



**Public Invitation
of the Action Group
for Reconstruction
of the Political
System**

**Government
Determined to Solve
Questions Important for
the National Minorities**



17

Minority News

June 2015



Happy Eid al-Fitr!



**Coordination of National
Councils of National Minorities**

**Finding a Model for
Survival and Financing of
the National Minorities
Media**



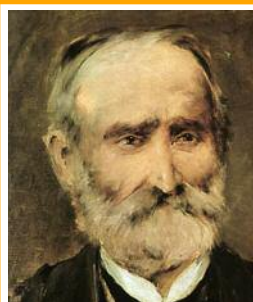
VASILIOS PROVELEGIOS

**For Change of
Law and Respect
of "Small"
Communities**



Bunjevci Community

**Bunjevac Josif
Pančić Was
Mourned by the
Whole Country**



HIGHLIGHT



Certificates given to the interns of the Internship program for youth – members of minorities in state institutions of Serbia

The Fifth Cycle of the Internship Program for the National Minorities Youth in the State Institutions of the Republic of Serbia has been brought to completion in Novi Pazar. The Internship Program has been implemented by the Office for Human and Minority Rights with support of the UK Embassy in Belgrade.



Coordination of minorities with the Minister of Education

Vice presidents of Bosniak national council, Esad Džudžo and Muhedin Fijuljanin, participated in meeting of representatives of national councils of national minorities with the Minister of Education, Science, and Technological Development, Dr Srdjan Verbic, and his associates.



Bosniak National Council visited by the Ambassadors of Hungary and Austria

Bosniak National Council was visited by the Ambassador of Hungary, H.E. Dr Attila Pinter, and the Ambassador of Austria, H.E. Mr Johannes Eigner. President of the Council, Dr Sulejman Ugljanin, with his associates, in separated meetings welcomed ambassadors, and introduced them to the work and functioning of Bosniak National Council.



The sixth meeting of managing board project “we are here together – European support for Roma inclusion”

Director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović, presided the sixth meeting of managing board project “We are here together – European support for Roma inclusion”, kept in Palace Serbia.

EDITORIAL 17

Publicity is the best protection from privacy

I often ask myself whether it is possible to establish the system of open and transparent partner relations with state within minority politics. Of course, I want such a system, but not so much I believe in it anymore, because I know what the barriers are, and how that utopian idea would finish unsuccessfully. As it is with every relation, so in relation of national minorities and state two are needed at least, but in case of Serbia, you need twenty two. And there appear first problems, because among twenty two there is much more chances for non-transparency in relations, that will bring into question the whole politics of national minorities.

But, happily, we cannot influence number of national communities in Serbia, so we have to see it as objective and given fact. We can, and I would rather say, we must influence attitude of state toward national minorities, if we want those relations to be more transparent, but at the same time clearly should be defined the ways that national minorities can refer to legitimately and communicate with state bodies, and realize their goals. Otherwise, national minorities are just coins for settling accounts from election to election within the system “how somebody manages in the game of the division of power”.

I see the non-transparency in the relations of the national minorities and the state bodies as a big risk for members of national minorities, because my opinion is that it is dangerous to trade with the interests of a community. It is not advisable to see national minority as a political party, which later makes “business deal” under the excuse that everything is done on behalf of and for the sake of a national minority. Authorities change, political parties change, but national communities stay for good. Think about that.

30 different national communities live in Serbia!



Paunović and Schmid talked about questions of inclusion of Roma people in Serbia

Director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović, met in Palace "Serbia" with representatives of German Embassy in Serbia, Jurgen Schmid, first secretary for economic cooperation and Sabine Brendel, Officer of Political Section.

Meeting was dedicated to the questions of Roma inclusion in Serbia. Representatives of German Embassy initiated the established cooperation, aiming to give support to the process of inclusion of Roma people in the Republic of Serbia.

Director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović, emphasized that the process of Roma inclusion is long and demands a lot of work, and so she expressed gratitude to German Embassy for partnership and support in order to improve the state of Roma national minority through inclusion into social, economic, cultural and political life. Paunović introduced representatives of the Embassy with the Serbian Government's plan for making new Strategy for improvement of the state of Roma people in Serbia for period to the year 2025, and that in relation to this, preparing process of initial study for making new strategic document was transparent and included number of consultative meetings throughout the country with organizations of civil society, state institutions and bodies, local self-governments, independent bodies and international organisations.

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Paunović congratulated Eid al-Fitr

Director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović, congratulated Eid al-Fitr to the religious servants and to all believers of Islamic community. "I wish you to spend the holiday in peace, with family and friends, and may your home be filled with

welfare, tolerance, feeling of familiarity and enjoyment. May this big holiday inspire in you strengthening of real values, importance of togetherness, mutual respect and understanding", is stated in congratulation of Paunović.



Government determined to solve questions important for national minorities

P rime minister of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, who is also president of the Council for national minorities, send message today that Government is determined to give its best in order to solve questions which are important for all national minorities.

“Vučić in his address to the representatives of national councils of national minorities, at the second meeting of the mentioned council, reminded that from the time of founding of this body in 2004, to 2009, were kept only five meetings, while from April 2015 this is already second meeting. He emphasized that Serbian Government with its active measures for decreasing budget deficit clearly shows that to its citizen, regardless of the fact whether he belongs to majority or to the national minority, it wants to ensure realisation of all his rights guaranteed by the Statute. Supporting the Action plan, as a key document that will define measures for improvement of the state of national minorities, prime minister asked state bodies to as soon as possible operationalize settlement of key questions in education and informing, and he promised to personally engage himself in this. At the meeting agreement is achieved that, with agency of the Office for

human and minority rights, should be organized meetings with the representatives of the Ministry for foreign affairs, in order to improve bilateral relations with mother countries of national minorities. “This sort of dialogue is the only right way for all citizens, regardless of na-

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tionality, to feel progress - personal as well as of country”, concluded Vučić. Representatives of national councils sent support to Serbian Government in their further activities and directions of

foreign and of internal policy, praising Government’s effort to as soon as possible try to realize all sorts of rights which national minorities deserve by constitutional and legislative framework. At the meeting were actively present also vice-president of the Government and minister of state government and local self-government Kori Udovički, who is also deputy president of the Council for national minorities, and minister of education, science and technological development, Srđan Verbić. At the meeting were also present state secretary of the Ministry for culture and information, Saša Mirković, general secretary of the Ministry for foreign affairs, Veljko Odalović, and acting director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović. Also, to the work of meeting contributed acting director of the Office for cooperation with churches and religious communities, Mileta Radojević, assistant of the minister of justice, Čedomir Backović, and representatives of all national councils of national minorities in Serbia” – is stated in report of the Cabinet of vice-president of the Government and minister of state government and local self-government.



The sixth meeting of managing board for project “we are here together – European support for inclusion of Roma people”

Director of the Office for human and minority rights, Suzana Paunović, presided the sixth meeting of Governmental board for project “we are here together – European support for inclusion of Roma people”, in Palace Serbia.

Paunović pointed out the importance of the project for establishing better coordination and Inter-section cooperation on the local level, and she expressed gratitude to the Mission of OSCE in Serbia and to the Delegation of EU, which are partners of Serbian Government in effort to improve the state of Roma people in Serbia. She reminded that through mechanism of mobile teams, founded in 20 pilot towns and municipalities of Serbia, all results made in previous period, are connected into one team made of Roma coordinator, pedagogic assistant, health mediator, representative of the Centre for social work and National service for employment, in order to help Roma people to realise their rights more

effectively in their community. Paunović summarised all activities from the last meeting of managing board until today, emphasizing that law teams of partner organisation “Praksis” initiated 894 of administrative and court proceedings for additional registration into registry of births, for determination of date and place of birth, as well as for determination of personal name, of which, till the end of May of the present year, 428 are positively solved. Initiated is making of database for following the results of measures for inclusion of Roma, and training is done from the area of anti-discrimination for local givers of services within the area of social and health protection, which was attended by 2822

participants, specified Paunović.

Also is initiated third cycle of trainings for raising capacities of mobile teams and mentor support. She introduced members of managing board to the fact that Guide about Roma rights on local level is published - Patrin – How to realize your rights, made in Serbian and Roma language. In area of support to the civil society Paunović informed members of managing board that successfully are finished two cycles of training for chosen organisations of civil society on theme of action planning and public pleading, which was attended by more than 100 representatives of NGO-s. Significant progress is achieved in providing support within component of housing and she mentioned that software is made for geographical-information system (GIS). She reminded that promotion of GIS and results of mapping sub-standard settle-



Initiated making of database for following the results of measures for inclusion of Roma, and training done from area of anti-discrimination for local givers of services from area of social and health protection, attended by 2822 participants

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ments is held in May in the presence of the minister of construction, traffic and infrastructure, Zorana Mihajlović and ambassador of OSCE, Peter Burkhard, and results of mapping 583 settlements are published in form of study.

Software for GIS, developed by company Mapsoft, is installed on supplied equipment for relevant ministry, training is made for the employed in Ministry of construction, traffic and infrastructure, explained Paunović. She informed the presented that tender is announced for preparation of technical documentation for improvement of sub-standard Roma settlements in 15 municipalities, and at the moment are under construction 13 urban plans in 11 municipalities, with which municipalities will be able to apply for resources of EU within program IPA 2013. Paunović reminded that within program of support to the stable employment of Roma people are given acknowledgments to the enterprising initiatives, that have the best practice in employment of Roma people in the Republic of Serbia, adding that in 18 companies will be employed 62 Romas. "Presented results show that project completely justifies its name

With project "We are here together – European support for inclusion of Roma" is provided support to the institutions of the Republic of Serbia, within improvement of the state of Romas in areas of access to the basic rights, civilian participation, market work, education, healthcare, social protection, adequate housing and making stable working places

"We are here together", and that only with united efforts we can achieve success", concluded Paunović.

Ana Milenić, project manager in front of Delegation of European Union in Serbia, expressed satisfaction because of the fact that on Seminar on social inclusion of Roma people in the Republic of Serbia, on every session were stated some of the results of the projects, which is confirmation that in previous period the work was done well, and she added that

she hopes that till the end of project all started and planned activities will be realised successfully. Lloyd Tudik, manager of the project in front of Mission of OSCE in Serbia, presented results achieved in former period, momentary limits and planned activities. Special attention on managing board meeting is given to the Program of training and mentor support for organisations of civil society, whose objective is improvement of the state of Roma people.

With project "We are here together – European support for inclusion of Roma" is provided support to the institutions of the Republic of Serbia, within improvement of the state of Romas in areas of access to the basic rights, civilian participation, market work, education, healthcare, social protection, adequate housing and making stable working places through technical support to the realisation of project proposal for social development of Serbian Government. Project is financed with resources of European Union, and conducted by Mission of OSCE in Serbia, in coordination with the Office for human and minority rights of Serbian Government.

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Finding model for survival and financing of national minorities media

Source: Sandžačke novine

Coordination of national councils of national minorities of the Republic of Serbia informed minister of Culture and information, Ivan Tasovac, about conclusions dealing with informing in languages of national minorities and actual media privatisation, accepted on proposal by deputy president of Coordination, Esad Džudžo, at the meeting held on 26 June 2015, in Novi Sad.

At the meeting of Coordination of national councils of national minorities of the Republic of Serbia, held on 26 June 2015 in Novi Sad, unanimously are brought the following conclusions dealing with informing in languages of national minorities and actual media privatisation. In order to achieve public interest it is necessary urgently to exclude from the process of privatisation local media which present in languages of national minorities and whose founder is local self-government, or define those media as institutions of significant importance for national minorities.

As soon as possible to make changes and additions within the Law on national

councils of national minorities and Law on public informing, and to provide delaying of application of Article 143 of the media law, for media which present in languages of national minorities in agreement with national councils of national minorities of the Republic of Serbia.

As soon as possible should be found model for survival of media of national minorities in Serbia and model for their financing. "Unfortunately we state that national councils were not informed about the newest changes and additions in the Law on public informing, though Coordination of national councils informed the competent bodies about

problems within informing. Our effort to be partners in creation of priorities within cultural autonomy did not give satisfying results, and so we inform You and at the same time we ask You to once again accept our mutual attitude referring to the privatisation of local media whose founder is local self-government, and which present also programs in minority languages, as well as media which national councils named as institutions of significant importance, and also media founded by national councils. Founded by local self-government, and presenting for decades program in languages of national minorities, they fulfil not only their informative, but also one more important function, and that is cherishing of language, and by that culture, which make them significant institution in keeping national, language and cultural identity", is stated, among other things, in report sent to minister Tasovac.



Coordination of minorities with minister of education

Source: Bosniak national council

Vice-presidents of Bosniak national council, Esad Džudžo and Muhedin Fijuljanin, participated in meeting of representatives of national councils of national minorities with minister of education, science and technological development, Dr Srđan Verbić, and his associates.

Acting as deputy president of Coordination of national councils, Esad Džudžo introduced minister Verbić to the activities that Coordination had regarding question of education in minority languages. He stressed the necessity of respect of minority rights and advancement of their position. Talking on behalf of Bosniak national council, vice-president of the Council, Muhedin Fijuljanin, talked about problems that Bosniaks meet in the area of education. He especially emphasized problem of impossibility of declaring of members of Bosniak national community for teaching in their own, mother language, Bosnian language, especially in municipalities of Prijepolje and Priboj. He also talked about problems in procedure of accepting teaching plans and programs, especially history, regarding to which is intended to deny national identity of Bosniaks and expel Sandžak. Fijuljanin asked for making special catalogue of textbooks in mi-



nority languages and including of textbook in Bosnian language into program of free textbooks. Conclusions from meeting of Coordination in Kovačica were presented by Svetlana Zolnjan, president of the Board for education of national council of Slovak national minority. Minister Dr Srđan Verbić stressed that Ministry is going to make effort in solving all the problems, that Ministry is completely open to minorities and their representatives, and that it is necessary friendly and in cooperation to solve all

problems.

At the meeting were present representatives of all national councils of national minorities, and in front of Ministry of education, beside minister Verbić, were present also state secretary Prof Dr Zorana Lužanin, minister's assistant Vesna Lukić, head of the Cabinet Nemanja Đorđević, and senior assistant in charge of education for national minorities, Jasminka Peruničić Allen.



Dr Sulejman Ugljanin sent Ramadan congratulation

Source: Bosniak national council

President of Bosniak national council, Dr Sulejman Ugljanin, sent Ramadan congratulation.

In Congratulation is said: "Ramadan is month of God's mercy, forgiveness of sins, dealing of sadaqah and goodness, month of overall goodness and humanity. I want this Ramadan too to be month

of strengthening the trust and relations among Bosniaks, cooperation among people of all religions and nationalities, and month of building and keeping of human dignity. In the name of Bosniak national council and my own, to all Muslims in Serbia I congratulate the forthcoming month Ramadan, wishing them to spend it in peace, good health and rahatluk."



Bosniak National Council visited by ambassadors of Hungary and Austria

Source: Bosniak national council

Bosniak national council was visited by ambassador of Hungary, H.E. Dr Attila Pinter, and ambassador of Austria, H.E. Mr Johannes Eigner. President of the Council, Dr Sulejman Ugljanin, with his associates, in separated meetings welcomed ambassadors, and introduced them to the work and functioning of Bosniak national council.

Ambassadors are informed about the position of Bosniaks in Serbia, about

problems that they have, and about unsolved questions that are burden to Bosniaks, and also about activities of the Council related to the solution of those questions. In conversation is emphasized importance of the Action plan for national minorities which is made within framework of negotiations about entering of Serbia into European Union, precisely within chapters 23 and 24. Discussing the process of Serbian entering into European Union, president of the Council stressed the importance of

Resolution for solving the status of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, submitted by minority parliamentary group SDA of Sandžak - PDD, that represents direction by which Serbia should move through stated chapters in negotiations. At both meetings is discussed situation in which Bosniaks find themselves at the moment, because they are the only people within former Yugoslavia whose status is still not solved.



Commemoration in Subotica

Author: Saša Ristić

Synagogue in Subotica, a lady whose beauty is impossible to hide, in spite of her old years, is for a long time decorated so that she can shine again, and her citizens be proud of her.

Her joy is killed on 16 of June of the far away 1944 year, when they took from her 4.000 of her children and sent them to death. Silenced was then song of cantor, sermon of rabbi, and loud: "Amen!" of her pious sons and daughters. She is now only touristic attraction and mute witness of the fact that in this town in the North of Bačka once lived 6.000 of Jews. Today only about two hundred. No makeup can erase that. This 16 June, Synagogue welcomed town authorities, few representatives of different religions, rest of the rest of former big Jewish municipality Subotica and their countrymen from other Serbian towns. As always, present were also busy media representatives, ready as a strained gun to write down every word, and what they hear and slightly understand to prepare for night news and morning editions of their, as Nobel prize winner Ivo Andrić said, "journalistic mills, that grind too much but give little flour." Sad meeting, sad occasion – remembrance of more than 4.000 Jew from Subotica, sent to the camps of death. There were heard, in such occasions appropriate, observations about Evil, constantly present in a Man, about misunderstanding and indifference that follow him, about innocent, suffered children and adults, about the saddest day in the history of Subotica, about a huge loss not only for

Jew, but for all people from Subotica, and there were pronounced proud guarantees that it must not ever happen to anyone in the future. – This is a history lesson that we should remember well, because its repetition often happens – warned rabbi Isak Asiel. Strong words – of small power. Rabbi is aware of that, and wise enough not to believe that we will all together suddenly become good and attentive students. For, many before him talked the same, but words are not

burs so that they can hook up, the wind blows them, lesson is not learned, and history repeats itself.

– Jewish community was motor of the development of Subotica, and tragic events that followed during Second World War and changed Europe for good, but also our town, should be warning to all, especially to the new generations – said mayor Jene Maglai. After commemorative meeting participants went out to the yard, silently and respectfully to put wreaths on monument of the suffered Jew people. Beautiful Synagogue was empty again.



New objectives and tasks settled

Pokornić: Bunjevci from Hungary recognized efforts of Council to keep the national identity and cultural heritage

Executive Board of the National council of Bunjevci national minority, at the meeting, upon constitution, named working team for cooperation with diaspora. Working team is made of Branko Pokornić, Nevenka Bašić Palković and Zvonko Stantić, and its task is, in the name of National council, to give all needed help to Bunjevci associations, for the sake of better organisation and enforcing of mutual cooperation of Bunjevci in the Republic of Hungary. Also, within the limits of possibilities, given is material and logistic support in their choice, at the submitting of applications for acknowledgment of Bunjevci as a national minority in Hungary.

Related to that choice, from 2012 are intensively kept working meetings, at least two times a year, with representatives of all registered associations with Bunjevac in their names, and they are:

"Zlatna grana" – Baja, Bunjevac cultural association "Neven" – Kacmar, "Bajska citaonica" – Baja, Bunjevci association – Gara, Association Bacalmaš, Association "Kolo" – Tompa, Association Bacbokod and Association from Felšisentsvan. – At the first few meetings, together with detailed acquaintance with difficulties and problems that for decades follow Bunjevci in the Republic of Hungary, asked was also possible answer on question how to give hope and strength to the Bunjevci associations, so that they can persist in their fight for survival of Bunjevci community; who, and in which effective way can help national council of Bunjevci national minority. Thus was made agreement to begin with organisation of manifestation under Bunjevci name, and on the basis of given proposals, Council participates in the town

manifestation "Bajski kotlić", kept in July, with given town agreement for

"Bunjevački sokak"; then in August, in organisation of Cultural and Art Society "Neven" from Kačmar, is kept Dužijanca, while during winter, in organisation of "Bajska citaonica", is kept "Bajsko bunjevačko prelo" – numbers president of the Working team, Branko Pokornić.

This approach until now showed good results, it succeeded to close many people, solved present disagreements, and also opened new spaces of mutual respect and cooperation.

Now second step is in turn, and Pokornić explains what it means: – Plan is, through organized workshops, to access learning of mother language, to give possibilities to children in schools, through picture-books and practical manuals, to easier master Bunjevac speech, letters, and dances. We want to organize common children workshops, dances and association, and also, now, through workshops, all interested

activists we train for other important activities, in order to protect Bunjevac cultural treasure in Hungary. It is important to stress that Bunjevci associations from

the Republic of Hungary actively participated in celebration of all Bunjevac national holidays. These first helping and supporting steps to Bunjevci from neighbouring Hungary opened space for making Strategy for further advancement of cooperation, and so during February of this year, Working team for cooperation with diaspora, at the meeting in expanded structure made analysis of realised activities in previous year, and also main directions are settled for making of the mentioned strategy.

– I must mention that Bunjevci from the Republic of Hungary recognized efforts by Council, in order to keep national identity and cultural heritage. In all this it is important to stress that within realisation of all former agreements special merits has Čaba Kamerman, who is coordinator of all associations of Bunjevci in Hungary, and bearer of all important enterprises toward gathering of Bunjevci and Bunjevac intellectuals around cultural associations, for realisation of the basic objective – acknowledgement of Hungarian parliament that Bunjevci represent national minority in the Republic of Hungary – emphasizes at the end Branko Pokornić. Since new chapter of development and advancement of mutual relations of Bunjevci between two neighbouring countries is just opening,

it is clear that Working team is necessary, and in following period there are numerous tasks and challenges in front of it.



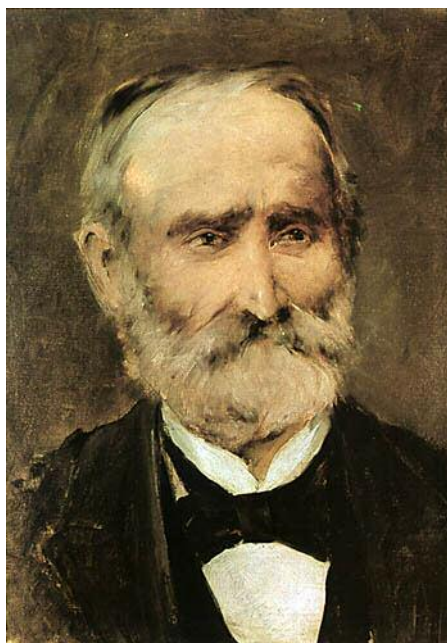
LIFE AND WORK BY BUNJEVAC, ACADEMICIAN JOSIF PANČIĆ 5 (17) APRIL 1814 – 25 FEBRUARY (8 MARCH) 1888.

Whole country mourned

Author: Zvonko Stantić

Josif Pančić died on 25 February (by old calendar) 1888, at 4:30, in arms of his daughter Milica. His last wish is fulfilled at the initiative of Yugoslav Union of mountaineers and Serbian Academy of Science and Art (SANU). Coffin from Pančić pine, with his bones, on 7 July 1951 is moved to Kopaonik and settled in pine at the biggest peak of the mountain, at the height of 2017 meters.

"It was a huge national mourn. When he came to Serbia nobody knew him, and when died after 42 years, our whole country was veiled in sorrow. People cried for their best friend and teacher. Together with people in great sorrow were 34 generations of lyceums and educated people, who Pančić, through his life and work, taught about science, responsibility, and first of all about love for their people and their country. In pleiad of our great people of science and patriotism, name Pančić shines with full brilliance!" says about Pančić Prof. Ljubiša M. Glišić. In the Archive of Serbian Academy of Science and Art (SANU), under number 8746, in segment about Pančić, is kept letter by lawyer Milan Mostić, husband of Pančić's daughter Milica, about last days, that he sent 4 days after death to Stojan Novaković, minister of education, and later president of SANU, who reformed education from primary to high level, just the way that Pančić asked, still in time when Novaković was his student at Licej (Secondary school). In the letter Mostić says: "...For the time of two months sickness of my late, never enough mourned father-in-law, professor Josif Pančić, I read to him all letter that he received. After reading of Your letter he ordered me to answer You, and kindly greet and thank to You and Your family, that sends him offers. Offers came while he was alive, and he drank juice squeezed from an orange. After 4-5 days, he slept for good." In his funeral speech, in front of Big school, departing from Pančić in the name of Big school, professor J. Žujović, his assistant, especially emphasized tireless work of Pančić in botanical cabinet, and he says: "The cabinet is blessed temple, where this educated vicar served to the science. That is the biggest value of Big school, because it is attained with hardest work and longest strain of Pančić. That is pride to Serbian science, for, though of mod-



est external appearance, all foreign experts who saw it, cannot but admire its rich content", and one of the founders of Serbian physicians society, Dr. Vladan Đorđević, evoking memory on Pančić, said: "In those times when the biggest Serbian school paid, almost exclusively, attention to the laws You first started teaching us to pronounce and read the magnificent book of nature. You lead us through this beautiful Serbian country, to show us every town and every village, all rivers and mountains, to show us all richness of Serbian flora and fauna and all mining treasure of Serbia."

At the funeral service was present King Milan Obrenović, and with greatest respect, Dr. Josif Pančić was buried at Tašmajdan graveyard, near the church of Saint Marko, in street Grobljanska, today Takovska. There were buried also Daničić, Kolarac, Vujić. Wreaths on the coffin were put by: His Majesty King Milan, Serbian Royal Academy, professors of Big school, Serbian physicians so-

ciety, Serbian archaeological Society, Serbian agriculture society, Civic mess-room, Main educational council, academicians, National radical party, Serbian progressive party, Higher female school, teachers of I and II Belgrade Grammar school, teachers of Belgrade training college, Belgrade Realka, Royal Serbian divinity, gardeners of Botanical garden, Association of Teachers, Serbian miners, mine "Pančić" from Podrinje, Serbian freemasons "Pobratimstvo" (from which we see that he was mason), Fund for helping poor high-students, Academic choral society "Obilic", Church choral society "Kornelije", Serbian Jewish choral society, naturalists, philologists, lawyers, technicians, Academic youth in Vienna. Written expressions of condolence sent: "Tekelijanum" with students from Budapest, Serbian University Youth, Pest, Orthodox divinity institute from Zadar, rector of Royal University Franjo Josip I from Zagreb, archimandrite Dr. Nikodin Milaš from Zadar, Royal Venetian institute for science, literature and art from Venice, Serbian academic society "Srbija" from Graz, Naturalist society of Hungary from Budapest, Hungarian academy of sciences, royal academy of sciences from Berlin and Kiev society of naturalists within Imperator University of Saint Vladimir from Kiev. By his close colleagues, scientists, Pančić during his life deserved sincere respect, and thus in necrology in Ugric academy of sciences, in 1893, August Kanic mentions Pančić's correspondence with Johan Hajfel, as well as problems that he had in correspondence. Short time after Sadler died, he had for a long time correspondence only with Hajfel, and to him he sent a lengthy report about vegetation of Jagodina district. In current Student's park, in 1897, monument is raised to Pančić. At the inauguration, with many students and high-scholars, academicians, professors, ministers, members of Serbian Royal academy, were present king Aleksandar Obrenović, patriarch of Serbian orthodox church Georgije Branković, president of Belgrade municipality Nikola Pašić, who at that occasion said: "With raising this monument, capital of Serbia wants to motivate Serbian

youth for cultural and literature work, and to give proofs that it likes Serbs, wherever they are, and that Belgrade brotherly supports them in honour of itself and of all serbdom". Mountaineers and SANU, in 1950, remembered ancient wish of Dr. Josip Pančić, to rest at the peak of Kopaonik, and thus on 5 July of the next year moved procession with coffin from Pančić pine, with his remains, and the next day, 6 July, coffin definitely moved to Suvo Rudište on Kopaonik. At the new send-off were present many Serbian academicians and professors of Belgrade University, as well as many mountaineers. The highest peak of Kopaonik, from that year, instead of Milan's, by prince Milan, is called Pančić's peak, and in the same year is raised mausoleum, where Pančić's bones are put, and after that also of his wife. Near Pančić's mausoleum, because of appropriate strategic position, army built radar-observing centre, and there were also objects of civil Agency for flight control, which were, in 1999 destroyed by NATO bombs and rockets. We all know for how long lasted NATO bombing of Serbia, but according to some prognoses, based on following the increase in number of patients with cancer, the explosion of malignant tumours, we can yet expect, as a consequence of 15 tons of uranium. It is especially interesting that first in the world who talked and wrote about healing features of petroleum, among others when it is about malignant diseases, was Josif Pančić, in his

"Omorika". Four years ago, to me and my niece was not allowed entrance into military object, which is now surrounded by high double concrete wall, so that mausoleum is not well visible from outside. After one year and disaster with exploded cassette bombs on the highest skiing path, when two officers of Serbian military died, we saw that it is that very

path through which we passed on the way to mausoleum, and where was only written that it was closed, but that it is



it, which grew because of dilapidation and disuse of the path. According to pictures that you can see, mausoleum suffered smaller destructions, but it is not struck, though metal tower in surrounding, on 4 meters, is completely bended. Soon mausoleum was reconstructed, but destructions of stone edge are visible. Marble plate, which because of the explosion fell from mausoleum, also is reconstructed. On it again is written: "Realising vow of Pančić, we move him here, to rest for good. We announce his message sent to Serbian youth – that only with deep knowledge and studying of nature of our country they will show how much they respect and love their country."

dangerous, especially because of cassette bombs, was not mentioned. People carelessly picked wild raspberries on

Vasilios Provelegios, president of National council of
Greek national minority in Serbia

For change of Law and respect of "small" communities



Elections for national councils of national minorities in Serbia are kept last year, according to law in force, which many representatives of national councils want to change. For that change is also Vasilios Provelegios, who is chosen for the president of National council of Greek national minority after last year's elections. He, however, thinks that more attention should be given also to "smaller" ethnic communities in Serbia, which includes Greece.

Author: S. Biševac

Law on national councils is destroyed by its liberality. All welfare of the law can feel only "big" minority communities. We, "small" ones, are left to manage how we know in the sea of freedoms, that are given to national minorities, without even one instrument of protection from assimilation, because of impossibility to fulfil quotas which state bodies defined, in order to actively participate on all levels. One of the mechanisms that we create is association of "small" national minorities, that we initiated together with Union of Jewish

municipalities and some other national councils. To conclude, law should be changed, and not only aesthetically, but features of all national councils should be respected, not to support only big ones, says Provelegios.

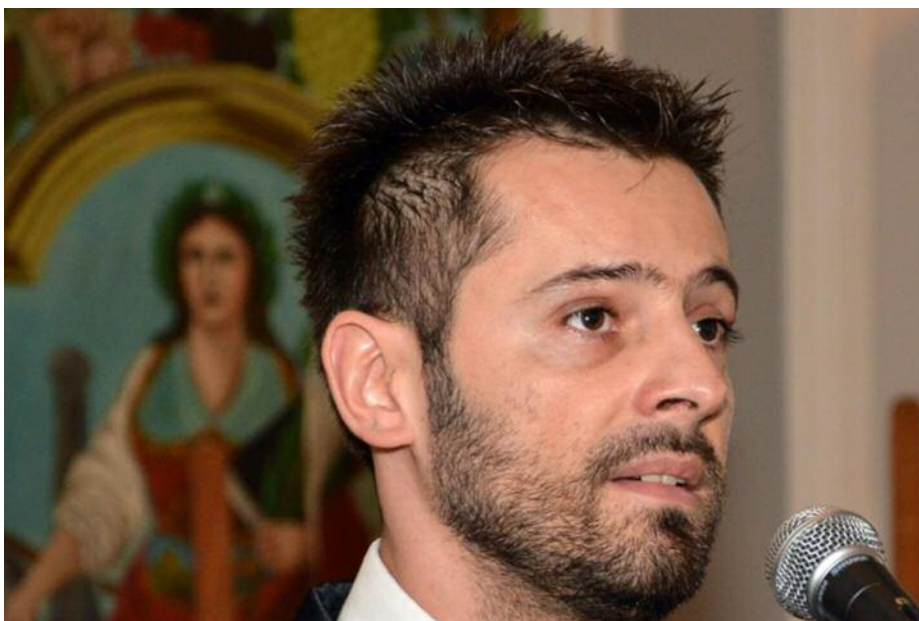
You are head of National council since last year. What have you done until now and what are your plans?

- National council of Greek national minority is devastated by behaviour of former convocations. We understood that

we do not have even a place for gathering and holding meetings. Thus, we start from the beginning. In this period we worked a lot on popularisation of Greek national minority. We launched internet radio station, which plays Greek music 24 hours, and we plan including of informative program too. In our new space, in the very centre of Belgrade, municipality Savski venac, we plan to start free school of Greek language and journalism school, that will be basis for magazine in Greek language.

National council of Greek national minority devastated with behaviour of previous convocations

Essentially, if you are representative of "small" national minority and you do not have political power, the only way to approach somebody who decides and has authority to start solving any problem, is that he himself calls you



Are you satisfied with cooperation with competent state bodies?

- Generally, yes. After six years of break are held two meetings of council for national minorities in a very short period, that are presides by prime minister or the highest political actors of the country, and that gives us hope that problems that we have can be solved more effectively. Essentially, if you are representative of "small" national minority and you do not have political power, the only way to approach somebody who decides and has authority to start solving any problem, is that he himself calls you. It is happening now, and we try to use it in the best way for our community. We want our voice to be heard, we want also to praise Republic of Serbia in its attitude toward national minorities. Ignorance about work of our councils causes revolt among majority, and I often hear that minorities have more rights than majority. Of course that is not true, but we should try decently to close activity of our councils to the majority, and even to include them in our activities, so that we all together can enjoy differences.

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In the last elections for national councils participated five Greek lists. Have you accepted the logic "two Serbs, three parties"? Why are Greeks in Serbia so divided?

- Logic "two Serbs, three parties" is not invented in Serbia, in every country in the world you can find more different opinions. I see it as training of basic principles of democracy, more opinions better solution! I would not say that Greeks

in Serbia are divided, but we have one specific problem, and that is dispersion. In every bigger town in Serbia there is a smaller or bigger organized Greek community, and though generally our interests are the same, when it is on a local level you have many dissonant tones about model and about way of solving the same problems. We plan to visit all associations of Greeks in Serbia, and to make modus, in order on next elections to have less lists with more number of representatives from all parts of the country.

Work of former convocations of National council of Greek minority is marked with line of scandals and accuses for abuse of money. Can you guarantee that in future it will not happen?

- While I am president of national council, scandals and trivialisation of council, as in former period will not happen. The things that they allowed to happen within such important body for our community deserve all blames! Up to 2010, in Karađorđeva street No. 69 in Belgrade, we had office, active school of language, library, school for fencing, humanitarian organisation, Greek club, and we lost everything, after malversations with which council is taken and left in debt of more than three millions. It is allowed on one hand by law and its liberalism. These malversations are treated by courts and competent institutions, submitted criminal applications slowly get their epilogues, and I hope that culprits will be punished, so that no one ever again can think about playing with a national community.

Tsipras can do a lot

Greeks and Serbs are close people, mutual linking is obvious. Still, popularity of Tsipras decreases. What is your opinion about Greek prime minister?

- Closeness of Serbs and Greek started a long time ago, historical persons who connected us are tsar Dušan, Riga od Fere, Eleftherios Venizelos, but the hardest connection of our two nations are religion and almost the same mentality. As for politics of prime minister Tsipras, we see that his popularity, in spite of all opinions is bigger. He came as a refreshment, after half-century ruling of two political parties, New Democracy and PASOK, as well as their two dynasties of family. Alexis Tsipras is a man who is closer to the people, and who feels better the essential problems of people. I am afraid he will need more time to master the instruments of governing in realisation of his ideas. Bu he is young and ambitious, and he does not put everything in political capsule, especially when addressing people. What Tsipras must and can do is to introduce fiscal discipline in the whole country, not so much because of the big three, but because of the interests of his country. If he realises that the right way, in a short time Greek crisis can be the past.

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Centar za istraživanja migracija
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