



## **MONTENEGRO**

*Section 1: clarifying legal situation (School Boards, Parents Councils, other rights/duties of parents of school children) at national and local level in more detail. Rights and obligations of the main actors (parents, schools, school boards etc) with respect to parental participation*

Generally, the legal situation in regards to parental involvement has not greatly changed since the report from the previous phase, so all of the things that were mentioned in that report can be still used.

*Section 2: additional/new information on parental participation activities not covered in previous report.*

After the interview held with the president of Parents' Association in Montenegro, one of the things she mentioned was the following fact (in regards to parents' participation and School Board functioning):

According to the Regulation book related to school's governing, School Boards are required to comprise: two representatives of Ministry of Education and Science; two representatives of the Bureau for Educational Services; two school employees' representatives and one parents' representative (for schools that were founded by a municipality, two representatives of that municipality are, as well, members of a related School Board).

In practice, this is really not functioning as presented by the regulations. The Parents' Association commented and reacted on some inconsistencies related to this: there are supposed to be four representatives of the educational institutions (Ministry of Education and Science and Bureau for Educational Services) in each School Board. The Association points out that, for instance, it would mean that for 161 elementary schools in Montenegro, it will take 322 representatives of Bureau for Educational Services and the same number of representatives on behalf of Ministry of Education and Science. The fact is that, in practice, there is not that number of employees in either Bureau or Ministry. Consequently, both the Bureau and the Ministry appoint people for whom they consider would be able to be legitimate representatives – mainly people who are recognized in their communities as respective ones. This leads to another problem: for instance, in one elementary school in Montenegro, a representative appointed by the Ministry of Education does not live in the local community where the school is situated; his children do not attend that school and he is working in an institution from completely different field of work – connected to technical sciences. He received the written notification from the Ministry providing him with the right to represent the Ministry in the School Board. Even though the Association reacted on this through the negotiations with the representatives of Ministry of Education and Science, no changes have been made.



According to legislation, the obligations of School Boards and some general information on its functioning are given below:

- A public school is governed by a School Board. The number of representatives is regulated by a school's statute, with the regulation that the number can be neither less than 5 nor more than 9.
- The structure of the Board is: two representatives of Ministry of Education and Science; two representatives of the Bureau for Educational Services; two school employees' representatives and one parents' representative (for schools that were founded by a municipality, two representatives of that municipality are, as well, members of a related School Board).
- Assemblies of the Board can be attended by the representative of a pupils' body
- The members of the Board are elected for the time length of 4 years
- The Board is constituted during the first Assembly. If a school does not elect a Board, the minister of Education and Science, on a principal's proposal, appoints the Board, but only for the period up to six months.

Board's members:

- 1) Adopt a plan of development;
- 2) Adopt an annual report and report on its implementation
- 3) Discuss programmes and results of extracurricular activities;
- 4) Adopt the Statute, internal organization act and employment procedures, as well as other general acts.
- 5) Adopt annual financial report
- 6) Suggest change of the name or site of a school
- 7) As a second instance administration body, decide on: rights of employees, pupils and other stakeholders in accordance with law.
- 8) Work on other thing that according to law and school's statute.

In order to take into consideration parents' interests, a school must appoint Parents Council. It is comprised of parents of the pupils from different classes. They are elected during the parents-form teacher's meeting. This is done according to Statute of a school.

Parents Council has got following duties:

- 1) Desides on who will represent parents in School Board
- 2) Gives an opinion on suggested annual plan
- 3) Discusses the report on school's functioning;
- 4) Discusses potential objections from pupils or parents that are related to school's functioning
- 5) Work on other thing that according to law and school's statute.