

(Unofficial translation)

Consolidated text of the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship comprises pieces of legislation as follows:

1. Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 013/08 of 26 February 2008),
2. Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 040/10 of 22 July 2010),
3. Law on Supplements to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 028/11 of 10 June 2011),
4. Law on Supplements to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 046/11 of 16 September 2011),
5. Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 17/11 of 28 February 2014 (Official Gazette of Montenegro 020/14 of 25 April 2014),
6. Law on Amendments and a Supplement to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 054/16 of 15 August 2016), specifying the date of their entry into force.

LAW ON MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

(Official Gazette of Montenegro 013/08 of 26 February 2008, 040/10 of 22 July 2010, 028/11 of 10 June 2011, 046/11 of 16 September 2011, 020/14 of 25 April 2014, 054/16 of 15 August 2016)

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law shall regulate the manner of and conditions for acquiring and losing Montenegrin citizenship, as well as the manner of keeping register of Montenegrin citizens.

Montenegrin citizenship shall represent a legal relationship between a physical person (hereinafter referred to as: person) and Montenegro and it shall not indicate his or her national or ethnicity origin.

Article 2

A Montenegrin citizen who has citizenship status in another state as well, shall be considered Montenegrin citizen in a procedure before Montenegrin bodies, unless otherwise provided by international treaties.

Article 3

Montenegrin citizenship shall be proved by a certificate of Montenegrin citizenship, by valid travel document and by other public documents in accordance with the law.

Article 3a

All terms used in this Law for natural persons denoting male gender shall also stand for the same terms denoting female gender.

II ACQUIRING MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 4

Montenegrin citizenship shall be acquired:

- 1) by origin;
- 2) by birth on the territory of Montenegro;
- 3) by admittance;
- 4) based on international treaties and agreements.

1. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by origin

Article 5

Montenegrin citizenship by origin shall be acquired by a child:

- 1) whose both parents are Montenegrin citizens at the moment of the child's birth;
- 2) born on the territory of Montenegro, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth;
- 3) born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, the other being unknown, of unknown citizenship or stateless;
- 4) born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, provided that otherwise he or she will remain without citizenship.

Article 6

Montenegrin citizenship by origin may also be acquired:

- 1) by a child born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, if by the time the child turns 18 years of age a request for entering into the register of births and the register of Montenegrin citizens is submitted, and if child does not have citizenship of another parent;
- 2) by a person over 18 years of age, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen, and the other a citizen of another state, if he or she submits a request for being entered in the register of Montenegrin citizens before he or she turns 23 years of age, and does not have citizenship of another parent;
- 3) by an adopted child, in case of complete adoption, if one of the adopters is a Montenegrin citizen, and does not have citizenship of another adopter;

If a child referred to in paragraph 1 item 1 of this Article is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall be necessary for acquiring Montenegrin citizenship.

2. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by birth on the territory of Montenegro

Article 7

A child born or found on the territory of Montenegro shall acquire Montenegrin citizenship if both of his or her parents are unknown, if their citizenship is unknown, if they are stateless or if a child will remain without citizenship.

The Montenegrin citizenship of a child referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be lost if it should be established, before he or she turns 18 years of age, that his or her parents are citizens of another state, or that he or she acquired, on whatever basis, citizenship of another state.

The Montenegrin citizenship of a child referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be lost based upon the request of his or her parents on the day the decision is delivered to them; if the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall be necessary.

3. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by admittance

Article 8

The Montenegrin citizenship may be granted to a person, in accordance with the interests of Montenegro, if he or she applies for Montenegrin citizenship and fulfils the following requirements:

- 1) that he or she is over 18 years of age;
- 2) that he or she was released from citizenship of another state;
- 3) that he or she has lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro over a period of 10 years, prior to applying for Montenegrin citizenship;
- 4) that he or she has accommodation and guaranteed source of income in Montenegro, in the amount that guarantees material and social security;
- 5) that he or she has not received a prison sentence, either in Montenegro or in another state, exceeding one year, for criminal offence which is subject of *ex officio* prosecution, or if the legal consequences of his or her conviction no longer apply;
- 6) that he or she has knowledge of Montenegrin language and can make basic communication in that language;
- 7) that there are no legal obstacles for the reasons of the public order and the security of the state;
- 8) that he or she has settled all tax and other legal obligations.

It shall be considered that the condition referred to in paragraph 1 item 2 of this Article, has been fulfilled if:

- the request is submitted by a stateless person or a person who presents a proof that, in accordance with the law of the state whose citizenship he or she has, shall lose its citizenship by being granted Montenegrin citizenship, or

- the request of the person to be released from citizenship of another state has been rejected, for not having regulated military service in that state, provided that he signs the statement that, in the event of acquiring Montenegrin citizenship, he is to renounce his citizenship of another state.

If criminal proceedings for an offence referred to in paragraph 1 item 5 of this Article, have been initiated, the proceeding shall be suspended until an enforceable decision is passed.

The Government of Montenegro (hereinafter: The Government) shall establish Competent organisation for the establishment of criteria and verification of language proficiency referred to in paragraph 1 item 6 of this Article.

Article 9

A person who has submitted a request for being granted Montenegrin citizenship, and has not been released from citizenship of another state, may be issued a guarantee that he or she will acquire Montenegrin citizenship if the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 of this Law are fulfilled. The guarantee shall be valid for period of two years with a condition that within this period the applicant still meets all requirements for granting Montenegrin citizenship.

The procedure shall be suspended if he or she fails to submit the evidence required in accordance with Article 8 paragraph 1 item 2 of this Law, within two years of having been issued a guarantee.

Article 10

Montenegrin emigrant and a member of his or her family up to the third degree of consanguinity in lineal terms, may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if he or she takes up lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for a minimum of two years, and if the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of this Law are fulfilled.

Lawful and uninterrupted residence of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined according to the criteria prescribed by the act referred to in Article 17 of this Law.

Article 11

A person who has been married to a Montenegrin citizen for at least three years and who takes up lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for at least five years prior to applying for Montenegrin citizenship, may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 4, 5, and 7 of this Law are fulfilled.

The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article also apply to a person who has been married to a Montenegrin citizen for at least three years, and the marriage has ended with the death of a spouse.

Lawful and uninterrupted residence of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined according to the criteria prescribed by the act referred to in Article 17 of this Law.

Article 12

An adult person may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if he or she does not fulfil the requirements referred to in Article 8 of this Law if it would be in the scientific, economic, cultural, sport, national or other interest to Montenegro.

National administration authority responsible for internal affairs shall decide on granting Montenegrin citizenship for the sake of state and other interests of Montenegro, based on the proposal of the President of Montenegro, President of the Parliament of Montenegro or the President of the Government of Montenegro.

The state administration body responsible for internal affairs shall decide on granting Montenegrin citizenship for reasons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, with an opinion of the national administration authority responsible for dealing with matters referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 13

A person who has been recognised a refugee status in Montenegro, by the procedure envisaged by the Law on Asylum, may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if he or she fulfils requirements referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, of this Law.

Article 14

A stateless person may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if he or she fulfils requirements referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8, of this Law.

Article 15

A person born in Montenegro and a person born in another state, and before turning the age of 18 has lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro, may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if he or she fulfils requirements referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, of this Law.

Article 16

Montenegrin citizenship by admittance shall be granted to a child who does not have citizenship of another state or who has been released from citizenship of another state and if:

- 1) both parents have been admitted into Montenegrin citizenship;
- 2) one of the parents has acquired Montenegrin citizenship by admittance and if the child lives lawfully and uninterrupted in Montenegro with that parent;
- 3) in case of partial adoption, a child lives lawfully and uninterrupted with an adopter who is a Montenegrin citizen.

The application referred to in paragraph 1 item 2 of this Article shall be submitted together with the consent of the other parent, unless that parent is stateless. If the other parent does not give his or her consent for the granting of Montenegrin citizenship to the child, the authorised guardianship body shall give its opinion.

If the child in question is over 14 years of age, for granting Montenegrin citizenship his or her consent shall be required, as well.

Article 17

The criteria for establishing the conditions in cases of granting Montenegrin citizenship referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 3, 4, and 7, Article 12 and Article 24 paragraph 1 items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Law shall be determined by the Government.

4. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship based on international treaties

Article 18

Montenegrin citizenship may be acquired based on a ratified international treaties or agreements signed by Montenegro.

On the basis of the international treaties and agreements referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, dual citizenship may be established, on the condition that it is reciprocal.

III LOSS OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 19

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost:

- 1) at the request of the Montenegrin citizen,
- 2) by operation of law (*ex lege*),
- 3) based on an international treaties and agreements.

1. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship by request

Article 20

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost by release at the request of the Montenegrin citizen.

Release from Montenegrin citizenship shall be granted to a person if he or she submits a request for release and if he or she fulfils the following conditions:

- 1) that he or she is over 18 years of age;
- 2) that he or she has the citizenship of another state or proof that he or she will be granted the citizenship of another state;
- 3) that he or she factually resides outside the territory of Montenegro.

Article 21

A Montenegrin citizen who has submitted a request for release from Montenegrin citizenship may be, upon his or her request, issued a written guarantee of release if the conditions referred to in Article 20 paragraph 2 of this Law have been fulfilled.

The procedure for the release shall be suspended if he or she fails, within two years of having been issued a written guarantee, to provide proof that he or she has acquired the citizenship of another state.

Article 22

Release from Montenegrin citizenship may be granted to a child, provided that it does not remain without citizenship, upon a request made by:

- 1) both parents who shall lose their Montenegrin citizenship by release;
- 2) one parent who shall lose Montenegrin citizenship by release, with the consent of the other parent who is Montenegrin citizen;
- 3) one parent who shall lose Montenegrin citizenship by release, the other being a citizen of another state, of unknown citizenship, or a stateless person;
- 4) both adopters, citizens of another state, in case of complete adoption;
- 5) one parent, if parents are divorced or separated, who shall lose Montenegrin citizenship and who has been given custody over the child, based on an enforceable court decision.

If the other parent does not give his or her consent for the release of the child from Montenegrin citizenship, or if his or her residence is unknown, or if he or she has lost his or her civic capacity or is deprived of his or her parental rights, the request for the release from Montenegrin citizenship shall be granted if, in the opinion of the authorised guardianship body, this is in the interests of the child.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall be required for the release from Montenegrin citizenship, as well.

Article 23

If a Montenegrin citizen who has been granted release from Montenegrin citizenship does not acquire the citizenship of another state within one year of having received the decision on release, national administration authority responsible for dealing with matters of citizenship (hereinafter: competent authority) shall revoke the decision on the release passed upon the request of that person.

A request for the revocation of the decision on the release from Montenegrin citizenship may be submitted within three months of the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

A decision on the release of Montenegrin citizenship may be revoked, upon request of the person and the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, if the person remained stateless.

2. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship by operation of law (*ex lege*)

Article 24

An adult Montenegrin citizen, who acquired a citizenship of another state, shall lose Montenegrin citizenship *ex lege*, if:

- 1) he or she has voluntarily acquired citizenship of another state, except in the situations stipulated with Article 18 paragraph 2 of this Law;
- 2) it is established that decision on granting Montenegrin citizenship have been brought on the grounds of false statement or deliberate covering of the facts or circumstances crucial for making decision, except in the case that a person who obtained Montenegrin citizenship would therefore become stateless;
- 3) a person acquired Montenegrin citizenship on the grounds of guarantees given by another state, stating that he or she shall lose present citizenship if Montenegrin citizenship is obtained, and within the deadline stipulated in the decision on granting citizenship he or she fails to present a proof on loss of citizenship of that state, except in the case that this person would therefore become stateless;
- 4) he or she is convicted for criminal offences against humanity and other values protected by international law;
- 5) he or she is convicted for planning, organising, financing or in any other way assisting or executing terrorist actions or providing a shelter for organisers, executors or participants of terrorist actions;
- 6) he or she is a member of an organisation whose activities are directed against public order and security of Montenegro;
- 7) he or she is in voluntary service in military forces of another state;
- 8) his or her behaviour seriously damages vital interests of Montenegro;

For a child Montenegrin citizen, who has citizenship of another state as well, shall lose his or her Montenegrin citizenship *ex lege* if it is established, while he or she is below 18 years of age that conditions based on which he or she has been granted Montenegrin citizenship, does not exist anymore.

If both parents have lost Montenegrin citizenship under the conditions stipulated in paragraph 1 items 1, 2 and 3 of this Article, or only one parent, while another is not Montenegrin citizen, their child shall lose Montenegrin citizenship as well, unless that would make the child stateless.

Competent authority shall start procedure *ex officio* after cognition of facts from paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article.

3. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship based on international treaties and agreements

Article 25

Montenegrin citizenship may be lost on the basis of international treaties or agreements signed by Montenegro.

IV RE-ACQUISITION OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 26

A person who lost Montenegrin citizenship and who has acquired the citizenship of another state, may re-acquire Montenegrin citizenship, if he or she submits a request for re-acquiring Montenegrin citizenship, and he or she has lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for at least a year in accordance with relevant legislation.

The request from paragraph 1 of this Article shall be rejected if the conditions from Article 8 paragraph 1 items 1, 2 and 7 are not fulfilled.

Lawful and uninterrupted residence of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined according to the criteria prescribed by the act referred to in Article 17 of this Law.

V PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING AND LOSING MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP BY REQUEST

Article 27

The competent authority shall decide on requests for establishing, acquiring or losing Montenegrin citizenship.

Article 28

The requests referred to in Article 27 of this Law shall be submitted personally or by attorney to the competent authority, on a prescribed form. In case of a person who has lost business capacity, such a request shall be submitted by his or her guardian.

By way of derogation from paragraph 1 Article, requests may be submitted through diplomatic or consular mission, if a person lives abroad.

The form of the request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be prescribed by competent authority.

Article 29

If the procedure for establishing, acquiring or losing Montenegrin citizenship initiated by a person, cannot proceed or end without certain steps being taken by the said person, it shall be considered that he or she has given up on the request if, despite having received a warning from the competent authority, he or she fails to take the steps necessary to continue the procedure or bring it to an end within the specified period of time, that is to say, if it can be concluded that, having failed to take the said steps, he or she is no longer interested in continuing the procedure.

The decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be passed within three months of the day of issuing a warning, or six months, if the said person lives abroad.

The competent authority shall decide on the request for acquiring or losing Montenegrin citizenship within one year following the start of the procedure. A decision shall be brought in writing and shall contain a justification for doing so, as well as an advice on legal remedy.

Administrative dispute may be initiated against the final decision referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

Article 30

When receiving a decision on being granted Montenegrin citizenship, an adult person shall deliver a solemn declaration.

The text of declaration and manner of delivery shall be determined by the Government.

Article 31

Montenegrin citizenship shall be considered as acquired or lost on the day of delivery of the decision on acquisition or loss.

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost *ex lege* on the day the facts referred to in Article 24 of this Law causing it have begun, and the competent authority shall *ex-officio* bring a decision.

In the process of making a decision referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the competent authority shall be obliged to enable the person to give his or her statement regarding the facts and circumstances referred to in Article 24 of this Law. The decision can be made even without the person's statement, if he or she received an invitation in a proper manner and does not submit a written statement within the specified time limit.

Article 32

Taxes for proceedings and documents on requests for establishing, acquiring or losing Montenegrin citizenship shall be determined by a separate law, in an amount which shall not represent an obstacle for submitting requests.

VI RECORDS OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENS

Article 33

The record of Montenegrin citizens shall be kept.

The record of Montenegrin citizens shall be a register of Montenegrin citizens (hereinafter referred to as: the register).

The register shall be kept, *ex officio*, by the competent authority.

Montenegrin citizen born in Montenegro shall be entered into the register in a place of his or her birth and Montenegrin citizen not born in Montenegro shall be entered into the register in the place where he or she has been entered into the record of births in Montenegro, in accordance with the law.

Article 34

The register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be a computer database on Montenegrin citizens into which the following shall be entered: ordinal number; surname, maiden surname and first name; sex; personal identification number; date of birth; place, municipality and state of birth; surname and name of the father; surname, name and maiden surname of the mother; date of entry; place and municipality of entry; manner and legal basis for acquiring Montenegrin citizenship; citizenship of another state; loss of Montenegrin citizenship – manner, legal basis and date; number and date of legal act and the name of the authority, date of deleting from the register and remark.

The register of Montenegrin citizens who have been granted Montenegrin citizenship or have acquired citizenship based on international treaties and agreements, apart from data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, shall also contain the following information: professional qualifications (degree and type); profession; place of residence on the day of being granted Montenegrin citizenship; previous citizenship, if unknown, nationality shall be entered; date and number of the

decision, as well as the name of the authority that passed it; manner and legal basis for acquiring citizenship.

The register of persons who lost their Montenegrin citizenship by release, renouncing, *ex lege* or based on international treaties or agreements, apart from data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, shall also contain the following information: professional qualifications (degree and type); profession; place of residence prior to moving to another state; place of residence at the time of the loss of Montenegrin citizenship; number and date of the decision, as well as the name of the authority that passed it; citizenship of another state; date of emigration; manner, legal basis and date of the loss of Montenegrin citizenship.

The register shall be kept in a manner which allows for compatibility and linking with official records of state administration authorities.

A competent authority shall keep the record on submitted requests, the data contained in requests, and accompanying documentation.

A set of documents forming the legal basis for entry into the register shall be an integral part of the register.

The bylaw regulating the updating of the register shall be adopted by the competent authority.

Article 35

The records and documents pertaining to entry into the register of Montenegrin citizens shall be kept permanently.

The data contained in the register shall be kept by the authority in charge of the register for 50 years following the death or the loss of Montenegrin citizenship of the person to whom the data pertains.

Upon the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the data shall be transferred to the authorised state archive.

Article 36

The data required for the register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be collected: from the existing citizen records; from other public records kept by state administrative bodies, local government bodies and other bodies; from public documents; from the persons to whom it directly pertains.

Article 37

Personal data from the register shall be used by the competent authority while performing their duties in accordance with the law.

The competent authority shall forward the data from the register to other instances only if those are legally authorised to use the data, or upon the request or with the consent of the person to whom the data pertain.

The users referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may use the data only for the purpose they have been requested for; they are not allowed to forward the said data to other users.

Article 38

The data from the register may, on the basis of reciprocity, be forwarded to the authorities of other states if:

- 1) they are forwarded to a body of another state authorised to deal with matters of citizenship;
- 2) the recipient undertakes to use the data obtained in this way only in connection with the procedure for regulating matters pertaining to citizenship, or if it is necessary for undertaking criminal procedure, or if the person to whom the data pertains undoubtedly benefits from their forwarding;
- 3) the protection of personal data, in the state to which data is forwarded, is ensured also for citizens of another state.

The national administration authority in charge of foreign affairs shall establish whether the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 item 3 of this Article have been fulfilled.

VII TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 39

A person shall be considered Montenegrin citizen if he or she has Montenegrin citizenship in accordance with the current regulations, and if he or she had been entered into the register of Montenegrin citizens.

Article 40

If a person who has acquired Montenegrin citizenship in accordance with the regulations had not been entered into the register of Montenegrin citizens kept according to the regulations in effect until now, the competent authority shall establish the said person's citizenship upon his or her request.

Article 41

A citizen of former Yugoslav republics, having had registered residence in Montenegro before 3 June 2006, can acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if he or she:

- 1) does not have citizenship of another state or if he or she has been released from citizenship of another state;
- 2) meets conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 of this Law;

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and the request referred to in Article 40 of this Law can be submitted to the competent authority within one year from the date of entry in force of this Law.

Upon expire of deadline referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, a person may be admitted into Montenegrin citizenship, or citizenship may be established, only if he or she remains stateless and if he or she submits request within three years from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 41a

The persons referred to in Article 41 paragraph 1 of this Law may submit a request for admission into Montenegrin citizenship by 5 May 2011 if, by the time the application was submitted, in addition to the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, they have not cancelled their residence in Montenegro.

The provision of Article 8 paragraph 2 indent 2 of this Law shall apply to persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 41b

The person referred to in Article 41 paragraph 1 of this Law may submit a request for admission into Montenegrin citizenship by 31 July 2012 if, by the time the application was submitted, he or she has not cancelled residence in Montenegro, and if:

- 1) he or she does not have citizenship of another state or if he or she has been released from citizenship of another state;
- 2) the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 and paragraph 2 item 2 of this Law are fulfilled.

Article 41v

By way of derogation from Article 41 of this Law, a citizen of the former SFRY who has registered residence in Montenegro for at least two years prior to 3 June 2006, and an identity card issued in accordance with the Law on Identity Card that had been in force at the time of its issuance, may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if he meets the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 of this Law, if, by the time the application was submitted, he or she had not cancelled residence in Montenegro.

A child of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, who does not have his or her identity card issued, shall be entitled to Montenegrin citizenship under the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be submitted to the competent authority no later than 31 January 2012.

The person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be obliged to submit to the competent authority a written statement on the acceptance of rights and obligations based on Montenegrin citizenship, accompanied by the application for admission to Montenegrin citizenship.

Montenegrin citizenship by origin shall also be acquired by a person born in Montenegro, both or one of whose parents had been entered into the register of Montenegrin citizens at the time of his or her birth, and who had been entered into the register of births in Montenegro, but not into the register of Montenegrin citizens.

Article 42

The Register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be established within two years following the day of entry into force of this Law.

Records of citizens, kept in accordance with the regulations in effect until the day this Law is passed shall be concluded and data shall be transfer to the Register referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. Data from citizenship registries shall be transferred into the Register in accordance with Article 39 of this Law.

Until establishing of the Register referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the record on persons granted or having lost Montenegrin citizenship shall be maintained on the way prescribed by the competent authority.

The data on loss of Montenegrin citizenship shall be kept in the records of citizens where the person has been signed in.

Article 43

The records of citizens kept until the day this Law enters into effect and the registries to be established in accordance with Article 42 paragraph 3 of this Law, as well as certificates issued based on citizenship records, shall have the character of public documents.

Public documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article contain the Montenegrin coat of arms.

Article 44

Secondary legislation necessary for the implementation of this Law shall be passed within six months following the day of entry into force of this Law.

Within 30 days of the coming into effect of this Law, the authorised organ shall prescribe the records referred to in Article 42 paragraph 3 of this Law, and the form and content of the citizenship certificate referred to in Article 43 of this Law.

Article 45

Procedures initiated in accordance with the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 41/99) and the Law on Yugoslav Citizenship (Official Gazette of FRY 33/96 and 9/01), shall be finalised in accordance to this Law.

Član 45a

Procedures initiated before the entry into force of this Law shall be finalised in accordance with this Law.

Article 46

The records of citizens kept in accordance with the existing regulations, which were valid until this Law enters into effect, shall be kept for a period of 100 years following the last entry, and the expiry of this period of time, shall be deposited with the authorised state archive.

Article 47

The Law on Montenegrin citizenship shall be repealed with effect from the date of entry into force of this Law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 41/99).

Article 48

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day following its publication in the Official Gazette of Montenegro.