the confidence toward Radio Kotor comes in issue, participants assessed this local public service positively, emphasizing that it satisfied their needs and that it was opened for all ideas and opinions.

Journalist on local public service Radio Kotor Jelena Kljajic, said to the Initiative research that Montenegrin, Roma, and Italian language have been used on this Radio and that the Radio had one general redaction.⁹⁹ Kljajic mentioned programme contents which Radio Kotor is obliged to produce: “Every day we have an programme content of Public service. These are programme contents we are obliged to produce. This means that, on Mondays we have programme on sport, on Tuesday programme on culture, on Wednesday on administration which is devoted to municipality services, on Thursday the programme on science, on Friday we have the programme ‘The light of sound’ intended for people with sight impairments, on Saturday programme on education, and on Sunday we have programme devoted to children of the preschool growth, programme on environment and some entertaining programme. Every day we broadcast the programme ‘The city and you’ where listeners are included in the programme, they share their problems, ask questions and afterwards, we call competent bodies to ask if problems will be solved and when.”¹⁰⁰

On question whether there is special programme on culture, tradition, and the way of life of minorities, Kljajic said: “We have the programme ‘Boka in my hearth’, which is broadcasted on Saturdays at ten o’clock, and last about thirty minutes. It deals with the culture and tradition of Boka Bay. Minorities are not major motive of this programme, but are men-

97 Report from the focus group which took place in Kotor on May 20,2009

98 Ibid

99 From the interview of the Initiative researcher with Jelena Kljajic, Radio Kotor journalist, from October 24, 2009; from the Initiative records

100 *Ibid*

tioned through whole programme. It is more related to tradition of Boka than to minorities. However, stories about them occur as well. Then, we have programme about Italian community in Kotor and programme about Roma population which we produce in cooperation with Democratic Roma Center. We ourselves produced programme on Roma earlier.”¹⁰¹

Besides local public service, private radio - Radio Skale, exists in Kotor. Opinions of participants were different when comparing those two local radios. While Radio Kotor was positively assessed, standpoints towards private Radio Skale were different, from positive ones to negative.¹⁰²

Considering confidence toward national public service RTCG, as major competitor was mentioned and emphasized Television Vijesti, which participants mostly believed. Also participants emphasized that they regularly followed Croatian Radio Television (HRT).

Largest remark emphasized at the focus group of public service RTCG was the impact and participation in ‘war inciting’ during 90s. They emphasized that the very Public service RTCG should initiate activities that would be aimed at defining of who is responsible for the policy of this media, so that the current leadership can separate themselves from that period and activities of RTCG, and also put guarantee that anything similar will never happen again.¹⁰³

However, participants noticed technical, personnel, and programme progress in the work of RTCG in last five years.¹⁰⁴ Good will has been noticed regarding representation of minorities on public services, but it has been added that even without good will, law and other regulations prescribes obligations for it.¹⁰⁵

As the reasons why there are not enough programme contents on Croats, it was mentioned that Croats themselves are not sufficiently interested in something which belongs to them, even by law.¹⁰⁶ Lack of activity of Croats themselves is, according to opinion of one participant, even most important reason for such situation.¹⁰⁷ He emphasized they should provide speakers and topics for media, and that media would not reject them, and added: “I think that we must fight for our rights and for the space on public services.”¹⁰⁸

Answers on question, whether in this moment is more important to have informative programme on Croatian language or programme on culture, history, tradition and the way

101 *Ibid*

102 *Ibid*

103 Report from the focus group in Kotor, see 97

104 *Ibid*

105 *Ibid*

106 *Ibid*

107 *Ibid*

108 *Ibid*

of life of Croats on public services, were divided.¹⁰⁹ Half of participants said that they have wanted informative programme on their language for a long time, and that it should be introduced. Another half of participants considered that programme on culture, history and tradition of Croats, was more important to them because Croatian language is related to Montenegrin and in that manner they can receive information without disturbance.¹¹⁰ Participants firmly said that if such programme started to broadcast on RTCG, it would be better to be qualitative, or not to exist at all.¹¹¹

Nikola Doncic recommended: “All minority people in Montenegro, when it comes in issue real desire of leadership of public media services, are represented at an almost equal manner, and this means – in insufficient measure. The matter is clear, if there is desire for the improvement of media representation of minority population, public media services, with application of practice of developed European communities, should use current technical and financial opportunities in order to create efficient programme contents.”¹¹²

Conclusions

- There is no agreement between representatives of Croatian population in Montenegro and participants of the focus group on one side, and RTCG editors on the other side, on character, quality and the space of programme content, offered for Croats on RTCG. Special programme on Croats does not exist on public services, only programme which are related to them are broadcasted in the context with other contents.
- Informative programme on Croatian language does not exist on public services. Half of participants in the focus group considered that such programme should exist.
- Participants assessed that the work of local public service, Radio Kotor was positive, because they thought this media was opened for different opinions, ideas and values. Programme contents on Roma and Italians exist on Radio Kotor, but there is no programme content on Croats who are significantly present in Kotor.
- General assessment is that there is progress in the work of RTCG in the last five years. As major deficiency, participants stated that RTCG does not initiate the story about responsibility for the impact on war events during 90s.

Recommendations

- Broadcasting of special programme that would culturally and historically represent Croats in Montenegro should start on local and national public services. In production

109 *Ibid*

110 *Ibid*

111 *Ibid*

112 Answer of Nikola Doncic on questionnaire, see 93

of such programme, experts from those areas should be consulted, and representatives of Croatian population in Montenegro, as well.

- Establishers of public services, especially those in whose municipalities live significant number of Croatian, should take into consideration real needs for receiving information on Croatian language in Montenegro, through communication with Croatian population in decision making process on financing informative contents.
- Radio Kotor should start broadcasting specific programme on Croats and should contribute, in that manner, to improved integration of Croatian population in municipality Kotor and in the whole Montenegro.
- Public services should devote more attention to programmes and reports from the area of facing with the past.

5. Roma

There are 2,601 Roma in Montenegro or 0.42%.¹¹³ Most Roma people live in Podgorica 1,389 (0.82%), in Niksic 335 (0.44%), in Herceg Novi 198 (0.60%), Cetinje 129 (0.70%), Ulcinj 115 (0.57%), in Bijelo Polje 133 (0.26%), Berane 119 (0.34%), in Budva 39 (0.25%) and in Kotor 48 or 0.21%. Number of Roma people in other towns is under 0.20%. Number of Roma, who are displaced persons in Montenegro, is 4,458¹¹⁴, or twice more than domicile Roma.

Senad Sejdovic, the only Roma person engaged on RTCG, emphasized that the largest problem was the absence of personnel among Roma people, thus creating large problems for him in production of content on Roma language.¹¹⁵

Researcher of human rights violation Goran Miletic, in interview with the Initiative researcher said that the problem of lack of personnel has been existed for a long time while in 2003 the situation was the same, when he conducted researches in Montenegro.¹¹⁶

RTCG produces just one radio programme and one TV programme for four months.¹¹⁷ Radio programme is being broadcasted each fifteen days while TV programme is being broadcasted every first Friday in a month. Those programmes are about financial position of Roma, but also about their culture, tradition, and way of life. Programme on the radio are broadcasted on two languages, which mostly depends whether the speaker is somebody who is not representative of Roma population and does not know Roma language, while titles are provided for TVCG programme.¹¹⁸

Sejdovic said that informative programme on Roma language do not exist, but once a month there is the content on Roma language which is translated with the title on

113 Statistics office of Montenegro, see 17

114 Researches among RAE in Montenegro, UNHCR, Podgorica, May, 2009

115 From the interview of the Initiative researcher with journalist Senad Sejdovic, from October 15, 2009; from the Initiative records

116 From the Initiative researcher interview with Goran Miletic, from September 16, 2009; from the Initiative records

117 From the Initiative researcher interview with RTCG journalist Senad Sejdovic, see 155

118 *Ibid*

Montenegrin language in central News on TVCG, which starts at 19:30.¹¹⁹ Sejdovic considered that it would be very useful to initiate informative programme on public service of RTCG.

Director of Radio Antena M, (which broadcasted programme called 'Roma speak'), Darko Sukovic, considered that for Roma that was not notorious matter but the need which was more emphasized than in other communities and he added: "In bad offer, personnel should be carefully chosen, personnel who has education and real desire to contribute to progress of the community."¹²⁰ Sukovic added that larger part of content should be on Roma language, but emphasized this it is very difficult to avoid, when necessary, specific segments on Montenegrin language. "Programme should be conceived so as to be, at least partly, interesting for other communities, because in that manner it contributes to better understanding and common life with REM population. Music, movies about life of Roma, customs, history, celebrities of Roma origin, combined with education, social and economic problems, stories from Roma everyday life - are framework for a good programme which can serve purpose", said Sukovic.¹²¹

Ivan Toskic, the President of NGO Democratic Roma Center said that in organization of this NGO, radio programmes on Roma language are broadcasted via local public services of Radio Bar, Radio Tivat, Radio Kotor, and Radio Niksic, and via programme of Radio Cool¹²² from Podgorica. This emission also, deals with problems of Roma, their culture, tradition, education, employment and way of life.

Representatives of Roma population participated in the focus group, which took place on May 11, 2009, in Podgorica,. Participants of the focus group follow public services averagely from one to four hours a day. Participants emphasized that they watch TV Montenegro (TVCG) more than Radio Montenegro (RCG). They stated as the motive that TVCG, being television, is more interesting than radio, with better programme while RCG programme does not broadcast Roma music they would like to listen. One of the participants said: "I mostly watch programme on Roma population. On a St. George's Day, programme on Roma was broadcasted. Furthermore, I watch News. About one hour or two a day I watch TVCG but I rarely listen RCG. I like music, but our music. However, RCG does not broadcast our music."¹²³

Regarding Roma population, one of participants said that media speak about their social and material position in society through prism of Roma refugees, whose financial position is less than favorable when compared with domicile Roma, not taking into account values

119 *Ibid*

120 Answer of Darko Sukovic, from October 13, 2009; from the Initiative record

121 *Ibid*

122 Answer of Ivan Toskic on the questionnaire, submitted on July 6, 2009; from the Initiative records

123 Report from the Focus group which took place in Podgorica on May 11, 2009

of Roma as the population but only their financial position. It is important to broadcast programme which represent culture, tradition, and way of life of Roma and which may represent them in better manner and narrow prejudices of other people on them. Thus, one representative said: "I watch News and I like to watch programme about nature. Besides, I am interested in programme about Roma people, although I feel hurt while watching such programme, because when they create it they represent Roma in a very bad manner. They show only the poorest Roma. Naked children walk around the camera, playing in mud. They show garbage around our houses. I think that media, whether press or electronic media, should broadcast better contents about us. There are good and positive examples than can serve to represent us, not just the worst about Roma population every time, especially about Roma refugees, who came here from Kosovo. People who left everything they had and came here without anything. They must be poor. This hurts and offends me."¹²⁴ Another participant added he would like to watch programme about them on TVCG that would last twenty minutes and which would not represent negative things about Roma. He said there were positive things about his population. "We have very nice culture. I can see only selfishness of this society, selfishness which simply does not give space for our affirmation."¹²⁵

Contents, participants of this focus group watch or would like to watch are different from interest of participants from other focus groups mostly because all participants, notwithstanding their ages, show interest for entertaining programme based on their tradition. So, one participant said: "Song and dance are something that make lives of Roma people, something that feeds their spirit, however, that is not represented or is represented very little."¹²⁶

Representatives measured confidence towards media by the content and space that has been given to them as community and on this basis media satisfy their interests. They assessed that Atlas Television produced very good programme for Roma celebration of St. George's Day and they put this television before TVCG. One participant said: "Atlas TV broadcasted programme about Roma on the occasion of St. George's Day and the TV broadcasted it twice. They did it very well and this is the reason why I believe this television more than public service."¹²⁷

Participants emphasized they watched more commercial televisions than public service TVCG because of their better entertaining programme, and among them most important was TV Pink.

Via satellite and cable operators, participants follow media from the region countries by which they receive information on Roma language. As examples they mentioned media from Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria.

124 *Ibid*

125 *Ibid*

126 *Ibid*

127 *Ibid*

Participants stressed that TVCG may contribute to their faster integration in the society through creation of programmes on Roma students, culture of Roma, tradition, and other contents which would, according to participants' opinion, eliminate prejudices on them.¹²⁸ Participants consider that in their integration in the society and especially in the process of education, TVCG may play very important role and may facilitate all concrete difficulties they face with every day. TVCG may play this role best through better communication with Roma population, participants considered.

One of the participants said: "I believe private media more but I think that people should believe more national television. Currently, the country does not give enough in return to Roma population via its television and I think that large number of Roma shall believe more to private media than to national television. What Roma would like to see is not on the TVCG programme meaning that we are not represented in the society and not in any segment."¹²⁹

Participants said that difference between categories such as national minorities and refugees should be made, in production of specific contents on public service, because in that manner contents are usually based on the story on poor conditions of life of Roma population who came in Montenegro from Kosovo. It is important to leave more space to contents dealing with culture, tradition, and way of life of Roma population.

Roma people consider that TVCG should devote more attention to their children and women. One of participants considered there should be more programmes on Roma children that would encourage them to go and attend. He added that similar programmes would be very good and watched by Roma, especially if they would indicate how and what could they do, how to have their lives and how to get job, when they finish school.¹³⁰

Participants assessed that Public service RTVCG made progress when compared with the period five years ago, and they think that a lot of things must be done to improve situation regarding Roma, before all in the domain of informing on their mother language. Largest objection is that mostly all programmes about Roma are based on representation of poor conditions of life and, by their opinion, larger distance towards them is being made. However, they are satisfied with relation with RTVCG because they have never heard offensive words, such as the case with a private television.

One participant expressed discontent and doubt that something has changed in RTVCG work and added that everything would be the same in this television until their children got jobs.¹³¹

Veselj Beganaj from the Coalition NGO 'Roma circle' considers that progress has been made but more should be done in a view of better representation of contents on minorities. Beganaj said: "Save in Albanian minority in Montenegro, not any other minority can

128 Ethnic distance in Montenegro, CEDEM, Podgorica, April 2007

129 Report from the Focus group which took place in Podgorica from May 11, 2009, see 123

130 *Ibid*

131 *Ibid*

be satisfied with the Public service RTCG and especially Roma minority which has been completely excluded from the overall process.”¹³²

President of National board of Roma and Egyptians Isen Gasi, emphasized that the progress of RTCG has been noticed, but still very little content has been offered. “Unfortunately, not any media satisfies our needs, concretely we have an half an hour programme each fifteen days on Radio Montenegro (RCG) which is not enough for affirmation of national and cultural identity of Roma in Montenegro”, said Gasi.¹³³ Gasi added that minorities must be actively included in work of public services through participation of representatives in the Board of RTCG aiming at better strategy about the manner of reporting on minorities.

Conclusions

- Informative programme on Roma language does not exist on public services in Montenegro. Programme on culture, tradition, way of life of Roma has been broadcasted every fifteen days on RTCG and some local public services, Radio Bar, Radio Tivat, Radio Kotor, and Radio Niksic.
- Not any Roma journalist has long-term employment on public services. One journalist works as part-time employee in RTCG. The largest problem is nonexistence of personnel among Roma or journalists who actively speak Roma language.
- Considering programmes and contents speaking about Roma, what is mostly emphasized is their financial position which additionally influence on ethnic distance towards this national community.

Recommendations

- Establishers of national Public service RTCG and local radio services in municipalities where Roma live in large number should include informative programme on Roma language in financing contract.
- Competent national institutions should provide additional means for education of personnel, representatives of Roma national minorities in order to contribute strengthening capacities of journalists. Public services have to presume by systematization particular number of job positions for journalists who are representatives of Roma population. In redactions of programmes on minority languages is needed to include representatives of Roma population. Wide national action is necessary, which would be directed towards creation and strengthening capacities that would create programme for Roma population on Roma language.
- Programme contents that are provided for Roma should be more about culture, education, tradition, sport, and entertainment, with the aim to diminish ethnic distances in Montenegro which is, according to relevant researches, largest towards Roma people.

132 Answer of Veselj Beganaj on questionnaire, from June 23, 2009; from the Initiative record

133 Answer of Isen Gasi on questionnaire, from June 24, 2009; from the Initiative record

6. Serbs

There are 198,414 or 31.99% Serbs in Montenegro. In almost all towns, Serbs account more than 20% of population, except in following towns: Cetinje, Ulcinj, Rozaje and Plav. When this part of research comes in issue, the Initiative researchers decided on researching whether Serbs are sufficiently represented on public services, although representatives of that national community in the Parliament do not consider themselves as minority in Montenegro. However, after establishment of Serbian National Council, according to the Law on minority rights and freedoms, formed by each national minority in Montenegro, we conducted research because it indicates that part of citizens of Serbian nationality consider themselves as minority in Montenegro.

In interview of the Initiative researcher with the Chief Editor of RTV Pljevlja¹³⁴ Milivoje Iric, he said that RTV Pljevlja functions as public broadcasting service since 2006. Television Pljevlja was opened in 2006. There are 35 employees in that media.

Considering the content, Milivoje Iric said that RTPV follows events related to political events, culture, sport, and society. Also, events related to all religious communities in Pljevlja are followed.

Regarding special requirements of some minority communities in Pljevlja, Iric said that there were not any special interests and requirements; however, RTPV followed contents of all national communities in Pljevlja. "I claim that our viewer rating is extremely high and I know that as professional. If somebody does not like the content, they call us immediately. We had cases when viewers did not like something, they called immediately and reacted. Thus, we are satisfied, because viewer rating means everything to media. We do not orientate for cheap sensation, we have never faced with trials. Perhaps, they do not like the programme or the way we represent some event, we did not have research results but from our experience, we know that our central informative news at 19:00 has high rating and people usually react. They call us when they like something or dislike, which is very important for our profession – to be watched", said Iric.

134 From the interview of the Initiative researcher with the Chief Editor of RTV Pljevlja, Milivoje Iric, from September 18, 2009; from the Initiative records

In the focus group, which took place in Pljevlja,¹³⁵ participants stressed they watched more other TV programmes because of the quality of their contents which are better than Public services. However, regarding public services they mostly watch TV Pljevlja, especially Chronicle of Pljevlja. Considering TVCG programme, although little, participants mostly watch informative programmes, political, sport and educational and science programmes.¹³⁶

Participants stated they believed Montenegrin media very little, while they believed more to private media and local media, because of less control of authority. Local media in Pljevlja are financially dependent of national funds therefore, considered one of participants, that was the reason of absence of critical journalism and good reports.

“I believe local media more, also. We are all local patriots a little. We can not influence on editorial policy of both, but we can still influence more on local media than some national media”, emphasized one of participants.

Participants assessed there was lack of quality of programmes and lack of critical journalism, although RTCG has even more journalists than other media in Montenegro.

Considering church, Serbs and Orthodox Metropolitanate of Montenegro and Littoral are, as one of participants said, neglected on public service, discriminated and public service incited hatred against them. Regarding other areas, Serbs were also neglected, according to participants’ opinion. Neither literature nor other forms of culture were represented. Not even music.

Participants were rather more satisfied with Serbian public service – RTS, than with RTCG, because they thought that RTC produces good programmes, serials such as quizzes, programme of educational character, and media from the region are more objective. Through introduction of educational events, independent journalism and changes in editorial policy would improve quality and rating of RTCG.

Editor of web portal In4S Gojko Raicevic said that creators of Serbian national community were not present on public service. “Similar situation is even when we speak about time devoted to national groups. Albanian community has, proportionate to their number, very little space on RTCG but incomparably more than Serbs who are numerous”, said Raicevic. The structure of the TV Council and bodies which decide on production of programme does not leave impression that situation will be improved.

President of Serbian National Council of Montenegro Momcilo Vuksanovic, considered that Serbs were not represented on programmes of public service and that each reference to Serbian national community has been broadcasted in negative context.¹³⁷

135 Report from the focus group which took place in Pljevlja, from May 25, 2009; from the Initiative records

136 *Ibid*

137 Answer of Momcilo Vuksanovic on questionnaire, from July 6, 2009; from the Initiative records

“National representation should not be criteria for successfulness of TVCG, but respect of professional standards”, said Slavisa Guberinic.¹³⁸

Conclusions

- Representatives of Serbian National Community, who participated in the research, said they did not have confidence in RTVCG. Out of all public services, they mostly believed to RTV Pljevlja.
- Focus group participants said that, in order to satisfy their needs for informing, they watched TV programmes of neighbouring states, especially Serbia.
- Respondents considered that Serbian Orthodox Church and the culture of Serbs were neglected and discriminated.

Recommendations

- RTVCG should strengthen confidence of Serbian national community in Montenegro through more objective informing of public.
- Public services should broadcast more programmes on culture, religion, customs of Serbian national community.
- Discrimination based on religion and nationality should not be present on Public services in Montenegro thus, Public service should be the service for all citizens of Montenegro.

7. General findings of the research

- Montenegrin legislation, the Constitution of Montenegro, Law on minority rights and freedoms, Media Law, Law on broadcasting services, and Broadcasting Law provide relatively good basis for respecting of European standards in this area. However, when the practice comes in issue or implementation of those regulations, then reality becomes significantly different.
- Institution performing monitoring of respecting legislation regulations from this area does not exist in Montenegro. ARD should start with such activities in that direction.
- The country must make more effort and means in a view of exercising rights on informing on minority languages and culture and tradition of minority people.
- All public services have to make more effort in development of programme on culture, and tradition of minorities.
- RTCG broadcasts contents on Albanian and Roma language while programme on languages of other minorities are not represented. However, participants of the research expressed their discontent with the quality of programme contents on their language and on their culture, tradition, and way of life.
- Participants of minority population have to be involved in work of public services in organized and professional manner, through employment of particular number of journalists, editors, and others who belong to minorities, because the current representation of minority population is on unsatisfactory level.
- As the reason of absence of programme on languages of other minorities, representatives of RTCG mentioned similarity with Montenegrin language.
- RTCG broadcasts informative programme on Albanian language every day, while programme on culture, tradition and the way of life of Roma on Roma language is broadcasted twice a month.
- At the local level, public services do not have special programme contents and redactions for minorities. The exception is Radio Ulcinj which broadcasts programme proportionate to the structure of population in Ulcinj.
- Local public services were assessed better than national public service RTCG. Information or contents broadcasted by local radio and television are interesting, according to assessments of participants of focus groups.
- There is significant discontent with programme contents on minorities broadcasted by Public service. Reasons are: old information related to informative programme (Albanian minorities), information which strengthen specific prejudices (Roma minorities).

- Minority population in Montenegro satisfies their needs for information even through following regional public services and private programme.
- National councils receive from the country significant means for those intentions, and instead of establishing new media they should develop cooperation with Public services aimed at creation of programme that would be suitable to needs of representatives of minority people.

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