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**RESEARCH:
“LGBTIQ COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS -
PODGORICA IN THE SHADOW OF A RAINBOW”**



**RESEARCH
REPORT**

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RESEARCH: “LGBTIQ COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS – PODGORICA IN THE SHADOW OF A RAINBOW”

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LGBT FORUM PROGRESS | LGBTIQ SOCIAL CENTER

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PODGORICA IN THE SHADOW OF A RAINBOW”**

RESEARCH REPORT

PODGORICA

MAY 218

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INTRODUCTION

Aware of the fact that the LGBTIQ community is one of the most discriminated against and the most vulnerable groups in the Capital City and in Montenegro in general, NGOs **LGBT Forum Progress** and **LGBTIQ Social Center** have, through a partner endeavour, conducted a research among the electoral lists that are running this year for the Assembly of the Capital City, along with a detailed analysis of their political programs/campaigns.

The local elections in Podgorica, scheduled for 27 May 2018, bring together a total of ten electoral lists, with various platforms and messages, both in terms of political and socio-economic issues, as well as in terms of the human rights of minority groups, including LGBTIQ persons.

The **aim** of this research is to provide an objective, impartial and factual overview of the views and opinions of the electoral lists, to all LGBTIQ people in the Capital City, in the domain of issues of importance for LGBTIQ people in Podgorica. The results of this research can in no way be interpreted as support or lack of support for any candidate, but only and solely as means of informing and observing all facts.

Guided by the fact that the large number of LGBTIQ persons are part of the electoral body in Podgorica and in Montenegro in general, and that their votes are almost equally distributed to all existing political options; but also by the fact that LGBTIQ persons were neglected in positive discourse among political subjects, we initiated this research project.

Our idea is that, in addition to analysing the electoral lists' programs/campaigns and collecting information about the specific attitudes and opinions of the lists, we also convey the particular messages they had for their potential LGBTIQ voters. These messages are in the continuation of the Report, in their integral form.

The research presented in this Report is the second phase of a wider research project, which included the Presidential Elections in Montenegro, and presented a detailed analysis of the gathered responses and all seven presidential elections campaigns conducted by individual candidates. This research, as a whole, is the first political study of attitudes towards the LGBTIQ community at the national and local level.

One of the primary ways for Montenegro to achieve equality, respect and acceptance of LGBTIQ persons is precisely through an open and respectful political dialogue. All efforts that are invested in the process of accepting and protecting LGBTIQ persons are not sufficient by themselves, unless there is a political will to achieve specific and visible changes in this field.

We are confident that the future city authority in Podgorica will be dedicated to all citizens of the Capital City, among which there is a large number of LGBTIQ persons of all ages and profiles, and that their efforts will result in visible, positive changes for all LGBTIQ persons in the Capital.

Finally, we owe special gratitude to all the electoral lists which took part in this research, their teams on the communication and coordination of all details; as well as the **ILGA-Europe**, which recognized the significance of this project and supported it financially.

Bojana Jokic, **LGBT Forum Progress**

John M. Barac, **LGBTIQ Social Center**

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was carried out in two phases, which followed each other, so that all available data and the overall picture of the views of electoral lists on issues of importance for the LGBTIQ community in the Capital City, could be transferred to LGBTIQ people, but also to the general public.

The first phase of the research involves **analysing** of the programs/campaigns of electoral lists, in the context of topics relevant to the LGBTIQ community, such as legal protection, education, legal status of same-sex couples, adoption of new legal and sub-legal acts, as well as the response to the existing discrimination and marginalization of the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica

In the case of electoral lists which did not create a specific presidential program, the research team based its primary analysis on party programs, i.e. the political groups represented by the electoral lists. An additional component of the analysis of campaigns includes appearances in the media, speeches at conventions and political events held during the campaign, in which the issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community are addressed.

The questionnaire, as a research form, was used in the second phase, in order to gather answers to research questions from the electoral lists. The questions themselves have been formulated so that there is no space left for two-sided and unclear answers, nor for answers that are not related to the content of the issue. The questionnaire contains 16 questions, of which 5 are multiple choice, 7 are of a combined type, and in 2 the text is entered into the designated fields.

Also, the questionnaire itself is divided into 3 logical parts, which follow each other. In the first part are the questions related to the electoral list itself and the basic program factors. The second part consists of questions related to the visibility and overall support of the LGBTIQ community and to

the issues of relevance to it, while in the third part, the focus is on specific problems faced by the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica. Finally, space has been left to send a message to all LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, who are potential voters of your electoral list.

The research questionnaire was submitted to all electoral lists on May 4, 2018, in electronic form, with a deadline of ten days for submitting a reply. Within the deadline, two electoral lists submitted their responses, while after the expiration of the deadline two more submitted theirs.

Out of the total of ten electoral lists to which the questionnaire was sent, the responses **were submitted** by the following lists: **"For the good of citizens of Podgorica**. Winning Coalition - Milo Djukanovic" („**Za dobro građana Podgorice**. Pobjednička koalicija – Milo Đukanović“), **"Group of Citizens Sasa Mijovic - Winner of his Word"** („Grupa građana Saša Mijović – **Pobjednik od riječi**“), **Citizen Alliance for Changes** (SDP – Demos – Free Citizens) („**Građanski savez za promjene** (SDP – Demos – Slobodni građani)“ and **"Marko Milacic - For Podgorica to be a Family – Real Montenegro"** („Marko Milačić – **Da Podgorica bude porodica** – Prava Crna Gora“).

The following electoral lists **did not submit** their answers: **"United Montenegro - Goran Danilovic - Serious People for Serious City"** („Ujedinjena Crna Gora – Goran Danilović – **Ozbiljni ljudi za ozbiljan grad**“), **"Democratic Front - Socialist People's Party - Everything for My City"** („Demokratski Front – Socijalistička narodna partija – Sve za moj grad“), **"Albanian Alternative - Alternativa Shqiptare"** („**Albanska Alternativa** – Alternativa Shqiptare“), **"Social Democrats - Ivan Brajovic - Consistently for Podgorica"** („Socijaldemokrate – Ivan Brajović – **Dosljedno za Podgoricu**“), **Aleksa Becic - Dritan Abazovic - Podgorica for the 21st Century - Democrats - URA"** („Aleksa Bečić – Dritan Abazović – **Podgorica za 21. vijek** – Demokrate – URA“) and **"Serbian Coalition - Dobrilo Dedeic"** („Srpska Koalicija – Dobrilo Dedeić“).

After receiving the completed questionnaires, they were processed professionally using the **IBM SPSS Statistics 22** software and transferred into textual and visual results (tables and graphs).

OVERVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS FOR ELECTORAL LISTS

In **the first logical part** of the questionnaire, the candidates entered:

- a) The name of the electoral list,
- b) The name of the political subject (one or more) that make the electoral list,
- c) The answer to the question: "Are the program and campaign of your electoral list for the upcoming local elections in any way directly focused on the problems and needs of the LGBTIQ persons in the Capital City?". If the answer to the question was "Yes", then there was space designated for them to explain how.
- d) The answer to the question "Does your electoral list contain concrete measures and programs aimed at addressing the problem of violence, discrimination and dismissal faced by LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica?". If the answer to the question list was "Contains", there was space designated to indicate which one.

Finally, there was space for the name and surname of the authorized person who filled the questionnaire in the name of the electoral list.

In **the second logical part** of the questionnaire, there were questions related to the visibility and direct support to the LGBTIQ community in the Capital City, which were in the form of multiple choice:

- a) Are there LGBTIQ persons on your electoral list who are publicly out?
- b) Are there LGBTIQ persons on your electoral list who are out within the party/coalition/electoral list?
- c) Do you consider it important for LGBTIQ persons directly engage in the process of exercising authority at the local level?
- d) Are you prepared to support, as potential local MPs of the Capital City Assembly,

the efforts that are being made towards the achievement of human rights and equality of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica?

e) Are you prepared to support, as potential local MPs of the Capital City Assembly, events, gatherings and manifestations that are relevant for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica?

f) Will you, as potential local MPs of the Capital City Assembly, strive to provide space and support for the needs of the Centre for LGBTIQ people, whose work ceased in 2016?

g) Will you, as potential local MPs of the Capital City Assembly, strive to provide sustainable support for the needs of LGBTIQ Shelters for Victims of Violence?

To the questions c, d, e, f and g there was space for introducing an additional explanation of the answers.

In **the third logical part** of the questionnaire, relating everyday life of LGBTIQ persons in the Capital, electoral lists answered the following questions:

a) How do you grade the following areas important for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica (on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is “Very bad” and 5 “Very good”):

- the current overall position,
- the current state of the human rights,
- the current level of protection by the institutions of the system,
- the current level of security and safety,
- the current representation in educational programs,
- the current representation in public life and
- the current representation in political life.

b) Do you consider the following social phenomena to be the problem with which the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica is being faced?

- discrimination,
- violence,
- hate speech,
- homo/bi/transphobia,
- current disempowerment,
- insufficient visibility,
- under-representation in public life.

In **the closing part** of the questionnaire, the electoral lists were asked the following:

a) Since all LGBTIQ people with the right to vote in Montenegro are your potential voters, do you have the message you want to send them?

PROGRAMME/CAMPAIGN REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE ANSWERS OF THE ELECTORAL LIST



“For the good of citizens of Podgorica. Winning coalition – Milo Djukanovic”

The Democratic Party of Socialists is participating with coalition partners from the Bosniak Party, the Liberal Party, the Democratic Union of Albanians, Montenegrin and Positive Montenegro in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "For the good of citizens of Podgorica" is **dr. Ivan Vukovic**.

Analysing their pre-election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not address the problems and needs of the LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list “For the good of citizens of Podgorica” took part in the research.

Responses:

1. Asked whether their program and campaign for local elections in Podgorica will in any way directly focus on the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"On the level of improvement of the quality of all citizens."

2. Asked whether their electoral list contains specific measures and programs aimed at solving the problems of violence, discrimination and rejection faced by LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied that it **does not contain**.

3. The electoral list indicated that there **are no** LGBTIQ people who are publicly out, and that they, with the full respect of their members, **abstain** from stating whether there are LGBTIQ people who are out within the electoral list.
4. Asked whether it is important for LGBTIQ people to take direct participation in the process of exercising authority at the local level, the electoral list replied **mostly yes**.
5. Asked whether they are ready to support the efforts made towards the realization of human rights and equality of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **yes**.
6. Asked if they are willing to support events, gatherings and manifestations of importance for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **yes**.
7. The electoral list stated that they **will** advocate for the provision of sustainable support and space for the needs of the LGBTIQ Centre and the Shelter for LGBTIQ victims of violence.
8. Regarding the area of importance for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list rated it as:
 - **neither bad nor good** the current representation in education programs, the current representation in public life and the current representation in political life;
 - **good** current overall position of LGBTIQ persons, current state of human rights, current level of protection by the institutions of the system and the current level of safety and security.
9. The electoral list stated that they **consider** discrimination, violence, hate speech, homo/bi/transphobia, insufficient visibility and under-representation in public life to be apparent problems that the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica faces, but that they **do not consider** current disempowerment to be an apparent problem.

10. Finally, the electoral list "For the good of citizens of Podgorica" sent the following message to its potential LGBTIQ voters:

"Electoral list "For the good of citizens of Podgorica – Winning coalition. Milo Djukanovic" wishes to give all citizens of Podgorica, regardless of their different personal properties, a modern and quality life in the Capital City of Montenegro. Therefor we create and advance conditions for Podgorica, which is a city of traditional coexistence and new urban spirit. In our last mandate we worked on advancing traffic and communal infrastructure, making the city centre a pedestrian area with new content, parks, adequate equipment, new squares, monuments; new streets and boulevards; building of new cultural, educational, and health institutions, sports and recreational capacities; construction of new retirement centres, youth with developmental difficulties and objects of social housing. With a special focus on creating the conditions for quick development of economy and business in the Capital City, which opens new jobs, we wish to continue the realisation of the initiated and begin new projects that will make Podgorica a European city, which will be a good place of life for every individual. We are a list that unifies, respects and preserves the differences within Montenegrin society. Democratic Party of Socialists, as a party that has so far adopted regulations that enabled for differences in Montenegro to become a rule and not the exception, will do the same in the future; and the Capital City will be dedicated to the realisation of all politics which we bring in the interest of all citizens of Montenegro. Therefor we invite the representatives of the LGBTIQ community to give their trust on May 27 elections in Podgorica to our coalition "For the good of citizens of Podgorica – Winning coalition. Milo Djukanovic", and circle number 1."

Group of Citizens Sasa Mijovic – "Winner of his word"

Sasa Mijovic participates in the local elections in Podgorica as the only candidate proposed by a group of citizens, not political subjects. The slogan of his electoral list is "Winner of his Word".

By analysing their election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people, but that it was a direct mention of the LGBTIQ community in a positive context, during the public appearances of the representatives of the electoral list.

Electoral list "Winner of his word" participated in the research.

Responses:

1. Asked whether their program and campaign for local elections in Podgorica will in any way directly focus on the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"Protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms and the fight against all forms of discrimination, especially marginalized and discriminated groups (former drug users, LGBT community, RAE population)."

2. Asked whether their electoral list contains specific measures and programs aimed at solving the problems of violence, discrimination and rejection faced by LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied that it **contains**, with the following explanation:

"The fact is that there are civil society activists on the civic list that are prominent fighters against all forms of discrimination and who have consistently condemned every attack on the LGBTIQ community, supported any gathering organized by the community. The content of the program is aimed at greater visibility of the community, prevention of violence, sustainability of services provided by civil society organizations."

3. The electoral list indicated that there **are no** LGBTIQ people who are publicly out, but that there **are** LGBTIQ people are out within the electoral list.

4. Asked whether it is important for LGBTIQ people to take direct participation in the process of exercising authority at the local level, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"Our key slogan is "Nothing about us without us". Every discriminated and marginalized group knows best their needs and the problems they are facing. Every discriminated group must take part from the beginning of strategy and action planning, even to making decisions."

5. Asked whether they are ready to support the efforts made towards the realization of human rights and equality of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"We are a citizen's list and we have a work concept based on the principle of inclusiveness and raising awareness of the acceptance of otherness and diversity."

6. Asked if they are willing to support events, gatherings and manifestations of importance for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **yes**, along with the following explanation;

"So far, as civil society activists, we have supported every gathering of LGBT community, and so we will continue as we enter the City Assembly."

7. The electoral list stated that they **will** advocate for the provision of sustainable support and space for the needs of the LGBTIQ Centre and the Shelter for LGBTIQ victims of violence.

8. Regarding the area of importance for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list rated it as:

- **very bad** current overall position of LGBTIQ persons, the current level of safety and security, the current representation in education programs, the current representation in public life and the current representation in political life;

- **bad** current state of human rights and the current level of protection by the institutions of the system.

9. The electoral list stated that they **consider** discrimination, violence, hate speech, homo/bi/transphobia, current disempowerment, insufficient visibility and under-representation in public life to be apparent problems that the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica faces.

10. Finally, the electoral list "Winner of his word" sent the following message to its potential LGBTIQ voters:

"Vote for Citizens' List Sasa Mijovic - Winner of his Word, because we fight for a human, for a society of accepting diversity and for participatory democracy."

Citizen Alliance for Changes (SDP – Demos – Free Citizens)

Social Democratic Party, Demos and free citizens participate together in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "Citizen Alliance for Changes" is **Ivan Vujovic**.

By analysing their election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people, and that there was no explicit mention of the LGBTIQ community in a positive nor negative context.

Electoral list "Citizen Alliance for Changes" participated in the research.

Responses:

1. Asked whether their program and campaign for local elections in Podgorica in any way directly focus on the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people, the electoral list replied **no**.
2. Asked whether their electoral list contains specific measures and programs aimed at solving the problems of violence, discrimination and rejection faced by LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied that it **does not contain**.
3. The electoral list indicated that there are **no** LGBTIQ people who are publicly out, and that there are **no** LGBTIQ people who are out within the electoral list.

4. Asked whether it is important for LGBTIQ people to take direct participation in the process of exercising authority at the local level, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"Citizens of all profiles should take direct part in social activities in the Capital City."

5. Asked whether they are ready to support the efforts made towards the realization of human rights and equality of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **yes**, with the following explanation:

"No one should be discriminated against because of their orientation."

6. Asked if they are willing to support events, gatherings and manifestations of importance for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **mainly yes**.

7. The electoral list stated that they **will not** advocate for the provision of sustainable support and space for the needs of the LGBTIQ Centre and the Shelter for LGBTIQ victims of violence, with the following explanation:

"We will pledge to exercise the rights of all citizens of Podgorica, regardless of whether they are members of an organization or not. Promises that local MPs will advocate for spending taxpayers' money without proper information, would not be responsible to the citizens of Podgorica, and we remain open to all initiatives that will be directed at the quality of life of our citizens."

8. Regarding the area of importance for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list rated it as:

- **very bad** the current representation in political life;

- **bad** current state of human rights and the current level of safety and security of LGBTIQ persons, the current level of safety and security, the current representation in education programs, the current representation in public life and

- **neither bad nor good** current overall position, current level of protection by the institutions of the system, the current representation in education programs, and the current representation in public life.

9. The electoral list stated that they **consider** that discrimination, violence, hate speech, homo/bi/transphobia, current disempowerment are apparent problems that the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica faces, but they **don't consider** the apparent problems to be insufficient visibility and under-representation in public life.

10. Finally, the electoral list "Civil Alliance for Changes" sent the following message to its potential LGBTIQ voters:

"Vote for our list to ensure greater rights for all citizens of the Capital City and to make the necessary changes. Voting for the Civil Alliance for Changes, you vote for Podgorica to suit its citizens."

Marko Milacic - For Podgorica to become a family - Real Montenegro

Real Montenegro will independently participate in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "For Podgorica to become a family" is **Vladislav Dajkovic**.

By analysing their election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ people. On the other hand, a **serious abuse** of the LGBTIQ community by the representatives of this electoral list, the use of a discriminatory language, the reference to hatred and intolerance, and the populist use of legal regulation of the same-sex communities for the purpose of political campaigning and the obtaining of a more radical electoral body was noticed.

Electoral list "For Podgorica to become a family" participated in the research.

Responses:

1. Asked whether their program and campaign for local elections in Podgorica in any way directly focus on the problems and needs of LGBTIQ persons, the electoral list replied with **no**.
2. Asked whether their electoral list contains specific measures and programs aimed at solving the problems of violence, discrimination and rejection faced by LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied that it **does not contain** with the following explanation:

"No, but I would support the opening of national cuisines and old people's homes since they do not exist in Podgorica."

3. The electoral list indicated that there are **no** LGBTIQ people who are publicly out, and that there are **no** LGBTIQ people who are out within the electoral list.

4. Asked whether it is important for LGBTIQ people to take direct participation in the process of exercising authority at the local level, the electoral list replied **no**, with the following explanation:

"I do not support that thought. Why would anyone get a function based on their sexuality? It's rude. They should get it based on their knowledge and profession. "

5. Asked whether they are ready to support the efforts and which are realized towards the realization of human rights, equality and equality of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list replied **no**, with the following explanation:

"No, but I'm ready to support the efforts of KAP workers, mothers with three and more children, people from Zagoric forest park and the like. These people are suffering in CG, not LGBT. "

6. Asked if they are willing to support events, gatherings and manifestations of importance for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica, the electoral list replied with **no**, with the following explanation;

"No, but I would support a family parade that promotes the group that really is affected - the family."

7. The electoral list stated that they **will not** advocate for the provision of sustainable support and space for the needs of the LGBTIQ Centre and the Shelter for LGBTIQ victims of violence, with the following explanation:

"No, but I will aim to open up, let's say, a home for old people that does not exist in Podgorica. I condemn any form of violence, and therefore to LGBT people, but I think that we

should work on the fact that the police and the prosecution do not do their job properly, so the perpetrators often get away with it impunity. "

8. Regarding the area of importance for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica, the electoral list rated it as:

- **Good** current overall position of LGBTIQ persons and the current state of human rights;

- **Very good** current level of protection by the institutions of the system, the current level of safety and security, the current representation in education programs, the current representation in public life and the current representation in political life.

9. The electoral list stated that they **do not consider** discrimination, violence, hate speech, homo/bi/transphobia, current disempowerment, insufficient visibility and under-representation in public life are apparent problems that the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica faces.

10. Finally, the electoral list "For Podgorica to become a family" sent the following message to its potential LGBTIQ voters:

"We will fight for the rights of every human being, and therefore the members of the LGBT population. But I have a message for their representatives: stay away from family and family values. "

United Montenegro - Goran Danilovic - Serious people for a serious city

United Montenegro will independently participate on local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the "Serious People for Serious City" list is **Danilo Jokic**.

Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

Democratic front – Socialist People’s Party – “Everything for my city”

The Democratic Front and the Socialist People's Party participate together in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the "Everything for My City" list is **Slaven Radunovic**.

Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

Albanian Alternative - Alternative Shqiptare

The Albanian Alternative participates independently in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "Albanian Alternative" is **Nik Djeljoshaj**.

Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

Social Democrats – Ivan Brajovic – Consistently for Podgorica

Social Democrats participate independently in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "Consistently for Podgorica" is **Djordje Suhih**.

Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

Aleksa Becic - Dritan Abazovic - Podgorica for the 21st Century - Democrats - URA

Democratic Montenegro and United reform action will participate together in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "Podgorica for 21st century" is **Vladimir Cadjenovic**.

Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, and that there was no explicit reference to the LGBTIQ community either in a positive or negative context.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

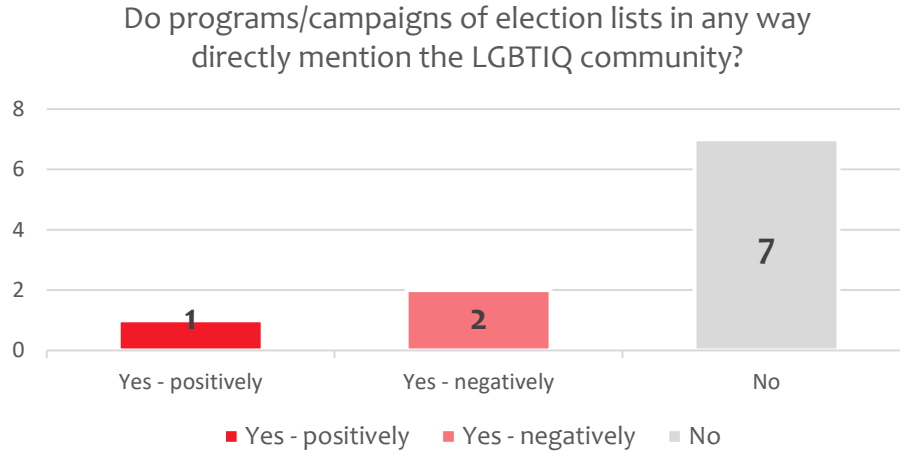
Serbian Coalition - Dobrilo Dedeic

Serbian Coalition participates in the local elections in Podgorica. The leader of the electoral list "Serbian Coalition" is **Dobrilo Dedeic**.

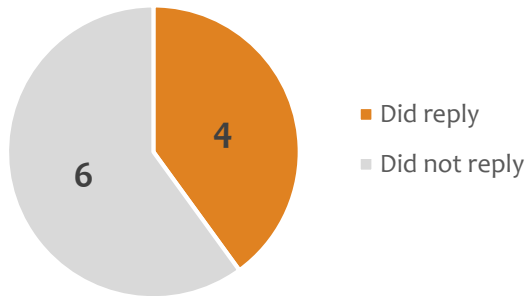
Analysing their pre- election campaign, in the context of the LGBTIQ community, the research team noted that this electoral list did not deal with the problems and needs of LGBTIQ community, but the LGBT community was mentioned in a negative and discriminatory way, during the public address of the representatives of this party.

The electoral list did not take part in the research!

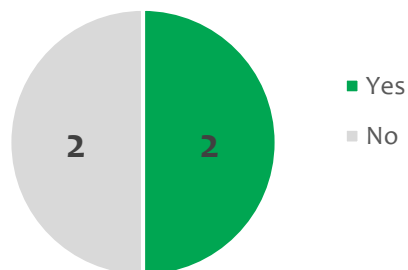
STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSES



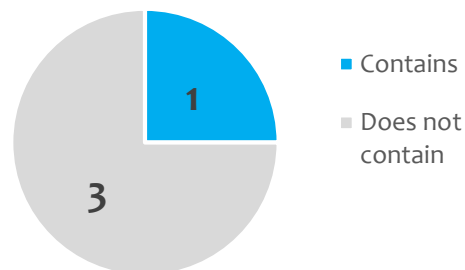
Election lists in relation to submitted responses:



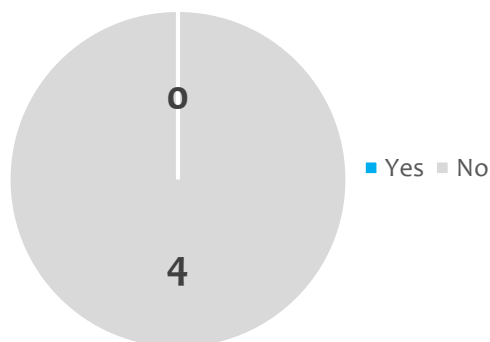
Does the program and campaign of your electoral list in any way directly focus on problems and needs of LGBTIQ people in the Capital City?



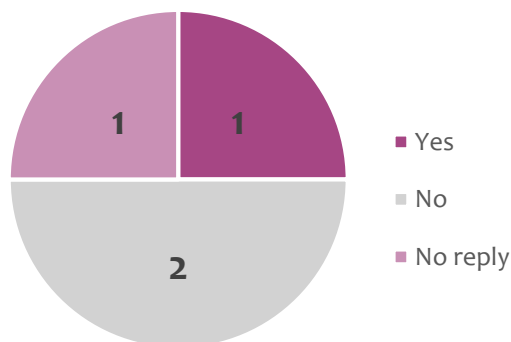
Does your electoral list contain concrete measures aimed at solving the problems of violence, discrimination and rejection faced by LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica?



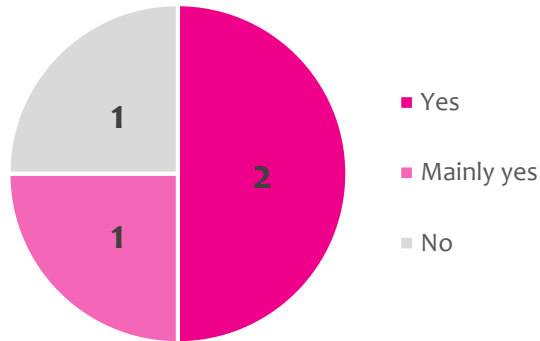
Are there any LGBTIQ people on your electoral list that are publicly out?



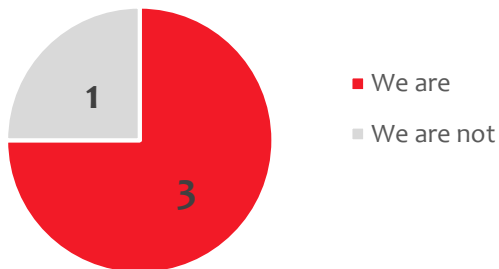
Are there any LGBTIQ people that are out within the party/coalition/list?



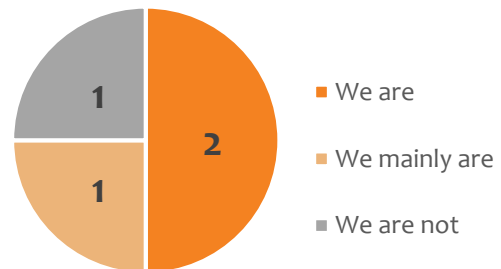
Is it important that LGBTIQ people take direct participation in the process of exercising authority at the local level?



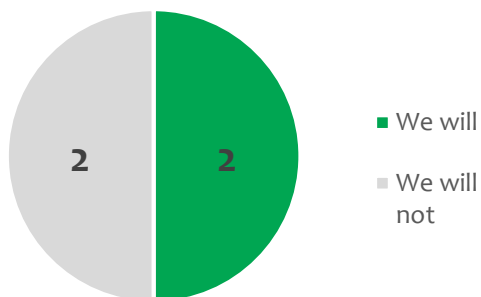
Are you ready to support the efforts which are made towards the realisation of human rights and equality of LGBTIQ people in Podgorica?



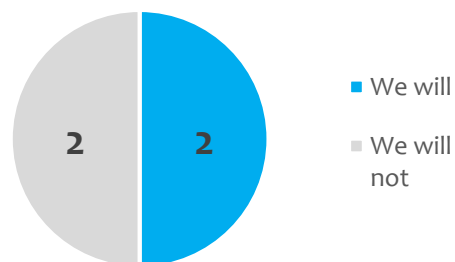
Are you ready to support events, gatherings and manifestations of importance for the process of accepting and respecting the human rights of LGBTIQ people?



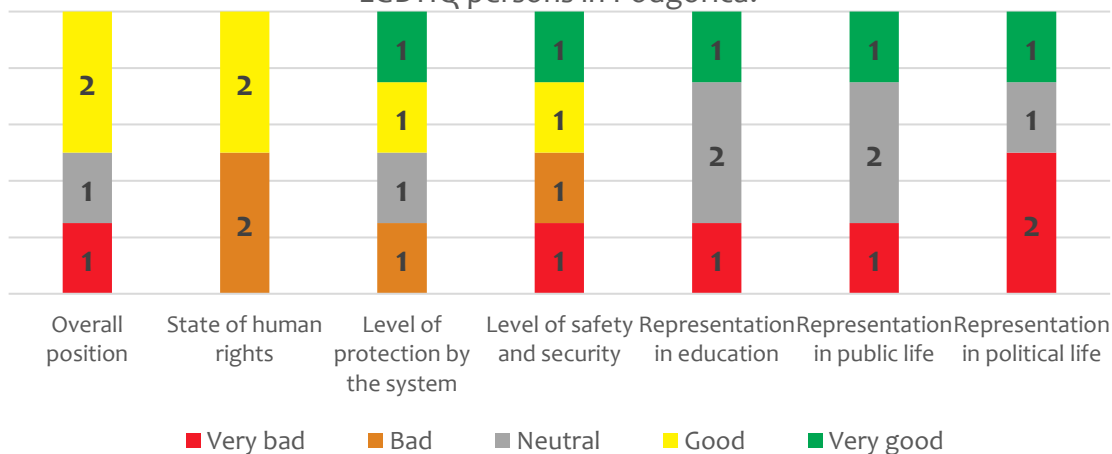
Will you strive to provide space and support for the needs of the Center for LGBTIQ people?



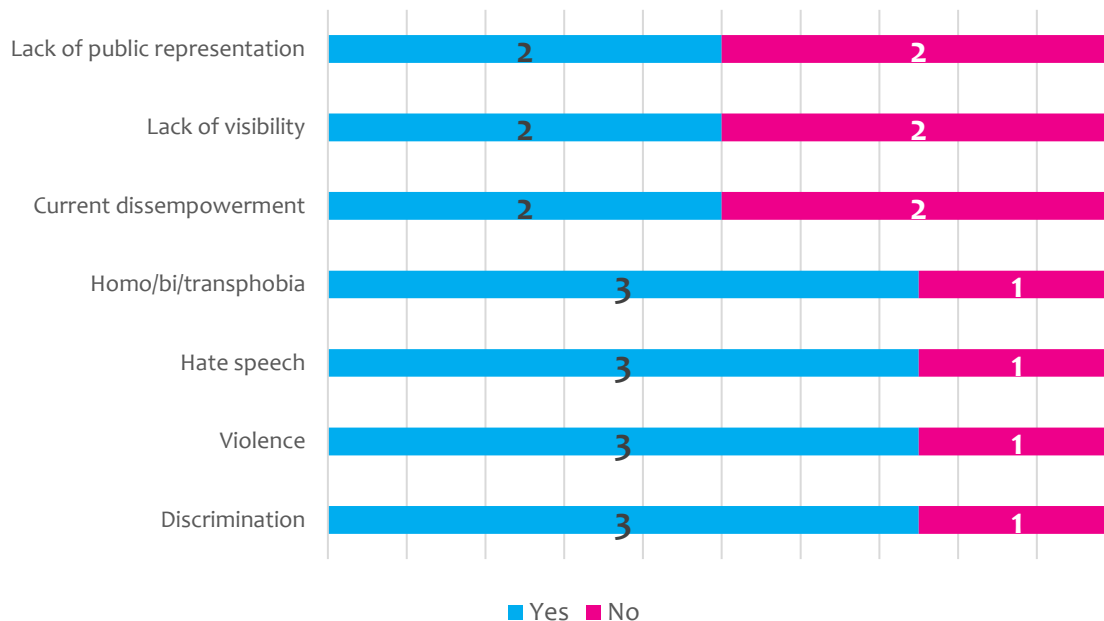
Will you strive to provide sustainable support to the needs of LGBTIQ Shelter for victims of violence?



How do you grade the following areas important for the life of LGBTIQ persons in Podgorica?



Do you consider the following social phenomena to be a problem with which the LGBTIQ community in Podgorica is facing?



CONCLUSION

Based on the conducted analysis of the electoral lists, as well as the programs of political parties and the structures that these electoral lists present, the research team came to several concrete conclusions.

Despite the fact that LGBTIQ related topics can be found in the program documents of the parties, that is in the programs of individual electoral lists, in both positive and negative terms, it has been noted that most of the electoral lists refrained from directly referring LGBTIQ persons or LGBTIQ themes.

Certain electoral lists, or their representatives, during their public speeches called for respect for human rights, including and encumbering most minority and vulnerable groups, while completely ignoring the LGBTIQ population.

This restraint is a clear indication that LGBTIQ persons are not only not recognized by the political entities at the local level as a potential voting body but are, on the contrary, recognized as a potential obstacle and that they can produce losses of certain layers of the voting body. This fear of electoral lists, similar to the national level, leads to political calculations, which leads to the movement of lines of lesser resistance, that is to the exclusion of LGBTIQ from public discourse.

An additional component that is recognized in the analysis of the election lists programs / campaigns is the openness of individual representatives in advocating the idea of limiting the rights of the LGBTIQ community to free assembly, organized action, the right to regulate same-sex communities, and certain issues that are still not open among Montenegrin LGBTIQ movement, such as the adoption of children or foster care.

During the campaign analysis, the research team noted that there were no publicly-outed LGBTIQ persons in the campaigns, either directly, through promotional videos, or in any other

form of engagement in campaigns. But it is important to note that only one electoral list stated that it had an LGBTIQ person who was outed within the electoral list itself. It is also visible still present, already mentioned restraint of political subjects at the local and national level to enable the direct participation of LGBTIQ persons in politics. The mere fact that five of the ten electoral lists did not provide their answers points to the unwillingness of political leaders to involve LGBTIQ people, both in political discourse and in public life in the Capital city.

Of all the analysed programs, LGBTIQ persons are directly referenced in only one case in a positive sense, while in the program of two electoral list LGBTIQ themes are mentioned in a negative context, that is, in the context of the prohibition or limitation of the rights of the LGBTIQ community. These attitudes have been further strengthened by the multiple public appearances of an electoral list, which contained clear elements of discriminatory and full hate and homo/bi/transphobia language. As part of the analysis of other electoral lists, LGBTIQ persons were not mentioned in a direct context.

Realizing that the first step in resolving the problem is its recognition, we hope that this research and the overall report will be not only a useful tool for all LGBTIQ people in the City of Capital when choosing their electoral list, but also a reminder that an inclusive society cannot be built without full participation of all citizens.

Finally, we note that the fact that only four electoral lists have taken part in the research clearly shows how much the human rights of LGBTIQ people are almost irrelevant at the local level and how important it is to the position of minority and discriminated groups in the capital. Therefore, we invite all political entities at local level to more seriously address the issue of human rights of LGBTIQ persons, as well as all other marginalized communities.

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