



ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

QUARTER 2, 2022.



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA



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

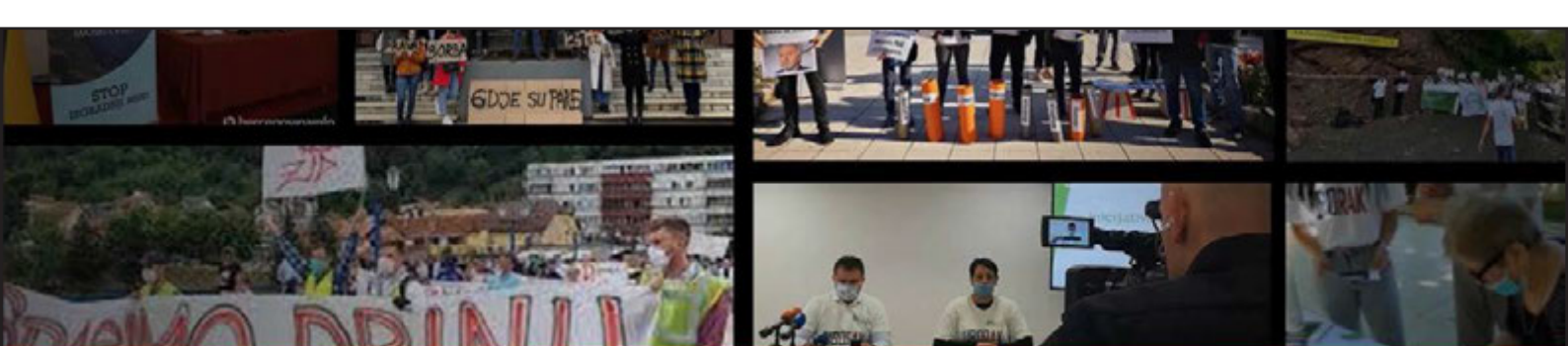
Map of anti-corruption activities across Bosnia and Herzegovina



Contact them via their Facebook pages!

More on antikorupcija.info

- 
- 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"
 - Bijeljina**
 - Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
 - ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in Bijeljina"
 - 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"
 - Bužim**
 - The Association of Dystrophics Bužim
 - Doboј**
 - ICG "For the legal exploitation of minerals from the Bosna river"
 - ICG "STOP to unaccredited universities in the RS"
 - ICG "Remove Hexane from Kotorsko"
 - 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**
 - 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"
 - Livno**
 - CA "the Center for Citizens' Cooperation"
 - Maglaj**
 - ICG "For Legal Exploitation of Minerals in the Upper Section of the river Bosna"
 - Mostar**
 - CA "Because We Care"
 - ICG "Initiative against the construction of Buna 1 and 2 mHp"
 - ICG "Stop to illegal construction in Bijeli Brijeg"
 - Association of Public Procurement Professionals, Trainers and Officers in BiH (UPTIS)
 - ICG "No to construction on Buna and in my Blagaj"
 - ICG "Citizens' Initiative Kuti"
 - Petrovo**
 - ICG "Keepers of Ozren"
 - Prijedor**
 - Consumer Protection Association "DON Prijedor"
 - ICG „Be My Voice“
 - Sarajevo**
 - ICG "Hastahana park"
 - ICG "Initiative KCUS"
 - ICG "Illegal construction in the municipality of Stari Grad"
 - 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
 - Šipovo**
 - ICG "Farmeri"
 - Trebinje**
 - CA "Stop mobbing"
 - Tešanj**
 - ICG "Non-transparent spending of budget funds for water supply to citizens"
 - 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"
 - 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"
 - Zenica**
 - ICG "Air guards"
 - ICG "Movement for change"
 - Zvornik**
 - ICG "STOP to illegal gravel pits on the Drina river"
 - Žepče**
 - ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in the area of Žepče and Zavidovići"



Civic Activists Across BiH Mark World Water Day



Activists across Bosnia and Herzegovina, to whom the protection of the environment is part of their daily lives, issued a joint press release to mark World Water Day and World Environment Day. On this day, activists across BiH united in the idea that our planet and its protection is every individual's priority and decided to address their fellow citizens and call on them to join the fight against the systemic destruction of nature and the threat against the public interest. Referring to their experience, activists called on all interested to join the fight to protect the nature around us.

Given the fact that in protecting public interest, activists face many challenges daily, and that often this is closely connected with the destruction of the environment, civic activists across BiH used this opportunity to call on the authorities to do their job according to regulation and protect the environment so that their work is not only declarative in nature.



“Illegal and uncontrolled extraction of gravel causes devastating effects on the environment, including the destruction of riverbeds, floods, destruction of land, and disturbance of the balance of eco-systems. We call on the authorities to engage in solving this problem, to pass essential changes in the application of planning documents, issuance of permits, and establish an efficient system of control, oversight, and sanctions for illegal activities,”

said activists protecting the rivers Bosna and Drina from the illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel.

“Our environment is our treasure, which, unless we come to our senses, will become our poverty. It is time for everyone to engage in this fight and do whatever they can to contribute to our common goals, our better tomorrow, and our planet Earth!”

Aleksandar Novaković, an activist of the Save Karanovac informal group said in his statement.





“Our activism aims primarily at pointing to those responsible and the city authorities in ZDC that they must spend the earmarked funds for the intended purposes, to protect the air, which would directly contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of citizens in ZDC and better and healthier environment!”

activists of the informal group Air Keepers from Zenica.

“On this occasion, we would like to draw attention to a long-term problem in Kreševo. We are currently waiting for a decision from the FBiH Minister of Environment and Tourism to extend the permit after we pointed to numerous omissions. On the other hand, we expect the Central Bosnia Canton Government to terminate the concession contract with the quarry that has operated without any permits. We will not give up until this illegal operation of the quarry and limestone factory in Kreševo is stopped,”



Darko Joksimović, a member of Kreševo's Civic Movement.



“Even though Bunski kanali is a natural phenomenon and unique in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this site will not be protected against the construction of small dams until the Buna 1 and 2 small dams are deleted from the existing Spatial plan of the City of Mostar. Because of that, together with 1400 citizens, signatories of the petition for the protection of Bunski kanali, we call on the city government to stop the construction of small dams on Bunski kanali and delete the small dams from the Spatial Regulatory Plan of the City of Mostar,”

Miroslav Barišić, a member of the informal group “Stop Construction of small dams on the Buna River,” said.

“We will not be giving up on our fight against the illegal construction of small dams on the Kasindolska River. Environmental permits for all three small dams on this river, including a building permit for the Samar small dam were revoked and now we are asking for the termination of concessions contracts for these three dams. This is the only way to protect our rivers and our threatened environment,”

Sara Tuševljak, a member of the informal group “Stop Construction of small dams on the Kasindolska River.”





“It has been confirmed that the building site of the contested facility is in a category 3 water-protected zone and that it is a matter of time when tanks will leak and pollute the source of the drinking water for the City of Sarajevo. We are symbolically asking on this day how it is possible that our water, well-known for its quality, has a price. Our health is in the hands of the Prosecutor’s Office because we are only collateral damage to those making decisions. I hope that those who are negating the dangers and are continuing to build without valid permits will feel the consequences, “

members of the informal group “Saved by the Bell – Save Dobrinja.”

“Building small dams on the Doljanka River affects life and the survival of people in this area. Nature’s balance has been disturbed, and people making living through agriculture have had to either change activity or leave the area in search of better tomorrow for themselves and their children. However, our association is still here, and we will continue fighting for our rights, “



activists from the informal group „The illegal and uncontrolled exploitation of gravel river Bosne“



“We want to remind the public and those responsible institutions that citizens of Višegrad have fought for 28 years against an illegal waste dump threatening the health of the people and the environment. To solve this problem, residents have launched a petition demanding the removal of the waste dump. We call on all citizens of Višegrad to sign the petition and join our fight against the illegal waste dump. Happy World Environment Day to all those who do not have a waste dump in the vicinity of their homes! “

activists of the informal group “Remove the Illegal Waste dump on the Outskirts of the Tourist City of Višegrad.”

“World Environment Day is an opportunity to reiterate the importance of the preservation of the last, wild, drinking rivers on the old continent. The Neretvica River is 27 km long and its water is drinkable for most of its stream. Our message is that we will not allow the building of fifteen small dams and covering the river with pipes for the sake of a few kilowatts,”



members of the Neretvica association – Let me Flow said in their statement.“

“Topics that can mobilize large groups of people are rare. Illegal use of pesticides and their harmful effects are one of the topics that can mobilize the masses, as this is the problem that directly affects the life of all regardless of their political affinity, financial abilities, age, nationality, or anything else that creates social divisions. The informal group “Goražde Without Pesticides” will exert pressure on decision-makers to respond to the demands of the community that they represent. This is the fight for our children because it is the essence of our lives,”



activists of the informal group Goražde Without Pesticides.“



**BRAVE CITIZENS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ARE
SUCCESSFULLY FIGHTING ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THEIR
LOCAL COMMUNITIES**





Minister Đokić Suspends a Decision on the Approval of Geological Explorations on Mountain Ozren

In 2021, residents of the local communities Sočkovac, Karanovac, and Kakmuža in the municipality of Petrovo began their protests against the continued geological explorations of copper, and nickel and zinc deposits and other metals in these three communities and the expansion of the exploration on Mountain Ozren. Residents came together on November 21, 2021, demanding the RS Ministry of Energy and Mining to revoke the approval – the Decision and revoke the license issued to the “Medeni brijeg” company from Bijeljina for the previously approved explorations on Mountain Ozren. During that time, activists from the initiative “Keepers of Ozren” asked for insight into all the necessary documents that the Ministry of Energy and Mining of Republika Srpska used as the basis for issuing the approval of geological explorations as well as the Decision and Project of detailed geological exploration submitted by the investor.

In addition, “Keepers of Ozren” approached the Republika Srpska Technical Inspectorate and inquired about the previous oversight of the geological explorations and the credibility of the documents that the investor had submitted along with the application for approval of explorations. After that, the groups organized a press conference in Doboj calling on Minister Đokić to suspend the Decision on the approval of detailed geological explorations on Ozren and sent a message to the authorities saying that the people of Ozren did not want any explorations in this area. Keepers of Ozren and other NGOs made strong media pressure so Minister Đokić revoked the contested Decision issued to the investor in April 2021.

During this period, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska reviewed a draft of a new Law on Geological Explorations. After the complaints made by ecological associations, the municipality of Petrovo, and Keepers of Ozren, the Assembly adopted the Law on Geological Explorations at the end of June, including the amendment requiring an investor to receive approval from local self-government before the application, as demanded by the activists, and better define proprietary and legal relationships during future explorations at any location.

PONIŠTENO

REGULACIONI PLAN
"CRKVICE"



REGULACIONI PLAN
"TRG ALIJE IZETBEGOVIĆA"



REGULACIONI PLAN
"KAMBEROVIĆA RAVAN"



The Office of the Prosecutor of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Forms a Case against Participants in the Preparation of Regulatory Plans in the City of Zenica

Following several months of the legal and institutional fight with inspection bodies at all levels, at the end of April Movement for Change filed with the ZDC Office of the Prosecutor criminal charges against the participants in the preparation of the drafts of the following Regulatory Plans: Kamberovića Plain and Slope, Crkvice and Trg Alije Izetbegovića. Soon after the report, the Cantonal Prosecutor formed a case and launched investigations into the matter. An inspector of the Ministry of Interior also engaged in the investigation, upon the Prosecutor's request, and according to information that the Movement for Change group received, this case was marked as a priority.

Another result of the continual legal and institutional fight is that the Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs of Zenica- Doboj Canton completed a public competition for hiring an urban inspector to deal with problems and complaints in the area of urban planning, the position that was vacant for years. In addition, in early May, citizens re-filed their initiative with the chairman of the City Council of Zenica, demanding a suspension of the Decision on the adoption of drafts of Regulatory plans with a detailed elaboration and legal arguments. The City Council's response to the initiative filed in March 2022 states that the Department is reviewing suggestions and complaints about the draft regulatory plans and that it will make a decision on the status of the regulatory plans.

Find out more at antikorupcija.info



COUNCILORS MAKE AN INITIAL STEP TOWARD PERMANENT PROTECTION OF BUNSKI KANALI

In December 2021, the City Council of the City of Mostar adopted a conclusion to delete the Buna 1 and 2 small dams from the City's Spatial Plan. The Institute for Spatial Planning planned to make changes through the development of a new Spatial Plan that was supposed to be adopted last year, but, likely, the document will not be adopted by the end of the current year.

Activists of the "Stop Construction of Small Dams on the Buna River" group exerted pressure on the city authorities to make changes and amendments to the existing Spatial Plan. The conclusion was to be realized as soon as possible and the investor was not allowed to obtain new documents. The investor filed a new application for water approval. The Adriatic Sea Watershed Agency organized a public hearing and closed it to the public after the activists called on citizens to join. Following the condemnation of this action, the Agency cancelled the public hearing for an indefinite time; however, the event did take place at the end of May. The activists had the

opportunity to voice their views on the matter of the approval, and the Agency set a 60-day deadline for the final decision to be made on whether to approve the investor's application.

Following the above, the activists launched a formal initiative using their rights provided in the Rules of Procedure of the City Council of Mostar, demanding that the Council must decide to complete the changes in the current plan and not in a new Spatial Plan of the City of Mostar. Considering the current situation, the Council adopted a Decision on the deletion of the Buna 1 and 2 small dams from the current Spatial plan. The amending procedure should take three months, with obligatory inclusion of the public.

Yet the activists are not giving up on their intention to protect the Buna River from the construction of small dams and they will not give up until the HNC Government has terminated the concession contract with the investor. It is only then that the fight for the Bunska kanali is over.





“FOR DOLJANKA” FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST MINISTER EDITA ĐAPO

The verdicts of the Cantonal Courts in Sarajevo and Mostar confirm the Association’s accusations and irregularities in the permit procedure for the construction of the Zlate small dam on the Doljanka River. The courts revoked the environmental and building permits, and the case was sent back for reassessment. But the FBiH Minister of Environment, Edita Đapo, is abusing her powers and violating the Law on the Protection of Environment by arbitrarily interpreting certain articles. More specifically, the new law does not require permits for the construction of small dams except in the procedures started under the previous law, which means that such procedures must be completed according to the previous law. The Association filed charges against the Ministry’s decision to refuse the investor’s application for a new environmental permit and filed criminal charges against Minister Đapo. The Association also approached the president of SBB, the party that proposed Đapo for the position, asking for her removal. In addition, citizens approached the courts that issued the verdicts as well as the High Judicial Prosecutorial Council to inform them of the non-implementation of the issued verdicts. The appeal was made with the FBiH Constitutional Court which adopted the appeal and found a violation of the right to a fair trial.





PERMITS REVOKED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL DAMS ON THE NERETVICA RIVER

On June 8, 2022, renewed environmental permits for the construction of the Srijanski most and Gorovnik ušće small dams expired, which means that the investor, Elektroprivreda, lost yet another permit for the realization of this project that residents call ecocide. On May 20, the Department for Spatial Planning, Construction, and Renewal of the Municipality of Konjic passed a decision rejecting Elektroprivreda's application for the construction of Srijanski most and Gorovnik Ušće small dams. Previously, the HNC Ministry of Construction and Spatial Planning cancelled approval for the construction issued in 2018 at the request of the Association Zeleni Neretva Konjic in mid-2021 by the HNC Ministry of Construction and Spatial Planning, as the secondary body, and the case was referred back for re-examination. It was found then that the Municipality of Konjic issued a Decision for the construction of small dams on the Neretvica River without obtaining energy permits that should precede the issuance of building permits.

All this time, residents, and activists of the Neretvica-Let me Flow Association have fought to protect their river from the destruction caused by the construction of fifteen small dams that Elektroprivreda intends to build on the Neretvica River. The group has been employing legal means, and, on several occasions, they used their bodies as human shield to block roads and prevent machines to commence the construction works.





MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIGHT FOR THE KASINDOLSKA RIVER

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the fight against the construction of small dams on the Kasindolska River, the informal group “Stop Construction of Small Dams on the Kasindolska River” prepared an exhibition of photographs wanting to show the beauty of the Kasindolska River, its canyon, untouched nature surrounding the river, and the group’s two-year fight for the river’s protection. The goal of this exhibition is to show the activists’ fight through a series of photographs and to point out that there is still enough time to save the Kasindolska River. The opening of the exhibition occurred on June 17, 2020, and it remained open until June.

“The exhibition of photographs is just one of our ways to show the hidden beauty of the Kasindolska River which we have been trying to defend for the past two years and protect from the construction of the Samari and Slapi small dams. The Kasindolska River belongs to all of us, and we all play an important role in its protection and preservation”, activists say.



We remind that the three small dams, Podivič, Samar, and Slapi, are not planned in the Spatial Plan of East Sarajevo, i.e., they are intended in the Republika Srpska Spatial Plan at the territory of the Municipality of Trnovo, but not in East Ilidza or East Sarajevo.



Inspectors and Gravel Activists Meet at a Roundtable in Doboj

Activists promoting the regulated flow of the rivers Bosna and Drina and their protection against illegal and uncontrolled gravel extraction organized a roundtable meeting on June 8 in Doboj, where it was concluded that it would be necessary to have better cooperation among the institutions responsible for the management of waterways in BiH, both within and among the entities. This also implies making essential changes in the application of strategic and planning documents, changing how administrative permits are issued, and how to establish an efficient system of control, oversight, and sanctions for illegal activities. Also, it would be necessary to have better coordination and connections between the responsible institutions and the authorities in local communities and citizens.

The conclusions are the result of a dialogue between the activists and the FBiH and RS Water Inspection. The Chief Water Inspectors Mirsad Smailagić and Branislav Mičić did not mind facing civic activists, as they have done so on many occasions thus far, visiting the field in response to activists' reports and submitting information on further proceeding and results of the measures taken. But, members of the informal groups, For Legal and Controlled Extraction of Gravel from the Bosna River, Stop Illegal Extraction of Gravel in Maglaj, for legal and Controlled Extraction of Gravel from the Bosna River in Zavidovići and Žepče, Stop Illegal Extraction of Gravel in Zvornik, and Stop Illegal Gravel Activity on the Drina River in Bijeljina, did not meet with those responsible for the management of waterways in BiH entities. Even though they announced their presence, representatives of the Sava River Basin Agency and Vode Srpske did not show up for this important meeting.

"We are suspecting that this was done intentionally by the Vode Srpske management because they probably wanted to avoid unpleasant questions regarding how they awarded multimillion contracts on the rivers Bosna and Drina to privileged companies without public calls, which will be something that we will be addressing in the coming period to point to corruption and favorable treatment," activists said in their statement.



Maglaj Activists Point Out the Importance of Legal Extraction of Gravel from the Bosna River

In late April, activists of the informal group “Stop Illegal Gravel Extraction in Maglaj“ participated in the environmental action of cleaning the banks of the Bosna River and drew the attention of those responsible for the management of the waterway in this municipality to irregularities and corruption that could be eliminated or reduced using proposals of the local communities. This was the way that the group marked Earth Day.

“This year, our action in cooperation with SRK Bosna Maglaj aimed at drawing the attention to the importance of our activities, the harm and the consequences of illegal exploitation of gravel such as uncontrolled exploitation of minerals and suspicion in corruption causing high losses due to non-payment of compensation for the real amounts of extracted gravel,” the leader of Maglaj activists, Zumra Gušo, said.

She pointed to the fact that in the first four months of this year, the Sava River Basin Agency did not share any information about the Municipality of Maglaj regarding the applications for the extraction of materials from the Bosna River in 2022. She also stated that no contracts were made in 2022 and that no approvals were issued for 2022. Gušo says that the works are being done at the “Ulišnjak – Fojnica“ location, where deepening and cleaning of the riverbed should be completed by May 31, in line with the contract annexed late last year and that, according to the public call for another five anticipated locations for the municipality, there were no interested companies to conduct the works. The Agency repeated the public call for the five locations on June 28, 2022, calling on gravel companies to clean and deepen the riverbed of the Bosna River and its tributaries by the end of the year and to export gravel for sale as a by-product.





Culprits for Floods in BiH Eight Years Ago Still Not Specified

It has been eight years since the catastrophic floods in BiH, and all those years have not been enough to eliminate the potential dangers of a new natural disaster of this kind. Culprits for what occurred in May 2014, primarily in the local communities in the Bosna River Basin most affected by this natural disaster, are still not specified. And without any doubt, the culprits are the governments of both entities, from the local to higher levels.

According to official data, the total material damages in the floods from May 2014 in BiH were 3.9 billion KM. Among the towns in the Federation of BiH, Maglaj suffered the most, with Zavidovići, Žepče, and Zenica being affected to a lesser degree. The floods affected the lower reaches of the Bosna River, in the area of RS – Doboj, Vukosavlje, Modriča, and Šamac. Of the total of 19 casualties in BiH from seven local communities, 11 came from Doboj.

“We, as a civil sector, by forming several informal groups of citizens composed of activists for the protection of rivers in the Bosna and Drina River Basin, managed to reduce illegal and uncontrolled extraction of gravel, which according to relevant institutions was the number one cause of these and earlier floods in BiH. We formed a group for the area of Doboj, Vukosavlje, Modriča, and Šamac, as well as Maglaj, Zavidovići, and Žepče in the Bosna River Basin and Zvornik and Bijeljina in the Drina River Basin,” Zoran Panić from the informal group “For the Legal and Controlled Extraction of Gravel in the Bosna River Basin” said in his statement.

RESIDENTS OF KUTI ARE NOT GIVING UP- THEY ARE ASKING TO STOP THE OPENING OF A QUARRY THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE LAW AND THEIR INTERESTS



The problem of residents of the Kuti community became public in August 2021, although the story has been around for several years. Because no works on the quarry occurred before last summer, the public or people living there were not aware of the events taking place in the meantime. After several citizens reported damages on their private land, inspection services closed off the access road to the quarry for heavy trucks and machines. This is when citizens' legal fight began against the state that sided with the investor, justifying the issuance of permits to the quarry as lucrative foreign investments. The quarry's environmental permit is flawed, and the charges filed are still pending. An appeal was filed with the Constitutional Court of the Federation of BiH to speed up the process. Residents of Kuti proved a series of violations made in the permit procedure, for example, the certificate issued by the BiH MAC Head Office in Sarajevo that the area had been demined is not credible, i.e., the statements are inaccurate.

An initiative to delete the quarry from the City of Mostar Spatial Plan has been filed, but the majority in the Council, headed by the chairman, is not ready to consider this possibility.





INFORMAL GROUP – SAVE KARANOVAC“ HOLDS PERFORMANCE IN THE CENTER OF BANJA LUKA

The informal group Save Karanovac organized a street action on April 21, 2022, to distribute informational leaflets in Banja Luka and mark Earth Day. The group chose to mark Earth Planet Day by distributing informational leaflets and because of the symbolism of the Vrbas River whose banks have always been important picnic places to the residents of Karanovac and Banja Luka. In Karanovac on the Vrbas, visitors connect with nature and indirectly with the planet Earth. The Environmental Impact Assessment Study that usually precedes the issuance of an environmental permit seems to have left out all that or that it has forgotten about it, intentionally or by accident. In addition to the informational leaflets, the group also distributed water bottles with messages about the protection of nature, and especially of Banja Luka’s pearl –a clean Vrbas River.

“Even though we are also engaged in a legal battle to protect our interests, health, and peace, we also want to inform our fellow citizens about the problem that indirectly affects them too. We call on them to support us. We expect that the authorities, and especially the Republika Srpska Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction, and Ecology will understand the importance of Karanovac and that it will protect the interests of the residents and the entire Banja Luka”, representatives of the informal group Save Karanovac said in their statement.





CA BECAUSE WE CARE IS NOT GIVING UP ON A LAWSUIT; THE GROUP IS DEMANDING THAT THE CITY OF MOSTAR SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF THE UBORAK WASTE DUMP

The civic initiative “Because We Care” filed charges to protest against the Plan of Adjustment of the Uborak Waste dump. According to the Mayor, the charges are hindering the improvement of the Uborak regional waste dump and exposing the City of Mostar to the dangers of being buried by garbage like it was a few years ago when citizens blocked waste disposal at this location to protect their rights and the quality of life.

The City of Mostar accuses the Association of the consequences that will come out due to non-withdrawal of the charges because the lawsuit will block all processes until a court reaches a decision. This is not the Association’s intention, and the Association has been asking the City Administration for a long time to realize the conclusion adopted at the thematic session one year ago. The demands are clear: to close and rehabilitate the Uborak waste dump as soon as possible, find a new location for the waste dump and delete the existing waste dump from the City of Mostar and Cantonal Spatial Plan. Citizens gathered in the initiatives are using different ways to express their demands, and the City of Mostar is not showing sufficient readiness to realize them. Their arguments are a lack of time and inability to find a new and appropriate location.





PETITION STARTS TO REMOVE THE ILLEGAL WASTE DUMP IN VIŠEGRAD

After the informal group called “Remove Illegal Waste dump on the Outskirts of a Tourist Town of Višegrad” used satirical performance to point out the longstanding problem of illegal disposal of waste on the outskirts of the village Holijaci in Višegrad, the group continued its fight against the illegal waste dump. Residents and activists launched a petition for the removal of the waste dump. This is only one of the activities the group uses to show to those responsible that it is high time that they engage in solving the problem of the illegal waste dump that currently creates problems for all residents of Višegrad. The group expects the local government to take concrete steps to rehabilitate and relocate the illegal waste dump to a location that will be acceptable to all residents of Višegrad.

“My expectations regarding the illegal waste dumps are positive. After so many years it is high time the municipal government acts and solves the problem of the illegal waste dump that has been at an inadequate location for the past 30 years. All that waste and stench go all the way to the center of the town, and the lake, which means that they need to find an adequate location and solve the problem once and for all” – one of the activists says.

CITIZENS ASK FOR INSPECTION OF THE CITY OF MOSTAR DEPARTMENT FOR URBANISM AND CONSTRUCTION DUE TO ILLEGAL BUILDING IN BIJELI BRIJEG

Illegal construction in Mostar has been a problem frequently discussed since the establishment of the City Council and the election of the new mayor. The campaign that citizens launched to fight illegal building in Bijeli Brijeg and stop the legalization of an illegally built residential and commercial facility in their neighborhood contributed to the publicity of the issue.

There is a justified suspicion about the regularity of permits for the construction of the facility because the City of Mostar is postponing a renewal of the procedure. Representatives of the civic initiative held an outdoor press conference in April, in front of the illegally built facility to draw the attention of the public to this problem. They discussed launching an investigation and the fact that the Department for Urban Planning has been postponing the renewal of the procedure for a year. The group also announced its further steps. Still waiting for the decision of the Prosecutor's Office, the group filed a request with the Cantonal Administrative Inspection about a month ago, asking for an inspection of the City of Mostar Department of Urban Planning because of its incompliance with the Decision ordering the renewal of the procedure.



WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITH CIVIC ACTIVISM? DESTROYED POSTERS OF THE INFORMAL GROUP FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL BUILDING IN STARI GRAD SARAJEVO

Residents of Sarajevo's Neighborhood Alifakovac formed an informal group called "Building" to point out the problem with illegal building in the municipality of Stari Grad. Thus far, the group has initiated several legal actions to stop the issuance of permits for the construction of a residential and commercial facility at Maguda 3 street, as they are afraid that this new facility would threaten their lives and properties because it is being built on a terrain marked as unstable – a landslide.

As part of their PR campaign involving billboards, city lights, and posters, the group posed a question: Who Benefits from Turning a Landslide in Stari Grad Sarajevo into a Construction Site? Why Are Those Responsible Not Working in the Interest of Citizens, But Rather in the Interest of the Investor?"

Someone has a problem with this issue because all the material was destroyed in a matter of a few days. Regardless of these obstructions and attempts to suffocate civic activism, the group is not giving up on its campaign aimed to stop illegal building in the Municipality of Stari Grad.



ADMINISTRATION OF TEŠANJ AVOIDS DISCLOSING A REPORT ON THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGET FUNDS FOR WATER SUPPLY IN PAST YEARS

One of the key demands of the civic movement called Valter in its initiative filed with the municipal administration was to disclose the financial report on the expenditure of the budget funds for water supply in Tešanj in the past five years. According to the information available, the expenditures amount to about 5 million KM. The municipal mayor and the department responsible for financial and utility affairs have thus far ignored Valter's inquiries and requests for a meeting and disclosure of the report based on the Freedom of Access to Information Act.

Discontent with such conduct on the part of the mayor and the municipal administration, Valter's activists launched activities to survey citizens and distribute information about the campaign "We are Thirsty for Justice." Their goal is to point to the problem of water supply in the municipality of Tešanj, irresponsibility, and non-transparency of municipal services regarding the spending of public funds. In addition, they want to learn citizens' opinions about who is responsible for last year's water rationing and whether the public supports filing criminal charges against those responsible for the damages caused by water rationing.

During street actions, activists collected information and evidence of the damages that citizens suffered due to last year's rationing. These activities and analyses will serve as an argument for Valter to file a report against those responsible in the municipal administration for concealing the information on the expenditure of funds and for damages caused by last year's water rationing. As a result of activists' pressure, the municipal administration allocated 500 000 KM for the construction of a well to provide additional amounts of drinking water in the water supply system. The construction of the well was completed by the end of June; currently, it is in a test phase after which it will be connected to the water supply system.





CITIZENS IN GORAŽDE FORM AN INFORMAL GROUP TO PREVENT ILLEGAL USE OF PESTICIDES IN A POPULATED AREA

Residents of Rasadnik and Kolijevke (Goražde Municipality) are suspecting potential abuse and irregularities on the part of the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Ministry and Cantonal Inspection, as this institution is inadequately treating the problem concerning obtaining the approval for the use of agricultural land and the use of phytopharmaceuticals by the investor in the vicinity of residential homes and waterways, even though no recreational zone has been planned in the area according to the valid urban plan.

According to the evidence and claims, the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Ministry of Economy approved ZZ Agropodrinje's Program of the Use of Agricultural Land without checking the facts, even though according to the claims of residents, incorrect facts were submitted about the existence of waterways on the land that will be used as an apple orchard. In addition, it is evident that there is a violation of the Lease Contract between the BPC Ministry of Economy and the investor as the Lease contract provides that the Committee for Monitoring and Realization of the Contract performs control regularly every six months on whether the investor is complying with the Lease Contract and Program for the Use of Agricultural Land. This has not been done, as the Committee made such controls only on three occasions.

And finally, in early 2022, the Cantonal Agricultural Inspection found several irregularities in the investor's operations, in terms of the use of phytopharmaceuticals that are very dangerous for human health and the environment if used inadequately. To respond to the illegal and incorrect use of pesticides, Goražde citizens formed an informal group called „Goražde Without Pesticides“ and launched their activities to solve this problem. One of the initial activities was to meet the Mayor of Goražde, who promised on that occasion that he would act within his competencies to solve this problem.



STUDENTS WANT KNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNIZED DEGREES!

During June, an informal group of students called “Accredited Higher Education Institutions-Recognized Degrees” organized street actions in Banja Luka and Doboj to distribute informational leaflets and inform future students and other interested citizens about the status of higher education institutions in RS. This was done to point out the importance of accreditations of higher education institutions and that only accredited institutions can issue recognized degrees.

Student activists called on their future colleagues and those thinking about continuing to study to be well informed when selecting a higher education institution. As they say, they notice that students, often due to their lack of knowledge, think that studies are easier at some unaccredited higher education institutions, and this creates problems for them later on.

“Student activists continued their promotional activities throughout July in Banja Luka, Prijedor, Doboj, Bijeljina, during the second admission deadline, calling on their future colleagues to engage on time and think of their future, and if they wish, they can join activism that will raise education to higher standards”, Goran Ristić, a member of the informal group “Accredited Higher Education Institutions, “ said in his statement.



BIH WITHOUT A VALID STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Corruption in higher education in BiH creates major, long-term, and far-reaching consequences for society in general and they happen every day because exams can be bought, admissions, better grades and even selection of assistants can be negotiated. All these are the facts, acknowledged in the official documents of higher education institutions in BiH, cantonal education ministries, and ministries at the level of RS, but they are all compelled to organize themselves in the fight against this type of corruption in the BiH society.

It is a devastating fact that the Council of Ministers of BiH has not yet adopted a Strategy for the fight against corruption 2020-2024 and the accompanying Action plan for the implementation of the strategy. The Anti-corruption Strategy 2015-2019 and the Action plan are no longer valid. As regards corruption in RS, according to the promises of the Minister for Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society Srđan Rajčević, 2021 and 2022 have been announced as years when the situation in the higher education sector will be resolved. Judging by his resolute when he made those statements and repeated them on several occasions, it seemed like it could be about serious intentions and the government's concrete moves. On February 17, 2021, a Committee for the fight against negative phenomena in higher education in RS became operational. After that, Rajčević organized a meeting bringing together representatives of his ministry, as well as the RS Ministry of Interior, the RS Administration for Inspection Affairs, and the Agency for Higher Education.

“This is the beginning of the end of the story about false degrees and all that happens in higher education in RS in a negative context. I call on my colleagues in the Federation and Brčko District to join our efforts to deal with thieves who have been destroying current and future generations for the sake of profits or some other interests – said Minister Rajčević.

He also announced charges against those responsible in some higher education institutions, even a prohibition of operation, but no concrete realization took place, of which the informal group “Accredited Higher Education Institutions – Recognized Degrees” reminded the entity government and Education Ministry demanding in their public statements that the RS government finally starts with concrete activities.

“Higher education institutions in RS that are not entered in the National Register of Higher Education Institutions in BiH but do issue degrees are: Slobomir P University Bijeljina, Higher Medical School Dobož, Higher School for Economics and Information Technology Prijedor, College for Cosmetology and Aesthetics Banja Luka and Higher School of Hospitality Management and Tourism Trebinje. We sought repeatedly the Ministry's reaction or at least interpretation, but we were ignored. However, in the correspondence from the RS Education Inspection, it says that everything is all right with their accreditations, and the response from the Higher Education Agency BiH higher education institutions that are not in their Register are not under this Agency's jurisdiction,” – is information from this student group.



Fight against Corruption in Maternity Wards

Baby Steps' campaign „Together against Corruption in Maternity Wards“ was invited by doc. Dr. Samir Forić to take part in a session at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Sarajevo where students were presented with a topic of deviant conduct toward women in labor in maternity wards in BiH (obstetric violence and corruption). The presentation and discussion took place as part of a subject „Sociology of Deviance and Social Control“ that is given to first-year students of master's studies in the Department of Sociology. This same month, Baby Steps met representatives of the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office at their initiative. The topic of the meeting was processing individual cases of corruption in maternity wards, where the target would be reducing corruption by setting an example to others. One of the results of the meeting was that participants agreed on cooperation between Baby Steps and the Prosecutor's Office to prevent and more efficiently confront corruption in maternity wards in Sarajevo.

In mid-June, a roundtable meeting took place in Tuzla. The topic was corruption in maternity wards and its social and psychological consequences on society. In addition to representatives of Baby Steps, panelists were Ph.D. Assistant Professor Samir Forić from the Sociology Department of the Faculty of Political Science Sarajevo and M.A. Zinaida Čolić Ćatić, psychologist, and group and EMDR therapist. The roundtable meeting also brought together representatives of the UCC Tuzla, Tuzla Canton Health Ministry, MP in the Tuzla Canton Assembly, and FBiH House of People, a member of the informal group of postpartum women in Tuzla, media, and other experts.

“A woman in labor does not have a name or surname, or voice. Her label is “mother” and that label is not descriptive at all – to describe what in that case she does biologically, i.e. carrying a child that she needs to give birth to; the label is normative – in terms of what she needs to do, how she needs to behave. A mother should be submissive and disciplined; a mother should be obedient. Hence, social attitude toward mothers, not only globally, but on this specific scale, in maternity wards, as institutions, is primarily a relationship of control,” Ph.D. Assistant Professor Samir Forić said at the event.

“Unfortunately, in our tradition, we have this conspiracy of silence that from the psychological aspect is extremely dangerous and should be addressed. It means that a woman, suppressed in her feelings during pregnancy and after childbirth, believes that everything bad that is happening to her is happening only to her, and if she speaks up that she is a bad daughter-in-law, bad mother, that she is marked, that she disgraced herself, her family, her husband” - M.A. Zinaida Čolić Ćatić said.

Systematic and Without Compromise against Systemic Corruption in Public Sector that Threatens the Right to Work and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of BiH

The Union of Employees of the Fund used its campaign “Systematic and Without Compromise against Systemic Corruption in the Public Sector that Threatens the Right to Work and Dignity of Persons with Disability in the Federation of BiH” and activities to point out key problems affecting professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities in the Federation of BiH, such as:

1. Due to varying interests, in the past two years the Government of the Federation of BiH cannot/does not want to elect a head of the most important institution for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities in FBiH – the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (the Fund).
2. The Fund cannot prepare programs for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, which results in the fact that at a time of high unemployment and a continual increase in the cost of living, the Fund is “keeping” more than 24,000 000 KM in various bank accounts.
3. The Ministries responsible for the Fund’s operation do not conduct control which further causes inefficiency of this institution, especially in utilizing incentives for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities. This was stated in the Audit report for 2020.

The problems mentioned are not hindering an increase in the number of employees of the Fund. The average costs of salaries per employee for 12 months in 2021 were around 50,500 KM, while on the other hand, the maximum amount of incentive for employment of persons with disabilities for the period of 12 months awarded by the Fund was 9,000 KM.





The real price of medicines

The Association “Think Good” organized a conference as part of its campaign Real Price of Medicines and brought together decision makers related to the medicines market in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was concluded at the conference that the market in BiH, i.e. in FBiH and RS must equalize considering that the maximal retail margin in RS is 18% and as much as 25% in FBiH, by far the highest in the region.

“It is our goal to reduce the existing prices to some more realistic level to be in the same rank as the countries in the region but not to disturb the supply,” Rada Amdžić, President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Republika Srpska said and added that reducing the entry price of medicines would be the starting point for any reduction of the price of medicines.

During the previous three months, members of the Association Think Good continuously pointed out the fact that BiH citizens are paying the highest prices of medicines in the region and that it is a consequence of the regulation that is made at all levels in BiH. To exert pressure on the decision-maker, Think Good organized a petition signing both online and in direct contact with citizens. Judging by the reactions of petition signatories, BiH citizens are extremely interested in this project and there is almost no one in BiH who has not had the problem of overpriced medicines and their purchases outside BiH.

Think Good’s initiative to amend the Rulebook on price control, forming of the prices of medicines, and reporting on the prices of medicines in BiH was included in the agenda of the session of the Expert Council of the Agency for Medicines that is authorized to propose changes to that act. Dr. Lazar Prodanović, a member of the Expert Council said that the Agency acknowledged the information about the proposal for amendments to the Rulebook and that the conclusion is to wait for a member of the Pharmaceutical Chamber to be appointed as soon as possible.



VIRUS THAT HAS A CURE

Stop mobbing and the Association for Development of Society KAP presented their study “The Path of Medical Equipment and Vaccines in BiH during the Epidemic,” at a press conference on World Health Day, April 7, 2022, in Mostar as part of their project “Virus that Has a Cure.” This is the first study of this kind to be implemented in BiH during the pandemic. The goal was to learn how the public institutions and relevant government institutions responded to the epidemic in terms of the procurement of medicinal equipment, including tests and vaccines, and how much and which funds they spent for these purposes.

“The research shows an extreme lack of communication, concealment of information, non-transparency in making decisions and business of public institutions in BiH during the pandemic,” Anica Ramić, President of Stop Mobbing says. She also adds that the “results of the analysis show different indicators pointing out irregularities in the public procurement processes, and some of them are that donations were often booked for a higher price than in the public procurement and vice versa, three different prices for oxygen in three hospitals, different prices of donated and purchased vaccines, tests, and the like.”

Further, on April 18, 2022, to mark World Health Day, street performances took place in Sarajevo and Trebinje. Employing short sketches, the performances served to show some everyday situations that patients face in healthcare. These street performances were designed in collaboration with young actors and their mentors. 28 media outlets covered the performances that attracted dozens of citizens on the streets of these two towns.

12.9 miliona dolara za nabavku vakcina za zakašnjelom isporukom

BiH je potpisala Ugovor sa COVAX-om 18. 9. 2020. godine o isporuci **1,2 miliona** doza vakcina, u vrijednosti **12.997.600** američkih dolara (kompletan iznos uplaćen je 18. decembra 2020. godine), od čega je do oktobra 2021. BiH isporučeno manje od jedne trećine: **332.640** doza.

U međuvremenu, BiH je većinu vakcina dobila putem donacija iz različitih zemalja i organizacija. Više od 700.000 vakcina u BiH čeka na uništavanje zbog isteklog roka trajanja. Skupocjeno uništavanje vakcina u trećim zemljama, finansira se iz javnih institucija u BiH.

Podaci iz istraživanja “Put medicinske i sanitetske opreme i lijekova tokom Covid-19 pandemije”

Nabavke testova za Covid 19 tokom pandemije

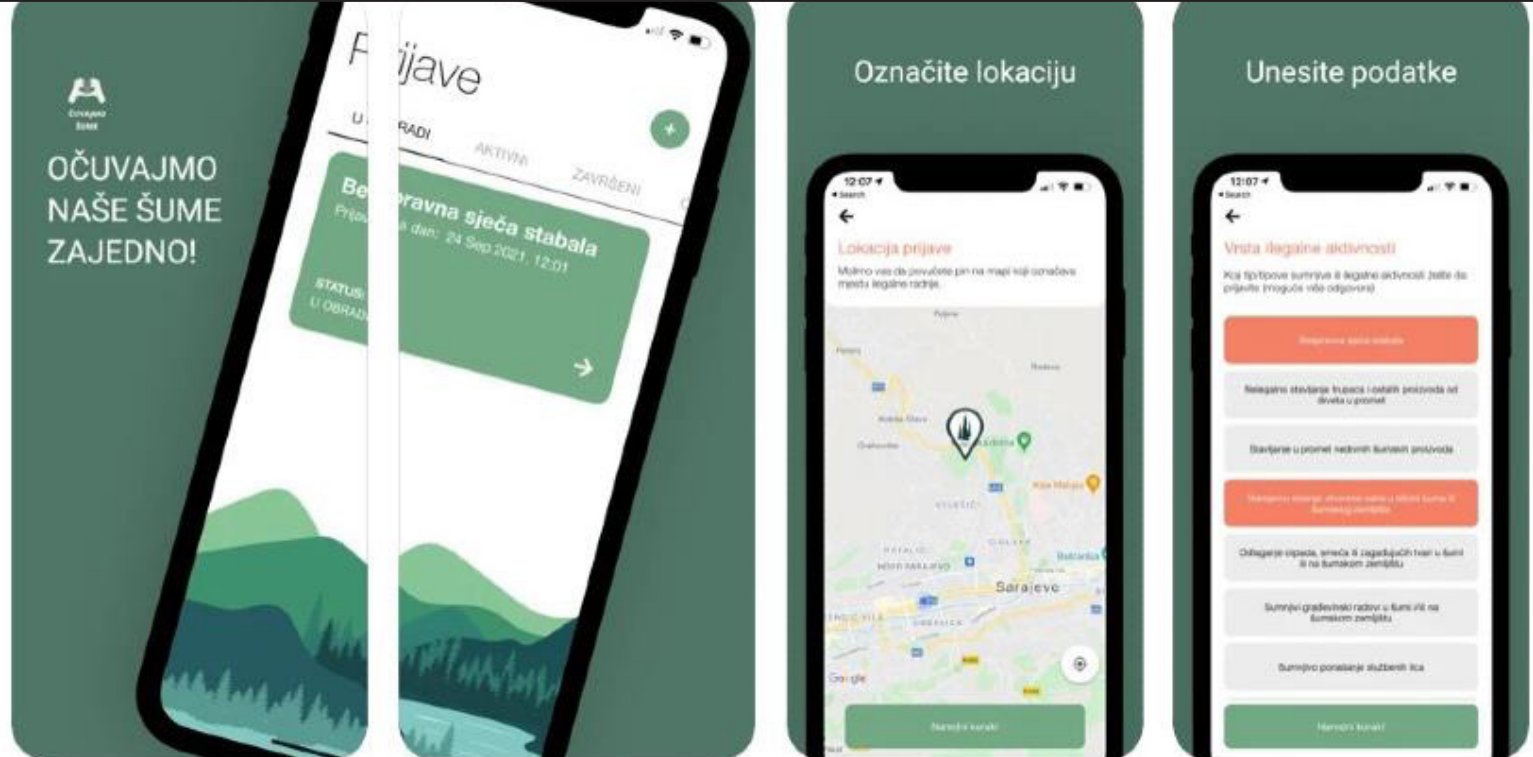
Iz podataka prikupljenih tokom istraživanja, testovi u FBiH su kupovani ili donirani po cijenama od **1,43** KM za PCR do **90** KM.

Cijena PCR-testa u Republici Srpskoj iznosila je od **0,44** dolara (oko 0,78 KM), a Institut za javno zdravstvo RS ih je plaćao **30** do **80** KM.

ZZO KS je dvije stavke “transportni medij” 2.000 i 6.000 komada, kupio preko UNDP-a po različitim cijenama istom Odlukom od 19.03.2021. i to **1,85** KM i **3,5** KM po komadu.

**COVID-19
PCR TEST**

Podaci iz istraživanja “Put medicinske i sanitetske opreme i lijekova tokom Covid-19 pandemije”



Application for Anonymous Reporting of Illegal Activities in the Forestry Sector with the Help of Citizens

The application developed by the Forestry and Environmental Action – FEA as part of its project “Application for Anonymous Report of Illegal Activities in the Forestry Sector was, as of the end of June, downloaded 272 times from Google Play Store, and 110 times from Apple Store. From April-June 2022, the total of received valid reports for Sarajevo Canton is 22, while Zenica-Doboj Canton registered 17 valid reports.

In addition, during this time FEA organized four workshops engaging public institutions in Sarajevo Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Una-Sana Canton, and Central Bosnia Canton. The topic was “Protection of Forests against Illegal Activity – Challenges and Contemporary Solutions” with key participants from the cantons mentioned. These workshops aimed to launch a discussion of all engaged parties on experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of measures for the prevention and fight against illegal activities in the forestry sector. The workshops also served to present the experiences with the use of the mobile application “Save Forests” as a contemporary solution for citizens in reporting illegal activities. Participants in the workshop expressed their views and suggestions in an effort to find optimal solutions in the fight against corruption in the forestry sector.



STOP IRREGULAR EMPLOYMENT

The Association Demos met as part of its campaign STOP Irregular Employment with representatives of decision-makers, the Caucuses of Socialist Party(SP) and SNSD, and representatives of SP and SNSD. Demos used the opportunity to present their campaign whose focus was on the employment of persons based on contracts for services, and discrimination they have been exposed to because they often perform more activities than those employed for a definite or indefinite period. Representatives of both Caucuses agree that this type of employment is not sustainable, that there needs to be legislative changes, and that they are ready to help in proposing amendments to drafts and proposals of law once they enter the parliamentary procedure.

A street action took place in late May to inform and engage citizens in DEMOS' activities. The street action at the Trg mladih helped DEMOS engage with citizens and explain the problem tackled by the project – employment of persons on the basis of contracts for services, discrimination, and violation of basic workers' rights. The majority concludes that we do want a society where workers will not be discriminated, or have to perform more duties than their colleagues, and a society where political parties or family relations will not play a role in deciding who will work, and where competence will have priority over eligibility.



Transparent Financing of Non-profit Organization from the Budget of the Brčko District

The Department for Economic Development, Sports and Culture of the Brčko District Government already canceled the Public Call for the allocation of donations to non-profit organizations three times from December 2021 to May 2022. As a member of the Group “Transparent Financing of Non-profit Organizations from the Budget of the Brčko District of BiH”, Youth Center “Vermont” sent the initiative to the Brčko District Government, which was the result of joint meetings. The goal is to establish a system of transparent allocation of donations and prevent corrupt practices, and the initiative refers to the adoption of and insight into a single Rulebook on evaluation and scoring of Public Calls for Donations.

Vermont organized a street action to involve citizens in the campaign and raise awareness of the above-mentioned long-standing problem. By exchanging opinions with citizens, we tried to get feedback on proposals and activities that would benefit us in the continuation of our campaign



Attack on Corruption in Higher Education in Tuzla Canton: Citizens Initiate the End of Anarchy

The efforts of the citizens gathered around the activist movement “Cardboard Revolution” in the Tuzla Canton, which demand a systematic treatment of corruption in higher education in the Tuzla Canton and an end to the total anarchy that arose as a result of unclear legal regulations, are finally getting some tangible results. After more than three years of work in the gray zone of one of the higher education institutions, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Tuzla Canton has finally appointed, and the Agency for the Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of BiH has approved, a Commission that will finally put an end to the accreditation process of the mentioned university in order to establish how degrees from that higher education institution are treated. Aware of the fact that the problems of corruption in higher education in the Tuzla Canton cannot be treated at the moment, because there is no body within the executive and legislative authorities that would process reports of non-compliance with legal regulations, the activists initiated, and the TK Assembly adopted, amendments to the Law on Inspections according to which the inspection for Higher Education of the Tuzla Canton was formed. As the activists believe that the process of obtaining a license and accreditation for the work of certain higher education institutions is not a guarantee of the quality of work of higher education institutions, the inspection will, among other things, have the task to monitor the work of all universities, which was also confirmed by the Government of Tuzla Canton at the June session when it obligated the inspection at the beginning of the new school year to check the work of all universities. All these activities are aimed at the final adoption of the Amendments to the Law on Higher Education in the Tuzla Canton, which will finally and clearly regulate the process of accreditation of higher education institutions with clear deadlines, which was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Tuzla Canton. In addition to the above, through street actions and activities on social media, activists raised the awareness of citizens and encouraged them to become more involved in anti-corruption efforts in higher education by reporting cases to competent authorities. In this way, the system will create preconditions for universities, which are known among citizens as “degree printers”, to take their work seriously, politicians will be prevented from selectively recognizing or not recognizing degrees from certain universities and carrying out corrupt employment practices, and all those who do not work in accordance with the highest regulations will be closed and prosecuted.



Konjuh is Calling – Cardboard Revolution Saves the Mountain from Corruption

Although it was declared a protected area on paper, the area of Mountain Konjuh never really became one in practice. Aware of the large-scale corruption in the exploitation of natural resources on Mountain Konjuh, the activists of the “Cardboard Revolution” movement launched activities to save the mountain and truly enforce the law in practice. Through strong engagement on social media and through the means of public information, i.e. recording and distribution of video content, organizing a press conference, the group mobilized citizens to join the fight to save the mountain. They sent 20 specific questions to the institutions with the aim of clearly pointing out corruption in the permit procedure, exploitation of natural resources and functioning of public institutions. What is especially encouraging is substantial public support, especially from the areas that gravitate towards the mountain itself, i.e. Banovići, Kladanj, Živnice and Tuzla, which have been observing the process of systemic devastation of the mountain for more than ten years, but have no mechanism to act, considering that on paper everything is protected while in practice the situation is completely different.

Citizens also have support from honorable individuals within institutions, as well as professors and other experts who tirelessly provide relevant data that point to a whole series of omissions, as well as images created from the air and via satellites that clearly indicate an alarming situation and the ecocide that is happening. The activities of the fight against corruption during the exploitation of natural resources symbolically called “Konjuh is Calling” have already united the citizens of Tuzla Canton in a mission to stand in the way of corruption in return for justice that will provide them with life, air, and water.





Support for the involvement of citizens of Canton 10 in the fight against corruption in public sector employment

After conducting research and monitoring of public companies and state institutions, as well as analysis of cantonal regulations on public sector employment, CGS conducted a series of activities as part of the campaign “Support for the Involvement of Citizens of Canton 10 in the Fight against Corruption in Public Sector Employment.” Research results and recommendations for the improvement of the cantonal laws and regulations were presented to the public and delivered to the Cantonal Government, ministries, the Cantonal Assembly, and representatives, i.e. decision makers. In addition to the above, a working group was formed whose members discussed and advocated the implementation of the recommendations made in the existing legislative framework regulating public sector employment. Based on the minutes submitted by the members of the Working Group, the vast majority of representatives support our work and previous activities within this project, as well as changes to the legislative framework based on the recommendations from the analysis. Street actions were held in each of the six municipalities in K10. The goal of these street actions was to invite citizens of K10 to report corruption and to inform them about our activities so far. Citizens are also invited to sign the petition, which we will send to the decision-makers together with the draft regulations and the proposal for change. The response to the street actions was positive and, considering the current population of this canton, surprising. Over 350 citizens signed the petition expressing their support and desire for positive changes. Additionally, we held public meetings with target groups. Public meetings were held in all six municipalities in our canton. The target groups, in this case, were younger people who encounter irregularities in employment, that is, people who have been registered with the employment office for many years. A meeting was held with the Minister of Justice and K10 Administration, Mr. Milan Bašić to discuss the submitted draft proposal for changes in public sector employment in K10. The minister enthusiastically welcomed our project and efforts to make changes and made himself available for a further advocacy campaign within the project. We provide free legal assistance to citizens who have been harmed when trying to find employment in the public sector and the employment procedure.

All those interested can apply for free legal assistance and counseling on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at e-mail: bpp.cgs@gmail.com, phone number: 034/202-770 or in person at the premises of the Civic Center cooperation at Gabrijela Jurkića 16 (Livnopotovi), 80101 Livno. We invite citizens to report corruption, nepotism, and party recruitment!



A LECTURE WAS HELD FOR STUDENTS “HOW TO SET UP A TENDER”, IN SARAJEVO

On June 8, Pro Educa, in cooperation with the Centers of Civic Initiatives (CCI), organized a lecture “How to Set Up a Tender” addressing the process of public procurement and abuses, and the transparency of tenders. The lecture was organized for university students in Sarajevo and East Sarajevo, as part of the program activities of the #SlobodaNarodu Festival.

The aim of the lecture is to provide young people with a different perspective on topics that have become established in all systems in our society and how important it is for them to participate in the changes.

The lecture was given by Tatjana Udovicic and Slobodan Golubovic who presented the work of the portal www.pratimotendere.ba and pointed out the ways in which public enterprises in Bosnia and Herzegovina organize public procurement.

Slobodan Golubović says that about 90% of public procurement in BiH is questionable with regard to the existing legal regulations and that this practice continues due to the shortcomings of the laws themselves, but also the indolence of the institutions that should react.

On the other hand, through a series of questions, the students pointed out the inadmissibility of such a practice, asking what they can do in the fight against corruption, and not only them, but also the institutions of the system.





“Public Policies Will Not Change Until Citizens Show Resistance”

On June 8, a public forum “Legal Regulations in BiH and their Implementation for the Purpose of Environmental Protection” was held in Sarajevo, organized by Pro Educa in cooperation with the Centers of Civic Initiatives (CCI), as part of the #SlobodaNarodu Festival.

The public forum was attended by numerous representatives of institutions, activists and students, who had the opportunity to see the bigger picture and to find out what the challenges look like when it comes to environmental protection from a different perspective and what are the next possible steps in finding the best solutions for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the opening part of the public forum, representatives of the Aarhus Center organization, representatives of the informal groups “For Doljanka” Let Me Flow”, and representatives of the initiative “Stop the Construction of Small Dams on the Kasindolska River” spoke about the challenges they faced. The public forum was organized with the aim of having a better and more complete understanding of environmental problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina faced by the local population from different municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by encouraging dialogue between representatives of the competent ministries, inspectorates, agencies and representatives of local communities, but also representatives of the BiH Parliament, NGO activists, representatives of the academic community, representatives of political parties who are potential future decision makers... and other stakeholders. “I was glad that I got the opportunity to talk about our problems in front of participants who come from different institutions and from different positions, but also to hear different opinions. I think that events like this are useful for all citizens, but also for students who had the opportunity to see how decision-making and communication between citizens and institutions works,” said Emina Veljović, Executive Director of the Aarhus Center and one of the forum participants. The solution lies in self-organization and pressure on decision-makers, according to the participants, because public policies will not change until citizens show resistance. “This event showed how much we need dialogue between citizens/activists and institutions, I hope that more institutions will understand this in the future. The discussion was constructive with the representatives of the institutions, and I hope that we will have more opportunities for this kind of dialogue”, said Naza Spahić, a member of the initiative against the construction of MHE “Za Doljanka”.

The participants concluded that the biggest battle ahead is the adoption of a quality law on renewable energy sources that will democratize energy production to the maximum and allow everyone to easily and quickly install solar panels on their roofs. The solution to energy independence is not in thermal power plants or small dams but in the use of the power of the sun and wind and new technologies in such a way that we are all producers and consumers of energy. The organizers will submit the detailed conclusions of the public forum to all relevant institutions.



Freedom is Defended, Guarded and Won

With the promotion of the book “How young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina perceive the past war”, authored by Srđan Puhalo, the second seven-day #SlobodaNarodu Festival in Sarajevo ended. Public tribunes, lectures at faculties, and a two-day festival during which the organizers offered nine panel discussions, with almost 40 panelists, on current and interesting topics. During the festival week, the “Pro Educa” Education Center, which designs and implements the festival, enriched the City’s cultural and social life. One of the engaging events was the public forum “Legal regulations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their implementation in order to protect the environment”. The goal of the public forum is to achieve a better and more complete understanding of the problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina in connection with the important topic of ecology and the environment faced by the local population from different municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two lectures were also organized for students, “How to set up a tender,” about the process of public procurement and abuses, and the transparency of tenders, and the lecturer was Slobodan Golubović. The aim of the lecture was to provide young people with a different perspective on topics that have become established in all systems in our society and how important it is for them to be one of the participants in the changes.

The second lecture was held by Jelena Obućina, “What does theory not teach us, but we need in practice every day?”, for journalism students. The central two-day event of the #Freedom of the People Festival was held in the Youth Center, Skenderija, where visitors had the opportunity to enjoy interesting and engaging panel discussions on June 10 and 11. During these two days, visitors had the opportunity to listen to panel discussions on the topic “Relationship of Serbia and Croatia towards BiH”, Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are inevitably connected by human, economic, cultural, and other social ties. They are also connected with emotions... Where are we stuck, where are we stopped, where at one point did we reach a wall, in these relationships? Participants in the panel discussion were: Milan Ćulibrk, Goran Milić, Vildana Selimbegović, Zlatko Dizdarević, moderated by Lejla Ramić Mesihović. Participants in the panel discussion were: Milan Ćulibrk, Goran Milić, Vildana Selimbegović, Zlatko Dizdarević, moderated by Lejla Ramić Mesihović.



The second panel discussion was entitled “Should the media have an opinion, or is it enough to be objective”. Boško Jakšić, Jelena Obućina, Amir Zukić and Duška Jurišić talked about the media, if they need to have an opinion or is it enough to be objective, are there independent media, how big a problem is the existence of propaganda and misinformation in the public space? “Conspiracy Theories and How to Live With Them” was the title of the third panel discussion. What are conspiracy theories? How to distinguish conspiracy theories from real conspiracies? When were conspiracy theories proven true? Are conspiracy theories the result of distrust in institutions, science, authority, or something else? These and many other questions were asked by panel moderator Nenad Veličković to his guests Jelena Kalinić, Krešimir Mišak, Damir Marjanović and Nebojša Blanuša. The visitors rated “Art and activism - there is a secret connection” as the most interesting panel discussion, where Sergej Trifunović, Svetislav Basara, Dino Mustafić, together with Rubina Čengić tried to discover the secret connection between art and activism, which is the role of artists in social life and can art beat politics. On the second day, visitors had the opportunity to listen to the panel discussion “How to defend nature? Experiences of activists”, at this panel discussion, activists Boris Vuksan, Ibrahim Turak, Dženis Ćulov, Amar Taso, with moderator Sandra Josović, shared their experiences and talked about the risks of activism and how they manage to maintain their fight despite security risks. Panel discussion “Civil BiH - now, once, never?” moderated by Nermina Mujagić, and Mirjana Marinković-Lepić, Haris Ćutahija and Damir Banović tried to answer the eternal question about the status of citizenship in the country. Questions from the audience confirmed that citizenship rests on the shoulders of individuals and that the media, the academic community and politics are asleep and far from participating in creating the conditions necessary for a civic-oriented society. “Who should be treated: LGBTIQ people or society?” was the name of the third panel, on the second day, in which activists Darko Pandurević, Maja Šarić, Dina Barjektarević participated, and was moderated by Delila hasanbegović Vukas. They shared their emotional life experiences with the audience and after that everyone who listened to these testimonies was left with a lot of questioning about established attitudes in our society. The last two panel discussions were “The scope of investigative journalism” and “How to clean up the mess in the Balkans?”, visitors had the opportunity to listen to Vladimir Otašević, Milica Vojinović, Nermina Kuloglija, Slobodan Golubović, Nerzuk Ćurko, Žarko Puhovski, Boško Jakšić and Slava Kukić . The festival #SlobodaNarodu symbolizes a free public space, in which keepers of the fire and free thoughts have the opportunity to speak and be heard. The festival affirms people who think differently and who are often the Don Quixote of their time. The content of the Festival consists of panel discussions, lectures, workshops, performances, exhibitions and promotions of the written word. The goal is to contribute to the strengthening of democracy and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the promotion of freedom of speech and expression. The festival is organized in cities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was supported by the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID, CCI, INSPIRE, OSCE, Heinrich Böll Foundation.



PUBLIC INTEREST OF CONSUMERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE WORK OF INSPECTION SERVICES – MONITORING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

In the previous period, as part of the campaign public interest of consumers in the fight against corruption in the work of inspection services - monitoring of consumer complaints, the DON association actively worked on the finalization of three acts that will improve the position of consumers and protect their rights. We are talking about the “Guidelines for the procedure of the Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs on petitions and requests for the protection of consumer rights”, “Regulations on the content and method of reporting in the process of inspection supervision on consumer complaints-monitoring of consumer complaints”, and the Rules for the improvement of inspection supervision”.

In this regard, a meeting of the Working Group was held in Banja Luka at the Republika Srpska Market Inspection, and it was attended by Radivoje Gavrić (Chief Market Inspector), Braco Vrančić, External Consultant, Murisa Marić and Zoran Petoš on behalf of the “DON” Association. At the meeting, all the comments received on the drafts of these documents from the representatives of the inspection services and consumer protection associations in the RS were discussed and a certain number were accepted.

Also, during this period, DON organized 5 public hearings in Banja Luka, Trebinje, Doboj, Bijeljina, and Zvornik, bringing together representatives of the RS inspection bodies from all regions, representatives of city and municipal inspections, representatives of consumer protection CSOs, media, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism (in Banja Luka). During the discussion on the documents prepared so far by DON and the mentioned working group (“Guidelines for the procedure in the RS Administration for Inspection Work on petitions and requests for the protection of consumer rights”, “Regulations on the content and method of reporting in the course of inspection supervision in response to consumer complaints-monitoring of consumer complaints”, “Analysis of the Law on Inspection and Analysis of the Law on Consumer Protection in the Republic of Srpska”), the participants expressed support for regulating the actions of inspectors in order to reduce the possibility of different interpretations of the law and abuse of official positions, keeping records on consumer complaints and possibilities of data exchange.



Also, the need was defined for: 1. Education of inspectors in accordance with the provisions of the law on consumer protection and extraordinary controls under the law on inspections; 2. Continuous cooperation with Associations and exchange of experiences related to the actions of traders in certain disputed situations, 3. Regulation of the field of delivery of “expert opinion” related to extraordinary inspections by inspectors; 4. Amendment of the law in the “subject of supervision” segment, because the consumer in this case, as it currently stands, is not a party to the proceedings, even though it is defined by other laws (Law on Civil Procedure).

The representative of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism emphasized the obligation to record consumer complaints and submit reports to the Ministry of Trade and Tourism every six months, which was not the practice until now. All those present expressed the opinion that it is necessary to inform inspectors at all levels about all changes in the law promptly, that it is necessary to supplement the legal provisions, and that they agree with the interim solution in the form of prepared guidelines that will help them in their daily work.

After the Working Group has once again considered all the comments, the final documents will be presented to the RS Market Inspection in July that should send them to the RS Government for adoption. Those present were also presented with a banner placed on DON’s webpage through which citizens can report any suspicion of corrupt practices and misconduct of inspectors.



DECISION ON THE FAITH OF THE BISTRICA RIVER: INVESTOR'S REPRESENTATIVES TAKES MINUTES AT A PUBLIC HEARING IN KALINOVIK



Public hearings took place in Kalinovik and Foča on April 8-9 on draft studies on environmental impact assessments for three planned small dams on the Bistrica River: “B-1” and “B-2a” in the municipality of Foča with a capacity of 10.696 MW and 7.243 MW and for the construction of the B-3” small dam with the capacity of 16.157 MW in the municipalities of Foča and Kalinovik.

In Kalinovik, **the investor’s representative took the minutes** of the public hearing. Even though such circumstances are not prohibited by the law, from the aspect of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention this poses a question of whether the public hearing, in this case, could have been implemented adequately.

“We have not received adequate answers to the questions we asked; we have noticed that even the study creator is not aware of some facts such as that a small dam with the capacity of 3.870 MW has already been built on the Bistrica River. Even though Kalinovik citizens support the project because it is about the public capital, they say that they are aware of violations of the measures prescribed in ecological permits and the harm that hydro energy causes to the environment and **they asked for water data levels for the Bistrica River to be available to citizens in electronic format**,” Sunčica Kovačević, Project Assistant in Aarhus Center in BiH said in her statement.

ANARCHY ON UGAR – WHEN VIOLATIONS OF LAW BECOME LAWFUL PRACTICE

An aerial photograph of a river, likely the Ugar River, showing a small dam structure. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. The water appears to be flowing over the dam. The image is used as a background for the title text.

BUDI MUDAR SPASI UGAR

Back in 2019, Mr. Amir Šećibović, the Central Bosnia Canton Minister of Spatial Planning, Construction, Environmental Protection, Return, and Housing signed a building permit for the construction of the Oštrac small dam on the Ugar River. This would not be a problem had the energy permit preceded the building permit, as prescribed by the law. The Sport Fishermen Club from Travnik asked the Government of Central Bosnia Canton to revoke the building permit.

At that moment, there seemed to be a gap in internal communication between the ministry and the government, as it took a while for them to figure out who was responsible for the revocation of such a decision. Of course, the investor has taken advantage of that gap and retroactively obtained an energy permit for 2021, since the works are already ongoing. In the end, six months later, the Government adopted a decision rejecting the request for revocation of the building permit because they believe it was made by an unauthorized person, hence completely disregarding the fact that the Government is required to respond *ex officio* to observed irregularities and it is irrelevant who filed a request for revocation.

PUBLIC HEARING IN TRNOVO: IT IS THE LAST MINUTE – NO WATER, NO US! STOP SMALL DAMS ON THE HRASNIČKI STREAM!



On May 27, 2022, a town hall meeting took place at the Center of Culture in Trnovo. **IT IS THE LAST MINUTE – No WATER, No Us!** During the meeting, members of the Coalition for Protection of Rivers in BiH presented to the residents their experiences regarding small dams and the fight against their construction.

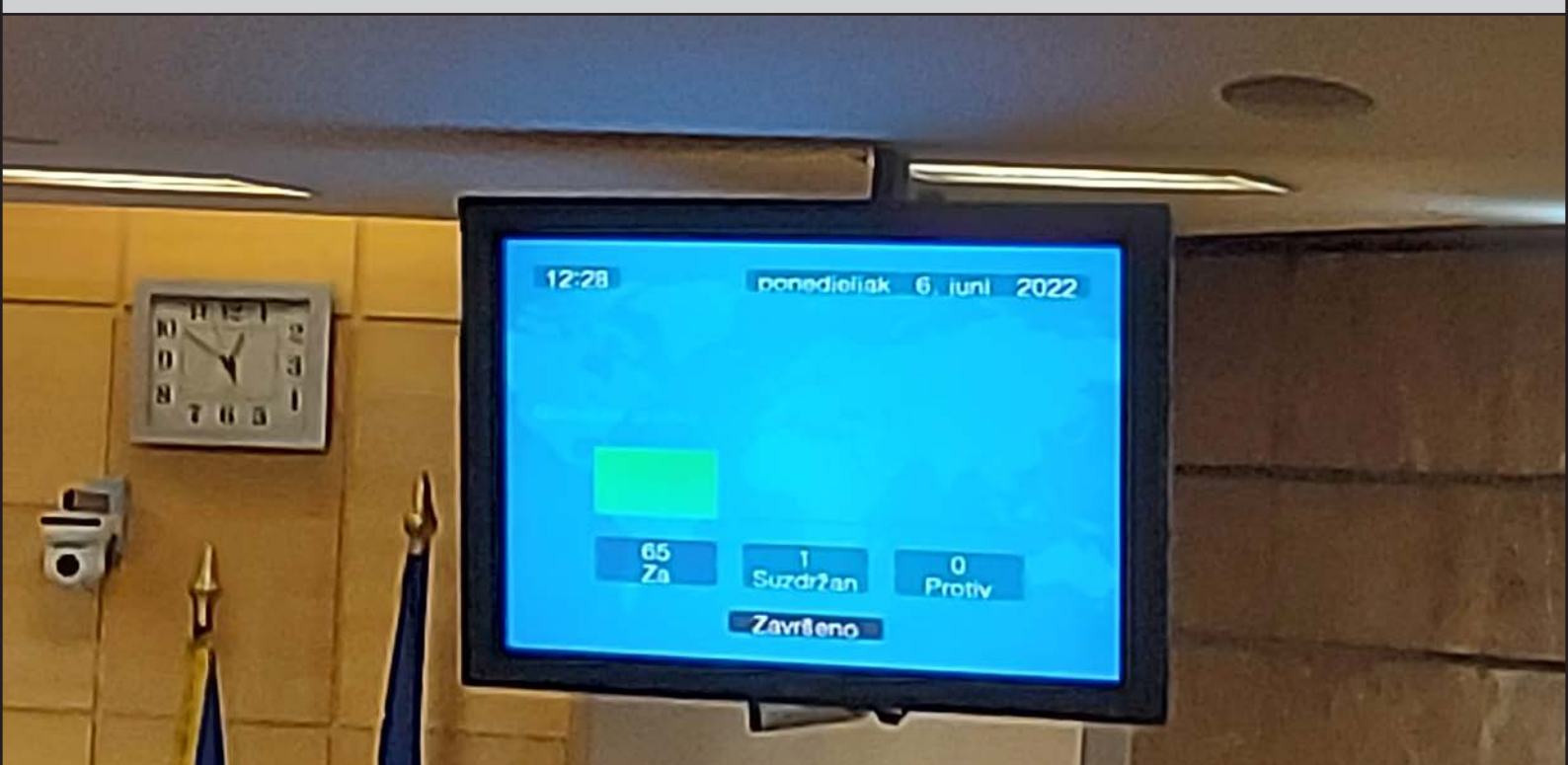
“The goal of this town hall meeting was to instigate public discussion about the problem of the construction of the Hrasnica small dam on the Hrasnički Stream and all other small dams in BiH, especially because the local population was not adequately engaged in the decision-making process on this project, which is contrary to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Councilors of Trnovo Municipal Council were invited to this meeting, in addition to residents and nature lovers, given the fact that municipal councilors can decide to revoke the approvals for the Hrasnica small dam. I must emphasize once again that **rivers do not know borders** and that **Republika Srpska must make major legislative progress** to protect rivers from injustice called small dams,” said Emina Veljović, Executive Director of Aarhus Resource Center in BiH.”

FIRST MAJOR TRIUMPH FOR PROTECTION OF RIVERS: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES A PROPOSAL OF THE LAW ON CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON ELECTRICITY IN FBiH STOPPING FURTHER CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL DAMS

Activists and all citizens of FBiH won their first major triumph for the protection of rivers: the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament passed a proposal of the Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Electricity of FBiH. **65 MPs voted “FOR” and with one vote abstained.**

As a reminder, on December 9, 2021, and World Anticorruption Day, the House of People of the FBiH Parliament passed the Proposal of the Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Electricity of FBiH and all MPs voted FOR. The second and final process followed: public hearings and mobilization of a broader public and citizens to voice their opinions about the Law, **to prohibit the issuance of energy permits for small dams with a capacity of up to 10 MW, without which these facilities cannot be built.**

This positive result can be attributed to the strong activism of all members of the Coalition for Protection of Rivers in BiH which has in the past ten years exerted strong pressure both in the field and in the media to impose a ban on the construction of small dams.



DISAVOWING KEEPERS OF RIVERS: WATER AGENCIES POSTPONE THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION OF A NEW RULEBOOK ON ECOLOGICALLY ACCEPTABLE FLOW IN FBIH, WHILE THE NEW STRATEGY OF WATER MANAGEMENT 2022-2032 LEAVES THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE „DEVELOPMENT“ OF SMALL DAMS”!?

One of the important requests that NGOs delivered in a meeting with the FBiH ministries and Prime Minister Novalić in 2020 was about amending and adopting a **new Rulebook on Ecologically Acceptable Flow FBiH (EAF)**, which is under the jurisdiction of the FBiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry. Two sets of public hearings for the adoption of the new Rulebook took place in 2020 and 2021 during which many comments from NGOs were adopted, but this Rulebook is still not in force. Representatives of the Coalition for Protection of Rivers in BiH met again with representatives of the ministry when it was explained that the Rulebook **could be sent to the Official Gazette of FBiH immediately** after the submission of the final opinion of the Water Agencies (The Sava River Basin Agency and the Agency for the Adriatic Sea Watershed).



For future regulation of the existing small dams, the problem is not only the non-adoption of the new Rulebook on Ecologically Acceptable Flow but also the fact that comments submitted in the last two years as part of ESAP 2030+ regarding the preparation of environmental strategies at all levels of management were not acknowledged in the latest draft of the FBiH Strategies for Environmental Protection 2022-2032 as part of the Water Management Strategy 2022-2032. Instead of acknowledging comments from NGOs concerning harmonization of the text of the Strategy with the latest legislative changes, i.e., that the construction of small dams is not supported, for example on page 185 of the FBiH Strategy, there is a projection of **2 226 420 KM** that for the most part would be used for **“application of a catalog of sustainable development criteria in the sector of small dams.”**



»DEGREES OF SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN BIH THREATENED TO BE CONTESTED«

Degrees obtained from August 15, 2011, to 2013 from higher education institutions that at that time did not secure accreditations are now in question. As well as all other degrees from thus-far unaccredited universities and higher education institutions in BiH.

More on this story is available at www.antikorupcija.info



»TAKING THE LAND FROM OWNERS FOR HIGHWAY PROJECT, WITHOUT OWNERS' KNOWLEDGE, WITH APPROVAL FROM REPRESENTATIVES EX OFFICIO«

Owners of the land where a section of the future highway Doboj-Vukosavlje will be routed are convinced that the government in RS is taking land. The government is saying that they are realizing a project that is important for RS and is engaging in corruption or are turning the blind eye.

More on this story is available at www.antikorupcija.info

»DISCONTENT IN DOBOJ ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INTRODUCE PARKING FEES – CHP WARNS BUT DISCRIMINATION; THE OPPOSITION WONDERS IF THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS«

At the Mayor's proposal, the Assembly of Doboj passed a Decision in late 2011 to fund the purchase of parking tickets for specialists employed in the Health Center and General Hospital using the city's budget funds in the amount of 50 000 KM. The reason according to them is that this is a measure that will prevent the drain of doctors from this local community.




More on this story is available at www.antikorupcija.info






WE MONITOR TENDERS!

The monitoring network monitored the public procurements from April to June 2022, during which it collected and published data on 1549 processes in the total amount of 31.8 million KM, excluding VAT. Of the total number of monitored procurements, 722 are related to the procurement of goods in the amount of 11,478,123.28 KM; 740 relate to procurement of services in the amount of 5, 246, 761.33 KM, and 87 relate to procurement of works in the amount of 15,171,893.95 KM.

Data on the degree of risk of the procurement monitored during April-June 2022 is presented below.

1549 monitored public procurement processes			
	Low risk	218	14.07 %
	Medium risk	642	41.44 %
	High risk	689	44.48 %

31,896,778.56 KM (excluding VAT)			
Value of monitored public procurement processes			
	Low risk	4,249,397.04 KM	13.33 %
	Medium risk	20,840,687.15 KM	65.33 %
	High risk	6,806,694.37 KM	21.33 %

Continued monitoring and stronger presence of the Pratimo tendere portal in the public through different communication channels, resulted in some proactive actions on the part of public institutions. Namely, the email notification system for public procurement monitoring registered 3891 users. Among them is the Zenica-Doboj Canton Prosecutor's Office which independently initiated control of tenders in the Municipality of Tešanj after it received a daily report from the Pratimo tendere portal.

On May 25, 2022, our daily report on monitored public procurement processes contained data about 18 public procurements carried out by 12 contracting authorities. The list contained a procurement "Maintenance and Repair of Local Roads" in Tešanj that belongs to the Zenica-Doboj Canton. The Prosecutor's Office initiated control of this process.

In the end, the Prosecutor's Office decided to suspend the investigation, which is not surprising, given that the Pratimo tendere portal marked the procurement in question with a green flag (low risk), but it is encouraging to see the proactivity on the part of one institution and the fact that the institutional control of the tender took place after Pratimo tendere drew attention to it.

Follow tenders, follow your money!

PRATIMOTENDERE.BA



PRATIMO TENDERE

Stay informed!

Anti-corruption activities of Transparency International in BiH

Conflict of Interest

The case of Goran Obradović and his potential conflict of interest because at the same time when he performed a function of elected representatives in the Municipal Assembly Čajniče he was also an employee of the municipal administration, TI BiH sent to the Committee for Prevention of Conflict of Interest in RS and Administrative Inspection. The Inspection conducted control and ordered implementation of the procedure for determining conflict of interest. In the meantime, the Municipality of Čajniče notified that Goran Obradović returned his mandate.



**TRANSPARENCY PRIJAVIO
NAČELNIKA KALINOVICA
ZBOG SUKOBA INTERESA:
NJEGOVOM PRIVATNOM
PREDUZEĆU OPŠTINA
KALINOVIK ISPLATILA
137.000 KM**



Transparency International in BiH reported the Mayor of Kalinovik to the RS Committee for Prevention of Conflict of Interest because the municipal administration paid 137 600 KM to his company on the account of catering services. It is interesting that according to the publicly available data, the revenues of the mayor's private company Blondi d.o.o. in 2020 were 1.2 million KM while the budget of this small municipality is 2.9 million KM.

Protection of Whistle-blowers

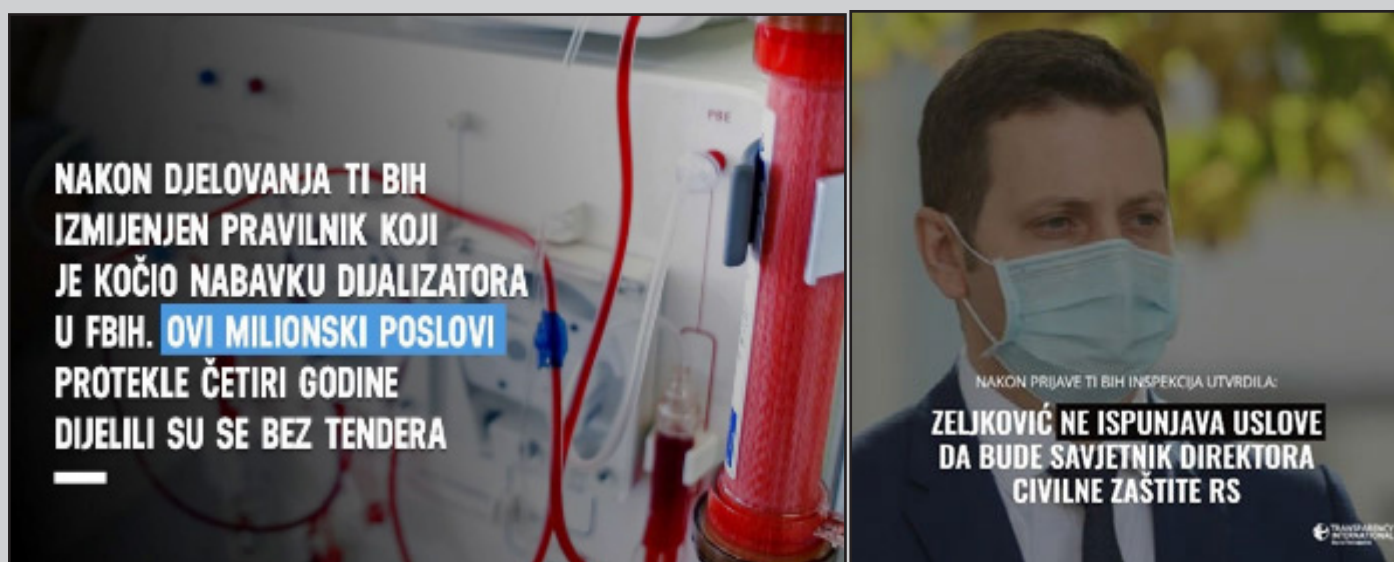
On June 23, International Whistleblower Day, Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) organized a press conference on problems of persons reporting corruption in BiH. Discussion at the conference entitled "Whistleblower Day: Steps toward Ensuring the Protection of Whistleblowers" evolved around the application of the current legislation and the current practices in this area. Also, an analysis "Protection of Whistleblowers in BiH and Serbia: comparative analysis" that provides a comparative overview of the situation in this area as well as recommendations for the improvement of the legal framework.

Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully completed the training on the implementation of the Law on Whistleblower Protection in Republika Srpska. Free training whose goal was to provide assistance to those responsible in educational institutions with 15 and more employees to create conditions for safe reporting of corruption and provide protection for whistleblowers was realized in six towns with the support of the US Agency for International Development. (USAID).

Public Procurements

After TI BiH filed with the Procurement Agency BiH a report concerning the procurement of driving license forms valued at 800 000 KM that the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers and Data Exchange (IDDEEA) granted to Muehlbauer company without any public competition, the Procurement Agency filed the document with the Prosecutor's Office of BiH on the ground of possible presence of elements of criminal activity. In the meantime, the Appeal Review Office cancelled the contested procurement, and IDDEEA announced a tender for procurement of ID and driving license card forms worth 30,8 million KM. IDDEEA's tender for procurement of personal identification documents is a public competition that has often been avoided in the past years.

Multimillion business deals for the procurement of dialysis machines for the needs of the F BiH Fund for Health Insurance and Re-Insurance were in the past four years conducted without tender procedure and given to the vendors whose contracts long expired, due to the misunderstanding between the Fund and the F BiH Health Ministry. Transparency International in BiH (TI BiH) exerted pressure on the institutions to solve the problem and the contested Rulebook that hindered the procurement of dialysis machines was amended.



ALAC

Former Director of the RS Public Health Institute who was arrested for the procurement of equipment during the pandemic, found a job as an Adviser after he left detention. He was employed without public competition procedure. Zeljković did not meet the requirements in terms of education required for this position, because the Faculty of Pharmacy that he had completed was not anticipated for the position of Adviser according to the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Job Systematization. TI BiH notified the Administrative Inspection that ordered the Director of Civil Protection Administration to terminate Zeljković's employment within 15 days.



Misuse of Public Resources

Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) has launched monitoring of the pre-election process. The monitoring will be carried out by field observers in the next three months. On June 28-19, TI BiH organized training in Sarajevo for 75 observers who will monitor institutions and forms of behavior of political candidates and officials before and during the campaign to observe and document the potential use of public funds and official position for election purposes, as well as other forms of abuse and violations of election legislation. In addition to TI BiH which presented the monitoring methodology, observers also had an opportunity to learn more about the legislative framework and practical examples from members of the Central Election Commission - Dr. Irena Hadžiabdić and Vanja Bjelica-Prutina.

Moreover, the focus of monitoring will be on all violations of the Code of Conduct in the pre-election period as well as threats to voters and forms of pressure on voters. For this activity, TI BiH developed a free app “Reflektor: Izbori 22” (Reflector: Election 2022) that citizens can use to anonymously report any irregularities or misuse in the election process. The application is adjusted to all Android and Apple smart devices; it can be downloaded from <https://reflektor.ba/>





PUBLIC CALL FOR PROJECTS LEADING CIVIC INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE FIELD

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



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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