



ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

QUARTER I 2024



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA



CENTRI CIVILNIH AKCIJA I
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CRM



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 anticorruption activists across Bosnia and Herzegovina



 Contact them via their FB pages!

Find our more at 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"
 - The Association "Perpetuum Mobile – Institute for Youth and Community Development"
 - The Association for Promotion of European Standards and Improvement of the Business Environment – Capital
 - Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka
 - ITEA Banja Luka - for Ideas, Education, Equality, and Affirmation

- Bijeljina**
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
 - ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in Bijeljina"
 - Environmental Association Eko Put

- Bjelašnica**
- ICG "To Stop Illegal Construction on Bjelašnica and Igman"

- Brčko**
- ICG "For Transparent Financing of Non-Profit Organizations from the Budget of the Brčko District"
 - Youth Center Vermont
 - CA "Demos"
 - ICG "For recognized diplomas from accredited higher education institutions in the Brčko District of BiH"

- Breza**
- ICG "To Remove an Illegal Waste Dump in Nedići, Breza"

- Bugojno**
- ICG "Poriče"

- Bužim**
- The Association of Dystrophics Bužim

- Doboj**
- ICG "For the legal exploitation of minerals from the Bosna river"
 - ICG "STOP to unaccredited universities in the RS"
 - ICG "Remove Hexane from 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**
- NGG "Stop izgradnji mHE na ICG "STOP to the Construction of mHps on the river Kasindolska"
 - Women's Interactive Rural Center (ŽIR)

- Jablanica**
- ICG "For Doljanku"

- Konjic**
- ICG "Neretvica - Let Me Flow"

- Kozarska Dubica**
- ICG "React Against Irregularities Threatening the Health and Environment"

- Kreševo**
- ICG "Stop Quarries Without Permits"

- Kakanj**
- ICG "Nature Park Trstionica and Boriva"

- Livno**
- CA "the Center for Citizens' Cooperation"

- Maglaj**
- ICG "For Legal Exploitation of Minerals in the Upper Section of the river Bosna"
 - Association Fojničani

- Mostar**
- CA "Because We Care"
 - ICG "Initiative against the construction of Buna 1 and 2 mHp"
 - ICG "Stop to illegal construction in Bijeli Brijeg"
 - ICG "No to construction on Buna and in my Blagaj"
 - ICG "Citizens' Initiative Kuti"
 - The Association for Improving Quality of Living – Futura Mostar
 - Association Bura info
 - ICG Stop Illegal Amendments to the Spatial Plan in Mostar"

- Petrovo**
- ICG "Keepers of Ozren"

- Prijedor**
- Consumer Protection Association "DON Prijedor"
 - ICG „Be My Voice“

- Sarajevo**
- ICG "Hastahana park"
 - ICG "Initiative KCUS"
 - ICG "Zgrada"
 - Association „Ja BiH u EU“
 - Employers' Association in the Federation of BiH
 - BIRN BiH
 - Association "Baby Steps"
 - Association Union of the Fund's Employees
 - Forestry and Environment Action
 - Aarhus centa
 - ICG "Last minute rescue – Let's save Dobrinja"
 - The Union for Sustainable Return and Integrations in BiH
 - Association of Public Procurement Professionals, Trainers and Officers in BiH (UPTIS)
 - ICG „We Want Drinking Water and Clean Air – against the Illegal Construction on Bjelašnica and Igman"
 - ICG "Stop Construction Threatening Citizens -Aleja lipa"
 - Center for Development of Informal Education

- Sanski Most**
- ICG "Life on Coal -NO to Exploitation that Endangers Life"

- Šipovo**
- ICG "Farmeri"

- Tešanj**
- ICG "Non-transparent spending of budget funds for water supply to citizens"
 - ICG "Keepers of Usora"

- Trebinje**
- CA "Stop mobbing"
 - ICG "Movement for Restitution Trebinje"

- Trnovo**
- ICG "Stop to Disposal of Illegal Waste at the Krupačke stijene Waste Dump"

- Tuzla**
- The civic movement "Waking Up"
 - ICG "Initiative against the landfill for slag and ash from the thermal power plant in local community Šiški Brod"
 - The Association "Forum of Tuzla Citizens"

- Visoko**
- ICG "To Prevent Abuse in Issuing Operation Permits to Organizers of Games of Chance (betting, lotteries, etc)."

- Višegrad**
- ICG "Defend the Rivers of Višegrad"
 - ICG "Remove Illegal Waste Dump on the Outskirts of a Tourist Town"

- Vitez**
- ICG "Courageous Women of Kruščica"
 - Initiative "Illegality of Spending the Building Maintenance Funds in Vitez"

- Vlasenica**
- ICG „Eco Activists Vlasenica“

- Zenica**
- ICG "Air guards"
 - ICG "Movement for change"
 - ICG "The Illegible Unemployed"

- Zvornik**
- ICG "STOP to illegal gravel pits on the Drina river"
 - ICG "Stop the Construction of an Asphalt Base in Tršić"
 - ICG "Justice for (Hotel) Drina"

- Žepče**
- ICG "Stop illegal exploitation of gravel in the area of Žepče and Zavidovići"



CITIZENS' VICTORY: SANSKI MOST MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ACCEPTS CITIZENS' REQUEST AND REVOKES ITS 2015 DECISION ON GRANTING CONCESSION FOR COAL EXPLOITATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

In its January thematic session, the Sanski Most Municipal Council supported the demands of the informal citizen group "Life on Coal." A unanimous decision was made to annul the 2015 Council's Decision approving the concession contract for coal exploitation in the municipality of Sanski Most. Additionally, unanimous conclusions were reached, according to which the Sanski Most Municipality would file requests with the Una-Sana Canton Government to revoke the Decision on concession approval, with the Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Economy to instruct the investor to remediate the excavated land, with the FBiH Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Industry to revoke the exploitation permit, and with the FBiH Inspectorate Administration to conduct an inspection and annul the decision issued by the FBiH Ministry.

These actions meet the citizens' expectations, as they received concrete conclusions after the session, which represent the first step in addressing the problem. Now, it is expected that their voice will be heard in higher institutions, where the final termination of the concession agreement will be decided.

"This is a victory and the first step to solving this problem. The councilors stood by the citizens and decided to annul the Decision that granted the concession to the investor. We continue our fight in the institutions at a higher level, where the termination of the concession agreement will be decided," a press release from Life on Coal stated.

Although the battle is not over, citizens have shown strength and determination in protecting their interests, quality of life, and environmental preservation. Their story has become an example of courage and perseverance in facing challenges that threaten the destruction of a community.





LIVNO CITY COUNCIL REVERSES APPROVAL FOR CONCESSION ENDANGERING MANDEK SPRINGS

The residents of Livno have fought for six years to protect their water sources and highlight all the irregularities and shortcomings accompanying the concession agreement for the exploitation and exploration of “water” at the Poljane location in Livno. They have demanded to be heard and receive answers to the countless arguments supporting their claims. At the 30th regular session of the Livno City Council, the majority of councilors (16) voted to revoke the 2010 Municipal Council’s consent granting a concession for the exploitation and exploration of “water” at the Poljane location in Livno. These councilors have stood by the residents who won their first institutional victory on protecting their drinking water sources.

This success is a testament to the collective effort of the residents’ efforts who gathered documents from relevant institutions. These documents prove that a valid public discussion never took place and that the investor did not possess valid water permits and other documentation required for the Municipal Council to approve the concession in 2010. All relevant cantonal and FBiH institutions confirmed in writing that project documentation, water permits, and environmental impact studies did not exist. The residents called on the councilors of the City Council to discuss this matter at the next session and vote based on the presented facts. “We thank everyone who helped us, especially those who live far from Livno and our springs. Six years of residents’ fight to protect their fundamental rights will guide others who may find themselves in a similar situation. Therefore, we will continue and see this process through to the end so that decision-makers can finally understand that the local community has a say regarding granting concessions for exploiting resources. The group has underlined that those responsible must realize that the interests of the people in this area must come first. After the Livno City Council revoked its consent, the next step is to terminate the concession agreement, which will be decided by the competent ministry and cantonal authorities. Termination would fully protect the Mandek springs.



ACTIVISTS' VICTORY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GRAVEL EXTRACTION IN THE DRINA RIVER BASIN: INDICTMENT RAISED FOR ILLEGAL GRAVEL EXTRACTION IN ŠEPAK

Following activists' reports of illegal and uncontrolled gravel extraction in the Šepak area in Zvornik, the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Bijeljina filed charges against responsible individuals for the criminal offense of misconduct in business operations. They are suspected of obtaining unlawful financial gain for their company, selling natural gravel, sand, and other materials and concrete to various buyers. In total, they conducted gravel transactions amounting to 23,424 cubic meters.

Activists have continued to report suspected illegal and uncontrolled gravel extraction. One group influenced the police activities in the Vrbas River watershed, leading to criminal charges being filed with the Bijeljina Prosecutor's Office against one uncovered illegal gravel extractor.





ACTIVISTS' INITIATIVE: DRINA RIVER TO BE INCLUDED IN AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Our initiative filed with the Supreme Office for Audit of the Public Sector of Republika Srpska (the Supreme Office) to include in the 2024 Work Program a Report on the follow-up review of the implementation of recommendations from the Performance Audit Report "Exploitation of River Material as a Segment of Integrated Management and Protection of the Drina River Watershed," was approved. According to the adopted Plan of Audit Activities for 2024, the Supreme Office would prepare a report on the Follow-up Review of recommendations from the Performance Audit Report.

The NGO "For Legal and Controlled Gravel Exploitation in Republika Srpska" says they are pleased that the Supreme Office will prepare a Report on the Follow-up Review of recommendations from the Performance Audit Report for the Drina River watershed. The NGO also directly filed an initiative with the Supreme Office for Audit to conduct performance audits for other rivers in RS, primarily for the Bosna River watershed, pointing out that except for the Drina River, the Supreme Office did not conduct a performance audit related to the mentioned matter, and that it is critical to conduct a performance audit for other rivers in RS." The main conclusion of the report "Exploitation of River Material as a Segment of Integrated Management and Protection of the Drina River Watershed" is that the locations for material extraction from the Drina River have not been designated based on an assessment of the river's condition, identified needs and priorities, and the necessary planning documents have not been adopted.

Activists await the results of the follow-up review of recommendations.

NE POSTOJI PLANSKI PRISTUP DISLOKACIJI I VAĐENJU MATERIJALA IZ RIJEKE DRINE!

PREPORUKE ZA JAVNU USTANOVU „VODE SRPSKE“:

- Uspostaviti organizovan proces planiranja održavanja riječnih korita i vađenja materijala iz vodotoka rijeke Drine i donijeti potrebne planske dokumente
- Poboljšati proceduru dodjele lokacija i izvođenje radova na vađenju materijala iz vodotoka rijeke Drine
- Obezbjediti kontinuirano i dokumentovano praćenje procesa održavanja riječnih korita i vađenja materijala iz vodotoka rijeke Drine

ZA LEGALNU I KONTROLISANU EKSPLOATACIJU SIJEKINA U REPUBLICI SRPSKOJ

Learn more on the portal antikorupcija.info



CITIZENS' PERSISTENCE YIELDS RESULTS - MEETING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS MOSTAR SPATIAL PLAN

Beginning in late 2023, the residents of seven neighborhoods in the City of Mostar (Pijesci, Gubavica, Miljkovići, Međine, Vihovići, Kozice, Prigrađani) have fought against the construction of power facilities near their homes. Their objection is not to the construction itself but to the fact that the facilities are installed in the vicinity of their homes on state-owned land without notice and their consent. They organized several press conferences and protests in the Međine community and collected over 1600 signatures from Mostar citizens through a petition.

They have actively advocated and engaged in discussions with the Mostar City councilors, presenting all the evidence they have gathered, demanding changes to the Spatial Plan to relocate existing facilities further away from populated areas. They informed the councilors that the Mostar administration often changed documentation against the law, while the cantonal authorities granted concessions without public consultations. The basis for issuing concessions for the construction of power facilities in the broader Mostar area is the 2012 City of Mostar Spatial Plan, whose amendments were adopted by the City Council at the beginning of 2022, as explained by the residents of the seven settlements. Additionally, the relevant Mostar authorities claim that the local communities were consulted on amendments to the Spatial Plan in 2012 and 2022, while the residents claim that they were never consulted or asked for their opinion regarding the construction of the facilities. This represents another in a series of activities outside the law and procedures.

Through successful advocacy activities, representatives of the seven Mostar settlements from the informal citizen group "Stop Illegal Amendments to the Spatial Plan" ensured verbal and written support from 29 out of 35 councilors. The support pertains to the scheduling of a thematic session and the participation of citizen representatives who will present the problems they face due to the construction of the energy facilities. On the other hand, councilors who withheld their support are: Vlatko Marinović and Marko Novak from HDZ BiH, and Zlatko Guzin, Salem Marić, Haris Nazdraić, and Jasmin Pandur from SDA.

With the support of the majority of the City Council of Mostar, a session of the City Council of Mostar has been scheduled for April 15, 2024, with a single agenda item: "Analysis of the Environmental Impact in Suburban Settlements following the Amendment of the Mostar City Spatial Plan," which includes planned solar power facilities," with Velibor Milivojević (SNSD) the City Council's Deputy President as the rapporteur. Upon learning about the session, representatives of the seven Mostar communities filed requests to attend the session and directly present their problems caused by the construction of power facilities.

SUCCESSFUL ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGNS

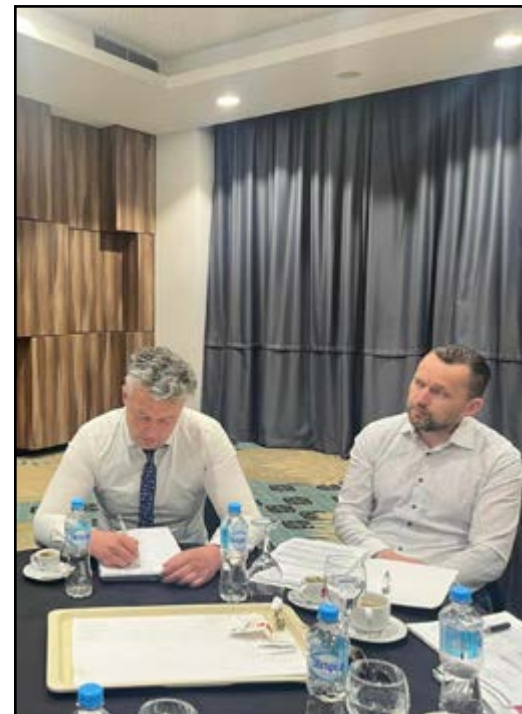


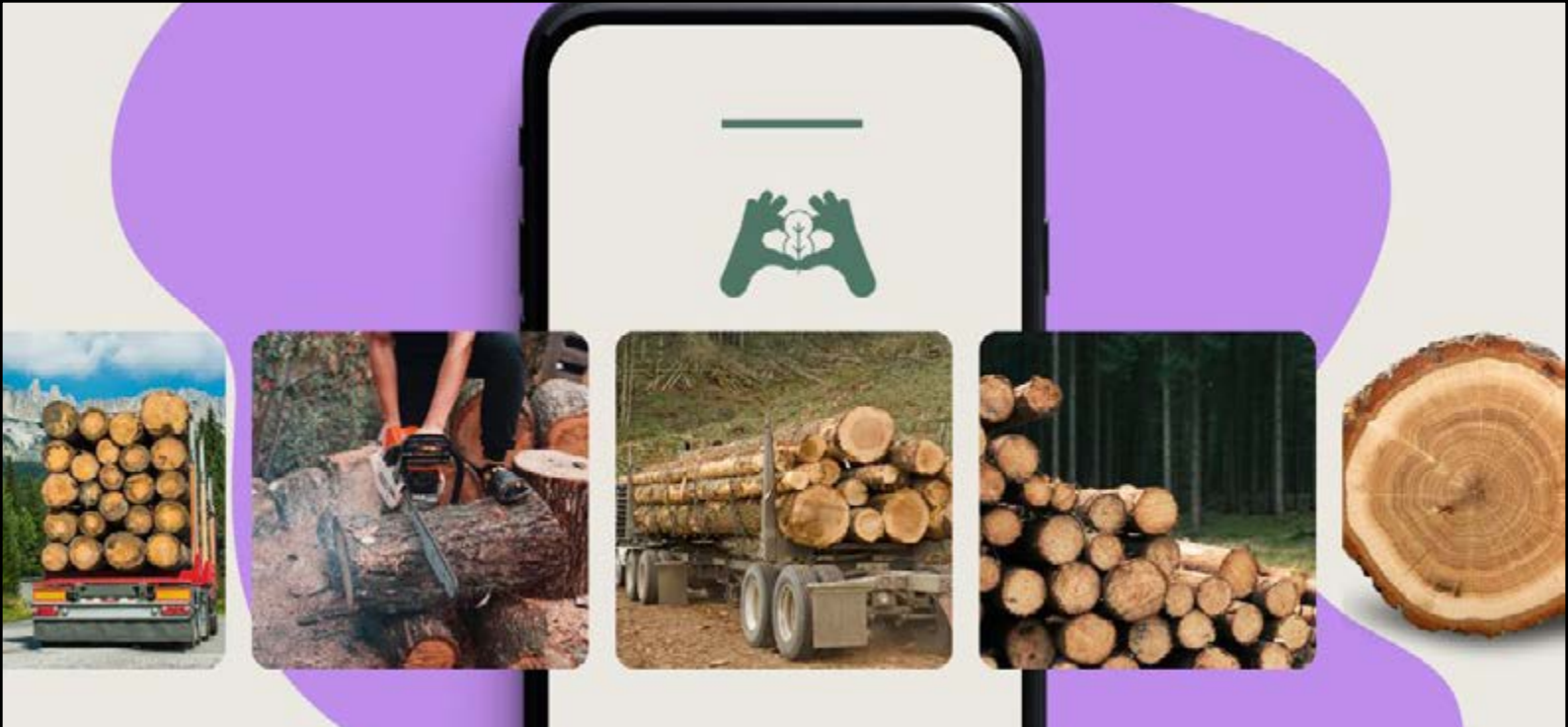
FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN MATERNITY WARDS

As a result of the earlier Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Association “BABY STEPS” and the Cantonal Hospital “Dr. Irfan Ljubijankić” Bihać, as of February 1, 2024, this hospital has officially implemented an Electronic Corruption Reporting and Assessment System. The implementation of this system opens up the possibility of eradicating corruption, improving the treatment of mothers, enhancing service quality, and building a higher level of trust between patients and medical staff. Furthermore, the approval of the candidate statute for membership in the European Union and the green light for opening the accession negotiation process mean stricter compliance with the European Commission’s recommendations to stop corruption and violence in maternity wards in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following International Women’s Day and the roundtable conference and presentation of the experiences and legally finalized court cases for corruption in healthcare, the Baby Steps Association filed an initiative with the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH seeking action in the following areas:

Compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission Progress Report for BiH for 2023: “Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to improve conditions in hospitals and maternity wards and prohibit violence against mothers,” and enable support during childbirth to prevent corruption and protect the rights of mothers and newborns. By taking proactive measures, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, as the supreme legislative body, must send a message to the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina that maternity wards are safe places for mothers and babies and take steps to implement this in practice.

The message and action must come from the state level. The message that women in Bosnia and Herzegovina are safe during childbirth must reach every institution, and its effects must be felt by mothers in every maternity ward in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





APPLICATION FOR ANONYMOUS REPORTING OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN FORESTRY WITH CITIZEN ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of this year, our focus has been on promoting our mobile application and engaging the broader community in protecting the forests. We have contacted 159 mountain, hunting, and environmental associations with an explicit request/initiative to promote the application among their members. We have received encouraging news from them - as many as 680 active members of these societies downloaded the application. Moreover, cooperation with these associations has enabled us to further promote the app through social networks, reaching a wider audience and encouraging more users to join our fight. This action has encouraged over 10,000 followers of these associations to join our campaign. Such support is essential for promoting the application, raising awareness about preserving our forests, and encouraging citizens to act.

Currently, the "Cuvajmo Sume" platform has 59 active reports of illegal activities and less than 2% of cases have been resolved. The remaining reports are either being processed or verified by the relevant institutions.





SEXTORTION IS CORRUPTION

On March 25, 2024, at the meeting of the Helsinki Assembly Banja Luka with Rejhan Dervišević, the Deputy Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a member of the Joint Commission for Human Rights, a consensus was reached that the concept of sexual extortion needed to be recognized in the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, necessitating its incorporation into the legal framework.



FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION BEGINS WITH YOU

The NGO "Stop Mobbing presented an analysis titled "Procedures and Transparency of Medical Assessment of Patients' Health Conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina" on February 17. The analysis highlights numerous problems and discrimination faced by people with disabilities in exercising their rights, mainly due to differing legislative frameworks in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. The analysis provides recommendations to address these issues, emphasizing the need to amend the Regulations on Determining Disability Percentage and the importance of appointing capable and non-corrupt individuals to handle disability assessment.

"ZAŠTO NEMAMO ZAKON O ŠUMAMA U FBiH?"

panel diskusija

Panelisti:
SVJETLANA NEDIMOVIĆ - portal Kijev i djeko
DALIBOR BALLIAN - profesor Šumarskog fakulteta Univerziteta u Sarajevu
TRPIMIR JELIĆ - Direktor JP "Šume Hercegovačko-neretvanske"
IVAN FILIPOVIĆ - predsjednik mjesne zajednice Orašac, općina Rama
SEJFUDIN HODŽIĆ - kopredsjedavajući stranke "HOĆEMO"
REFIK HODŽIĆ - glavni inženjer za certifikovanje šuma u JP ŠumeTK DOKladan/
dvišegat u Skupštini UST FBiH



BREAK THE CHAIN OF CORRUPTION: PROTECT OUR FORESTS

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Forests on March 21, 2024, the Resource Aarhus Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a panel discussion titled "Why is there no forest law in the FBiH," along with the accompanying exhibition "International Day of Forests 2024: Save the Forests!" at the Children's House in Sarajevo.

The panel brought together experts, activists, and citizens to discuss the importance of enacting a fair Forest Law for the FBiH and its impact on forest and ecosystem protection. Professor Dalibor Ballian, a prominent member of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Sarajevo, emphasized the need for a new concept of forest protection that would encompass all human activities aimed at preserving forests and the environment.

Refik Hodžić, a delegate in the Assembly of the Forest Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the chief engineer for forest certification at the Public Enterprise Forests of Tuzla Canton warned of the destabilization of the forest ecosystem due to the lack of a Forest Law. In addition to the panel discussion, the exhibition "International Day of Forests 2024: Save the Forests!" by Vanja Lazić provided a visual representation of the fight to preserve our forests.

The Resource Aarhus Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a leading organization in the fight to preserve natural resources, highlighted the urgency of the situation and called on all relevant institutions and decision-makers to work together to enact adequate legal frameworks for the protection and sustainable future of our forests.





ACTIVISTS ONE STEP AWAY FROM DEALING THE FINAL BLOW TO CORRUPTION ON MOUNT KONJUH.

What seemed almost impossible two years ago is now one step away from a final solution.

On March 27, 2024, the Tuzla Canton Government approved 28,000 KM for the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection to prepare an expert opinion on the need for amendments to the Law on the Declaration of Part of Mount Konjuh as a Protected Landscape of Konjuh. This is also the final step before the final adoption of amendments to the Law, which would expand the A zone of the protected landscape of Konjuh and thus stop excessive deforestation in the last preserved ecosystem in the area of Tuzla Canton. In parallel with these activities, representatives of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Tuzla Canton visited the Public Institution Protected Landscape Konjuh to urge the acceleration of the process of installing a barrier and video surveillance in the area of Kladanj. These activities have intensified, and it is expected that the barrier and video surveillance will be installed soon. Amendments to the law that will expand the protection zone of the mountain, as well as the establishment of a monitoring mechanism for the protected area itself, are a huge blow to corruption during illegal and excessive logging of forest resources from Mount Konjuh. Activists are now one step away from finally stopping the enormous scale of corruption and complete lawlessness when it comes to the protected area of Mount Konjuh, which has so far been protected only on paper. In addition to strong resistance from various interest groups, what seemed almost like an impossible mission two years ago now gets its outcome in the interest of citizens, nature, and the rule of law.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AND THE AUTHORITIES OF LOPARE MUNICIPALITY ARE AGAINST THE OPENING OF MINES. AUTHORITIES ARE “WEIGHING” A PETITION AND AN INITIATIVE OPPOSING MINING ACTIVITIES ON MAJEVICA.

It has been two months since filing a civic initiative demanding the RS National Assembly respect the views of the residents of this Majevisa municipal and accept the proposal “Declaration opposing the opening of lithium, boron, sodium, strontium, potassium mines on the territory of the municipality of Lopare.” A response from the National Assembly states that they have received a letter from the director of the Agency for Identification Documents, Records, and Data Exchange of Bosnia and Herzegovina (IDDEEA) confirming the authenticity of the data provided in the petition, specifically the signatories of the civic initiative, that it complies with the Law on Referendum and Civic Initiative and the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, and that the civic initiative meets the necessary criteria for referral to the parliamentary procedure.

The Environmental Association “Eko Put” from Bijeljina and activists from other environmental associations are signatories of the initiative to declare the area of Lopare as a “Nature Park,” which was filed with the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection, which forwarded it to the RS Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage for the preparation of a Protection Study. The study aims to determine the values of the area proposed for protection and the management of the area. In addition, “Eko Put” organized a Public Forum in Lopare on March 24, 2024, as part of the campaign “The Impact of Lithium Mining on the Environment and Communities” under the title “If not a mine, then what?”. As regards the geological surveys conducted and completed by investors, there is still no official information on whether they have applied for the concession to open a mine and exploit minerals. They should do so by July 31, 2024, when the two-year legal deadline expires, despite the opposition of ecologists, the will of the people, and the refusal of local authorities to approve the continuation of mining activities and the opening of mines in Lopare. Until then, it is evident that investors intend to intimidate opponents of the opening of mines, so they have sent a memo warning the activists of “Guardians of Majevisa” that if they continue with their activities and a “negative campaign,” they will face a lawsuit and a claim for compensation for lost profit. The memo was also sent to the President of the Municipal Assembly and the Mayor of the Municipality of Lopare, and earlier, they filed a lawsuit against the Mayor of Bijeljina, Ljubiša Petrović, for his publicly expressed views against the opening of mines in Majevisa.



THE EUSR SUPPORT FOR THE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON REFUGEES FROM BIH AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN BIH



On January 24, Mirhunisa Zukić, the President of the Union for Sustainable Return and Integration in BiH (UZOPI), held a meeting in Sarajevo at the Delegation of the European Union to BiH and the Office of the European Union Special Representative in BiH (EUSR) with Alessandro De Giacomo, the Human Rights Contact Person at the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and EUSR legal advisors, Damir Hadžić and Todor Skakić.

The meeting focused on UZOPI's activities for amending the Law on Refugees from BiH and Displaced Persons in BiH carried out within the framework of the project "Civil Society in the Fight against Corruption."

Zukić spoke about the reasons to change this law and take a step forward, explaining that the current situation was leading to a regression to the point where returnees were leaving abroad due to existential problems. This has become an alarming issue for the state of BiH. Unfortunately, this affects new generations of returnee families who lack the conditions for a normal life in the local community, as confirmed through observation in twenty municipalities and cities in BiH.

EUSR representatives expressed their support for the campaign to amend the Law on Refugees and their readiness to engage in aiding these activities.

ANTIKORUPCIJA

We recommend the following news from the portal antikorupcija.info:



» NGO BECAUSE WE CARE: IF THERE WERE A SHRED OF THE RULE OF LAW, THIS MORNING, SIPA WOULD HAVE RAIDED THE OFFICES OF THE MAYOR OF MOSTAR AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANY "DEPONIJA" AFTER THEIR ARRESTS, AS ORDERED BY THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.«

"...The FBiH Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Government must address this burning issue of the Uborak landfill," has been stated in a social media post by the Because We Care Association, which has been fighting for the closure of the existing landfill and its relocation for the past five years. In doing so, they have faced lies, deception, insults, threats, and systemic violence organized by the local authorities, which, entirely incomprehensibly, ignore the problem that practically everyone perceives as a ticking environmental bomb and it is not a question of whether ecological disasters will occur, but only - when they will happen.

[Read more on antikorupcija.info.](http://antikorupcija.info)



» NEBOJŠA VUKANOVIĆ, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA, STATED: AS LONG AS OUR JUDICIARY IS IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE MAFIA AND CRIME, AND AS LONG AS THERE IS NO VISIBLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MAFIA AND THE JUDICIARY, EVERY EFFORT WE MAKE IS IN VAIN!“

"During the debate on the adverse audit reports, which appeared in the National Assembly of Republika Srpska after nearly a five-year break, Nebojša Vukanović, while discussing the report on the Republika Srpska Lottery commented on the state of the judiciary, stating: 'Believe it or not, the Prosecution Offices of Republika Srpska, despite hundreds of adverse audit reports, have initiated an investigation in only one case. Just one! And do you know how it ended? With an acquittal!' (Below is his (abbreviated) discussion on this agenda item).

[Read more on antikorupcija.info.](http://antikorupcija.info)

» THE UNIVERSITY WHERE THE RS PRIME MINISTER VIŠKOVIĆ OBTAINED HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE IS BEING SENT FOR "CORRECTION." «

Two years after the "rebellion" of teachers at the Faculty of Transport, it has come to light that they were indeed right. Even obtaining a passing grade in the evaluation of this institution did not help, nor did the fact that Radovan Višković, the Prime Minister of the RS Government, obtained his doctoral degree from there. Professors also had objections to his engagement at the faculty, dissatisfied with the situation in this institution.

[Read more on antikorupcija.info.](http://antikorupcija.info)





» ANOTHER FEMICIDE. ANOTHER SYSTEM FAILURE. ANOTHER REFUSAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO RESIGN. ANOTHER ROUND OF PROTESTS.«

During today's protests, citizens signed a petition demanding the Tuzla Canton Government and Assembly to convene a session, the dismissal of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hajrudin Mehanović, the dismissal and disciplinary action against all other responsible persons for systemic failures that led to the tragic murder, an investigation and criminal prosecution for the failure to register the disposal of the service weapon used in the murder, and ensuring a decision to approve funds for the urgent establishment of regular medical check-ups for all police officers.

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» VUKOTA GOVEDARICA: YOUR CONCLUSIONS ARE SISYPHEAN AND ABSURD. YOU ARE DRAGGING THE PEOPLE INTO ISOLATION TO SAVE YOURSELVES. SOLELY YOURSELVES! (VIDEO)«

Another escalation and attempt to destabilize relations in the country. Another "historic session" of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. Another public humiliation, arrogance, primitivism, and hate speech unfit for human beings. Another attempt to manipulate public opinion and to declare the defense of oneself and one's interests – wealth acquired on corruption and plundering of public funds – as a national interest. And another attempt to portray someone else's fight against abuse of office, crime, and corruption, and for the rule of law, human rights, and genuine democracy, as an act of hostility. An attack on the people and Republika Srpska.

Read more on antikorupcija.info



For more news on the civic fight against corruption, read antikorupcija.info.

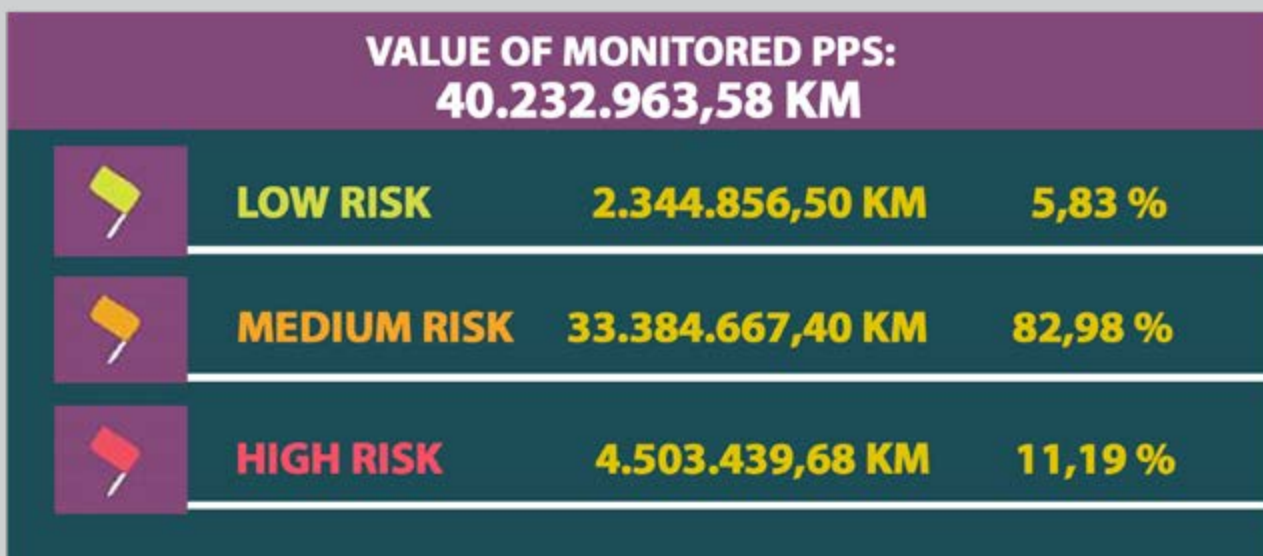
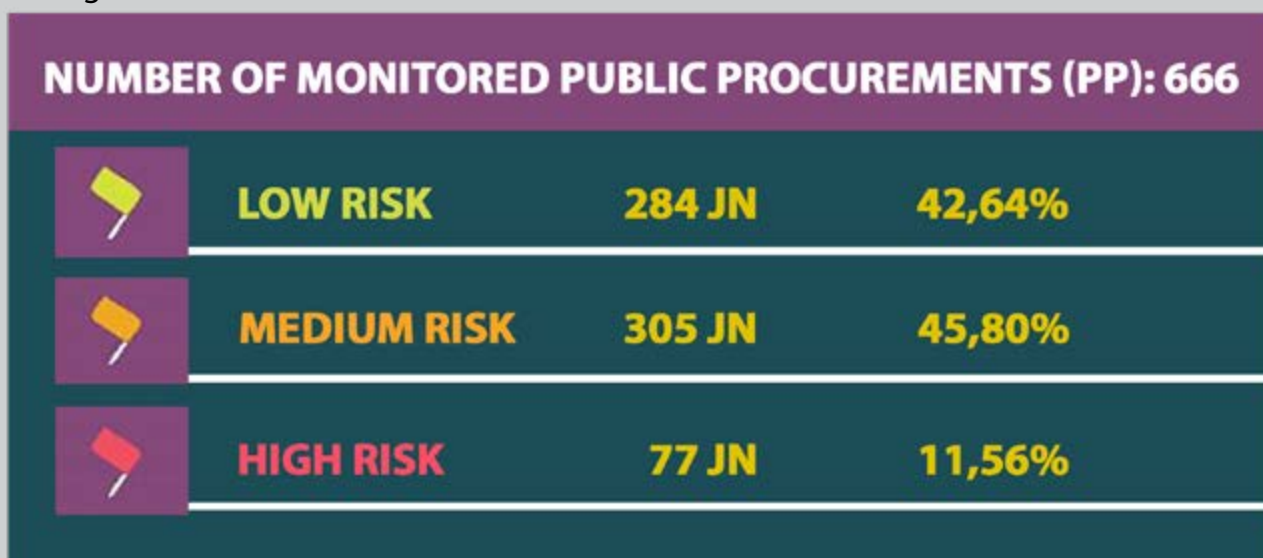
ANTIKORUPCIJA

Monitoring Network

The Association "Center for Media Development and Analysis" (CRMA) continued to expand the fight against corruption in public procurement by involving new civil society organizations and networks of volunteers in the Monitoring Network of the Pratimo Tendere portal. After the completion of the public call, five organizations joined the Monitoring Network: the Center for Youth Activism Development (CROA), the Foundation for Representing Civil Interests (CPI), the Association of Criminologists, Criminology, and Security Managers, the Association "Women of Podrinje," and the Center for Youth INPUT. Like in previous cycles, the new members of the Monitoring Network underwent training on anti-corruption monitoring of public procurement. Caption for the photo: Training for members of the Monitoring Network

Pratimo tendere

The anti-corruption monitoring of public procurement continues through the Pratimo Tendere portal. Although statistics show slight positive shifts, there is still a trend of non-transparent, discriminatory, and corrupt public spending through the public procurement system. From January to March 2024, researchers from the Pratimo Tendere portal monitored 666 public procurement procedures and identified risk elements in 57% of the procedures. Here is an overview of the monitoring results:



Follow the tenders, follow your money!

Up to four billion BAM of public funds are spent annually through the public procurement system, so ensuring transparent and lawful expenditure is crucial. The Pratimo tendere portal was created to inform citizens about how public budgets are spent and what goods, works, and services are obtained through public procurement. Citizen interest, primarily through social media, continues to grow. Follow the tenders, follow your money!



TRANSPARENTNO.BA
Trošenje javnih sredstava u BiH

ANTICORRUPTION ACTIVITIES OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- The Commission for Conflict of Interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina determined that the Director of the Regulatory Agency for Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Draško Milinović, violated the law by also serving as the head of the Tennis Association of Republika Srpska, which received tens of millions in public funds for the construction of tennis courts in Banja Luka. Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) reported this case to the Commission last year. Milinović was penalized with a suspension of 10% of his salary for six months due to a conflict of interest. At the same session, a decision was made to initiate proceedings against the current Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sevlid Hurtić, whom TI BiH reported for conflict of interest, and against the new Director of BH Telecom, Amel Kovačević, a former advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konaković.
- Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed the Administrative Inspection of Republika Srpska, pointing out conflict of interest, namely the performance of incompatible functions by Dijana Kalenić, an official in the City Administration of Dobož who simultaneously served as the president of the supervisory board of the RS Railways Public Enterprise, in violation of the Law on Officials and Employees in the Bodies of Local Self-Government of Republika Srpska. After TI BiH's report, the Mayor of Dobož investigated the case and determined that she held both positions. However, she claimed there was no incompatibility and resigned from her position as an official in the City Administration. Since Dijana Kalenić resigned after the initiation of proceedings, her resignation clearly followed the TI BiH report. This confirms that she held two incompatible functions, as stated in the Mayor of Dobož's decision.

- Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina filed a report with the Inspectorate for Inspection Affairs of the West Herzegovina Canton - Labor Inspector regarding employment by the Public Utility Company “Vodovod Posušje.” The public enterprise did not follow the employment procedure prescribed by the FBiH Regulation, stating that employment had to be conducted after public announcement and a selection procedure for the best candidate. The competent inspector conducted an inspection and confirmed the allegations of Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina, ordering harmonization of all internal acts of the Public Utility Company Vodovod Posušje with the Regulation, and carrying out the employment process through public announcement.
- Following a report from Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Tuzla Cantonal Inspectorate found the illegal sale of hearing aids in the Health Center Živinice. One entity was barred from selling medical devices.
- Based on a report from TI BiH, the Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a recommendation to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to review the provisions of the Regulation on the professional competence of workers directly involved in railway traffic and for the Railways of FBiH d.o.o. Sarajevo to align its actions with the findings of this Recommendation and eliminate discriminatory treatment of certain categories of individuals.
- TI BiH participated in consultations regarding the Public Procurement Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024-2028. After the consultations, the strategy was adopted, incorporating some of TI BiH’s proposals and comments.
- In March, the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted, including some of TI BiH’s proposals. Although the law brings numerous qualitative improvements, such as the establishment of an independent Commission to replace the previous political decision-making process on conflict of interest, as well as the establishment of a public register of property of state officials, there is concern among some experts/watchdogs about last-minute changes that leave room for obstruction and lack of transparency in the law-making process, which represents a serious obstacle to further progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards EU integration.
- Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) presented the results of the Free Legal Aid Center’s work for citizens in the fight against corruption for the year 2023. During 2023, TI BiH received 1337 calls from citizens and handled 317 cases related to corruption and violations of citizens’ rights.
- USAID projects E-Government and Assistance to Citizens in the Fight Against Corruption organized training for civil society organizations monitoring public procurement on new digital solutions supported by USAID to strengthen transparency and efficiency in state spending. The training for CSOs took place on January 16 and 17 in Sarajevo.



CENTRI CIVILNIH INICIJATIVA
ЦЕНТРИ ЦИВИЛНИХ ИНИЦІАТИВА

PUBLIC CALL

FOR PROJECTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION!

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

APPLY FOR A PROJECT!

Podržano od:



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA



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

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

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

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



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