



Government of Montenegro  
Ministry of Justice



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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Opening of the First Legal Aid Office

**What:** Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro and the Governments of the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Kingdom of Norway will organize opening of the first legal aid office in Montenegro.

#### Legal Aid Office will be opened by:

**Mr. Duško Marković, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice in the Government of Montenegro**  
**Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro**

**When: Friday, 25 November 2011. at 10 a.m.**

**Where: Primary Court in Podgorica, 13 July bb**

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The Law on Legal Aid was adopted on 5 April 2011, and its implementation is envisaged to start from 1 January 2012. This Law enables realization of the right to fair trial, i.e. equal access to justice through providing opportunities to all individuals who according to their financial situation are not able to exercise their right to legal protection without damage to necessary support of themselves and their families. The law envisages the opening of Legal Aid offices or delegating special officers to provide legal aid in all primary courts in Montenegro.

In light of the upcoming start of the implementation of the Legal Aid Law, Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Norway will open the first office for legal aid in the Primary Court in Podgorica, which will become operational on 1 January 2012.

Legal aid includes provision of necessary resources to fully or partially cover the cost of legal advice, drafting of documents, representation in court proceedings, at the State Prosecution and the Constitutional Court of Montenegro, as well as representation in out-of-court dispute settlement.

Establishing of the legal aid system in Montenegro will allow equal access to justice for all, which will enable practical implementation of the constitutional principle and the international standard that everyone is equal before the court regardless of any particularity or personal feature. All this will contribute to further democratization of society and it represents fulfilment of one of the conditions for EU accession.

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#### **For additional information please contact:**

Ana Radusinović, PR Officer at the Ministry of Justice; Tel/Fax: ++382 20 407 528; Mob.: ++382 67 262 416;

E-mail: [ana.barada@mpa.gov.me](mailto:ana.barada@mpa.gov.me), Web: [www.pravda.gov.me](http://www.pravda.gov.me)

Ivana Vujović, Communications Assistant, UNDP Montenegro;

Tel: ++382 20 22 55 33; Fax: ++382 20 22 55 51; Mob.: ++382 69 681 222;

E-mail: [ivana.vujovic@undp.org](mailto:ivana.vujovic@undp.org), Web: [www.undp.org.me](http://www.undp.org.me)