



ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

QUARTER II 2023



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA



**TRANSPARENCY
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Description of the Project

The program “Assistance to Citizens in the Fight against Corruption (ACFC)” is implemented by the Centers for Civic Initiatives, the lead implementer, and Transparency International (TI BiH) and the Center for Media Development and Research (CRMA), the implementing partners. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The implementation period is from September 2019 to September 2024.

The program aims to increase citizens’ participation in combating corruption, and all of its activities are designed to encourage strong and sustainable anti-corruption activism across the country and across all levels. The purpose of the ACFC project is to help civil society become representative and credible in the fight against corruption.

The following activities are realized within the project:

- Monitoring and advocacy for anti-corruption legislation in the following areas: conflict of interest, whistleblower protection, public procurement, and abuse of public resources in election campaigns;
- Engagement of citizens and building a culture that rejects corruption;
- Coordination and building capacities of organizations involved.



CORRUPTION IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM !!!



Are you a group of citizens facing corruption in your community and because of that you cannot exercise your own right or that of a broader group of people?

Do you suffer the consequences of bad decisions made amid the misuse of power or unlawful government conduct?

More information about how to receive assistance for your anti-corruption initiatives is available at the following link:

063 396 536

protivkorupcije@ccibh.org

- Banja Luka**
 - CA "Restart Srpska"
 - Union of the Employers' Association of Republika Srpska
 - Association "Think good"
 - CA "Road of Justice"
 - ICG "Save Karanovac"
 - Center for Education "Pro Educa"
 - The Association "Perpetuum Mobile – Institute for Youth and Community Development"
- Bijeljina**
 - Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
 - ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in Bijeljina"
- Bjelašnica**
 - ICG "To Stop Illegal Construction on Bjelašnica and Igman"
- Brčko**
 - ICG "For Transparent Financing of Non-Profit Organizations from the Budget of the Brčko District"
 - Youth Center Vermont
 - CA "Demos"
 - ICG "For recognized diplomas from accredited higher education institutions in the Brčko District of BiH"
- Breza**
 - ICG "To Remove an Illegal Waste Dump in Nedići, Breza"
- Bugojno**
 - ICG "Poriće"
- Bužim**
 - The Association of Dystrophics Bužim
- Doboj**
 - ICG "For the legal exploitation of minerals from the Bosna river"
 - ICG "STOP to unaccredited universities in the RS"
 - ICG "Remove Hexane from Kotorско"
 - Center for Humane Politics
 - Citizens Association Tolerance of Diversity (ToPeeR)
- Drvar**
 - ICG "Drvar Without Italian Waste"
- Foča**
 - ICG "Drvar Without Italian Waste"
- Goražde**
 - ICG "Save Drina"
 - ICG „Goražde Without Pesticide“
- EastSarajevo**
 - NGG "Stop izgradnji mHE na ICG "STOP to the Construction of mHPs on the river Kasindolska"
 - Women's Interactive Rural Center (ŽIR)
- Jablanica**
 - ICG "For Doljanku"
- Konjic**
 - ICG "Neretvica - Let Me Flow"
- Kozarska Dubica**
 - ICG "React Against Irregularities Threatening the Health and Environment"
- Kreševo**
 - ICG "Stop Quarries Without Permits"
- Kakanj**
 - ICG "Nature Park Trstionica and Boriva"
- Livno**
 - CA "the Center for Citizens' Cooperation"
- Maglaj**
 - ICG "For Legal Exploitation of Minerals in the Upper Section of the river Bosna"
 - Association Fojničani
- Mostar**
 - CA "Because We Care"
 - ICG "Initiative against the construction of Buna 1 and 2 mHP"
 - ICG "Stop to illegal construction in Bijeli Brijeg"
 - ICG "No to construction on Buna and in my Blagaj"
 - ICG "Citizens' Initiative Kutī"
 - The Association for Improving Quality of Living – Futura Mostar
 - Association Bura info
- Petrovo**
 - ICG "Keepers of Ozren"
- Prijedor**
 - Consumer Protection Association "DON Prijedor"
 - ICG „Be My Voice“
- Sarajevo**
 - ICG "Hastahana park"
 - ICG "Initiative KCUS"
 - ICG "Zgrada"
 - Association „Ja BiH u EU“
 - Employers' Association in the Federation of BiH
 - BIRN BiH
 - Association "Baby Steps"
 - Association Union of the Fund's Employees
 - Forestry and Environment Action
 - Aarhus centa
 - ICG "Last minute rescue – Let's save Dobrinja"
 - The Union for Sustainable Return and Integrations in BiH
 - Association of Public Procurement Professionals, Trainers and Officers in BiH (UPTIS)
 - ICG „We Want Drinking Water and Clean Air – against the Illegal
- Construction on Bjelašnica and Igman
- Šipovo**
 - ICG "Farmeri"
- Tešanj**
 - ICG "Non-transparent spending of budget funds for water supply to citizens"
- Trebinje**
 - CA "Stop mobbing"
 - ICG "Movement for Restitution Trebinje"
- Trnovo**
 - ICG "Stop to Disposal of Illegal Waste at the Krupačke stijene Waste Dump"
- Tuzla**
 - The civic movement "Waking Up"
 - ICG "Initiative against the landfill for slag and ash from the thermal power plant in local community Šićki Brod"
 - The Association "Forum of Tuzla Citizens"
- Visoko**
 - ICG "To Prevent Abuse in Issuing Operation Permits to Organizers of Games of Chance (betting, lotteries, etc)."
- Višegrad:**
 - ICG "Defend the Rivers of Višegrad"
 - ICG "Remove Illegal Waste Dump on the Outskirts of a Tourist Town"
- Vitez**
 - ICG "Courageous Women of Kruščica"
 - Initiative "Illegality of Spending the Building Maintenance Funds in Vitez"
- Vlasenica**
 - ICG „Eco Activists Vlasenica“
- Zenica**
 - ICG "Air guards"
 - ICG "Movement for change"
 - ICG "The Illegible Unemployed"
- Zvornik**
 - ICG "STOP to illegal gravel pits on the Drina river"
 - ICG "Stop the Construction of an Asphalt Base in Tršić"
- Žepče**
 - ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in the area of Žepče and Zavidovići"



MARKING EARTH DAY

During the week of International Day of Rivers and World Water Day, informal groups of citizens symbolically, through various performances, protests, and river cleaning actions, reminded the public of the threat to the environment caused by irregularities and various forms of abuse in their local communities. In addition, in several locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, citizens were informed via info leaflets about corruption against which informal citizen groups have been fighting. From nine cities across BiH, a single message was sent, calling on citizens to join the fight to preserve the environment and fight against irregularities.

“It is obvious that our rivers and waters, in general, are becoming more polluted every day and that we will very soon face a shortage of drinking water,” the activists warn. Activists have been raising their voices for years, and by their example, they are encouraging other citizens to raise their voices in their local communities against irregularities and threats to planet Earth. Because of their persistence and courage in their actions, activists achieve victories, move the borders, revoke harmful permits, and continue their fight. However, the achievement of this goal requires collective awareness of the importance of the fight for the environment and the involvement of as many citizens as possible.





NO DILEMMA - THE FUND'S FINANCING MUST BE COMPLIANT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW ON HEALTH INSURANCE FBIH AND THE NEEDS OF THE PATIENTS

The Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) and civil society organizations of patients, beneficiaries of the Solidarity Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at a round table conference held together with representatives of relevant institutions, confirmed the necessity of compliance with the Law on Health Insurance FBIH concerning the financing the Fund. The round table conference brought together representatives of the Ministry of Health of the FBIH, representatives of the working bodies of the Parliament of the FBIH - Committee on Health, as well as the Institute of Health Insurance and Reinsurance of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the invited were representatives of the Ministry of Finance of the FBIH who did not express interest in participating in the conference.

The participants of the round table conference pointed out that the financial resources collected for the work of the Fund are insufficient to meet the needs of patients in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result, we are witnessing waiting lists for some services, which directly threatens the health of FBIH patients. There is an evident need for concrete and urgent measures on the part of the FBIH Government to provide health services to patients at the moment of need.



It is a paradoxical fact that we are talking about the FBIH Government's violating the law, i.e., not funding the work of the Solidarity Fund, which is required to do so under the current law. We are really worried because we as citizens, representatives of associations, and civil society now have to find a way to make the Government respect the Law," - Merima Spahic from the Association for the Development of Society "Kap" pointed out.

It was underlined that FBiH Health Insurance Law provides the method of financing the Fund, but that the FBiH Government, as one of the sponsors of the Fund, allocates less than prescribed by the Law. By not adhering to the Law, the FBiH Government avoided paying 1.53 billion KM in the first two decades of the existence of the FBiH Solidarity Fund.



For many years, the Government of the FBiH has failed to fulfill its obligations specified by law. We all see on social media various fundraising campaigns for children, and we also see various scams in that field. We lose trust in the system, institutions, the state, our country, and people, just because someone does not want to respect the law. If the law does not apply to everyone, then we have deeper and more serious problems” - Marin Bago from the Association “Fortuna” from Mostar said at the round table conference.

The Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) and civil society organizations of patients, beneficiaries of the Solidarity Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, previously filed an initiative with the FBiH Parliament to find opportunities to prioritize the problem of inadequate financing of the FBiH Solidarity Fund by the FBiH Government. The importance of this was recognized by the Committee for Economic and Financial Policy of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament, which at the last session tasked the Government of FBiH to adopt the budget request of the FBiH Health Insurance and Reinsurance Fund during the rebalancing of the Federation Budget for 2023 to provide additional 40 million KM for the work of the Solidarity Fund. The participants of the conference also agreed that the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament, in its conclusion, should also ask the FBiH Government to comply with the obligation to finance the work of the FBiH Solidarity Fund.



This situation comes as the consequence of many factors, and it is a series of issues and activities that have become a pattern of behavior in previous years,” Amra Junuzović-Kaljić, MP of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament and representative of the Health Committee said at the conference.

Also, the participants of the round table called on the Ministry of Finance of the FBiH to demonstrate more responsibility when it comes to programming financial resources for the work of the FBiH Solidarity Fund in the FBiH Budget and to be guided by the needs of patients, i.e. not to limit the Institute of Health Insurance and Reinsurance with its instructions FBiH. The participants also called on the Ministry of Health FBiH to demonstrate the need for budget expenditures in accordance with the Law on Health Insurance FBiH.

Finally, civil society organizations once again insisted that the FBiH Government should stop its current practice of failing to fulfill its financing obligations, and calling into question the FBiH citizens’ right to health care.



Terminated concession contracts for the construction of MHP on Neretvica!

The “Neretvica - Let Me Flow” movement received information at the beginning of June that the public company Elektroprivreda BiH terminated the concession contract with the Municipality of Konjic for the construction of 15 mini hydropower plants (mHP) at the Neretvica River. This marks the final victory of the citizens in this long-term conflict the usurpation of the Neretvica River.

This victory of civic activism over a poor system followed more than three years of constant fight that brave citizens from the Neretvica River valley put up to protect the river with their bodies and not allow the commencement of the works. In addition to defending the river with their bodies, from the very beginning, the movement also waged a serious legal battle to prove that the planned construction of the mHPs on the Neretvica River is contrary to the will of the citizens and legal provisions.

Citizens launched their fight by organizing mass protests in February 2020, when about 1,500 people gathered at the elementary school in Pasovići to express their protest against the planned construction of fifteen mHPs in the Neretvica river basin. In the beginning, it was like fighting windmills, because there was a public company that at that time had valid permits and approvals for the construction of mHPs, but the citizens were determined in their intention not to allow the construction of any MHP on the river that life means to them. Right at the beginning, they said: “BLOOD OR WATER”, which showed the degree of their willingness to protect their river.

During these many years of fight, there were several key moments, one of them was in June 2020 when they stopped the machines for the first time, and the second, a year later, in June 2021, when a mass gathering of citizens prevented the trucks and the commencement of construction works on the Neretvica River. These two gatherings took place at a time when the permits were still valid, however, these were the events that significantly changed the balance of power in this fight because the citizens showed that they would not allow work outside the law and the will of the citizens.

From the beginning, activists claimed that all permits obtained by the investor to allow for the commencement of the construction works were issued illegally and against the will of the citizens. So, in the continuation of this fight, like a tower of cards, the permits began to fall one by one. First, in September 2021, the construction permit issued by the Municipality of Konjic was revoked because it was issued without an accompanying energy permit, contrary to the law.

After that, at the beginning of 2022, water consent was revoked. The provisions of Article 114, paragraph 6 of the Law on Water define that the water permit ceases to be valid after the expiration of two years from the date of its issuance if a construction permit has not been obtained and work has not started by that date. This information was confirmed by the Agency for the Water Area of the Adriatic Sea, which issued the aforementioned consents.

It didn't end there. On June 8, 2022, another significant moment in the legal battle happened - environmental permits for small hydroelectric power plants on Neretvica issued by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism ceased to be valid. Additionally, in March 2023, the Cantonal Court in Sarajevo later annulled those environmental permits for the MHP on Neretvica because the FBiH Environmental Protection Law was not properly applied in the case of the renewal/issuance of environmental permits for the two mentioned MHPs.

Therefore, the project that once had all legally valid permits, suddenly lost all permits and construction is no longer possible.





THE FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN: REHABILITATION OF THE WASTE DUMP IN NEDIĆI IN BREZA MUNICIPALITY HAS BEGUN AFTER YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POISONING AND LACK OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES.

An informal group of citizens demanding the removal of the illegal waste dump in Nedići points to the long-term disregard of the waste management problem in the Municipality of Breza that resulted in the emergence of an illegal dump in Nedići. This waste dump is located on the border of Breza Municipality and Vareš Municipality, immediately on the left side of the regional road R-444 (Podlugovi - Breza - Vareš), next to the river Stavnja, which flows only a few meters from the waste disposal site. Waste has been disposed of at this location intermittently for the past ten years, and for some time, the location served as a transfer station. The re-disposal of waste began three years ago, and since then, the site has again been covered with enormous amounts of waste. However, the rehabilitation of the waste dump finally began at the beginning of 2023. Activists of the Initiative previously addressed the Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs of Zenica-Doboj Canton, and they were informed that, according to controls, the location where the waste was being dumped was not a waste dump, and that the legal entity that carried out waste disposal did not have a valid permit for that activity. Since then, representatives of the Initiative have carried out several activities to point out the necessity of regulating waste management in the Municipality of Breza. One of the items discussed at the session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Breza on March 30 was information on the state of the public company "Komunalno" Breza d.o.o. The company stated that the Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs had given it a deadline of 60 days to rehabilitate the Nedići waste dump and prohibit the disposal of municipal waste at this location. According to the company, that deadline was May 22. That deadline was extended by 30 days, after which, according to the information available to the activists, the cantonal inspection inspected the site and confirmed the restoration of the waste dump to its original state. Activists are satisfied that the final rehabilitation of the waste dump has begun, and they consider the rehabilitation to be a major step forward toward a permanent solution to the problem. However, they also believe that the waste dump Nedići has not yet been fully rehabilitated and that it is obvious that waste is still being disposed of at this location, which most likely serves again as a transfer station. In addition, they say that they will continue monitoring the rehabilitation process in the coming period and all the activities the Municipality undertakes to solve the problem of waste management in Breza.



How the action of a citizen David ended with the arrest of a corrupt political Goliath - the case of tenants from Sarajevo's Old Town Maguda Street 3

The protests of the informal group of citizens “Zgrada- Building” have been going on for more than two years. On June 14, 2021, tenants from Maguda Street 3 learned from the media that the yard in front of their building became a separate plot marked as a construction site and put up for sale. They believe that the changes to the regulatory plan and the subdivision of the land violated the law, and, as a result, they believe that the lives and property of the building's tenants were at risk because the plot for the construction of the new facility is on unstable terrain marked as a landslide. Following a series of actions aimed at competent institutions and despite the pressure from the Municipality of Stari Grad, which accused the group of misleading the public and accusing the Municipality of threatening citizens and property, at the beginning of May this year, information emerged in the media about the arrest of the then Mayor Ibrahim Hadžibajrić and his associates in the “Start” operation. “The acting prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office, together with police officers of the Criminal Police Sector and the Police Support Sector of the Sarajevo Canton Police Administration implemented the action code-named “Start.” The activities have been carried out in coordination with EUROPOL and relate to criminal offenses of organized crime and money laundering, including corrupt criminal offenses of abuse of position or authority and receiving and giving gifts,” the Prosecutor's Office said in a statement. Some media even write that Mayor Hadžibajrić is accused of accepting bribes in the sale of the disputed plot of land that the residents of Alifakovac have protested against. Things became clear, when, at the end of May, the informal group received confirmation from the Municipality that the building permit procedure for the construction of a residential and commercial building on Maguda Street next to number 1 in the Sarajevo neighborhood of Alifakovac was terminated, since the case was temporarily excepted by the BiH Ministry of Security - State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA). And while the Prosecutor's Office and other authorities are working to shed light on this case, the tenants of the building from Maguda Street 3 can finally “breathe a sigh of relief” after two years. The extent of the arrogance and insolence of individuals in power is best shown by the statement of the then mayor of the Stari Grad Municipality, Ibrahim Hadžibajrić, who when asked once by a journalist about who hinders most the municipality in the implementation of projects said that unfortunately it was the legal regulation!”

The Zgrada- Building group said briefly: “Our fight for the green area where the construction was planned and for the survival of our building, as it would be threatened by that construction, we see from the beginning as a fight between David and Goliath. We are proud that after two years little David is again defeating the big corrupt, selfish, merciless Goliath!”



JUSTICE IS SLOW BUT ATTAINABLE

Activists of the Movement for Restitution Trebinje have been fighting for the past few years against the conversion of agricultural land into construction land in Pridvorci in Trebinje. The members of the association opposed the problem of illegal management of state land in Pridvorci which is gaining momentum in the area of Trebinje and other locations. To stop this phenomenon and draw the attention of the public and competent institutions to these actions, on March 18, 2023, the Association filed with the Construction Inspector of the Inspectorate of the Republika Srpska - Trebinje Department a request for an inspection control of the accuracy of the Todorici parcelization plan and planning documentation. Even though the activists witnessed constant ignoring by the competent institutions, a change finally happened. The Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska, one year after the initiation of the initiative and one year and two months after the submission of the citizens' request to carry out an inspection control, determined that the disputed Decision on the amendment and supplement of the Todorici 3 plan is not in harmony with the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska.

Also, the court found that the Assembly of the City of Trebinje, in the decision-making process, did not follow the provisions of the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of the Republic of Srpska as the legal basis for making the contested decision. The Assembly of the City of Trebinje had to appoint a Planning Council that monitors the preparation of the spatial planning document within the statutory period, after the entry into force of this Decision, and, among other things, takes a position on the conformity of the document with the spatial planning documents that represent the basis for its preparation, which it did not do. Although in the meantime, after the decision on amendments to the Todorici 3 Subdivision Plan, the City of Trebinje began selling this land, the new owners did not commence construction until the verdict was pronounced. Activists are not aware of the reasons why the entire procedure was stopped, but they hope that the City of Trebinje, guided by this verdict, will stop illegal actions, and bring the planning documentation related to this land into line with the law. They are convinced that the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with which the Association filed an appeal due to the illegal registration of state ownership of land at the Pridvorci location to the entity of Republika Srpska, and the attempt to convert it from agricultural to construction land, will rule in their favor.

Find out more on antikorupcija.info



Fellow Citizens Support the Fight of the Residents of the Park 2 Building in Zvornik

Over fifty residents of the “Park 2” building in Zvornik gathered in the informal group of citizens “Justice for (hotel) Drina,” organized peaceful protests at the end of May and drew attention to their long-standing problems, unimpeded access to the residential building and inability to legalize their apartments. The City of Zvornik is not a place with a rich history of civil rebellion and public expression of dissatisfaction, and the new change best illustrates the seriousness of the situation and the new levels the problems reach every day. From the moment the protests were announced, during the event, as well as after the event, residents were positively surprised by the support they encountered from their fellow citizens. The daily comments, especially the support provided publicly on social media and in direct communication through messages and calls, show that this group of citizens is not alone in their fight. In addition, as expected, new cases emerged, pointing to the ubiquitous corruption and disregard for the law in construction practices, both in the city of Zvornik and beyond. By holding one of the first protests of this type that the City of Zvornik has ever had the opportunity to see, the tenants of the Park 2 building have shown that they take their fight seriously and that they do not intend to stop until they realize their legal rights. One of the demands of this peaceful gathering was the dismissal of Boško Kojić, the head of the Spatial Planning Department of the City of Zvornik. The representatives of the tenants of the “Park 2” building officially submitted the request for the initiation of disciplinary responsibility of the head of the mentioned department to the protocol of the City Administration. “We want to tell everyone that we have been fighting for years for what is our legal right. We will not agree to compromises and temporary solutions offered to us. We call on the competent institutions, primarily the City of Zvornik, to commit to solving the problem in the interest of our tenants. This is the first time we are publicly advertising and taking to the streets because we are forced to do so considering that we do not see anything being done to address the problem. However, it will not be the last time either because we can no longer tolerate the injustice that has been done to us. We demand compliance with the Urban technical conditions and location conditions that specify all conditions for the superstructure, construction, and approach and entrance to the building. We also demand the irrevocable resignation of the head of the Spatial Planning Department, Boško Kojić, because his expert opinion allowed the division of the single plot, Zoran Milutinović, the representative of the tenants said in his statement.



VLASENICA – A SMALL PLACE WITH GREAT SUPPORT AND STRONG CIVIC ACTIVISM!

The Protocol Office of Vlasenica Municipality refused to accept some 1700 signatures, even though it is a citizens' initiative against the opening of a factory for chemical-thermal processing of plastics, almost in the very center of the municipality of Vlasenica. However, the citizens did not give up and said NO to threats to their health. After learning that a plant for the chemical thermal treatment of around 100,000 tons of plastic per year, which would be mostly imported from Europe, is planned to be opened in Vlasenica, the citizens joined an informal group of citizens "Eco Activists of Vlasenica" and engaged into a legal battle and activism to fight against the irregularities they suspect and that threaten their health. The citizens were not aware of the public hearing held during the pandemic, and they learned about the Environmental Impact Study, a document that precedes the mandatory Environmental Permit, from the media. Vlasenica citizens organized themselves and began collecting signatures as part of their civic initiative. Although the signatures were rejected when they were submitted, they took legal steps so that the authorities in the local self-government would recognize their disagreement with the opening of the factory.

Faced with great pressure and indirect intimidation from those supporting opening of the factory, the activists did not stop, and on April 15, 2023, they organized a protest in Vlasenica. Over 500 of their fellow citizens, as well as citizens from neighboring municipalities and cities, took part in the meeting. Although Vlasenica is a small municipality, a large number of citizens dared to say NO to the opening of a plastic processing factory. It is suspected that such a plant will have by-products dangerous to human health. Media from all over BiH provided support for the brave activism of the residents of this small town, which resulted in the support of activists from the entire country! During the protest, activists pointed out several legal omissions in the permitting procedure, which is why a lawsuit was filed against the decision of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction, and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska. All the gathered citizens reiterated their demands and opinions at a peaceful meeting, and that is a clear NO TO THE OPENING OF A FACTORY FOR CHEMICAL - THERMAL PROCESSING OF PLASTIC IN VLASENICA!



SARAJEVO CITIZENS RAISE THEIR VOICES AGAINST ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION AND DESTRUCTION OF NATURE ON BJELAŠNICA AND IGMAN

Finally, the citizens of Sarajevo raised their voices against illegal construction on Bjelašnica and Igman. The informal group of citizens “We Want Drinking Water and Clean Air - AGAINST Illegal Construction on Bjelašnica and Igman” launched a fight against uncontrolled construction and ecocide on the Olympic mountains. In a very short time this group gained considerable support from citizens. As part of that struggle, they took to the streets of Sarajevo several times to learn about the irregularities that allowed illegal construction on Bjelašnica and Igman.

Since many citizens have shown interest in supporting this fight, due to its importance for the preservation of drinking water and clean air, a petition has been launched asking the Government of Sarajevo Canton to enact legal provisions as soon as possible to stop illegal construction in this area. If this type of construction on Bjelašnica and Igman does not stop, the citizens fear that the city of Sarajevo will be left without drinking water and clean air.

So far, over 1,000 citizens have signed the petition and thus provided support for the fight against the destruction of the Olympic mountains. On the other hand, the Office for the Fight against Corruption also showed interest in this topic and endorsed the group’s activities.

Further, in 2016, the FBiH auditors also warned of irregularities in connection with the construction of apartments on Bjelašnica. In addition, the Office for Combating Corruption and Quality Management of Sarajevo Canon observed irregularities in permitting forest clearing and issuing building permits and filed criminal charges with the Cantonal Prosecutor’s Office in Sarajevo for forest clearing in four cases and building permits for 13 facilities.



Find out more on antikorupcija.info



The students' tireless pointing out of the problem of unaccredited higher education institutions, which issue unrecognized diplomas, gave another result - in the Republic of Srpska, the first higher education institution ceases to operate because it does not have accreditation!

Student activists from the group “Accredited Higher Education Institutions - Recognized Degrees,” after the Cluster affair involving the purchase of degrees, asked the Agency for Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska about the status of the Prijedor College of Economics and Informatics. This higher education institution had several study programs; it had a work permit and a license, as a form of initial accreditation, and classes took place regularly and degrees were issued to students after graduation. It applied for accreditation, which was ultimately rejected.

According to the accreditation standards, the mentioned higher education institution failed to the conditions for continued issuance of recognized degrees. Upon the refusal of accreditation, the higher education institution appealed to the Agency for Higher Education at the entity level. However, after the session of the Management Board of the Agency, a decision was made to reject the appeal. This is the first higher education institution in the Republika Srpska to cease to operate based on a lack of accreditation! For all graduates who found themselves in a situation of uncertainty regarding their studies, there is an explanation. The higher education institution is required to ensure the continuation and completion of education for all students following Article 68, point 2 and point 5, paragraph 1 of the Law on Higher Education, but, according to Article 43 of the Law on Higher Education, the institution ceases to operate on the date of the validity of the decision on rejection of accreditation and is no longer able to carry out higher education activities. The informal group of students called “Accredited Higher Education Institutions - Recognized Degrees,” encouraged by this success in protecting the quality of higher education, welcomes the decision of the Agency for Higher Education because only by strengthening the control of teaching and the quality of higher education, knowledge obtained at a university will be rewarded with a recognized degree.



THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS RESPONDED TO THE FILED CRIMINAL CHARGES: WILL THE PROBLEM OF THE PLANNED QUARRY IN PORIČE BUGOJNO BE RESOLVED SOON?

Civic activists from Poriče in Bugojno, who aim to prevent the opening of a quarry in this community, have been tireless in their fight in recent months. At the end of March, they filed criminal charges with the Prosecutor's Office of Central Bosnia Canton against the mayor of Bugojno, the Head of the Economic Service, and other responsible persons in the Municipal Council on a suspicion of having committed criminal acts of abuse of position or authority and a number of other criminal offenses. Following the first charge, after new information about the attempts of investors and municipal officials to influence the decisions of the Local Community Council, at the beginning of May, the group filed criminal charges with the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office against four members of the Local Community Council on suspicion of abuse of position and receiving gifts. As a result, in June, criminal proceedings were initiated against those responsible from the municipality of Bugojno, as well as representatives of the Poriče Local Community Council. The representative of the group was invited by the cantonal prosecutor's office to give a statement and the Ministry of Interior is currently collecting evidence and statements as tasked by the Prosecutor's office. In addition, the activists continued their efforts at a higher level, calling on those responsible in the Government of Central Bosnia Canton to review the concessions and terminate the contracts for the Rastovice and Krčevina quarries in Kreševo, and for the planned quarry in Poriče Bugojno. Together with the Kreševo Civic Movement, the group organized peaceful protests in front of the Cantonal Government where they presented their fight to the journalists and public of Central Bosnia Canton and called on the competent institutions to take responsibility. Also, on that occasion, the group filed an initiative to the Government of Central Bosnia Canton and the Prime Minister to include the problem of concessions for these two localities in the agenda of one of the next sessions of the Government. At the Government session held on June 15, 2023, the agenda included the topic the group insisted on. The Minister informed the Government about the initiation of the criminal charges, the investigative actions of the Prosecutor's Office, and the documentation submitted to the Prosecutor's Office. On the other hand, activists continue to insist on the session of the Municipal Council of Bugojno, which has not been held for months, to put the Decision out of force and begin the process of cancelling the concession contract for the Bukovački Potok locality, in the Poriče Local Community.



Activists for the Legal Exploitation of Gravel Continue; Support is not Lacking

Spring in cities and municipalities located near the rivers Bosna and Drina is still associated with floods and the fear of new disasters. One of the reasons is that the citizens are aware that the institutions have not done anything for the last nine years to rehabilitate and strengthen river banks and eradicate activities that contribute to the destruction of riverbeds, including illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel.

On the other hand, citizens are very specific in their actions and demands. Constant monitoring of the work of competent institutions, raising the question of responsibility, and reporting suspicious activities keep the topic of illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel current. In addition, in the last few months, activists used every opportunity to go out on the street, start a conversation with their fellow citizens and bring this problem closer to them. Thus, in several cities, they celebrated Earth Day and presented the current situation through a photo exhibition. In addition, the group marked nine years since the catastrophic floods of 2014 to once again point out the fact that illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel contributed to the extent of the floods.

Because of the increasing involvement of citizens, mostly those who live near rivers and who recognize all the dangers, a couple of new cases of destruction were discovered as a result of illegal and uncontrolled gravel mining in the Bosna River basin: the settlement of Kožuhe and the settlement of Podnovlje near Dobož, the settlement of Miloševac in Modriča, Crkvine in Šamac, etc. The situation is similar to the Drina River basin in Bijeljina and Zvornik, where citizens regularly come forward with suspicions of illegal activities.

In the meantime, the group collected information about all legal locations for cleaning riverbeds in Republika Srpska and published a map so that citizens could learn about the locations where exploitation is allowed.

Activists continue their efforts and call on all citizens to join the fight and contribute to the prevention of illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel by reporting suspicions of illegal activities of gravel miners in the basins of the rivers Bosna and Drina.



Has the Struggle of the Tenants of Bijeli Brijeg in Mostar Come to an End?



The latest decision of the ministry annulling the conclusion of the City of Mostar Department for Urban Planning and Construction and ordering a repetition of the procedure for the issuance of urban consent for the construction of a building at Zrinski Frankopan in Bijeli Brijeg indicates a potential end to the struggle of tenants gathered in an informal group of citizens “Stop illegal construction in Bijelo Brijeg.”

In November 2022, the Department for Urban Planning and Construction of the City of Mostar rejected the proposal of the tenants of the neighboring building to renew the procedure for urban planning approval for the construction of the contested building. The procedure was completed without consulting the tenants, whose quality of life would be directly affected by the construction of the new building. The tenants decided to react to protect their rights. The result is the aforementioned decision of the ministry, which provides new hope to tenants.

The tenants hope their struggle will end and that it will become an example of the possibility of change. They emphasize that what they want is very simple -- the fulfillment of fundamental human rights, and as regards determining the responsibility of those who through their misconduct and abuse of official positions “entangled” them in the struggle, it is up to the Prosecution and courts to decide.



ICG „Protect Mandek Springs“ files criminal charges against those responsible for concluding concession contracts detrimental to Livno citizens and threatening drinking water

The ICG “Protect Mandek Springs” filed with the Prosecutor’s Office of Canton 10 criminal charges against the responsible persons in the Government of Canton 10, the Ministry of Economy, and the Commission for Concessions on suspicion of committing criminal offenses of achieving benefits to themselves and/or the investor individually or in an organized manner. Citizens believe that the implementation of the Concession Agreement for the exploration and exploitation of “water” concluded by the Government of Canton 10 and the Ministry of Economy potentially threatens drinking water for the residents of this local community, as well as other villages downstream. The activists have been pointing out to the Ministry of Economy and other institutions numerous illegalities and omissions that have been observable since the Ministry issued the first permit for geological research near drinking water sources. However, although the activists have been calling for the protection of fundamental human rights and respect for the law for a long time, representatives of the authorities ignored their calls, which is why they filed criminal charges and would be continuing using all the means at their disposal in the hope of stopping potential consequences for the citizens of Livno. The group believes that it is particularly worrying that despite all the illegalities related to the concession process, such as the exclusion of citizens from the public discussion, the discrepancy in the deadlines for the execution of works, and the lack of conditions on the part of the concessionaire for the execution of the works, representatives of the authorities, continue to operate in the same direction, which is evident from the concession transfer procedure that began in 2018. Despite all the illegalities, and the fact that the contract does not have a provision allowing the transfer of the concession, the relevant ministry, with a series of omissions, approves the transfer of the concession from the old to the new concessionaire, and the last Government Decision on granting consent to the Proposal of Annex II of the Concession Agreement with a new concessionaire of April 28, 2022, shows that the authorities have no intention of abandoning their plans. The activists emphasize that the enumerated irregularities are a sufficient reason for the Government of Canton 10 and the Ministry of Economy to review the concluded concession agreement and its Annexes and terminate the concession agreement that is harmful to the citizens. Previously, the group and some 170 citizens filed the initiative with the cantonal government and the Ministry of Economy demanding a review and termination of the Concession Agreement for the exploration and exploitation of “water.” The group says that they hope that based on their criminal charges an investigation will be conducted against those who made it possible to continue actions to the detriment of all the citizens of Livno despite numerous illegalities and omissions.

SUCCESSFUL ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGNS



STOP MHE NA HRASNIČKOM POTOKU I ŽELJEZNICI



KUCNUO JE ZADNJI ČAS
nema vode – nema nas!

PODRŽANO OD:



VICTORY! COUNCILORS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRNOVO SUPPORTED THE LOCALS AND MOUNTAIN ACTIVISTS AND REJECTED THE INVESTOR'S APPLICATION FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PLOTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MHPS

During the 22nd session on April 28, 2023, the Trnovo Municipal Assembly, rejected the application of the investor “Hidrowind” d.o.o. for the allocation of two plots of land to obtain a building permit for the construction of a small hydropower plant “Hrasnica” on the Hrasnica stream.

The President of the Mountaineering Sports Association (PSD) “Treskavica” Trnovo, Ljubiša Golijanin, with the help of the Aarhus Center in BiH, addressed the councilors explaining the ecological disaster it would be for this part of the country if the Council issues building permits to allow the construction of mini hydropower plant.

The rejection of the investor's application followed the request filed by the Aarhus Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina with municipal administrations to stop further construction by arguing and citing laws, regulations, scientific evidence, and many years of observations in the field.

“As a conclusion of the Assembly session, it was agreed to organize a special thematic session during which decisions will be made on other permits related to the MHE “Hrasnica.” We expect that everything will be resolved in favor of the locals and PSD “Treskavica” and that all permits issued to the investor will be terminated,” Emina Veljović, executive director of the “Resource Aarhus Center in BiH” pointed out in her statement.



CARDBOARD REVOLUTION: Revising the Future of Konjuh Mountain

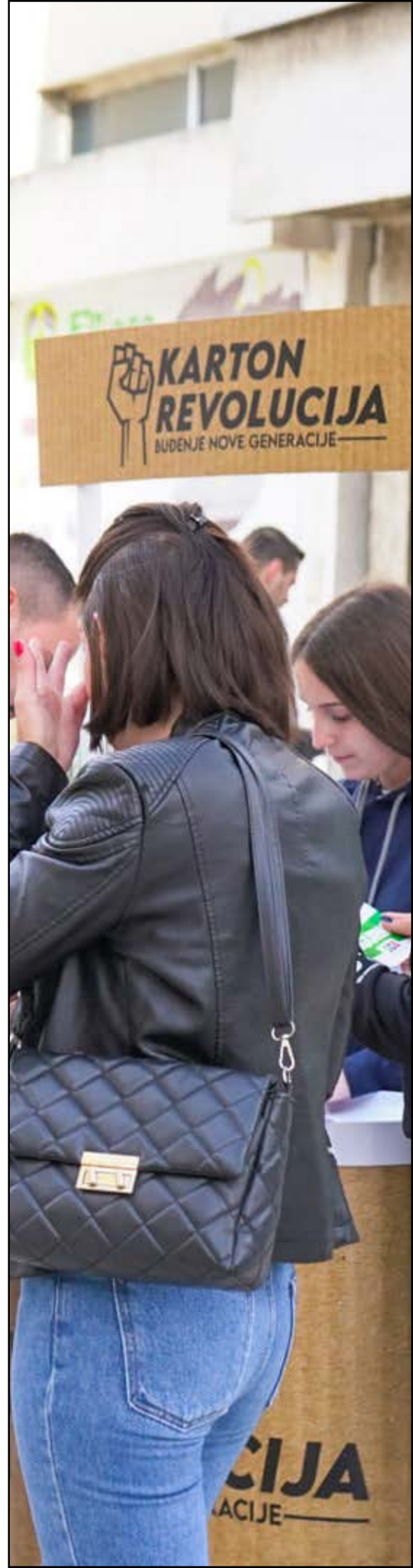
In December, the representatives of “Cardboard Revolution” proposed changes to the Act on the Declaration of a Part of Konjuh Mountain as a Protected Landscape “Konjuh”, demanding a stop to forest cutting in the area of the Protected Landscape, i.e. a stop to corrupt practices in the exploitation of timber. These changes to the Law are in line with international and domestic documents in the field of nature protection, and one of the main reasons for proposing the changes was the intention of the activists to establish order and prevent corruption in the management of natural resources in Tuzla Canton.

In this regard, the most significant meeting of all relevant factors took place in the last fourteen years (ever since the adoption of the declaration of Mount Konjuh as a Protected Landscape), which aimed to determine the future path of Mount Konjuh as a protected area. The all-day event, symbolically called the “Konjuh is Calling”, was attended by the Prime Minister of Tuzla Canton Irfan Halilagić, President of the Assembly of Tuzla Canton Žarko Vujović, relevant ministers, i.e. the Minister of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of Tuzla Canton and the Minister of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of Tuzla Canton, directors of the public company “Konjuh Protected Landscape, the public company Šume TC,” representatives of Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs of TC, Cantonal Administration for Forestry of TC, Municipalities of Kladanj and Živinice.

After the meeting, the following conclusions were agreed upon:

- The current laws in the area of protected landscape have not proven to be the best solutions in practice. In this regard, the Government of Tuzla Canton will submit a request for a review or preparation of a new report on the declaration of a part of Mount Konjuh as a protected area. This aims to revise the system of protection of natural resources, primarily the Konjuh mountain, and harmonize it with the actual situation on the ground. The Departmental Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of Tuzla Canton will form a working group as soon as possible to initiate the aforementioned procedures in accordance with the law. Based on the revision or creation of a new study, the harmonization or revision of the basis of forest management will be carried out. The goal is to ensure the Konjuh mountain becomes protected in the area where it is necessary but also to ensure the possibility of forest-economic cutting in the areas that do not represent high-value zones.
- As soon as possible, a ramp will be erected at the entrance to the Konjuh Protected Landscape from the side of Kladanj, and video surveillance to ensure 24-hour control of the movement and export of timber and raw materials from the Konjuh mountain area.
- The Government of Tuzla Canton will review the paragraph of the Law on the establishment of the “Konjuh” Protected Landscape, which states that this institution must ensure self-sustainability. The intention is to encourage the management of the mentioned institution to commit to nature protection and the prevention of illegal actions and corruption.
- The competent cantonal inspection, “Konjuh Protected Landscape” and Cardboard Revolution will hold consultative meetings in the coming period to propose changes to the Law to increase the powers of supervisors within the Protected Landscape “Konjuh”.
- In September, the largest afforestation campaign in Tuzla Canton will be prepared and implemented.

Cardboard Revolution believes that the revision or preparation of a new study will result in the protection of the parts of the Konjuh mountain. Further, a system will be in place to stop future illegal actions.





THE FORESTRY COMPANY FROM MOSTAR PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE FORESTS IN OSOJNICA AND AN INITIATIVE FILED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE LAW ON FORESTS OF FBiH AND HNC

At the invitation of the local community of Orašac, the Aarhus Center visited this community and with a group of locals prevented the Forestry Company from entering the forests in Osojnica, thus preventing any illegal activity in this area. Residents of the municipality of Prozor Rama, together with the municipal administration, collected signatures for two initiatives for the adoption of the cantonal and FBiH Laws on Forests, and these initiatives were filed with the competent authorities. On April 10 and 11, in front of the Prozor Rama Municipality, the Center organized the signing of the initiative for the adoption of the Law on Forests of FBiH and HNC. The initiative was filed in May y Prozor- Rama Municipality with competent legislative bodies.





CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST PERSONS IN PUBLIC COMPANY MOSTAR PARKING

The CEO of Mostar Parking, Ivan Barbarić, issued several privileged tickets under Article 10 (intended for the police and firefighters), and neither he nor the first associates paid for parking in Mostar. Association Bura info has documents and evidence based on which it filed criminal charges against the responsible persons in Mo parking d.o.o. Mostar. The director of Mostar Parking, Ivan Barbarić, transferred himself from Zone 2 to Zone 1, and issued himself a privileged ticket according to Article 10, which is intended for emergency medical assistance, police, and firefighters. His vehicle also received a preferential ticket for all special closed parking lots outside city zones. The same was done for his associates, four cashiers, and some companies and legal entities. It is important to note that this privilege was reserved only for the police and firefighters, and the parking lot leaders abused it.

While the director of Mo Parking, who should be the first to pay for parking, illegally obtains a privileged ticket and is exempt from paying for parking in the entire city, citizens, who have been using their parking space in front of the building for years, suddenly have to pay for the same parking.

Many citizens of Mostar, among them lawyers, believe that this is an example of classic usurpation. Citizens filed lawsuits against the City and the parking company referring to the right of servitude, that is, that they have been using the parking lot for decades, and now someone suddenly charges for it.

The right to common areas around the building is taken away from citizens who own apartments in Mostar. Experts believe that there is no basis for charging for parking spaces around buildings. Lawyers believe that lawsuits based on the right of servitude are the way forward for citizens.

Citizens expressed their discontent with the situation and began signing an online petition. The petition will be submitted to the councilors of the City of Mostar to demand the amendment to the Decision on the method of organizing, managing, and using public parking lots in the City of Mostar so that the tenants will be exempt from paying for parking in the courtyards of their buildings.



TRAPPED AIR

Since January 2023, the Forum of Tuzla Citizens has been working intensively on the implementation of the initiative named “Trapped Air.” The initiative aims to contribute to the responsible management of public resources through advocacy campaign activities, which will have positive effects on the health and lives of citizens. Specifically, it means financial resources that the City of Tuzla receives from the Tuzla Thermal Power Plant. The analysis of the expenditure of these funds shows that in the period from 2015 to 2022, only 14% or about 5 million of the 35 million KM received were spent on projects for the reduction of air pollution (energy efficiency, heating). The rest of the money was used mainly for infrastructural projects that do not in any way contribute to the reduction of air pollution and that are related to the maintenance of local community premises, water and sewerage network projects, regulation of watercourses, procurement of equipment, and the like. Unfortunately, this kind of spending is in line with the law that regulates this area and the change of which the Forum advocates for, because responsible management of funds implies that the funds obtained due to pollution should be spent on the fight against pollution, and not on “patching” budget holes. During April, the Forum realized street actions and petition signing in Tuzla. Tuzla citizens supported the initiative that the funds received from the Tuzla Thermal Power Plant should be used only for projects that contribute to the reduction of air pollution. In a period of five days, the Forum collected 1,703 signatures in support of the initiative. The comments of citizens on social media show that the Forum’s efforts in this field have caused great attention and influence in society/local community. Citizens do mind when they hear how their funds are spent and they support the goals and purpose of the initiative.

The next step was to actualize the problem at the level of the City Council. With the support of councilor Omer Berbić, based on the material prepared by the Forum, in June, an initiative was filed to include this topic on the agenda. However, the City Council did not show openness to this topic and did not support this initiative. During the voting, no one was against the initiative, which is encouraging, but there were 18 abstained votes and 11 for votes. In parallel, the Forum is working on drafting a proposal to amend the Law on Allocation and Directing of a Part of Company Revenues generated by the operation of thermal power plants, which will be sent to all MPs in the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the beginning of July, while the City Council of Tuzla will be asked to support this proposal. This initiative will show who supports the responsible management of budget funds and who does not. The Forum, with the support of the citizens of Tuzla, will persist in its demands and in making sure that the public is aware of all the steps taken.



NO TO CORRUPTION IN EMPLOYMENT

As part of the “No Corruption in Employment” project, Demos published three video stories of citizens who had negative experiences with corrupt activities. Citizens shared the negative experiences they witnessed and presented several details. After the publication of the video, citizens began to come forward, and Demos received dozens of messages and comments of support, as well as a few testimonies of citizens, with a request not to publish them publicly for fear of reprisals from the influential people they directly or indirectly mentioned.

Mrs. Ismeta Osmanović presented examples of corruption from the Public Enterprise “Komunalno” Brčko, with a focus on the violation of the law in the employment of the company’s CEO in 2019, who did not meet the conditions prescribed by the competition. After her story, the Prosecutor’s Office of the Brčko District excluded the documentation of the public calls for hiring directors in the period 2023-2027, under which the previous CEO applied, whose illegal hiring in 2019 was discussed in the video story by Mrs. Ismeta Osmanović, who has the status of “Whistleblower.”

Demos” informed citizens about corruption, particularly about corruption in employment, to encourage the citizens to join the fight for a society with a lower level of corruption. Public forums organized in the city center served to explain the problem of corruption to people, with concrete examples. In addition to street actions, Demos surveyed citizens. The results of the survey show that citizens are well aware that corruption is present in the employment process (over 90% of respondents) and that various interest groups, led by political parties, have a major influence on the employment process through the employment committees.

ANTIKORUPCIJA

Some of the most-read news on the antikorupcija.info portal include the following:



» **DODIK'S PUPPET OR AN AUDITOR WHO WAS HATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION BECAUSE OF HIS INDEPENDENCE AND PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS? - AN EASY CHOICE FOR THE COMMISSION, WHICH ALREADY KNOWS WHOM TO CHOOSE**«

In a country where, in addition to partocracy and the non-functioning rule of law, the key problem is negative selection, the fact that someone's complete biography consists of professional successes without political positions (where one could show their loyalty to the party leader), is an aggravating rather than a positive circumstance. Especially when elected for positions that decide about money and to institutions from which party milking of public money is expected, including the potential use of blockades as a political weapon in the expected continuation of internal conflicts in the country.

More about the story is available at www.antikorupcija.info



» **THE DEPARTURE OF THE MINISTER WHO WAS LOVED BY PARTY TYCOONS AND SHOWERED WITH LAWSUITS BY CIVIL ACTIVISTS**«

After eight years, while the previous composition of the Government of the Federation of BiH led by Fadil Novalić was in power, a new Government of the FBiH was appointed. The previous FBiH Government is known for numerous scandals, violations of the law, absurd practices, rude and inappropriate statements, trials, etc. One minister in this government stood out for the number of court rulings in which her decisions were overturned. It is the FBiH Minister of Environment and Tourism, Edita Đapo, who could easily take the title of the minister with the most lawsuits and lost court cases. Like a house of cards, after the first permit fell, the others began to fall as well.

More about the story is available at www.antikorupcija.info

» **PROMISED FORGOTTEN - NEW GOVERNMENT BUT "GOOD" OLD POLITICS: NEW AND "BETTER" DIRECTORS ARE ARRIVING IN PUBLIC COMPANIES**«

At the beginning of May, the first session of the new Government of the FBiH took place after which Prime Minister Nermin Nikšić stated that the members of the management of public companies were invited to make their mandates available and that it was logical that those who were in public companies should share the fate of the Government, i.e. when one government leaves, those filling administrative positions appointed by the government should also leave. The party's appointment of board members of public companies is common knowledge, and it is an open secret that the previous boards of directors of public companies were staffed with partisan personnel.



More about the story is available at antikorupcija.info

WE MONITOR TENDERS

MONITORING OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT THROUGH THE PORTAL www.pratimotendere.ba

In this reporting period, pratimotendere.ba ensured continuous monitoring and collected and published data on 767 public procurement procedures (387 goods, 299 services, 81 works). The total value of the monitored procedures is approximately 105 million KM. Corruption risks were identified in 77.50% of monitored procedures, and the value of the identified risky procurements was over 81 million KM. The following tables show the results of monitoring during the specified period:

767 MONITORED PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS (PP), APRIL-JUNE 2023



LOW RISK

172 PPS

22.50 % PPS



MEDIUM RISK

418 PPS

54.50 % PPS



HIGH RISK

177 PPS

23 % PPS

104 246 575 09 KM (EXCLUDING VAT)

THE VALUE OF PPS MONITORED DURING APRIL-JUNE 2023



LOW RISK

22.085.319,83 KM

21,20 % PPS



MEDIUM RISK

64.319.005,96 KM

61,70 % PPS



HIGH RISK

17.842.249,30 KM

17,10 % PPS

The monitoring results indicate certain trends:

- the total number of risky procurements decreased from 96% in the previous period from (January-March 2023) to 77.50% (April-June 2023). Although the percentage of risky procurements is still high, especially if considering the value (of spent public money), it can be noted that there is a slightly positive trend in the fight against corruption in public procurements.
- regarding the levels of risk in public procurement, the results indicate a decline in the number of high-risk procurements (red flags) compared to the previous period, from 57% (January - March 2023) to 23% (April - June 2023), which is a positive trend considering that it a high risk implies a violation of the Law on Public Procurement and a high level of discrimination and non-transparency. On the other hand, medium-risk purchases (yellow flag) increased from 39% to 54.50%.

The above statistical trends can be interpreted as a clear indicator of the success of monitoring. The decline in the number of high-risk public procurements is the result of risk reduction in the planning phase of procurement procedures based on the amendments to the Law on Public Procurement, the provisions of which are integrated into the algorithm of the PratimoTendere portal. Public procurement planning is important for rational, responsible, and transparent spending of funds, and the Law on Public Procurement mandates the planning of both direct agreements and the public announcement of the public procurement plan within 30 days. All these legal provisions are implemented in the methodology of the PratimoTendere portal. Also, the reduction in the number of high-risk procurements may be the result of risk reduction in the phase of contract implementation, which the new Law on Public Procurement also better regulates. The contracting authorities are obligated to publish all data on the implementation of the contracts on the Public Procurement Portal. In addition to regular monitoring, in this reporting period, the focus of the CRMA staff was on this phase of the public procurement procedure through additional monitoring research.

The contracting authority began to comply with the Law on Public Procurement

As already stated, the special focus in the previous period was on monitoring the planning of public procurements and whether contracting authorities adopted and published annual plans for public procurements. The Konjic Hospital did not have a published public procurement plan, which violated the Law on Public Procurement. After the PratimoTendere portal published this data, the hospital corrected the error and published a public procurement plan.

More on pratimotendere.ba

Portal PratimoTendere – Champion of Digitalization

The assessment of the digital ecosystem in the country (DECA) was prepared as part of USAID's activity "Monitoring and Evaluation Support in Bosnia and Herzegovina." The PratimoTendere portal was recognized as one of three positive examples of digitization in Bosnia and Herzegovina within DECA. DECA was presented at the USAID conference on May 24, 2023, where one of the panelists was the editor of the PratimoTendere portal, together with representatives of the USAID e-Governance project, the Municipality of Tešanj and the Government of Zenica-Doboj Canton.



ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVITIES OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BIH

- Transparency International in BiH submitted comments on the Draft Amendments to the Law on Prevention of Conflicts of Interest established by the Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government of the RS, where only one article is changed, which allows elected officials, holders of executive functions and advisors to perform additional functions in associations funded public money if they do not receive compensation for their engagement. Amendments to this law were expressly referred to the procedure when the former president of the Supreme Court of Justice and advisor to the President of Republika Srpska, Milan Tegeltija, found himself in a conflict of interest. This law currently prohibits public officials and their advisers from holding the lead position of any association funded from a budget with more than 100 000 KM.
- Transparency International in BiH (TI BiH) requested the reaction of the competent institutions, because CSC Zrinjski, FC Leotar, CSC Posušje, FC Borac Banjaluka, FC Igman, and FC Široki Brijeg appointed public officials to their management structures, not taking into account the fact that, according to the law, they are performing incompatible functions. In the management of six football clubs from the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which receive significant public funds, some persons have performed for years functions in the executive and legislative authorities, thus directly violating the laws on conflict of interest.
- Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) has filed the initiative with the Government of the Federation of BiH because of the inadmissible decision to withdraw two important anti-corruption laws from the procedure, which further delays the fulfillment of EU priorities and the implementation of important reforms in the field of anti-corruption. The Government of the FBiH has withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure numerous laws that were not adopted in the previous term, including the Draft Law on Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in Authorities in the FBiH as well as the Draft Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers in the FBiH. Therefore, TI BiH called on the Government of FBiH to urgently return the mentioned laws to the procedure noting that any delays would have adverse consequences on the fight against corruption.
- On the occasion of June 23, International Whistleblower Day, Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a round table conference on “Defying Corruption despite Retaliation: How to Better Protect Whistleblowers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” The focus was on the challenges arising from the absence of laws in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, bearing in mind that it is the only level in Bosnia and Herzegovina that has not protected whistleblowers. In addition, the round table conference discussed the application of current legal solutions and current practices, key problems, as well as possible solutions for progress in the field of protection of persons who report corruption at other levels in BiH.

- Transparency International in BiH filed ten new reports with the Central Election Commission against political parties that received donations from legal entities that concluded deals with executive authorities worth more than 10 000 KM. Interestingly, the companies that donated to the parties last year received over 55 million marks in contracts from the state. Also, out of 2,000 donations from natural persons, 40% of contributions were made by persons performing some public functions.
- Transparency International in BiH (TI BiH) and the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized the conference “Promoting Ethics and Integrity in Political Parties.” It brought together representatives of relevant international and civil society organizations, political parties, legislative authorities, and the Central election commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conclusion is that the intra-party structures and procedures created a unique political system that led to a crisis in the legitimacy of state institutions and a lack of public trust in the democratic process. Bearing in mind the importance of the parties themselves and their influence, as well as the fact that BiH is a country whose institutions are captured by the interests of political leaders, key changes toward the democratization of political parties are necessary.
- On June 20, USAID’s E-government project and Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized in Sarajevo a presentation of new digital solutions for the transformation of public administration. Representatives of civil society organizations came together to learn about the innovative digital systems that will soon be implemented in the areas of public procurement, inspection supervision, and issuing building permits.
- Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina has warned that the new Law on Offenses against Public Order and Peace in the Sarajevo Canton may lead to serious violations of human rights because, under the guise of fighting fake news, space is being opened for restrictions on freedom of speech and censorship. This law expands the definition of a public place to the Internet and social media and introduces penalties for presenting or spreading false news as well as for “disparaging state authorities,” which due to arbitrary interpretations could lead to suppression of freedom of speech and pressure on citizens, the media and civil society that speak critically about the work of the public sector.





CENTRI CIVILNIH INICIJATIVA
ЦЕНТРИ ЦИВИЛНИХ ИНИЦИЈАТИВА

PUBLIC CALL

FOR PROJECTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION!

THROUGH YOUR WORK, YOU FIGHT AGAINST
CORRUPTION IN VARIOUS FIELDS, SUCH
AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, PUBLIC SPENDING...?

APPLY FOR A PROJECT!

Podržano od:



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

CONTINUOUS CALL FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION PROJECTS, CIVIC INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS

The Call for BiH CSOs (associations of citizens and foundations) to submit their project proposals is geared toward fighting corruption and solving specific local-level problems or toward advocacy initiatives addressing the higher government levels.

The applicants are required to submit the application form and other documents, as requested in the application, exclusively via the online application platform available at

<http://tender.protivkorupcije.ba/>



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