# C I N Center for

Investigative Reporting

Annual Report 2022

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investigations and arrests

In 2022, CIN investigated misuse of public money, money laundering, public procurement procedures, corruption in the health care system, abuse of pupils and students, defrauding, and abuse of office and property of politicians, judges, and prosecutors.

Year after year, the police and judicial institutions have been checking allegations from our stories. Some investigations led to criminal investigations, indictments, or prison sentences. Our stories prompted institutions to change their rules and practices, and resulted in several initiatives to amend laws and regulations.





**June 2021** - CIN journalists exposed Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) inspectors who **have been racketeering shop owners** 

**December 2022** > six (6) inspectors were **arrested**, of whom three (3) were remanded in **custody**: Jelena Majstorović, head of the ITA Anti-smuggling Group, and inspectors Radenko Popović and Stevo Savić

**October 2022** - CIN journalists discovered the **unlawful acquisition of property** by Zoran Čegar, the head of the FBiH Uniformed Police

**November/December 2020** > CIN's discoveries and Čegar's subsequent threats to CIN journalists led to Čegar's suspension. The Federation Police Administration and Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor are **checking** the allegations about his illegally acquired property

**December 2017** - CIN journalists exposed **misuse** of per diem and travel allowances by FBiH MP Jasenko Tufekčić

**November 2022** Tufekčić was **convicted** of fraud in the service and falsification of documents and sentenced to eight months in prison. Also, he paid back BAM 35,000 to the budget

**June 2022** - CIN journalists discovered that Prointer ITSS applied for public procurement with **fake** documentation

**September 2022** Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office is **checking** CIN's discoveries about the forged documents the company Prointer ITSS submitted when applied for a BAM 692,000 worth of public procurement

"The pretext of protecting financial privacy is merely a fig leaf covering the shameful role of Swiss banks as collaborators of tax evaders. This situation enables corruption and starves developing countries of much-needed tax revenue. These countries are the ones that therefore suffer most from Switzerland's reverse-Robin-Hood stunt."

The whistleblower who leaked information about "Suisse Secrets" to the media





# 13 properties worth BAM 720 thousand

(BiH, Serbia, and Montenegro)



In "Credit Suisse"

about BAM 3 million

Total income from 1998 to 2016

about BAM 2.3 million

# International journalistic project "Suisse Secrets"

The international journalistic investigation "Suisse Secrets" revealed that the bank "Credit Suisse" and its clients have close ties to crime and gross violations of human rights.

In cooperation with **47 media outlets and more than 160 journalists from 38 countries** around the world, CIN spent months analyzing information related to **about 18,000 accounts** that at their peak were worth more than 100 billion US dollars.

Thanks to this data "leak", CIN journalists discovered that **Janko Jovanović**, **the head of the Brod Customs Office**, and his wife **Jovanka Jovanović**, **president of the Doboj District Commercial Court**, had assets worth millions. Their income does not even come close to justifying these investments.

Centar za





# **Prizes and awards**

In 2022, CIN received five awards and recognitions for investigative journalism.

Our investigations on corrupt ITA BiH inspectors and illegal procurement of police uniforms were awarded, while the story on life-threatening poisons at the Mostar landfill Uborak received two environmental awards.

CIN also won "the 2021 Best Journalist of the Year" Award from the BiH Journalists' Association.



istraživačko novinarstvo





Mirko Šarović, former President of SDS Party six undeclared properties in Belgrade, Serbia

Bakir Izetbegović, president of the SDA Party undeclared land in the elite Sarajevo settlement of Poljine

**Dragan Čović, President of HDZ Party** undeclared house in Mostar

Milorad Dodik, President of SNSD Party undeclared land in Gradiška and a garage in Belgrade, Serbia

Asim Sarajlić, former vice president of the SDA Party undeclared apartment in Šibenik, Croatia

**Dragan Bogdanić, member of the SNSD Presidency** undeclared house in Belgrade, Serbia

# "Undeclared property of BiH politicians"

Every year, CIN journalists find dozens of valuable properties in BiH and the countries of the region that BiH politicians try to cover up.

While required under the law to declare their income and property as well as the property of their closest family members **worth over BAM 5,000**, some avoid doing so.

However, failure to declare does not bear any sanctions, hence it has been left to the politicians' conscience to declare or not their properties.





# Cooperation of CIN with other media

CIN offers its investigative stories **free of charge** to all print, online and electronic media, with the caveat that the source of information must always be indicated and the content must remain unchanged.

In this way, fact-checked and true information corroborated with evidence reaches a large audience.

CIN's stories prompted several discussions on topics important to society, which were regularly covered by colleagues from other newsrooms. Sometimes, as a result of this joint effort, practices and regulations are changed to reduce the room for misuse of public money and citizens' rights.



1,428
CIN contents redistributed in other media



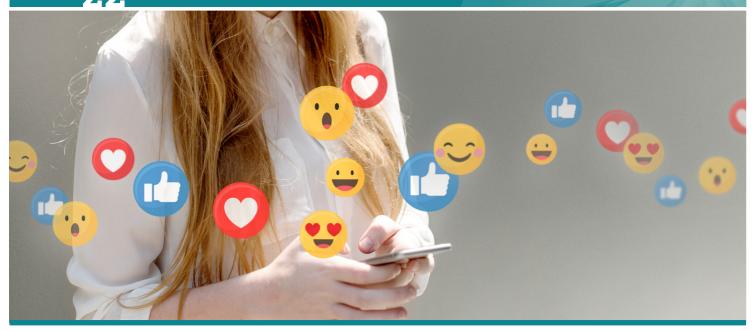
1,330 times by portals

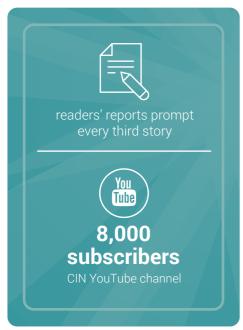


46 times by print media



**52** times TV and radio





# **CIN** and its readership

Every year, more and more citizens read our content on social media. In 2022, in addition to stories, we offered our followers much more video and graphic content. The number of our followers on certain social networks naturally **grows by 10 percent each year**.

Thank you for your confidence!

CIN team



92,000

Readers following CIN on Facebook



6,800

Readers following CIN on Twitteru



2,960

Readers following CIN on Instagram



# "The Double Life Of Officer Čegar"

CIN journalists discovered that **Zoran Čegar**, the head of the Uniformed Police Sector of the Federal Police Administration, **acquired part of the property illegally**.

Some of the properties were acquired using **fictitious contracts and forged documents**, while some of his business partners claim he had deceived and blackmailed them and are now seeking justice before the courts.

Over the past twenty years of the service, he acquired several houses, apartments, and land holdings in BiH and Croatia, and his possessions also included several cars, boats, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. He often traded without money, bartering his property for other people's real estate and vehicles.

No normal person can grasp it. These were all sort of offsets, I give you this, you give me that ... It is the logrolling.

> Omer Haračić car dealer

FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF CIN STORIES



Čegar twice threatened CIN journalists



disciplinary action and suspension in the Federation Police Administration



The Federation Police Administration and Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office are checking the allegations of unlawfully acquired property " Some documents have been enclosed on my behalf. The things written there are absolutely untrue."

# Namik Plivčić

a developer whose name was found on the forged documents

# **DISPUTED PROCUREMENTS**



maintenance of social benefits payment software (SOTAC) worth about

BAM 479,000

single register about

**BAM 213,000** 



After the release of CIN's story, the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office embarked on an information-checking mission.



# "Prointer Tendering With Forged Documents"

CIN journalists discovered that in late 2020, **Banja Luka-based company Prointer ITSS** tried to win a tender using **falsified documents, bribing, and blackmailing**.

The two tenders concerned the maintenance of the information systems of the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, which contain the personal data of almost a million citizens of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Despite the evidence, no sanctions were imposed on Prointer. The company has since contracted **more than BAM 57 million** worth of work for public institutions in BiH.



"We overexploit our environment, we destroy it and thus we destroy ourselves. Because the planet will continue to function without us. The Earth needs no humans, but humans need the Earth, hence we need to change our behavior."

# Samir Lemeš

Polytechnic Faculty of the Zenica University



gallery of infographics with educational content



video club of conversations with citizens and experts from various fields and important information



important documents for the "Green Agenda"



databases and stories related to environmental topics

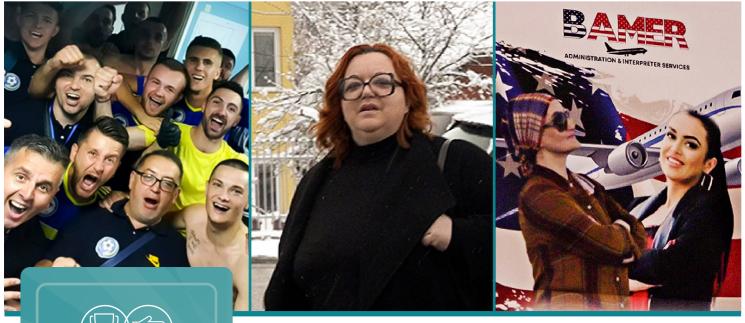
# **New content on the CIN website**

CIN website features a specialized page that offers **GREEN AGENDA**-related information to the general public and professionals.

It is a declaration adopted in November 2020 at the Western Balkans Summit in Sofia. The signatories have committed to pursuing a clean energy transition and reducing the negative impact of using fossil fuels in the economy— production and consumption, taxation, and social benefits.

The countries would thus make a contribution to the ultimate goal - making Europe the first **"climate neutral"** continent by 2050.





three European championship titles won by fake diabetics



an attorney accused of embezzling BAM 1.4 million from clients



took about 140,000 dollars from citizens

- "The Sugary Scam of the European Futsal"
- "Millions Through A Power Of Attorney"
- "The American Dream Turning Into A Nightmare"

In 2022, CIN journalists discovered abuses by doctors, lawyers, and other individuals who took advantage of clients' trust and appropriated their money based on false promises and falsified documents.

By smuggling players who do not have diabetes, the national futsal team of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been winning the titles of the DiaEURO Championship. The entry of fake diabetics into the national team was made possible by its national team founder and club doctor **Midhat Mujić** from Sarajevo.

**Emina Begić**, a lawyer from Bugojno, was accused of abusing the trust of at least three clients, misappropriating their money, and forging documents.

**Ajša Ramić** from Visoko and **Merjem Mirsada Veladžić** from Florida promised dozens of BiH citizens an easy way to an American visa. They took their money, giving them false hope and falsified documents in return.





# **VIDEO STORIES**

CIN has produced dozens of video stories that accompany the articles and help readers and viewers to more easily understand the facts and context of important events.

Video is particularly important for Internet users who like to be informed about important topics through various video formats.

The CIN team tries to publish as many stories as possible in this format, which becomes an indispensable part of our repertoire.

Readers can find video stories on CIN's YouTube channel.

# The most viewed video stories on CIN's YouTube channel in 2022:

- 1. The Double Life Of Officer Čegar
- 2. Lamb Alla Police
- 3. Police officer Zoran Čegar threatens and swears at CIN journalists
- **4.** State Secret About Disabled Veterans
- 5. The American Dream
  Turning Into A Nightmare





# CIN databases - a source of information

Every year, CIN publishes databases that contain thousands of pieces of fact-checked information and primary source documents hitherto hidden from the public by government bureaucrats.

They enable citizens to quickly get information about different areas, and also access data to which they otherwise have no access.

In 2009, CIN published the first database containing data on compensations paid for work in committees. The journalists collected and analyzed data from 41 institutions at the level of BiH. Since then, we have published 19 databases.

Most contain data from the period in which they were collected, and some of them are regularly updated, such as the databases on the assets of politicians, judges, and prosecutors.

# JUDICIARY HEALTH INCENTIVES POST-TERM SEVERANCE POLITICS GRANTS PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ENVIRONMENT