

#UčiDoma (#LearnHome) and the response of the Montenegrin education system to the pandemic caused by COVID 19

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The pandemic caused by COVID 19 changed lives as a whole and had a strong impact on education systems around the world. To protect children and students, as well as employees, and ensure continuity in teaching was not easy. This once again showed the importance of digitalization of the educational system and its advantages.

Owing to all actors, good synergy and readiness of employees, the Montenegrin education system has prepared a right response to the current situation through the project #LearnHome and online teaching at all levels of education.

The previous school year ended in a way that classes were organized online, except for the final exams at the faculties, while the beginning of the 2020/2021 school year was organized somewhat differently. In the last school year, about 1,700 lectures were recorded in 17 subjects, which received positive grades from the entire social community.

In accordance with the epidemiological situation in Montenegro and the Recommendations for the protection of the health of students and employees in primary and secondary schools during the pandemic COVID 19 of the Institute of Public Health, the school 2020/2021 year began on 1 October 2020, with the so-called combined model in schools, while higher education institutions, in accordance with their autonomy, and depending on the capacity organized classical or online classes.

Students of I, II, III, IV, V and VI grades of primary school and students of I grade of secondary school (gymnasiums and vocational schools) attend classes in schools, while students of VII, VIII and IX grades of primary school and II, III and IV grades of secondary school (gymnasiums and vocational schools) follow classes online.

Following the good experiences from the previous school year, the Ministry of Education, under the slogan #LearnHome, carried on with the implementation of distance learning from October 1, 2020, as an additional form of support to all students, regardless of whether they attend school or not.

A special role and quality in student and teacher communication was made possible through the use of the Teams platform, provided by the Ministry.

About 225 teachers from 63 schools and 24 educational supervisors participated in applying the concept #LearnHome in the teaching in Montenegrin and Albanian during the first and second classification period (first semester). Over 3,500 lectures from 20 subjects were recorded.

Priority contents for primary and secondary schools for the school year 2020/2021 are broadcasted on TVCG 2 and MNE SPORT channels, in line with the program scheme which is published on a specially designed website www.ucidoma.me, as well as on the teacher portal www.skolskiportal.edu.me, the website of the Ministry of Education, social media networks and

TV channels. For students who attend classes in Albanian, priority content is broadcasted on TV Teuta and TV Boin.

The content broadcasted on TV channels is also published on the YouTube channel #LearnHome https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC07wV2n_Zpg3WFb9_9vew and on the portal www.ucidoma.me, arranged by levels of education, subjects and classes.

Statistics for last year:

- Video lectures were broadcasted on three channels: TVCG2, Uči doma 1 and Uči doma 2.
- RTCG2 was watched by 103,572 viewers during the first day of the broadcasting of #UčiDoma.
- On average, close to 20,000 spectators watched every minute.
- A website, the You Tube channel and application #LearnHome with all materials were opened.
- 400,000 visits to the #LearnHome website were recorded.
- 95,000 users of the website.
- 10,000 downloads of the #LearnHome mobile app.
- 3 million views of the #LearnHome YouTube channel.
- Over 80% of citizens watched #UciDoma content.
- The You Tube channel had the most views from the Region, followed by Germany, Slovenia, Russia, the UK, North Macedonia, Hungary, Italy, Canada, Poland and Turkey.

Having in mind the above, as well as the conducted analyses, the Montenegrin system has shown a high degree of responsibility and quality to respond to the challenges, as well as readiness to continue with further improvement.

HOW TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION FROM THE WORLD OF EDUCATION TO THE WORLD OF LABOUR MARKET OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES

Professional training programme for persons with acquired higher education

In order to better respond to the needs of the labour market, as well as to further improve practical knowledge and skills, the Government of Montenegro in 2012 adopted the Law on Vocational Training of Persons with Acquired Higher Education.

According to the Law, the Programme allows for persons with acquired higher education, which are on the records of the Employment Bureau, to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies for independent work, during the nine-month professional training with the chosen employer, in accordance with a specific programme. For that period, higher education graduates, i.e. beneficiaries of the Programme, receive a monthly compensation in the amount of 50% of the average net salary for the previous year. These nine months are recognized as 12 months of work experience and as a condition for taking the state ie. professional exam.

One of the good sides of the Programme, which is on the agenda of further digitalization of the system, is the electronic registration of both users and employers through the eUprava.me portal, where detailed instructions can be found. Several institutions are involved in the implementation

of this Programme, including the company that prepared the software (Ministry of Public Administration, Employment Bureau, Human Resources Administration, Ministry of Education and higher education institutions themselves).

Heaving in mind the positive effects that the Programme has had during the previous cycle, its implementation continued in 2020/2021. The research has shown that the Programme contributes to the implementation of the key goal which concerns the support for higher education graduates in their transition from the world of learning to the world of work, and the increase of youth employability. For the last eight years over 25 000 higher education graduates were given the opportunity to professionally develop, and the analyses show that every year around 50% of beneficiaries continue their work engagement with the same or other employer.

From year to year the interest of employers for participation in this programme increases.

In addition to enabling higher education graduates to gain relevant work experience, the Program provides employers in the public and private sectors with the opportunity to identify the needs for particular staff, appropriate to their specific activity, and to hire them upon completion of professional training.

The programme also has impact on the creation of enrollment policy in higher education institutions through the feedback we receive from employers about their needs.