

October 26, 2026

Svetozar Steve Pejovich Award 2026

The Bureaucratic Wall – Today's New Berlin Wall

The bureaucratization of society is becoming a global phenomenon. A bureaucratic wall is forming between the individual and society. The individual is trapped by bureaucracy at every level: in everyday life, in institutions, in companies, in the state. The individual is left without freedom. Breaking free of this wall, bringing it down, will by all appearances be harder than the fall of the Berlin Wall, which stood between freedom and dictatorship. How can we free ourselves from bureaucracy before it overwhelms society even further, perhaps entirely? How can we free ourselves from the bureaucratic legacy before it “stifles and absorbs” the healthy spirit of young generations, and of students in particular?

How has the university contributed to today's bureaucratization of society? Is it the case that today's university system of study has been too strongly influenced by a bureaucratized society, and not only by society, and under that influence has itself become bureaucratized? Does the development of technology and technical knowledge favour this bureaucratization? Might the way out lie in developing the social sciences at the university? Would a greater focus on philosophy, anthropology, literature, history and the arts restore to the university the functions for which it was founded almost a thousand years ago? Universities were essentially founded to develop in young people: 1) imagination; 2) critical thinking; and 3) sociability.



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If these functions were restored to the university, in place of the current insistence on memorizing knowledge as facts, would that lead to the debureaucratization of society? Would greater education, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship bring down the foundations of today's bureaucratic wall?

Indeed, can young people, and students above all, remain indifferent to their lives being drained of meaning and spent in a bureaucratic labyrinth?

On behalf of the Rectorate of the University of Donja Gorica

Academician Veselin Vukotić, Rector

Students of all universities in Montenegro, the region and the Cintana/ASU network are eligible to take part!

- Essays should be sent to nagrada.11.11@udg.edu.me no later than Sunday, 8 November 8, 2026, at 23:59.
- The highest-rated essay will be read at the session marking University Day!
- Essays may be no longer than four pages (4,000 characters per page, including spaces).
- The award is €1,000.