



PROJEKT GRAĐANSKIH PRAVA Civil Rights Project

Activity Report - January 2007

Office activities

In the reporting period, CRP Sisak received **185** clients, out of which there were **62** new clients and **123** old clients revisiting **168** times.

There were **45** court hearings held and attended by the CRP external lawyers before the courts in Sisak, Petrinja, Glina, Zagreb, Vojnić, Gvozd and Hrvatska Kostajnica.

Number of clients:

<i>Origin</i>	<i>New Clients</i>	<i>Old clients</i>	<i>Total</i>
BIH	4	4	8
Croatia	58	118	176
Kosovo	0	1	1
Total	62	123	185

Target groups

New clients by status:

<i>Status</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Bosnian Croat	5
Domicile	16
Refugee	9
Returnee	26
Not defined	6
Total	62

New clients by reception mode:

<i>Mode</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Office	51
Field	5
Phone	1
Power of attorney from Serbia	1
Power of attorney from Kosovo	4
Total	62

TYPE OF CASE	NUMBER OF EVENTS
Citizenship	17
Documents and status	67
Labour	3
Ownership	101
Other	35
Pension and health and social security	26
Housing care	13
Tenancy rights	27
Misdemeanour	6
TOTAL	295

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Appeals/complaints	15
Letters	63
Lawsuits	13
Administrative lawsuit	2
Revision	1
Constitutional complaint	1
Submissions	78
Administrative request	35
Legal counselling	44
Quick advises	65
TOTAL	317

Legal issues

In this reporting period, CRP Sisak wishes to emphasise that there has been a trend of increasing of number of clients who approach CRP office regarding legal issues related to social welfare and family relations, such as financial assistance, children's rights, divorce, family violence, etc. Among them, there are many clients accommodated in the collective centres in the Sisak area. It is to conclude that the clients are aware that the proper legal aid is needed in such cases and that it will be provided in the CRP office.

Social welfare

The returnees accommodated in the collective centre Barake Tehnika in Sisak have, besides the accommodation, the food and most of them medical insurance. However, most of them do not have any income. Therefore, they cannot afford for any other needs. For example, even those who have medical insurance, as it does not cover all the medicines and medical treatments, cannot afford any special drugs and treatments. Also, there are persons whose medical conditions require special food.

Therefore, CRP Sisak wrote several requests to the Centre for Social Welfare for allocation of one-off social aid payment for special purposes. Firstly, verbal reaction from the Centre for Social Welfare in Sisak was negative, saying that they have oral

instructions from Zagreb not to approve any such request from the people accommodated in the collective centres. CRP Sisak managed to get similar request from the Centre in Rijeka that was positively solved. CRP sent copy of that decision to the Centre in Sisak, and after that they issued several positive decisions.

Children's rights – parental rights

In the case of S. and D.N. (CRP NO. 7396), about which CRP wrote in November, CRP wrote a request to the Center for Social Welfare in Sisak to return the child to the parents. Namely, the child was taken from the hospital, after he was born, and put into the Children's Home in Zagreb. The Centre initiated the court proceedings to take away the child and parental rights from the parents. CRP is providing in-court representation to the parents, but the opposite side, i.e. the Centre, does not show any sign of co-operation in working for the child's benefit. The Centre and the Home want to give child for adoption abroad (!?), with an explanation that the child is not of very good health and is of the Roma nationality, so it would be difficult that some Croatian family would adopt him?! CRP will still try to co-operate with the Centre, but if it becomes necessary, in order to protect the child's rights and parents' rights, CRP will also involve other institutions and the press.

Family violence

The client B.T. (CRP case 6403) has been maltreated by her husband. She was divorced at the Municipal Court in Sisak and it was decided that the children will stay with the mother (children are of age of 15, 11 and 9 years old). The father was obliged to pay the alimentation for the children in the amount established by the court decision. Unfortunately, the relations between the former spouses got worse, especially when the former husband started to disturb by constant phone-calls and every day visits to the client and the children. He was also spying on her and following her to the work place. In October 2006 he attacked her in a coffee shop, pushed her strongly and she fell down. He also insulted her in the presence of other people. It needs to be said that the husband is a former policeman and it may be suspected that he has good relations with the police officers. The client reported the violence to the police and managed to initiate a violation procedure before the Court for Violations in Sisak. The husband was sentenced to pay the fine in the amount of 1.300,00 HRK. During the court procedure, on 1 December 2006 CRP filed a request for sentencing a protective measure by forbidding the husband to approach the client, as she was a victim of family violence. The protective measure was ordered by the court verdict on 12th December 2006 for the period of 10 months.

Unfortunately, the husband is not acting in accordance with the court verdict, so CRP wrote and filed a request to the Police Administration in Sisak for execution of the court's verdict.

On the other hand, even though he is obliged to pay the child alimentation, the former husband refuses to do so. Therefore, CRP wrote another two submissions, the proposal for execution of the court decision and request for temporary child support to the Centre for social welfare in Sisak.

Other activities

Based on the results of the 2006 project, CRP Sisak submitted a project proposal for continuation of the Mobile Team project to the OSCE Mission to Croatia, extending the activities, besides Hrvatska Kostajnica and Vojnic, to Glina. The authorities of these towns and municipalities are interested in co-operation with CRP and have been providing office premises for free.

On 19 January, CRP Sisak met with “Documenta” –Centre for facing the past, from Zagreb. It was agreed that the two organisations are going to establish co-operation on the project related to the post-conflict situation in the Sisak area.

During the reporting period, the preliminary results of the research on anticorruption, which was done by the “Bura” net of Croatian NGOs (including CRP Sisak), were presented at the press conferences in Zagreb and Sisak. The research covered the whole Croatia, divided in 7 regions. CRP did the research in the region of Sisak and Posavina. The results says that the citizens in the Sisak region think that the most corrupted are the local administration, then political parties and state administration. At the bottom of the list, as the least corrupted, are international organisation and national NGOs. Among 7 regions, the region of Sisak is at the third place by corruption.

CRP continued visiting the clients accommodated in the collective centre Barake Tehnika in Sisak, in order to follow up their cases, especially on their status and housing care process.

Sisak, 9 February 2007

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