



Montenegro
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture
and Sports

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Podgorica, 23 February 2021

TO: Ms JUNE MARIANN BREIVIK
Den kulturelle skolesekken (DKS)

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Government of Montenegro is hereby addressing you, as one of the leaders and official representatives of Kulturtanken, with kind request for support and official cooperation regarding our goal to establish a program similar to Den Kulturelle Skolesekken here in Montenegro.

Numerous scientific studies show the diverse, far-reaching and valuable benefits of exposing young people to arts and cultural content and the impact it has for the education of young people and society as a whole. Development of creativity, critical and divergent thinking, socialization, broadening views, openness, new programs for children and youth, audience building, new arenas for artists, democratization, decentralization, equality in access to culture are just some of the benefits.

That is why we have a great admiration for Den Kulturelle Skolesekken. Moreover, it is a truly impressive achievement to have such valuable and unique program running in Norway for 20 years, and we have a great respect for all of you and your great work on it.

On August 30th, 2020, the citizens of Montenegro have voted a new leadership, for the first time after 30 years. The new government has started comprehensive reforms and it is working in extremely challenging times, fighting Covid pandemic, enormous state debt, organized crime and crisis of institutions. In such challenging and demanding times, we can not have our youth wait - we deem it important for our society to constantly improve education, and therefore we find implementing a variant of Den Kulturelle Skolesekken at this moment crucial, despite all obstacles.

In these circumstances, we appreciate every kind of support that can lead to fast and good results. Your knowledge and experience, built during impressive 20 years of DKS, is for sure indispensable, especially in this situation.

People of Norway and Montenegro have nourished a long and fruitful tradition of cooperation over time. In these difficult times, we recognize and highly appreciate Norwegian continual support, provided to Montenegro through numerous uni/bilateral cooperation and projects.

We believe and hope that the potential cooperation on this project could lead to further blossoming of our relations, including the exchange of artists, educational resources and possibilities and much more, for the good of all of us. The aforementioned fruitful tradition is based on mutual understanding, trust, humanity and friendship between our people.

We hereby express our gratefulness and respect for Øyvind Høstaker from DKS Vestlandet, for his supportive role, understanding, sincere friendship and appreciation for Montenegro, and for his willingness to help us to establish DKS here in Montenegro. We find his knowledge and experience of Montenegro and our culture, as well as his professional competencies, important for the smooth realization of this project.

It would be a pleasure and honor to work further with him, as well as with all of you from Kulturtanken, who all stand behind one of the most profoundly human and valuable educational project in the world.

We add Mr. Høstaker in cc, as well as Montenegrin guitarist Radoš Malidžan who studied and worked in Norway and knows a lot about DKS and additionally, speaks Norwegian. We believe that their connection, competencies and passion for this project would be of great help.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

MINISTER

Becna

Prof. dr Vesna BRATIC

