



PROJEKT GRAĐANSKIH PRAVA Civil Rights Project

Activity Report – December 2009

Office activities

In the reporting period, CRP Sisak received **336** clients, out of which there were **34** new clients.

Target groups:

NEW clients by status:

<i>Status</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Domicile	18
Returnee	12
Bosnian Croat	1
Not defined	3
<u>Total</u>	34

NEW clients by reception mode:

<i>Mode</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Office	23
Field	11
<u>Total</u>	34

TYPE OF CASE	NUMBER OF EVENTS
Citizenship	13
Documents and status	33
Ownership	32
Pension and health and social security	37
Housing care	15
Tenancy rights	6
Labour	8
Misdemeanour	4
Family violence	10
Free legal aid	37
Other: other legal issues, information, courses, etc.	166
TOTAL	361

During the reporting period, there were **174** successfully solved request. They mainly relate to documents, establishment of ownership and other cases.

ASSISTANCE

Personal documents issued	5
Appeals/complaints	10
Letters	30
Administrative lawsuits	2
Requests	33
Submissions	39
Legal and psychosocial and other types of counseling	203
Quick advises	59
TOTAL	381

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.

The following case will demonstrate the above said. The client N.P. (CRP case no. 7387) approached the CRP for legal assistance in several civil cases that had been ongoing before the County court in Sisak and Municipal court in Petrinja. The client is Croatian citizen, who lived in Petrinja before the war in the house, where they also had a manual trade. The client and his family fled after the Storm operation. In 1998,

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the client's property was given for temporary use to K.K. and G.K., who used it until 2002.

In the civil proceedings that had been finished with a valid judgement, the client was obliged to pay the amount of almost 100.000,00 HRK to the temporary users for investments made to the house. The client appealed, but the appeal was rejected. The client also filed a request for renewal of proceedings, as he claimed that the estimation of investment costs was not done properly, but it was also rejected.

The temporary users, having valid judgement, initiated the execution proceedings for payment of the mentioned amount, by assessment and selling of the house.

The execution proceedings were postponed, due to complaints of the client and waiting for different civil proceedings to be over.

The client initiated proceedings before the Municipal court in Petrinja, where a civil engineer was engaged, and he estimated investments to the amount of 45.000,00 HRK.

The client also initiated two civil proceedings before the Municipal court in Petrinja for compensation for damage. One was against the Town of Petrinja and temporary users for compensation for damage for not being able to use his property. The other one was against the Town of Petrinja, temporary users and the Republic of Croatia for compensation for damage to the house, as the house was completely devastated in 2002 when the temporary users vacated it. Both civil proceedings initiated by the client are ongoing, but negatively for the client. All instances are rejecting the client's request for compensation for damage. At the moment, one case is at the County court in Sisak, and the other at the Supreme Court.

The client received a court summons for a court hearing on 1 February 2010 in the execution proceedings for payment for investment to the temporary users. Therefore, the execution proceedings is still ongoing, despite of the Conclusion made by the Croatian Government in 2006, which says that the Government shall take over the payment for investments.

CRP wrote on this case to the Ministry several times, asking them to respect the Government's decision and settle this case. However, nothing has happened.

The clients' house is damaged, but he is supposed to pay for the investments to the house. He is an old man, who has no money to pay such amount. During all these proceedings regarding his house, he became seriously sick, having hearth problems. He has no right to any kind of compensation regarding his house.

Therefore, CRP is of an opinion that the responsibility for this case lies on the Republic of Croatia, which gave the client's property for use to temporary users, who were not authorised to invest into that property. However, the client, as the owner of property, is the only one that suffers the damage caused by the administration.

Other activities

On 1 December 2009 a workshop on human rights was held in the Citizens' center in Glina. The workshop presented challenges in modern families – spending time together, relations with elderly people, communication with children and adolescents, peculiarities of money and real values of material and non material goods, etc. Participants were encouraged to discuss and present their associations and personal experiences. It was a good and dynamic discussion, with many concrete life experiences. There was a significant level of trust and closeness among the participants. They are of different life experiences and different ethnic and cultural background, but they already know each other. The workshop reached its goal – to feel empathy for each other.

On 5 December, CRP participated at the 3rd NGO fair in Sisak. The fair was organised on the occasion of the International Volunteers Day and International Human Rights Day, by the Local Democracy Agency Sisak and the Town of Sisak. The fair gave the opportunity to NGOs to present themselves to the public, as well as to the citizens to become more familiar with activities of civil society organisations.

On 10 December, on the occasion of the International day of human rights, a forum on human rights was organised in the Citizens' centre in Glina. The lecture was given by Milica Nenadovic, lawyer. The lecture gave many examples from practice and it included all legal areas that were of interest for free legal aid beneficiaries: ownership, pension and health insurance, social welfare, citizenship and status rights. The lawyer answered questions and gave legal advises to the participants.

On 14 December, a project cycle management workshop was held in the Citizens' centre in Glina. The workshop was organised to continue the work done at the workshop held in the Centre on 12 November 2009, when the need for practical work was established. The workshop was led by Mr. Munir Podumljak of the Partnership for Social Development Zagreb. The participants made a draft of a project proposal that they would like to implement next year.

On 17 December, a workshop on women's rights was held in the Citizens' Centre in Glina. The workshop was organised to discuss "Women's rights and traditional community". The workshop was led by Lahorka Zec, professor. The workshop spoke about position of women in small and rural areas, as well as conflict of modern and traditional. There was an opinion survey and quiz, with an aim to point out traditional understanding of position of women in society and family.

On 18 December, a forum on stress and its impact on holidays was held in Sisak. The forum was held in the Red Cross premises, and it was organised by the Red Cross Sisak, Association of Helth Petrinja and CRP Sisak. The forum had two parts; a lecture by Ms. Dasa Poredos Lavor and practical exercises demonstrated by Ms. Kristina Jakesevic, physiotherapist.

On 22 December, the Town of Glina and CRP Sisak signed the Memorandum of Understanding, based on previous cooperation and as a frame of future cooperation.

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The aim of the memorandum is promotion of human rights in our community. The cooperation is based on joint promotion of women's rights, rights of children, of national minorities, educational programs, and support to sustainable return of refugees and accession of Croatia to the European Union.

Sisak, 14 January 2010

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