



PROJEKT GRAĐANSKIH PRAVA

Civil Rights Project

Activity Report – July 2010

Office activities

In the reporting period, CRP Sisak received **291** clients, out of which there were **35** new clients, both in the CRP Sisak office and the Civil Centre Hrvatska Kostajnica.

Target groups:

NEW clients by status:

<i>Status</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Domicile	20
Returnee	5
Bosnian Croat	1
Refugee	4
Settlers	1
Not defined	4
<u>Total</u>	35

NEW clients by reception mode:

<i>Mode</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Office	20
Field	9
Letter	3
Power of attorney Serbia	1
Power of attorney Kosovo	2
<u>Total</u>	35

TYPE OF CASE	NUMBER OF EVENTS
Citizenship	18
Documents and status	57
Ownership	52
Pension and health and social security	53
Housing care	18

Tenancy rights	14
Labour	3
Family violence	9
Free legal aid	14
Other: other legal issues, information, courses, etc.	88
TOTAL	326

During the reporting period, there were **199** successfully solved request. They mainly relate to documents, establishment of ownership and other cases.

ASSISTANCE

Personal documents issued	7
Appeals/complaints	2
Lawsuits	2
Administrative lawsuits	5
Letters	33
Requests	21
Submissions	27
Legal and psychosocial and other types of counseling	145
Quick advises	99
TOTAL	341

Legal issues

The legal issues that CRP has been dealing with remain the same, as it can be seen in the table above (type of case.) Also, despite of some changes in proceedings, the problems related to cases remain generally the same: lengthy proceedings, postponing of court hearings, not encouraging the return of refugees, etc. The courts and administration do not act impartially when the State is involved in the case, but exactly the opposite, being completely on the side of the State. The laws, even when they are good, are not being applied well, etc.

The Law on free legal aid is an example of a bad law, as it is too restrictive and too bureaucratic, which has been proved by its results and statistics for the year of 2009.

On 26 July, CRP participated at a conference in Zagreb on Access to Justice: Implementation of the Law on free legal aid. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Justice, Center for Human Rights and Coalition for promotion and protection of human rights. The CRP's representative spoke at the conference, providing CRP's statistics regarding the free legal aid, which showed that the effects of the state free legal aid system were very modest, especially when compared with the needs in the field.

Namely, regarding the fact that the CRP in 2009 had the biggest number of cases of free legal aid under the Law on free legal aid among legal aid providers, it may be concluded that the CRP has been successfully implementing the Law on free legal

aid. This relative success in 2009 is a result of big efforts put in by CRP in cooperation with the County office for free legal aid in Sisak in order to assist as many clients as possible to get right to legal aid approved. This cooperation included daily phone calls, explanations, discussions, visits, field visits to clients, etc.

However, the realistic result of the implementation of the Law may be seen from the CRP statistics. Therefore in 2009, there were 62 cases dealt with by CRP under the Law, among which the Ministry of Justice approved only 50. Among 62, there were 15 legal counseling, 43 submissions, 2 out of court settlement, 1 ECHR application and 1 general legal information.

In the same period, i.e. in 2009, CRP dealt with 4000 cases: 1028 general legal information, 1672 legal counseling, 1290 submissions (including lawsuits, appeals, revisions, constitutional complaints, administrative lawsuits, etc.) and 10 out of court settlements.

Therefore, there is a huge difference between the total number of CRP cases and legal actions taken and the ones that were approved by the Ministry of Justice. So, it is 4000: 62 (50).

Also, in 2009, CRP received HRK 14.528,00 (approximately EUR 2.000,00) from the Ministry of Justice. At the same time, CRP's other donors contributed with HRK 308.941,00 (approx. EUR 40.000,00) to providing of free legal aid. The difference is obviously huge.

CRP wrote 10 appeals in the cases in which the clients were rejected with right to free legal aid, as well as 1 administrative lawsuit in the case in which the client was rejected for free legal aid also at the second instance, i.e. by the Ministry of Justice. It means that the free legal aid system made 11 new cases, which do not come under the Law. The question is where these clients, as well as the other clients that do not fit into the Law on free legal aid, would turn to if there were no NGOs, and especially NGOs that have other projects that cover free legal aid, and especially regarding the fact that fees need to be paid for appeals.

At the conference, there were no conclusions made, but it was said that the conclusions would be made additionally?

Other activities

On 1 July, CRP Sisak participated at the celebration of the American Independence Day at the American embassy in Zagreb.

On 6 July, CRP Sisak visited and met with the Mayor of the town of Petrinja and his colleagues. The aim of the meeting was to inform the Mayor on reconstruction of the water supply system in the village of Klinac. CRP also informed the Mayor on its other activities in the area of Petrinja. The Town expressed their support for future CRP's activities.

On 5 and 6 July, a workshop on painting on glass was held in the Civil Centre in Hrvatska Kostajnica. The workshop was led by Ms. Tatjana Sebek Markusic. 15

PGP CRP Sisak, Rimska 6, 44000 Sisak
Tel: + 385 44 571 752; Fax: +385 44 521 292
e-mail: pgp-sisak@crpsisak.hr
www.crpsisak.hr

women learnt how to paint on glass, so they made some nice pieces of glass, such as glasses, plates, bowls and similar.

The women that attended this workshop, as well as the previous one, expressed interest for continuation of joint work in similar activities, as well as in other activities of the Civil Centre.

On 9 July, the Civil Centre Hrvatska Kostajnica was officially opened. Around 50 people were present at the opening ceremony, including the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union in Zagreb and Norwegian embassy, Mr. Erol Akdag and Mr. Jens Erik Grondahl. Also, the Mayor of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Mr. Tomislav Paunović, was present and expressed his support to the Centre. The heads of the municipalities in Dvor and Donji Kukuruzari also attended the opening, as well as other partners, colleagues and citizens.

On 12 July, CRP Sisak met in Zagreb with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Ms. Raquel Rolnik of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. CRP Sisak reported on problems related to housing care of returnees, reconstruction, repossession of property related case, unsolicited investments into property of refugees, APN cases, etc.

On 13 July, the English language course finished in the Civil Centre in Hrvatska Kostajnica. 20 students successfully finished two months course and received the certificates.

The group was very good and all the students expressed their interest in continuation of joint activities.

Milana Kreca