



**GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (AOC) PROGRAMME**

Podgorica, 2 April 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The Alliance of Civilizations is an initiative of the United Nations based on the universal values of promotion of understanding, dialogue, and trust among various ethnical communities, cultures and religions.

While having in mind multi-century tradition of fostering multicultural and multi-civilization relations, developing an intercultural dialogue and promoting the respect for differences, in August 2007 Montenegro joined the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Montenegro, as multiethnic, multicultural, and multi-confessional society, is committed to provide a contribution to joint programmes and projects initiated as part of the Alliance having as primary objective peace building, strengthening of democratic institutions, social and cultural development aimed to reduce intolerance and disagreements and to build mutual respect.

Having in mind that Montenegro is Balkan and Mediterranean country which strives towards integration into the European structures, respecting cultural differences, traditions and customs and devotion to principles of non-discrimination, tolerance and dialogue promotion, represent fundamental values of the Montenegrin society. Montenegro has succeeded, by fostering such values, to preserve multi-ethnic harmony and harmonic inter-religious relations during warfare on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

As a small country and the youngest UN member, Montenegro is building its role in the international relations on constructive base, as a stability factor not only in the region but even further.

Montenegro is basing its participation and contribution to the work of the Alliance of Civilizations and Group of Friends on following principles:

- Program and result oriented action;
- Partnership relations;
- Exchange of knowledge and use of comparative experiences; and above all
- Joint responsibility concerning defined objectives and achieved results.

On those grounds Montenegro is undertaking actions to promote, maintain and strengthen cooperation and exchange information with other countries sharing the same values, whether bilaterally or participating in numerous activities under the auspices of UN agencies (primarily UNESCO and UNDP) and other international organisations and regional initiatives, including EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, Union for the Mediterranean, Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, MARRI, Regional Cooperation Council, Central European Initiative, and other. Additionally, the activities

of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe Countries, established in 2005, are of particular importance in such context, as the basic principles for the establishment are the development of joint cultural strategy, exchange of information and experiences and development of new projects aimed to promote dialogue, peace, and understanding.

Developing partnership with countries, international, and regional organisations, civil society, and private sector in order to carry out existing and create joint projects to implement fundamental objective of the Alliance of Civilizations are high on the agenda of priorities of the Government of Montenegro.

In order to preserve overall national identity, Montenegro pays a particular attention to the protection of minorities and minority communities. Basic principles of the most important international instruments, which have defined measures against spreading of racial, national, and religious intolerance, violence and discrimination with respect to different religious or ethnic affiliation, are incorporated in the constitutional and legislative solutions.

Councils of minorities and the Fund for Minorities represent a particular improvement in work and inclusion of minorities and minority communities in the socio-economic life of Montenegro. Electoral assemblies for selection of members of following councils were held up to now: Croatian Council, Bosniak Council, Roma Council, Muslim Council, Albanian Council, and Serbian Council. The Fund for Minorities supports the activities important to preserve and develop national or ethnic specificities of minorities and their members in the area of national, ethnic, cultural, language, and religious identity.

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The National Plan for the Implementation of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Programme will provide a brief retrospect in terms of the analysis of measures undertaken up to date in Montenegro which are in accordance with 4 key areas of activities of the Alliance of Civilizations and identify future activities aimed to promote an increased participation of youth, objectivity of media, strengthening of education programmes, as well as regulation of natural migration flows based on the ground of mutual responsibility, solidarity, and security.

The National Plan for the Implementation of the Programme of Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) was developed by the Working group coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Media, the Ministry for Protection of Human and

Minority Rights, the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Public Administration, the Ministry of Justice, and the Centre for Emigrants, in cooperation with the representative of Montenegro in the Network of the Group of Friends of the AoC.

### Principal Objectives

- Managing differences in the globalized environment and accelerated migration trends and creation of relevant policies and initiatives;
- Creating the environment to foster and develop constructive relations and mutual-cooperation relations of different cultural and religious communities;
- Encouraging the cultural exchange in order to reduce risks arising from lack of understanding and increasing tensions among different cultural communities;
- Strengthening mutual understanding, trust, and respect of different cultural and religious communities;
- Promotion of the cultural dialogue;
- Overcoming cultural barriers;
- Intensifying cooperation at the local level through increased engagement of cities and local self-government units at the international level;
- More active youth involvement and action in the processes of creating and shaping policies at all levels;
- Strengthening the role of individual and above all strengthening the role of the women;
- Development of new ideas, defining existing partnership relations and widening the network of partnerships with member States, international organisations, foundations, civil society and private sector.

### Key Fields of Activities

Education systems, media, youth and migrations have decisive role in defining projects that promote understanding among cultures globally:

- ✓ Education system enables access to studying new knowledge and skills and to great extent impacts the development of the

system of values, where the tolerance, equality, and respect of human right take central part.

- ✓ Media have an important role in promoting and fostering the culture of tolerance and understanding among various ethnic, cultural and religious groups within the society, as well as the fight against racism and intolerance.
- ✓ Having in mind that the youth is the most important resource of the society, the role of the youth is of particular importance for designing and developing programs aimed to reduce inter-cultural polarisation and encourage respect of cultural differences.
- ✓ Migrations represent one of the basic elements for the economic and social development policies for all countries, whereat a particular attention should be dedicated to strengthening of positive and eliminating negative migration consequences while promoting humane policies in that area.

## **PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

### **EDUCATION**

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The education policy is based on the principles of democracy, respecting civil and human rights and providing equal opportunities for everyone. The imperative of the education reform in Montenegro is to achieve a quality education for everyone and to prepare young people for life in a multicultural and democratic society.

The starting points of the reformed education system in Montenegro are based on the Constitution and relevant international documents: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Resolution on the European Dimension in Education, the Bologna Declaration, the Lisbon Convention, the Copenhagen Declaration.

The Constitution of Montenegro enables the right of education under equal conditions, rights of national minorities on education in their language and script in the State institutions, as well as the right for the curricula to include also the history and culture of members of minority nations and other minority national communities.

The programmes of civic education are developing better communication among children and adults; contribute to the understanding and respect of differences and promotion of equal rights for everyone.

With regard to the difference of the mother tongues of national minorities in Montenegro, two national minority communities or two minority nations are distinguished: Albanians and Roma.

Montenegro has respected and carried out national and international standards with regard to the education and teaching in the Albanian mother tongue to the maximum extent. The schools delivering curricula in the Albanian language are the part of the single schooling system.

The Ministry of Education and Science is paying significant attention to the integration of the Roma in the formal education system as part of the educational system reform, aimed to assist them with their overall integration into the Montenegrin society.

Signing of bilateral agreements with large number of countries on the territory of Europe and Asia was initiated, having as objective among other things the convergence of two countries with regard to the language, culture and education. Certain agreements were signed (countries of the region), while other are in the harmonisation procedure.

Cooperation programmes:

The realisation of the **TEMPUS** program started in 2000 in Montenegro. The intent of these projects is the implementation of sustainable cooperation among countries of the Western Balkan and the EU countries.

The **Erasmus mundus – External Cooperation Window**: represents a new cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. The University of Montenegro is a member of the Basileus group.

Every year approximately 60 students and professors from Montenegro use the scholarship from the **CEEPUS** – the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies, and approximately 30 foreign students and lecturers stay in Montenegro.

The **Seventh Framework Program for Science and Research (FP 7)**, as the largest science program co-financed by the European Commission has offered to Montenegro a possibility to cooperate with all countries in the world in the field of science.

Every year, a certain number of countries offer scholarships to our students and researchers to continue education in higher education institution of their countries (China, Japan, Greece, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Austria, Slovakia, Russian Federation). The scholarship program includes preparatory years to study the languages and cultures of host countries.

Montenegro is the participant of the project "**Education for all**", having as principal objectives to provide for everyone, and in particular to children from vulnerable families, members of national minorities,

compulsory free basic education, to enable equal access to education and professional training for young people and adults, to eradicate illiteracy, etc.

Annually Montenegro awards three to five scholarships of the **United World Colleges** through the Institute for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technical Cooperation, whereby one of the criteria for the selection of scholars is human rights knowledge as well as demonstrated overall tolerance, in addition of the school grade level.

The University of Montenegro, as far as the bilateral cooperation is concerned has a successful cooperation with universities in Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Italy, Israel, Macedonia, Germany, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, and other. Seminars and conferences having as objective regional and broader linking are organised on regular basis.

#### *Planned Activities:*

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- Organising summer schools and courses of international character;
- Organising conferences in order to achieve cooperation among our and foreign higher education institutions, with the objective to organise joint programmes (joint master and doctoral programmes, meaning that students will stay on several faculties during their study, and after that a Joint Diploma would be issued to them);
- Strengthening bilateral cooperation with geographically remote countries which have different cultural, historic and religious heritage;
- Support to projects which would have as an objective strengthening of multiculturalism;
- Support to the cooperation of the NGO sector, state administration and educational institutions in order for them to carry out project that would promote civic education;
- Considering the opening of a college in Montenegro (part of the United World Colleges) and support of such idea.

## **YOUTH**

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Montenegro strives, as a multiethnic and multicultural country, to undertake activities that are affirming communication among youth, by developing and supporting projects that promote understanding of the

interculturality concept and tolerance among young people. A particular support for this process is provided by the civil sector projects that cover the international youth cooperation and transfer of positive practice examples to the local level.

Strategic documents about work with youth are placing a particular attention within the segment of respecting human rights, to the fostering of tolerance, proactive youth participation, reduction of prejudices and accepting differences. In the five-year Youth Action Plan (2007-2011), the emphasis is on the increased visibility of programs having intercultural concept and peer education. Development of volunteerism, promotion and support to mobility programmes, and increased youth exchange through educational, scientific and informal education programmes will represent a significant contribution to the intensive communication among young people of different origin and their active participation in the life and the development of the community.

### **Mechanisms for the Implementation and Financing of the Youth Programmes**

Following the adoption of the National Youth Action Plan (NYAP) on 12 October 2006, the Government of Montenegro has tasked the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Media to create conditions that will enable the implementation of this document. To that end, the Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Media has established a Department for Sport and Youth being responsible to coordinate and implement the NYAP. Additionally, the Government has confirmed the selection of the Youth Council which has the task to monitor the realisation of the NYAP. Based on the NYAP, which contains the five-year plan of measures, priority activities will be identified for each year and based of which the annual Action Plan of the NYAP will be defined, which in turn addresses youth issues in nine areas, and so as follows: education, employment, health, participation in the life of the society, human rights, culture, free time, awareness and mobility, and family.

The Department for Sport and Youth of the Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Media together with the Youth Council through elected representatives of the Government's institutions and local self-government units, as well as certain number of non-governmental organisations having as primary activity youth related issues, have established cooperation and are implementing the NYAP.

A direct youth work in communities through the civil sector is implemented through youth clubs of local self-government units having certain number of volunteers. This is particularly the case for the educational-development workshops and training for youth, events and actions in the community, youth festivals, summer camps, youth



awareness programmes, developing volunteerism, support to creation and implementation of local youth strategies, and similar.

The Project of the Social Revitalisation of Youth in Montenegro, which will be co-financed by the Government of Italy in cooperation with the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), will strengthen capacities of all structures engaged in the NYAP implementation, among other things.

Both office space and technical prerequisites for the establishment of the youth office are created in order to support this Project as well as the overall NYAP, which will serve as the central info point for the realisation of the NYAP and for the development of the youth action plans.

It is expected that the Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Media will develop the proposal of the Law on Youth during this year.

#### *Planned Activities*

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- Implementation of the National Youth Action Plan and the Action Plans for 2009 and 2010;
- Assistance to non-governmental organisations coming from different national communities and having less possibilities to establish the Youth Support Fund;
- Promoting and organising literacy programmes and trainings, and program for acquiring first vocation according to the modular training principle for young Roma and members of other ethnic minorities;
- Advocating and initiating activities to reduce the procedure for nostrification of diplomas;
- Support to the non-governmental sector and municipalities in organising trainings, camps, summer schools, debates, and international exchange programs in order to promote and understand the concept of an interethnic society;
- Developing programs of cultural convergence of youth from different ethnic and confessional environments;
- Supporting the development of the model for education of youth in schools and faculties about topics promoting cultural heritage and multiculturalism;
- Supporting the implementation of the National Strategy on Volunteerism by developing volunteering programs and services for youth that are promoting multiculturality;

- Cooperation with the UN organisation for the purpose of awareness and understanding the rights of youth, representatives of national minorities and refugees.

## **MEDIA**

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Taking into consideration that freedom of information and free flow of information, regardless of frontiers, have the key role in all democratic societies, an adequate legal framework has been created in Montenegro for development of the scene of independent and autonomous media that reflect pluralism of opinions in the context of realization of media freedoms.

**The Law on Media** prescribes that the state is to provide a part of financial resources for realization of citizens' rights guaranteed by the Constitution and law with regard to information, without discrimination, in respect of program contents which are significant for development of science and education, development of culture and provision of information to persons with impaired hearing or sight.

Public radio-broadcasting service is designed in the way that with the application of high standards of professional ethics and quality, without discrimination, with its programs it satisfies and protects the interest of the public, on national and local level, through informative, cultural, educational, sports and entertaining programs, particularly taking care of children and youth, members of minority nations and other minority national communities, disabled persons, socially threatened and other specific groups. This concept facilitates promotion and respect for human rights and freedoms, privacy and dignity of citizens, promotion of pluralism of social and welfare ideas, improvement of public dialogue culture, as well as observance of language differences.

The largest part of information for members of national minorities through **printed media** in Montenegro is provided in Albanian language, while Croatian ("Hrvatski glasnik"), Romany ("Točak") and Bosniak languages ("Bošnjačke novine", "Forum") are also present. Publishing of printed media is frequently conditioned by economic capability, and therefore the periodicity of their publishing is changeable, although the State provides them with specific support. "Koha javore" is a printed media in Albanian language published weekly in 10.000 copies. The magazine treats the issues from the area of culture, education and science. Its internet issue is also accessible to Albanian Diaspora community. Other printed media in Albanian are mostly issued by nongovernmental associations (Kronika, Lemba, Dija, Malesija, Gjon Don Bjuzuku and other).

For the purpose of realization of citizens' rights to information in their own language, the law envisages the obligation of the State to provide for a part of financial resources for programs for information in Albanian and languages of other national and ethnic groups. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media enforces legal obligations through provision of funds in the state budget for production and broadcasting of legally envisaged programs of national public service **RTCG** that are significant for development of science, education, culture and provision of information to persons with impaired hearing or sight, and for provision of information in Albanian and languages of members of other national and ethnic groups.

Taking into account that the role of public service is primarily to produce programs that encourage and develop democratic values of a society (respect for human rights, national culture, rights of members of minorities, political pluralism and other), special attention is paid to realization of rights to information of minority nation members.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media regularly organizes annual competitions for co-financing of programs and projects in media as to encourage the production and publishing that are primarily related to the promotion and affirmation of tolerance and dialogue culture, cultural and artistic creation work, realization of rights to information without discrimination and the like. The Ministry, also, announces annual competitions for the best media research feature with the topic of social integration of Romanies in Montenegro and fulfils the obligations in relation to media presentation of the project **Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015**.

**The Strategy for improvement of the position of RAE population in Montenegro 2008-2012** will additionally develop and improve the rights related to provision of information to Romanies.

1. Activities of advertising and educational character will be undertaken in relation to Roma community as to additionally raise awareness and encourage inclusion of Roma population into educational system; brochures will be produced in Romany language, while seminars, round tables and presentations will be organized.
2. Through the programs of national public service and local public service, with support of competent ministries, campaigns will be organized to support inclusion of the Romanies - RAE into educational system; in the same way, raising of awareness will be promoted with regard to the necessity of providing special and additional aid by the State and the society to Romany population for achieving these goals.
3. Measures and activities will be undertaken for the purpose of promoting Romany culture, tradition, creative work especially

- through publications in Romany language, provision of support to Roma artists and cultural workers, cultural-artistic associations, raising public awareness with regard to Roma tradition and culture through public service and adequate programs; for the purpose of achieving these goals a number of journalists of Romany nationality will be employed in the state and local public service.
4. Radio-broadcasting Agency will undertake specific measures of affirmative action towards media which include programs related to the Romanies, their culture, tradition, way of life and other.
  5. Through undertaking of a range of media-marketing and educational-informative activities particularly by the public service for promotion and raising awareness of the position and needs of the Roma population; this also includes organization of expert seminars, public debates, round tables with regard to these issues.

***Results achieved in provision of information in Albanian and Romany languages (on public service and commercial radio and TV stations)***

*Provision of information in Albanian*

**Public Service Radio of Montenegro** according to its fixed scheme broadcasts informative program in Albanian, prepared and realized by the Editorial Staff in Albanian language. Two informative shows are regularly broadcasted on daily basis, while an informative-musical show is broadcasted once a week. The shows treat actual daily information related to events in the country and the world, and in the regions of Montenegro where Albanians live.

**Television of Montenegro**, within its programs broadcasts educational, scientific, cultural, as well as programs for disabled persons in minority languages. **Public Radio-Broadcasting Service Television of Montenegro** daily prepares and broadcasts an informative show Lajmet (News) within its Editorial Department in Albanian language. Once a week the informative-musical show "Mozaiku 60" is broadcasted, which is also broadcasted by satellite. "Mozaiku 60" is a feature show which includes features from various areas: education, culture, tourism, agriculture, ecology, supplemented by parts of musical program.

The contribution to provision of information in Albanian language in Montenegro is also given by private commercial radio and TV stations.

*Informing in Romany Language*

Informing of **Roma population** in Montenegro is realized through programs of the National Public Radio-Broadcasting Service. Shows are dedicated to integration of Roma population in Montenegro. They are prepared by journalists of Romany nationality.

As a contribution to improvement of information in Romany language, a weekly show "Romi govore" – "O Romi vakeren" on **Radio Antena M** is prepared and realized by Democratic Romany Centre with the support by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media and international organizations.

The Ministry co-finances, **through annual competition**, programmes/projects in printed and electronic media related to social integration of Romanies, as well as media publishing activity (theoretical aspects of this issue). In 2008, the projects were co-financed from the area of media – Educational integration of Romanies – challenges, problems and perspectives – and from the area of media publishing activity – Social inclusion of Roma (theoretical and research aspect).

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media implements its obligations related to media presentation of **Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015**. For the purpose of public promotion of the Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015, the support to projects was awarded to nongovernmental organizations dedicated to activities for improvement of the position of RAE in Montenegro.

In 2008 the **Commission for Monitoring of Implementation of the Strategy** for improvement of the position of RAE population in Montenegro received financial resources for realization of three approved projects from the area related to education, preservation of culture and tradition of Romany minority as well as **improvement of informing and media presentation**:

- **Skala Radio** - Kotor "Romanies equal with the equal in Montenegro", **realized** with the view to improve the level of information of RAE population in the Coastal municipalities;

- **Radio Mojkovac** - Mojkovac: The Serial of 16 radio shows "**Information of Roma as a Precondition of Social Inclusion** " presents the life of Roma in the north of Montenegro, so that the public would become aware of the conditions of life, problems that Roma population has, as well as activities undertaken by the state authorities on improvement of their position;

- Project "**Give your hand**" **TV MBC** through 12 feature shows points out various specifics of Roma population (cultural, historical and other) as to eliminate the current prejudices related to them. Through this serial the activities of line ministries, nongovernmental sector and international organizations with regard to the improvement of the position of RAE population were promoted.

#### *Planned Activities*

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- Promotion of basic values and goals of the Alliance of Civilizations in cooperation with national public service RTCG and Union of local public radio broadcasting services of **Montenegro** (ULES);
- Development of a guide-publication on principles and values of Alliance of Civilizations for the purpose of understanding, adopting and spreading culture, humanism, inter-cultural understanding, transculturality and civil dialogue
- Organization of regional media conference "Role and responsibility of media in a multiethnic society"
- Establishing of annual journalist award by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media for contribution made in research journalism within the programme Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015
- Co-financing of media projects of commercial and local public broadcasting entities through the competition announced by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media, with the topic: "Inter-cultural Dialogue"
- Organization and promotion of media workshops related to culture issues of the Alliance of Civilizations
- Production of TV video as support to intercultural understanding, goals and principles of the Alliance of Civilizations
- Strengthening of the programme and promotion of media literacy
- Establishing of an inter-sectoral Task Force responsible for implementation of media programs and promotion of the Alliance of Civilizations
- Organization of workshops for young journalists, dedicated to issues of cultural diversity, interculturality, tolerance, dialogue and respect for human rights
- Printing of a publication with the latest examples from the practice of the European Court for Human Rights related to the freedom of expression – published by the Association of Independent Electronic Media - UNEM
- Radio show "Frequencies of understanding" dedicated to minorities in production of the public radio-broadcasting service Radio of Montenegro

## **MIGRATIONS**

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Migrations of population represent significant factor in creation of the history of the mankind. Migrations and changes of the population structure contributed to the development of states and societies and enriched many cultures and civilizations. They contribute to social, cultural and intellectual dynamics of a society they join, while for the originating countries they have economic, political, social and cultural significance.

Immigrants in Montenegro mostly originate from the countries of the Western Balkan region. Most of them are worker migrants from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, then from Kosovo and Macedonia. From the other side, citizens of Montenegro mostly emigrate to the countries of the West (Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, USA).

The leading institution for cooperation of Montenegro with its Diaspora is the Centre for emigrants. The basic activities and projects of the Centre are, inter alia, related to:

- establishing of contacts with emigrants and their organizations;
- organization and managing of information activity and
- assistance in cherishing and promoting of cultural values of Montenegro in emigrant environments.

Programs primarily have as an objective the strengthening of links with Montenegrin emigrants and preservation of national, cultural and language identity in emigrant environments, through various projects: informative, publishing, organization of summer schools for children of Montenegrin emigrants, organization of various cultural events in the receiving country, assisting the activities of emigrant clubs through equipping and donating libraries etc.

Adoption of an adequate strategy is the next step in accepting and implementing the new policy for Montenegrin emigrants which is to result with quality improvement of cultural, educational, economic, sports and other links of emigrants with the parent country of Montenegro, as well as improvement of the care of the parent country of Montenegro for its Diaspora.

After the renewal of independence in 2006, the achieved macro-economic stability and extreme growth of foreign direct investments led to the increase in the number of workers migrants, especially from the neighbouring countries.

The conflict in the territory of former Yugoslavia caused the occurrence and increase of the number of refugees and displaced persons. Currently, in Montenegro there are about 24 thousand of refugees and displaced persons, of various religious and ethnical composition (Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks, Muslims, Romanies, Egyptians, Aschkali and others), which mostly influenced the development and

further upgrading of multiethnic development and tolerance in the country.

### *Planned Activities*

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Montenegro, as a country of emigration, strives to achieve following objectives within the programme of the Alliance of Civilizations:

- preservation of Montenegrin language and culture in emigrant environments,
- assistance and support to cultural, humanitarian, sports, informative and other activities organized by our emigrants or their associations in the receiving countries
- mobilization of knowledge and experience of Diaspora: designing of programs to facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills from Diaspora to the country of origin (short term return of experts or virtual return – use of video conferences or Internet)
- support and protection of legal position of our emigrants in the receiving countries

## **FINANCING**

The funds for financing of initiated and envisaged activities from the National Plan for implementation of the programme of Alliance of Civilizations will be provided within regular budget allocations of competent ministries and institutions.

## **MAIN FORA AND MEETINGS**

In the previous period, Montenegro took part in main meetings of the Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends, fora and ministerial conferences organized under the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations:

- Ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends, 62<sup>nd</sup> session of General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, 26 September 2007
- The First Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, Madrid, Spain, 15 -16 January 2008
- Ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends, 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, September 2008



- Ministerial conference of the countries of the West and Muslim world, Astana, Kazakhstan, 17 October 2008
- Forum of the governments of the South-East Europe countries "Inter-religious Dialogue in the South-East Europe", Tirana, Albania, 15-16 January 2009
- Meeting of ambassadors of the countries of the AoC Group of Friends, New York, 16 January 2009
- The first meeting of the Network of the AoC Group of Friends, Paris, France, 2-3 October 2008 with the participation of the Montenegrin Focal point

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Further activities of Montenegro will be simultaneously harmonized with new projects and plans for implementation of goals and values of AoC after 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum where the achieved results will be evaluated and guidelines for future activities of the Alliance of Civilizations defined.