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Abstract	The following document is a report on the current situation regarding academic integrity at the University of Montenegro, work of the Court of Honor of the UoM and the national legal framework. Additionally, it discusses activities planned to be carried out in order to improve knowledge of the stakeholders and public, in general, when it comes to the procedures regulating violation of moral and professional principles and mission of the Court of Honour of the UoM.
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## 1. Introduction

Some general presentation of how important is ethics at your institution and how it is regulated could go here (i.e. bodies responsible for it).

The Court of Honor (*CH, Sud časti*) of University of Montenegro performs typical professional tasks of such a body. It makes sure that the conduct/behavior of every member of the University is in accordance with the highest professional and community ethical standards, respects and complies with the law and contractual terms and conditions. CH supports university's goals and works towards avoiding conflicts of interest. It promotes respect for the rights and dignity of others, as well as the maintenance of the highest standards of academic integrity. CH is in charge of pursuing a disciplinary action against any member who is shown to have knowingly worked against the above and against the established Code of Ethics. For the misconduct, the CH announces public warning or public sentence either at the meeting of the University's Senate or in the University's bulletins.

## 2. National legal framework in the Montenegro

Information about what regulates ethics in research and academic integrity in the HEIs in your country.

At the national level, the issues of ethics and academic integrity are regulated by Article 5 of the Higher Education Law. The article stipulates that HEI with Ethical Code defines the basic and general principles of values based on ethical rights and obligations in higher education and protects the highest values of higher education through the application of appropriate norms regulating academic relations within the university community. In addition, Article 36 stipulates that Statute of the University is the document that defines the method of adopting an ethical code of academic staff. And students, when they enroll a study program, they sign the Contract which includes their rights and obligations, as students, and they also sign statements of respect for the principle of academic ethics (Article 102 of above mentioned Law).

It is important to mention that the Law on Academic Integrity is currently being drafted, and by the end of 2018, it is expected to be adopted. In addition, representatives of the UoM participate in the process – they are members of the Working Group, along with the colleagues from the Council of Europe Office, who participate in drafting the above-mentioned document.

## 3. Bodies responsible for ethics at your university

The Court of Honour of the University of Montenegro is responsible for ethics at our University. CH of the University of Montenegro is an independent committee. It is elected every three years, except for students' representative who is elected every year. The Court has nine members elected by the Senate, except for the students' representative, who is elected by the Student Parliament. The Court of Honor has a president and a vice president, elected by its members, and a secretary in charge of administrative duties. A trial can have several instances. The Council that comprises the president and two more members of the Court, first examines the case. If the case is not resolved at this level, a five-member committee is formed. The work of these committees has strictly regulated procedures. The Court of Honour usually meets once a month. If needed, it meets on a two-week basis. Work of the Court is public, unless the Court decides that there are reasons for the exclusion of the public. Having in mind that the obligation of the Court is to decide about the ethical responsibility of the academic staff, who provide education to the

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student population, and having in mind the delicacy of the nature of the procedure this institution conducts, the information are not published on the University's website in the course of the procedure. If misconduct is established, the judgement is officially published in the University's Bulletin or announced at the UoM's Senate.

The Senate of the University of Montenegro, at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 appointed the following members of the Court of Honour:

1. Boris Vukićević, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science,
2. Predrag Janković, Associate Professor at the Music Academy,
3. Marina Rakočević, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering,
4. Miroslav Kezunović, Full Professor at the Faculty for Sport and Physical Education;
5. Božidar Popović, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics,
6. Filip Vukmirović, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine,
7. Dragana Kujović, scientific advisor at the Historical Institute
8. Miroslav Doderović, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy,
9. Miloš Vuksanović, student of the Biotechnical Faculty, Member of the Court of Honor elected by the Student Parliament

Since the appointment of the current composition of the Court of Honour there were two plenary sessions of the Court and numerous sessions, on weekly bases, of various three-member and five-member committees. At the first session Boris Vukićević, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences was elected the President of the Court. There were seven complaints that the Court received during the previous term, that were left to this Court's convocation to make decisions. No new complaints were received since the appointment of the current members. Out of seven cases, one decision was made to dismiss a motion against a professor from the Faculty of Architecture since no legal ground was found to continue the process. Two decisions were made against the professor from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics – in both cases the judgment was public condemnation published in the Bulletin of the University of Montenegro. In the other three cases, decisions are pending. In the case against a professor from the Faculty of Law, the Court is waiting the procedure in the Prosecutor's Office to end before continuing the process or dismissing the motion.

#### 4. Institution's own legal framework

The Code of Ethics of the University of Montenegro (published in University's Bulletin number 343, 2015) regulates the moral and professional principles which should be adhered to by all academic and other staff and students, with the aim of preserving and improving the dignity and reputation of the University of Montenegro, according to its mission, as well as in the procedure for cases of the violation of these principles. The Code of Ethics should represent a common system of values, and the dominant model of professional behavior for academic and other staff. Ethical principles should impose a responsibility to engage in public discourse and action, and thus only in that way can the necessary level of trust and tolerance be established.

The Code of Ethics of the UoM defines professional responsibility, responsibility towards students and responsibilities of students, responsibility towards colleagues (members of academic staff), responsibility towards the Institution, social mission, responsibility for violation of intellectual property, implementation

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of the Code of Ethics. It consists of the explanation of the procedure for the violation of moral and professional principles, measures imposed by the Court, and other relevant elements.

Academic relations and the behaviour of academic and other personnel not being described by this Code of Ethics may be applied by the unwritten rules and principles of academic institutions, as well as universal standards of professional academic behaviour. The Code of Ethics should be interpreted and implemented to achieve these goals most efficiently and to affirm the values stated in the Preamble. The Court of Honour should determine the responsibilities and impose measures for the violation of ethical principles such as:

1. A Public warning,
2. Public criticism which is published at a session of the University Senate,
3. Public criticism that is published in the "Bulletin of the University of Montenegro".

## **5. Remarks/Suggestions for improvement**

The University of Montenegro plans to organize seminars, trainings and forums on the topic of academic integrity, plagiarism, and to engage people interested to contribute to raising awareness on the importance of this topic.

In the following few months, according to the Action Plan made by Centre for Studies and Quality Control of the UoM, it is planned to organize seminars on topics such as:

- Promoting rules of Ethical Behaviour in Teaching (target group are members of the Court of Honour);
- The Role of the Quality Assurance System in Strengthening Academic Integrity (target groups are members of the Commission for monitoring and quality improvement at the faculty units – every faculty unit has appointed members of the Commission, in accordance with the Rulebook);
- Plagiarism (target groups are master and PhD students)
- Preventing plagiarism (Committee for Monitoring of the Master Studies, Committee for PhD studies and Editorial Board);
- The Role of the Quality System in Strengthening Academic Integrity (target groups are members of the Committee for Quality Assurance),
- Prevention of students' cheating (target groups are members of the Student Parliament of the UoM).

Finally, The Court of Honour plans to make decisions in all the cases that are still unsolved until the end of March. The Court also plans to adopt its Rules of Procedure, since the previous convocations of the Court did not adopt it. It is planned that the Court of Honour consider suggestions for amendments to the Code of Ethics, so its decision making can be improved and certain cases of legal vacuum avoided.

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