ANTI-CORRUPTION CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS UNIFIED NETWORK

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION OF ŽURNAL: We obtained a medical high school diploma in 17 days

Objavljeno: 04.01.2019. u 12:21h

Diplomu Srednje medicinske škole iz Sanskog Mosta koja je priznata u cijeloj BiH i Evropskoj uniji, naša novinarka stekla je za dvije sedmice. Posrednik tražio 2500 maraka za hitnu diplomu. U dokumentima navedeno da je prekvalifikacija trajala dvije godine. Diploma formalno izdata prije nego smo i predali dokumentaciju



The journalists of the online magazine Žurnal have carried out an unprecedented <u>action in</u> investigative journalism and proved that a medical high school diploma can be bought in 17 days. After this affair, the Ministry of Interior of Una-Sana Canton seized the documents of the Medical high school in Sanski Most, and it was revealed that the Employment Mediation Agency in Germany has issued a warning about dubious diplomas. It was also revealed that the 'BiH Prosecutors Office has dismissed the information on buying of diplomas submitted by the SIPA, and that it is trying to cover up the crime by switching the identities, as well as that "instead of arresting the persons responsible, the BiH Prosecutors Office is checking the journalists sources.

The highlights of this two-month period were the series of anti-corruption interventions that ACCOUNT facilitated across BiH to mark the anti-corruption week in December 2018. For that, seven CSOs from the ACCOUNT Network conducted the major public activity in 70 public institutions in 29 cities in the RS and FBiH entities to advocate for more efficient protection of whistleblowers. In Sarajevo, Zenica, Bijeljina and Livno, a consortium of four organizations (Foundation INFOHOUSE, Foundation CURE, Centre of Women Rights and Association of Citizens Grahovo), selected to implement the USAID-funded Women Candidates Program at the 2018 October elections, conducted the street actions which carried the slogan #skinilaznolicepolitike to raise public awareness of violation of women candidates/politicians' rights (http://www.viphd.ba/2018/12/07/sarajevo-ulicna-akcija-skini-lazno-lice-politike-obiljezavanje-antikoruptivne-sedmice-u-organizaciji-fondacije-infohouse-i-partnerskih-organizacija/).

- CVC*PONUKQP QOOP, OPFKECVGLARQU/ GNEVKOPCOPFCVGJ

The world of politics in BiH appears to be the male world. This was in particular demonstrated during the elections, which resulted with the decreased number of women receiving seats in BiH legislative institutions than during the 2014-2018 mandates. Now 7 women have received seats at the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, 25 women have been elected to the FBiH Parliament, and 14 women have received seats at the RS National Assembly.

The tables below provide data about distribution of mandates (2018-2022). The data were collected by the Association of Women Citizens Grahovo, one of the implementing organizations of the Women Candidates program and were published by the Intreview.ba media portal.





In Tuzla, ICVA, the leading organization in the healthcare sector, hosted a public discussion. The discussion was attended by 14 representatives of the healthcare institutions from Tuzla Canton, including the representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Anti-corruption team of the Tuzla Canton government (Clinical centre of Tuzla, Community Health Centre Gračanica, Community Health Centre Kladanj, General Hospital Gračanica, Spa Centre Gradačac, Health Insurance Institute of Tuzla canton, Public Health Institute of Tuzla Canton).

A model of the Rulebook for prevention of corruption in the healthcare institutions was presented as an efficient anticorruption mechanism that details clear procedures for prevention and processing of the corruption reports in an institution and contributes to the higher transparency in the healthcare institution's performance.

During the discussion the participants commented, presented their proposals and experiences in prevention and suppression of corruption within their healthcare institutions.

It was concluded:

- that the presented Rulebook model is a good material that the healthcare institutions can use and adapt to their work organisation and based on which they can either develop or revise existing rulebooks for prevention and suppression of corruption in the institution;

- that an electronic version of the rulebook model will be sent to all healthcare institution for further use;

- that another discussion will be held by the end of February 2019 bringing together representatives of healthcare institutions, representatives of the Ministry of Health and the cantonal Anti-corruption team as well as representatives of non-government organisations ICVA and Children's Land in BiH, at which the healthcare institutions will provide concrete comments to the rulebook model in order to define a harmonised rulebook model that fit most healthcare institutions in Tuzla Canton;

- ICVA will prepare materials for info desks in the healthcare institutions (posters containing information/instruction on how to report corruption), which will be distributed to the healthcare institutions that introduce the rulebook or initiate the process for introduction of the anti-corruption rulebook.

The discussion was covered by four media outlets (TV of Tuzla Canton, radio Free Europe, BHRT, RTV 7).





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At the request by the RS Ministry of Justice, during December 2018, INFOHOUSE provided a comprehensive report on the education program that ACCOUNT delivered to the public servants from the RS Centre for Free Legal Aid on legal protection of victims of corruption and whistleblowers aligned with the RS Law on Whistleblowers Protection.

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Additional, in collaboration with the RS Ministry of Justice, ACCOUNT also worked on advancing partnership with the RS Centre for Free Legal Aid to provide them with best regional practices, namely those from the Republic of Serbia, when it comes to protection of whistleblowers.

On January 15, 2019, the Foundation INFOHOUSE represented ACCOUNT at the meeting that the RS Ministry of Justice conducted with the representatives from the local and international donor organizations on the implementation process of the RS Anti-corruption Action Plan (2108-2020). The meeting discussed the strategic measures/activities from this plan and where the anti-corruption CSOs can assist.

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On December 24, 2018, the technical experts engaged by ACCOUNT presented to APIK the first draft of e-education modules for development of integrity plans in the state-level public institutions. This activity is a result of the close cooperation established between INFOHOUSE, APIK and technical experts to develop, put in use and make this e-course available. The official launch will take place in February.

*PVK, QTXRNQP; VTCAGIKGLONY GIQEON (GVGN

While forwarding technical assistance to the lower level of government, development of local anti-corruption action plans was initiated in 12 new municipalities/towns in the Federation of BiH. The first MoU on development of the anti-corruption action plan was signed with the Mayor of Doboj Istok on December 25, 2018.

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A "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed on January 9, 2019 with the Municipalities Fojnica and Kiseljak as part of the project "Building capacities of non-governmental organisations and selected municipalities/cities on development of anti-corruption strategies/action plans at the local level".

The signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding" was organised as to once more confirm cooperation between the ACCOUNT's partners and the project associates, thus starting the implementation of this project.

The Memorandum details cooperation between the representatives of the municipality and representatives of the nongovernmental sector, including technical assistance, institutional capacity building, exchange of information and promotion. The Memorandum is signed aimed at increasing preventive anti-corruptive efforts at the local level, and it entails establishment of a joint working group, technical support, education and exchange of information.



The project is realised by the Anti-corruption Network in BiH-ACCOUNT with the support the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and implemented by the Association ALDI in cooperation with the INFOHOUSE Foundation.

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The Memorandum of understanding with the Anticorruption network in BiH was signed with the Doboj Istok Municipality as part of the project "Strengthening capacities of local communities to prevent corruption". In the forthcoming period the municipality Doboj Istok will work on development of the Local anti-corruption action plan (2019-2021) aimed at improving institutional mechanisms, as well as efficient and transparent approach to the citizens of this municipality.



Mr. Jusuf Čavkunović, Mayor of Kladanj Municipality, on January 15, 2019 signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Anti-corruption network in BiH (ACCOUNT), thus making the cooperation on prevention of corruption at the local level under the project "Strengthening capacities of local communities to prevent corruption" official.

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KAM Association established cooperation with municipalities Maglaj and Doboj Jug on development of anticorruption plans. The Mayor of Maglaj, Mr. Mirsad Mahmutagić and Mayor of Doboj Jug, Mr. Mirnes Tukić, were happy to accept the cooperation, and have promptly appointed the working group for development of the Action plan for prevention of and fight against corruption. Furthermore, they have passed decisions on conduct of the Questionnaire on self-assessment of susceptibility to corruption, and as result of the decision, the employees have completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire is now to be qualitatively and quantitatively analysed, followed by a workshops to identify strategic directions of the Action plan.



With the Mayor of Maglaj

Meeting at Doboj Jug Municipality

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KAM Association has planned to include Busovača Municipality in the same activities as the municipalities Maglaj and Doboj Jug, but besides all the efforts, the mayor of Busovača Municipality, Mr. Asim Mekić, has rejected the cooperation with the explanation that he doesn't allow any non-government organisation to have access to the municipal budget, because the members of the non-government sector are fools. At the conclusion that the budget is a public document, he added that he, as the mayor, knows the law and that he will allow access to the budget only to the extent permitted by the law.

During the Anti-corruption week, KAM Association visited four municipalities (Zavidovići, Žepče, Visoko and Travnik), and offices of two Prime Ministers and two Assemblies (Zenica-Doboj Canton and Central Bosnia Canton) to deliver symbolic gift "a mirror" with the caption "Corruption starts with..."



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The training program for the partner municipalities that participate in development and implementation of the anticorruption action plans at the local level was held on January 24-25 in Sarajevo, and 17 municipalities/cities in the Federation of BiH had the chance to gather information about the integrated mechanism for efficient monitoring and assessment of realisation of measures/activities from the anti-corruption action plans. The program was delivered by Ljupka Simonoska Schulz, consultant for the international relations and regional anti-corruption and local governance expert.

With the support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID/BiH) this initiative is the result of joint work of the ACCOUNT Network and partner municipalities on development, but also implementation of the anti-corruption plans at the local level, monitoring of the implementation progress, as well as assessment of impact that these mechanisms have on a community.

Amra Softić, program development manager of the INFOHOUSE Foundation stressed that the main objective of this training was to provide the participants with an efficient mechanism, i.e. instrument for monitoring and assessment of the anti-corruption action plans' implementation and performance indicators.

- It is not a simple process, and the representatives of the municipalities were the ones who expressed the need for such a mechanism. Our intention was also to go beyond local frameworks, and to present to the participants regional experience and international standards in the use of instruments for monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption plans at the local level-said Softić for Interview.ba.

The first training day emphassised that the successful implemention of action plans' will be measured by indicators such as improved accountability of local administration, increase of efficiency and transparency of public services and increased citizens' confidence in the local authorities.

It was underlined that this improved methodology is based on international standards for monitoring and assessment of transparency and accountability of the local administration to fight the corruption.

One of the reasons for this gathering, as was stressed by Azra Borovac on behalf of the partner organization Association "Aldi" Goražde is to help the municipalities to adequately monitoring and implementing measures from the action plan.



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- We have carried out first monitoring of the action plans last year as to see to what extent are the municipalities implementing measures set in the action plan. At that time Goražde was the municipality that implemented the highest number of measures. However, there are other municipalities that have failed to do so. Therefore we have decided to develop an integrated methodology as to help them to efficiently monitor implementation of their measures, and to influence problem solution – explained Borovac for Interview.ba.

Association "Aldi" has been member of the anti-corruption network – ACCOUNT since 2015, and has worked with local communities on development of anti-corruption action plans in three cycles.

Goražde is one of the first municipalities to join the project, and Azra Valjevčić, a specialist and member of the anticorruption working group said that this project has helped them as they have passed a plan of anti-corruption measures and have implemented it almost entirely.

- A part relating to the integrity plan is what we have to still do, but we have not managed to do it as we are lacking human resources and technical support – said Valjevčić, adding that so far they didn't have a large number of corruption reports, but that have been working on informing the citizens about their rights and the ways to address city authorities.

Travnik municipality is also at the integrity plan preparation stage, said Aida Daul, Secretary General of Travnik municipality and leader of the Anti-corruption team.

As she said, her team is attending the training in order to get confirmation that they have been correctly implementing measures of the action plan for this municipality.

- We have gone far concerning the normative activities and we have done many things that I am not certain other municipalities have done. Of course it was all done in cooperation with the INFOHOUSE and Association KAM. We have also adopted the Action Plan for 2020 – said Daul.

She added that they have also passed a Rulebook on handling reports, thus defining the issue of anonymous reports of corruption, but also making possible for the ones filing the report to reveal their identity.

The second day of the training was continued with the same level of interest by other partner municipalities that have interactively participated in verifying implementation successfulness of anti-corruption action plans through an integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

With the technical support from ACCOUNT, a total of 40 municipalities/cities have so far participated in the process of development and implemention anti-corruption action plans at the local level.

After completion of the program, the partner municipalities will continue to use, the mechanism, strategic approach and the methodology for monitoring and assessing implementation of the action plans as their legacies.





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Federation of BiH - public campaign "Fight against corruption starts with"

The campaign entitled "Fight against corruption starts with…" which marked of the Anti-Corruption Week was organised in around twenty cities in the Federation of BiH. Its primary objective was to underline significance and the role of public employees in "blowing the whistles", when it comes to fight against corruption.

Apart from the Citizens' Association JUSTICIA and INFOHOUSE Foundation, the following organisations – members of the ACCOUNT network participated in the public campaigns: Centre for Civic Cooperation Livno, Centre for Development of Youth Activism – CROA Sarajevo, Centre for Civil Society Development Doboj, KAM Zenica, and ALDI Goražde.

In the week of December 11, 2018., the members visited public institutions at all levels, holding short meetings with the representatives of these institutions and handing over promotional materials that they have asked to be visibly placed in their institutions as to be available to all or most of their employees.

They visited public institutions in Sarajevo, Vogošća, Ilijaš, Breza, Livno, Ljubuški, Tomislavgrad, Čapljina, Zenica, Travnik, Vitez, Zavidovići, Visoko, Goražde, Usora, Gračanica, Lukavac, Kalesija, Domaljevac-Šamac, Odžak, etc.

The need to improve legal protection of whistleblowers in the Federation of BiH by adopting the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers was underlined during these visits, as well as the need to animate more whistleblowers in the public institutions.



Republika Srpska – public campaign "In case of emergency, break the glass"

The campaign entitled "In case of emergency, break the glass", which was part of the Anti-Corruption Week, was organised in Republika Srpska, and implemented by the same organisations in Banja Luka, Doboj, Bijeljina, Foča, Ugljevik, Lopare, Rogatica and Višegrad. The objective of this campaign was to promote legal protection of potential whistleblowers, aligned with the RS Law on Protection of Whistleblowers that was adopted in July 2017.

Namely, although almost year and a half has passed since adoption of this Law, it has not been promoted in Republika Srpska. Furthermore, according to the results of the study carried out by the ACCOUNT Monitoring team for the period July 2017 – July 2018, and information received from the RS Ministry of Justice, only two cases of external protection before the court, in line with provisions of this Law, were documented in this period, but the outcome of the proceeding is unknown. Also, according to the results of our Monitoring team's study, out of 107 subjects included in the study, only 3 have received 8 internal reports, but most of these were rejected due to lack of physical evidence.

The following institutions in Republika Srpska were visited: the RS Government, the RS Civil Service Agency, the RS Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, Health Insurance Fund of RS, City of Banja Luka, Banja Luka Hospital, Public enterprise Roads of RS, Agency for development of small and medium sized enterprises, the RS National Assembly, RS Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs, Banja Luka University, RS Prosecutor's Office, City of Doboj, etc.



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- The materials (a mirror and leaflets) for the anti-corruption week were handed over on December 21, 2018 to Ankica Šaravanja, president of the working group for development of the Anti-corruption Action Plan of Ljubuški Municipality. Ms. Šaravanja was also informed about the meeting scheduled for January 25, 2019 in Sarajevo.



Handover of materials to the president of Ljubuški municipality working group

- On the same day the materials were handed over to Snježana Grgić, president of the working group for development of the Anti-corruption Action Plan of Čapljina Municipality, who was also informed about the meeting scheduled for January 25, 2019 in Sarajevo.



Handover of materials to the president of Čapljina municipality working group

ACCOUNT MEDIA POOL REVEALS AND INVESTIGATES

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ACCOUNT Media pool has published 22 investigative stories about corruption in different sectors. The journalists of ACCOUNT Media pool investigated about "pillage of Velika Kladuša budget, abuse of veterans rights in Republika Srpska, abuse of Microcredit Company Taurus; employment of family members, anti-corruption situation in Republika Srpska, destruction of industry, fixing of the jobs in the Civil Service Agency, violation of employees rights in Trebinje, scams related to purchase of a hotel in Ljubinje, political abuses of culture institutions in Republika Srpska, bankruptcy crime in Republika Srpska, loan abuses in Thermal Power Plant Tuzla, tourism projects in Republika Srpska that were never completed, public procurements related to the Islamic Community, employment along political party lines, use of education institutions for political purposes, fabrication of environment impact study during the construction of hydropower plant Vrilo near Tomislavgrad, employment of family members in the judicial institutions, destruction of food industry in Gradiška, nepotism during the process of organising event to celebrate 40 years of Faculty of Medicine in Banja Luka, dubious faculty diplomas of high ranking officials in Republika Srpska, and excessively overpaid turf of FC "Želježničar".



In the forthcoming period the members of the ACCOUNT Media Pool will continue working on investigative stories about the corruption. Members of the ACCOUNT media pool are: Capital.ba, Buka, eTrafika, Gerila, Inforadar, Moja Hercegovina, Tačno.net, B1 Info, Frontal.ba, Direkt, Impuls.

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As to mark the Anti-Corruption Week, ACCOUNT published 5 editions of online "Afera" that contained texts of the ACCOUNT Media pool and the Online magazine Žurnal published during 2018.



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The non-government sector has managed to include concrete proposals that prevent corruption into the Draft Law amending the Public Procurement Law. We will continue following the adoption process – said Eldin Karić, Director of ACCOUNT.



The Anti-corruption network ACCOUNT has in cooperation with the Public Procurement Agency contributed to establishment of a more transparent and responsible public procurement system by proposing concrete solutions for amending the BiH Public Procurement Law and by organising education for the judges and prosecutors aimed at more efficient implementation of the Law and identification of corruption. On the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day it was announced that a more serious progress in the fight against corruption requires a more resolute move of all institutions of the system.

"The Public Procurement Agency, and some representatives of judiciary, have shown that there are individuals who want to fight corruption in public procurements. Unfortunately, they require stronger support. The public funds are through the public procurement system still ending up directly in the hands of the criminals, at the expense of the entire society. The non-government sector has managed to include concrete proposals that prevent corruption into the Draft Law amending the Public Procurement Law. We will continue following the adoption process" – said Eldin Karić, Director of ACCOUNT.

Eldin Karić: "The public funds are through the public procurement system still ending up directly in the hands of the criminals, at the expense of the entire society."

The draft Law amending the Public Procurement Law sets forth steeper pecuniary fines, and defines criminal offences in the public procurement.

"Draft Law is in the procedure, and first it has to be adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers, then by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The true situation will be revealed during the amendment stage, and we will see who is for and who is against the anti-corruptive solutions" – said director of the BiH Public Procurement Agency Denan Salčin, and added:

"The behaviour pattern where rigging the tender, submitting tender documents, brother to brother, father do daughter...has become normal is quite worrying. The Agency will by the end of the year make 7-8 misdemeanour notifications as to start the sanctioning process. The time has come for the government to send a clear message that the corruptive behaviour patterns will not be tolerated."

Denan Salčin: "The time has come for the government to send a clear message that the corruptive behaviour patterns will not be tolerated."

Milica Pranjić, legal advisor in the Court of BiH and Adnan Tulić, head of the Department for organised crime of the Una-Sana Canton Prosecutor's office talked about the court practice in prosecuting abuses and corruption in the public procurement system.

"Court practice has shown that there are no good and bad laws. Implementation of the law is the key. Analysis of the Court of BiH's practice has shown that the existing Public Procurement Law has problem with the sanctions. The Court of BiH finds the proposed introduction of inspection to be a very good step. There has to be a penalty. Somebody has to protect public interest" – said Milica Pranjić.

Milica Pranjić: "There has to be a penalty. Somebody has to protect public interest."

The offence of corruption is, by its very nature, difficult to prove. When it comes to public procurements, the majority of corruptive actions is viewed through the prism of abuse of office or official authority.

"The practice is devastating. The ones involved in corruption in the public procurement system have no fear of facing adequate repressive response by the justice system.

The judicial community must get involved in amending of the laws, and has to offer a definition of offence of corruption in the public procurement"-said Adnan Tulić.

Adnan Tulić: "The judicial community must get involved in amending of the laws, and has to offer a definition of offence of corruption in the public procurement".









Eldin Karić

Đenan Salčin

Milica Pi

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The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights has under the project "Equal opportunities – transparency of employment in public sector III" and on the occasion of marking the Anti-Corruption Week held a press conference to present Analysis of the legislative framework on employment in public sector in 7 cantons in BiH (Posavina, Goražde, Tuzla, Central Bosnia, Zenica-Doboj, Una-Sana and Canton 10). A short movie on implemented activities in the employment sector was presented at the press conference.





Press conference, Tuzla, December 10, 2018

Press conference, Tuzla, December 10, 2018

On December 7, 2018, the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption held a press conference to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day. <u>Director of the ACCOUNT Network Eldin Karić attended</u> the conference alongside the representatives of the institutions, diplomatic core and non-government sector.



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December 9 – International Anti-Corruption Day was marked by the members of ACCOUNT Network. Namely, during the Anti-Corruption week all members of the network have distributed leaflets in the cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, informing the citizens about the significance of prevention and the fight against corruption.



Livno, Visoko, Doboj, Zenica.....



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Press Conference with APIK on the launch of e-education modules on development of integrity plans for 75 BiH public institutions. The launch will be accompanied with the intensive advocacy campaign.

Intensive public awareness campaign with women candidates-feature stories in Sarajevo, Zenica, Banja Luka and Grahovo will be conducted to channel the well-defined messages to public about the available legal support mechanisms when it comes to protection of women candidates/politicians rights pre and post-elections.

Presentation of the first report on implementation of the action plan for fight against corruption of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Government on January 18, 2019, organised with the support of ACCOUNT, the INFOHOUSE Foundation participated in the development of this Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan.

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The journalists of the online magazine Žurnal have carried out an unprecedented <u>action in investigative journalism</u> and proved that a medical high school diploma can be bought in 17 days. After this affair, the Ministry of Interior of Una-Sana Canton seized the documents of the Medical high school in Sanski Most, and it was revealed that the Employment Mediation Agency in Germany has issued a warning about dubious diplomas. It was also revealed that the 'BiH Prosecutors Office has dismissed the information on buying of diplomas submitted by the SIPA, and that it is trying to cover up the crime by switching the identities, as well as that "instead of arresting the persons responsible, the BiH Prosecutors Office is checking the journalists sources.

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Numerous domestic and regional media outlets have published the Žurnal's investigative story on buying of a diploma, amongst others <u>Večernji list, Jutarnji list, Vijesti, Telegraf, Kurir, Cafe del Montenegro</u>, but also Austrian <u>Kosmo</u>.



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Journalists of Žurnal investigated to whom did HDZ BiH intend to give Vitezit, as well as why Vitezit was and still is a cover for smuggling and illegal profiteering.

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Żurnal investigated about <u>abuses of the</u> <u>Ministry of Education of Sarajevo</u> <u>Canton, different criteria for professor</u> tenure at the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo, distribution of funds of the Education Development Fund of the Sarajevo University, abuses during introduction of IT system to the Health Insurance Institute of Sarajevo Canton, rigged tenders in Public Enterprise "Roads RS", how did the war crime suspect, Ljuban Ećim, evaded arrest, as well as about SDA wrote-off debts to FENAAgency.



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