



This publication features the most prominent stories that the **Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo (CIN)** published over the past 15 years. It was difficult to choose these over many other stories that had significant impact. You're still reading stories published ten years ago and they evoke reactions as if they were written today. Our stories have led to numerous positive developments in the society. Evenhanded and meticulous reporting is behind all of our stories.

We daily witness taxpayers' outrage over how government mispends their money; of officials embezzling funds from state-owned companies; of nepotism in hiring. Your tips helped us denounce corrupt politicians, police officers, judges and prosecutors, instilling a sense of hope that things will get better. It is precisely our aim to use free and independent press to right the consequences of legislative, executive and judicial powers' wrongdoing.

As the first investigative media outlet in the region, CIN strove from the beginning to introduce the highest professional standards on BiH media scene and set itself apart as an independent source of information that is not opinionated, or influenced by political rhetoric and tainted motivations.

The ever-growing increase of visits to our web page, the support we receive from citizens and nearly 40 international and domestic awards testify that media scene in BiH would be hard to imagine without CIN.

CIN has an ear for technological trends and the public needs, especially those of the younger generation. We provide our readers not only with stories, but with opportunity to discover investigative journalism through animation, infographics, video stories and comics. We have also created 18 on-line databases that contain hundreds of thousands of fact-checked information and primary source documents hitherto hidden from the public eye by government bureaucrats.

The major domestic and regional media outlets regularly publish our stories. On average, a CIN story is published in 50 different print, broadcasting and web news sites.

CIN was started in 2004 with a technical assistance and support from the New York University School of Journalism and the Journalism Development Group. Today, CIN is a modern news agency that continues to be the vanguard of highest professional standards in reporting.



Policemen and Criminals

A video story about former police commissioner in Una-Sana Canton, **Ramo Brkić**, sentenced to 11 years for production and trade in drugs, abuse of office and corruption. During this investigation, reporters conducted around 100 interviews including those with cannabis growers and drug dealers; police officials and politicians and other people of stature in the canton.



ACCOUNT in BiH, gave it an award for the best video about corruption in 2013/2014

European Union's third award in 2013/2014

Abuse of Accommodation Allowances in FBiH Parliament

CIN reporters uncovered how members of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina House of Representatives and House of Peoples took advantage of taxpayer-funded accommodation in Sarajevo.

From now on, MPs will have to prove that they don't own property holdings in the capital when applying for accommodation allowance. Prosecutor's Office in Sarajevo has opened an investigation.



CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in 2017 for Young Professional Journalists



Read more at

www.cin.ba





Court-appointed Attorneys: Between Justice and Profit

Courts in BiH spend nearly 11 million KM annually on court-appointed attorneys. CIN reporters have documented this in a unique database and showed how some court-appointed lawyers pulled strings to get cases.



Following CIN's investigation, a judicial regulator introduced a system to track court-appointed defenses. Cantonal Prosecutors in Sarajevo opened an investigation against lawyer Omar Mehmedbašić on charges of witness tampering.

Abuse of Money Earmarked for Hiring Veterans

Through three stories and a unique database on the financing of veterans' associations and co-ops, CIN reporters revealed how money intended for veterans was misused. Presidents and founders of veterans' associations and co-ops kept the money for themselves while falsely accounting for expenses.



ACCOUNT network's award for best multimedia reporting on corruption in 2018.



European Union's third award in 2018



Read more at

www.cin.ba





CEI SEEMO Award for 2018.

Life on Toxic Soil

The Tuzla Power Plant has been depositing toxic tailings in nearby settlements. Four years ago, experts found high levels of nickel, chromium, arsenic and other life-threatening toxins in air, water and soil. While reporting on a story, we found out that chemical companies also never deposited safely their toxic waste. Waste, still capable of causing illness and death, remains in factory compounds.



At the request of Tuzla Canton Prosecutor's Office, the FBIH inspectors investigated the pollution level of dumps.

Bosnalijek: Suspicious Money of Russian Investors and CEO Arslanagić's Riches

CIN reporters proved and showed how Russian investors illicitly bought shares to acquire the controlling stake in a Sarajevo drug maker Bosnalijek. We also tracked down assets worth millions which the firm's former CEO **Edin Arslanagić** and his family bought in BiH and the USA during and after his time at company's helm. We proved that they paid the assets one million KM more than had been their reported income.



2016 "Reporter of the Year" award from the BiH Association of Journalists



Read more at

www.cin.ba



Judge Fazlagić Disinherited Holocaust Victims

A story about illegalities in work of judges, attorneys and court clerks who grabbed abandoned flats and houses of Sarajevo Jews who perished in Second World War.



2019 award from Montenegrin foundation Duško Jovanović

Camping Around Fire Instead of Going to Prison

CIN reporters found that some convicts, including politicians, may never get to serve their prison sentences. They would delay the start of their sentence based on erroneous facts and were eventually pardoned. Most often, the reason for postponement was that prisons were too crowded. Official records show that there were 317 available places in 12 BiH prisons.

Annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for 2012



Read more at

www.cin.ba





Danger on Your Plate

CIN reporters published several stories warning of the lack of adequate sanitary conditions in hospitality facilities and indoor markets around the country. As a part of the investigation, CIN had food samples from fast food joints in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar tested. The results showed that around half of the tested samples had above the normal concentration of bacteria or included toxic substances. Not long after the series was published, hundreds of people ended up in hospital due to food poisoning.



The Online News Association award for best story in 2007

Buying a Dream House

CIN reporters uncovered that two former FBiH prime ministers, **Nedžad Branković** and **Edhem Bićakčić**, used public funds to buy Branković a luxurious apartment in Sarajevo. He chose a flat that the FBiH government and the state-owned Energoinvest paid for. Later, Branković bought out the occupancy rights for the flat worth 264,000 KM with certificates.

CIN: How did you buy that flat?

Branković: In line with the law.

CIN: How?

Branković: Well, in line with the law.

CIN: With certificates?

Branković: I bought it in line with the law.



After the story was published, Branković resigned the office of Prime Minister.



Read more at

www.cin.ba





A Dear Cost of Having Roof Over Your Head

CIN reporters revealed how children in foster homes were raped, physically abused and neglected. In BiH the oversight of foster care – placing minors in the private homes – is still very loose.



CEI SEEMO award for young journalists in 2014

USAID journalism award as part of the project on strengthening government institutions and reforms in BiH in 2014

Tainted Testimonies

Željko Karan, a pathologist and forensic expert witness in the RS, admitted to investigators that he had taken money to doctor evidence in cases in which he testified as a forensic witness. He later recanted his testimony and claimed that he had been set up. His testimonies have sealed the fate of hundreds of people. In at least two cases, the family members of defendants said that Karan and his colleague Milko Marić asked for money to instruct defendants or doctor evidence in their favor.

In 2018, Željko Karan emerged in the public spotlight because his inquest into the death of Davor Dragičević was found controversial.



Read more at

www.cin.ba





SEEMO / CEI Award in 2013

Balkan Share Traders Endangered German Stock Exchange

CIN reporters uncovered how brothers **Zoran and Goran Samardžija** had set up a network of illegal call centers in BiH to trade in shares on the German stock exchange. Every day, a dozen of their workers using fictitious names of persons and firms, dialed EU residents promising them easy riches. This boiler room scam worked like this: Dunmorr would buy large amounts of shares in worthless firms that their Bosnian employees then offered en mass to EU buyers.

Allowance for Accommodation in One's Own Apartment

The FBiH has spent some 226,000 KM on accommodation allowances of 13 ministers. There is no oversight of that spending that allows misuses to happen. CIN reporters have found that four ministers collected reimbursements even though they own apartments in the same towns where they work.



European Union's second award
in BiH in 2014

ACCOUNT in BiH, gave an award
for the best 2014 corruption report



After the story was published
Salmir Kaplan returned some of
the rent money he had taken from
the budget.



Read more at

www.cin.ba





Politicians' Property Holdings do not Square with Their Income

Kemal Čaušević, a former director of the Indirect Taxation Authority in BiH, bought assets worth 1,080,000 KM over less than seven years.

Also, the former director of the Sarajevo Clinical Center, **Faris Gavrankapetanović**, and his family acquired property worth 2 million KM over ten years' period.

Their reported income could not have covered the expense of acquiring such an amount of assets.

Reporters also uncovered that the president of Croatian Democratic Union in BiH, **Dragan Čović** and his wife Bernadica, received most of the property either as gifts or as purchases they made before 2003. After police started investigating Čović, Bernadica started buying property in family's name — some of which she later received as gifts.



Award for the best corruption reporting in 2013 from BiH ACCOUNT.



Award for the best corruption reporting in 2014 from BiH ACCOUNT.



Award for the best corruption reporting in 2015 from BiH ACCOUNT.



European Union's second award in 2015.



Following CIN's reporting, the Court of BiH froze Čaušević's assets. Čović is facing charges in the state court on abuse of office and acquiring illegal gain.



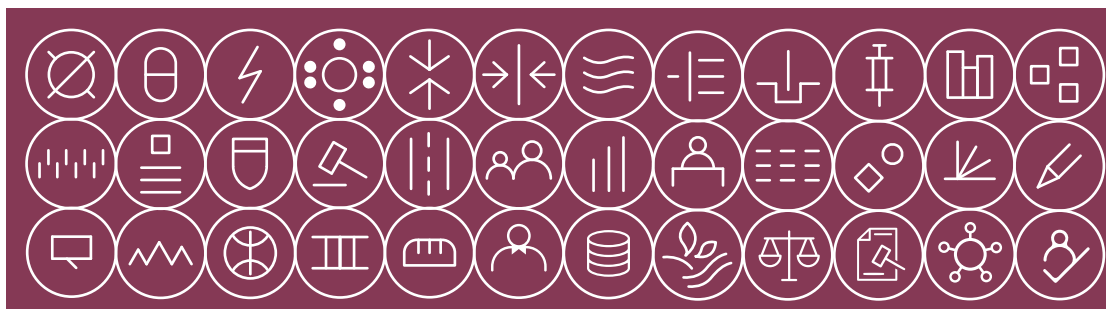
Read more at www.cin.ba





Databases

Every year **CIN** publishes new databases and updates old ones. These databases contain thousands of fact-checked information and primary source documents hitherto hidden from the public by government bureaucrats. The databases enable citizens to inform themselves quickly on a variety of topics, and to easily find information they rarely have access to.



Topics

Justice
Health care
Subsidies
Smuggling
Politics
Corruption
Crime
Economy
Employment
Energy prospects
Public procurement



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