



Center for  
Investigative Reporting

**Annual  
report**

**2016**



This report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of CIN and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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**500**  
million KM



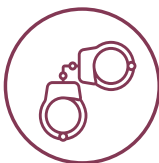
**4**  
investigations



**3**  
firings



**5**  
arrests



**4**  
sanctions



## 2016 Highlights

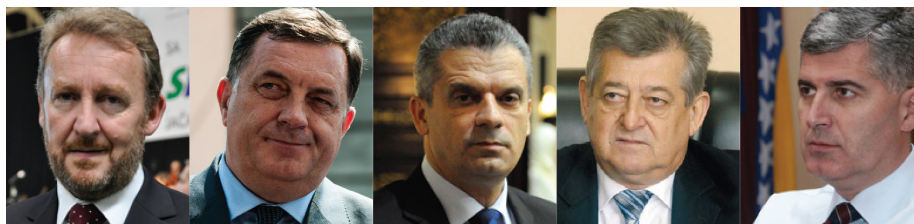
In 2016, the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo (CIN) wrote about people who had mispent nearly 500 million KM of taxpayer money by way of manipulation, fraud and illicit deals.

We proved that most of this was spent on non-transparent public procurement, bad management and misuse of office in public companies, public institutions and government agencies.

We have collected, fact-checked and published records about valuable property holdings of politicians and office holders. We have revealed that many of them have acquired property holdings in a dubious manner.

In response to our stories, law enforcement and judicial agencies launched investigations, arrested suspects and filed indictments against people who were subjects of our stories.

Our investigations also resulted in the sacking of office holders who had worked unlawfully.



[imovinapoliticara.cin.ba](http://imovinapoliticara.cin.ba)



## Asset database of 200 politicians and office holders

“Asset Declarations of BiH Politicians” is a unique database of BiH politicians and office holders’ property holdings, income and profiles.

Our reporters regularly update the database because <http://imovinapoliticara.cin.ba/> is the only place where the public can access these data and the background records for free.

The database is a CIN’s contribution to government transparency since in 2012, the Central Election Commission stopped publishing politicians’ asset cards on its web page.

The database came into being in 2009 and it featured the records of just nine politicians. Today information about 200 persons of interest from all around the country is available.

### 200 PROFILES OF POLITICIANS AND OFFICE HOLDERS



BIOS



INCOME



REAL PROPERTIES



VEHICLES



SAVINGS



COURT RULINGS



## OLD LOGO

During its 12 years, CIN used the same visual identity which became obsolete due to technological innovation and changes in the way content is presented nowadays.



## NEW LOGO

New logo as the foundational element of new visual identity prints the organization's acronym in big letters to put an emphasis on seriousness and responsibility, while the blue color on white background hints at safety, accuracy and stability.



## New visual identity

CIN was established in 2004. On our 12th birthday we took on a new visual identity with modern graphics.

Our new web page has been updated and adjusted to accommodate mobile phone viewing along with desktop computers and high-resolution screens.





## Bosnalijek: dubious money from Russian investors and the riches of the CEO Arslanagić

CIN reporters documented and explained how Russian investors in a hostile takeover became majority owners of top generic drugs maker Bosnalijek. Russian investors took advantage of the Sarajevo stock exchange and of a Sarajevo branch of the Russian Sberbank – which allowed money of an unknown provenance to enter BiH – to buy the company stocks and become majority owners of the factory. Then they took out millions out of it.

We uncovered property holdings worth millions in the hands of family members of former director Edin Arslanagić who bought them in BiH and the US during and after the time he was at the company's helm. We proved that they bought property worth a million KM more than their declared income.

**4**

investigative stories

**1**

animated video

**1**

interactive timeline

**9,5**

million KM of dubious provenance entered the country via Sberbank

**3,75**

million KM The Arslanagićs spent on real property

**2,7**

KM The Arslanagićs' income



**PRE-REPORTING –**

Reporter learns about the topic by studying the legal framework and earlier media reports.

**REPORTING –**

Reporter collects records, analyzes data, develops a thesis, tests the thesis against all evidence and conducts interviews with relevant subjects and actors in the story.

**EDITING –**

Editors go over drafts and work with reporter to add more content or improve the writing and readability of the story.

**FACT CHECKING –**

Reporter and editor double check every sentence against documents and notes and cull inaccurate or incomplete statements.



## Investigative reporting: double-checked and clear

Investigative reporting is a complex and specific branch of journalism. It is far from short-term scoops, and its purpose is to reveal and prove things that others try to hide: money flows; bribes; corruption; harmful political and administrative decisions; the abuse of taxpayer money and organized crime.

The essence of investigative reporting is contained in CIN's mission statement to be "an independent non-profit media organization with a focus on investigating corruption, organized crime and other systematic irregularities."

Investigative reporters often spend months or even years locating and collecting records; connecting persons and companies; poring over laws; interviewing hundreds of subjects and wrestling with government institutions over records in order to provide the public clear and accurate information.

After a thorough investigation every story goes through several levels of fact-checking and cross-checking of the story's thesis.





## A timeline of fraud: the life and times of Esed Radeljaš

Over two years we published several investigative stories about the corrupt business deals, property fraud and political career of Esed Radeljaš.

We revealed that, thanks to a deal with a judge, Radeljaš managed to avoid serving time. Instead of going to prison, he became a city councilor and a cantonal legislator and eventually a minister. He was also in charge of a government agency and oversaw its budget worth millions.

CIN reporters proved that Radeljaš abused his office to defraud citizens and business partners, took advantage of the government coffers and acquired valuable property holdings.

Radeljaš did eventually end up in jail. He is on trial now before the Cantonal Court in Sarajevo.

2005



Sentenced for fraud

2009



With the help of Judge Vladimir Špoljarić he managed to avoid prison

2010



Legislator in the Sarajevo Canton Assembly

2013



President of the Board of Directors of ZZOKS

2015



Minister in the government of Bosnia-Podrinje Canton

2015-2016



CIN published a series of investigative stories

2017



His trial begins at the Cantonal Court in Sarajevo

**95%**increase in visits to CIN web page in  
comparison to 2015**72%**

increase in followers on Facebook

**347%**

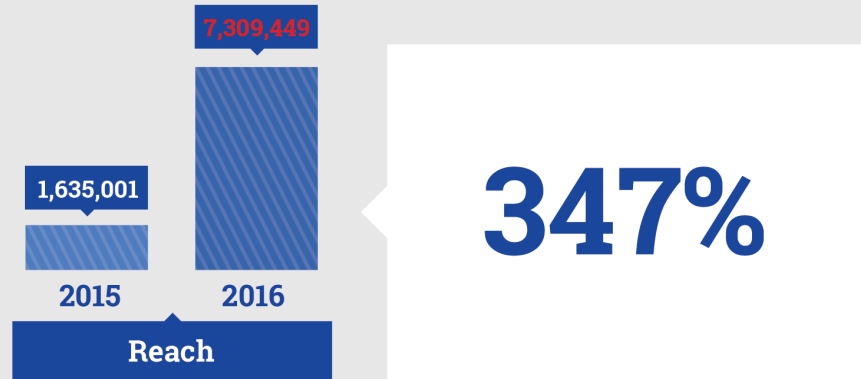
increase in reach on social networks

**1,000 times**quoted by other media organizations  
or our content republished**553 times**

our stories published by other media

**22**average a CIN story got published by  
another media

## Facebook Page Growth



## The continuing increase in readership and influence

Every year more and more citizens read our stories and search our databases of politicians' assets, public procurement or severance pay.

Other media organizations republish our stories as well as news briefs, animated material, infographics and videos – for free if they name CIN as their source and keep the original content intact. In this way, the stories of wide public interest are reaching ever more Bosnian citizens.

We have been ubiquitous on social networks where our content is enjoyed by a posse of faithful readers.

Finally, the fastest way for you to find our stories is our web page at [www.cin.ba](http://www.cin.ba).



## Sebija Izetbegović's expensive histopathology

Sebija Izetbegović, the former general manager of General Hospital in Sarajevo, helped her acquaintance Emir Talirević win lucrative contracts to provide pathology services.

CIN reporters found that Izetbegović first disbanded the in-house pathology department before moving on to procure histopathological services. Talirević's "My Clinic" won the bid. His two-year contract cost the hospital 1.1 million KM. Talirević told reporters that his long-term friendship with the General Hospital's manager played no part in his getting the job.



“

The professor and I know one another very well. She's an excellent manager...This is precisely why we made big financial concessions to the General Hospital.





European Union in BiH award for the story **“Čović’s Rich Father-in-law.”**



ACCOUNT award for the story Čović’s **“Rich Father-in-law.”**



World Summit Awards announced **CIN’s databases** as one of the five best digital media projects worldwide.



UNDP Moldova award for a **Bosnalijek** story

## Total

# 20

awards for stories

# 5

awards for work on regional projects

# 4

special mentions



## Awards – pride and incentive to work to make an extra mile

In its 12 years, CIN received some 30 awards and special mentions. We have won the prestigious Daniel Pearl award given by the International Consortium of Investigative Reporters. We have also won a European SEEMO special mention and awards from the EU and BiH Anti-Corruption Civic Organizations' Unified Network (ACCOUNT). Awards are a recognition of the quality of our work, while the quest for better society and our readers' commitment push us to work hard for them.





## From our stories to arrest and indictment: Kemal Čaušević

In 2017, the BiH Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment against the former head of the BiH Indirect Taxation Authority Kemal Čaušević.

Four years ago, CIN reporters explained how this came about.

In April 2013, we published an investigative story titled "The Former Head of UIO BiH Owns a Million in Assets" in which we uncovered that Čaušević's combined income was not nearly sufficient to account for his investments.

The state prosecutor's office has accused him of investing illicit gains of 1.72 million KM into the legal economy by buying properties in Sarajevo.



### April 2013

CIN **revealed** Čaušević's property holdings.



### April 2013

After CIN published its stories, the Court of BiH **froze 11 properties**.



### June 2014

Čaušević **arrested**.



### September 2014

Čaušević **released**.



### February 2017

**Indicted** on money laundering, bribery and abuse of office charges.



### March 2017

The Court of BiH **confirmed** the indictment.



**52,000**

contracts

**1,080**

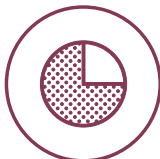
public institutions

**6,070**

companies

**7.5**

billion KM

**30%**of money went to 50 most  
successful companies50 | CIN [TOP 50](#) | [NABAVKE 2011-2015](#) | [PRIČE](#) | [O NAMA](#) | [KONTAKT](#)

## Public procurement – unique database

For a third year in a row, the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo together with its partner organizations has examined public procurement in BiH and advocated changes in legislation and practice.

Apart from a dozen investigative stories on the topic, we also created several databases. One of them contains the basic data of more than 50,000 public procurement contracts. This page, unlike other sources, allows for cross-referencing between public institutions and companies and government agencies on the one side and private companies on the other.

We also created a separate database about ownership, management, shares, court rulings, tax debts and subsidies of the 50 most successful companies in public procurement.

All of this is available free at [www.cin.ba/nabavke](http://www.cin.ba/nabavke).



## Trainings, conferences and partnerships

As a non-profit media organization with long-term experience and developed methodology of investigating, CIN strives to transfer its skills to others in the country and in the region.

We want to contribute to a rise in professional standards in journalism so we share our knowledge with younger colleagues and journalism students. CIN has local and regional partners – civil society organizations with expertise in other fields. With them we participate on conferences, workshops and other gatherings at which we talk about our stories.

**3**

conferences organized

**3**programs of  
training journalists/studentsTook part on **23**  
conferences/workshops**4**partnership projects in BiH  
and the region

43

media outlets republished the story



75 of 146

principals of primary schools are  
members of political parties

103

schools received our request under  
FOIA law

20

schools responded within the legal  
deadline of 15 days

62

schools responded only after repeated  
requests and an official reminder

Primary school "Brčanska Malta", Tuzla

## Political parties rule schools

CIN investigation has shown that the principals of more than half the primary schools we've looked into are political party members.

We found that political party members who sit on school boards in Tuzla Canton are firing principals and appointing party peers in their place.

Some principals said that party membership was not a guarantee for the job of principal, but it could help.

**"And, yet, they chose me again, which surprised me and I joined the party afterwards. Simply to say thank you for selecting me."**

Jelica Žuljević, former principal of the Primary school "Nova Bila"