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NEWSLETTER

Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising of rights of IDPs, refugees and returnees

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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
OFFICE FOR KOSOVO
AND METOHİJA



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NEWSLETTER NO 4

The project “ Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising of rights of IDPs, refugees and returnees”, funded by the European Union in Serbia, has served in the past period as a support for internally displaced persons from Kosovo*, refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and returnees upon readmission agreements in resolving legal issues, either through direct legal aid in the form of representation in court and other proceedings, writing submissions and obtaining documentation or providing legal advice and information on the rights of these categories of citizens.

The project team has closed over 4,263 cases since the beginning of implementation in 2008, and 5,155 cases are currently pending. Only in the past year, on the toll-free number 0800 108 208, 3,099 calls were received and 1,527 meetings were held by legal experts, while project advocates represented IDPs in 389 court hearings in Kosovo *.

In order to raise the awareness of both users and potential users, as well as the general public, the project team conducted a new media campaign in the previous period, and continued cooperation with RTS on the documentary series "Pravo na sutra".



In addition to the direct legal aid provided to beneficiaries on a daily basis, the project experts strive to bring closer to the general public the problems faced by beneficiaries, as well as to make all information about the rights of these groups as accessible as possible. In this regard, the experts engaged in the project worked on thematic reports that shed light on certain problems, but also offer recommendations and potential solutions of the same.

This Newsletter number 4 provides more detailed information about the project activities, successfully resolved cases. You can also read interviews with the Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, Igor Popović and legal advisor on the project, Dragan Gavrilović.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEGAL ADVISERS

One of the activities of the free legal aid project is the training of young legal professionals for specialized work with vulnerable categories of citizens, institutions relevant to work on the project, as well as specific legal actions that provide legal aid to target groups.

This activity is aimed at achieving more efficient work of the legal team, as well as creating a sustainable support mechanism for internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees upon readmission agreements through training of young legal advisers for independent work in segments where legal aid is most needed.

In order to carry out these trainings during the COVID-19 virus pandemic, in cooperation with the consulting company for electronic education "Leste", we have developed an electronic platform for training.



The platform is designed so that the lessons are recorded in advance and placed on the platform in a defined order. During the period set for a specific training, the participants are given access to video lessons, which, if necessary, they can watch several times.

As part of each lesson, material will be available for students to save and use in further work. The platform provides complete information on who of the participants has completed the training, as well as the evaluation of the training.

After the expiration of the period set for a specific training, participants will no longer be able to access the training, but all material remains recorded and will be kept in the archive.



In addition to protecting the health of experts on the project and respecting current measures, this way of holding training allows participants to organize their time and listen to lessons at their own pace and in accordance with other obligations and regular activities with project beneficiaries.



The first such training was held from 27 June to 13 August 2021, and was focused on the general concept of advocacy, the Law on Advocacy, the Statute of the Bar Association, and the Code of Professional Ethics of Conduct.

This project enables IDPs to receive the best possible professional legal aid from experienced lawyers and attorneys who know the situation and regulations in Kosovo and Metohija, free of charge...

Igor Popović Assistant Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija

The free legal aid project is a continuous cooperation of the European Union and the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, started in 2008, on the protection of property rights of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees on the basis of a readmission agreement. In this issue of the Newsletter we talked about the importance of the project with the assistant director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, Igor Popović.

Newsletter: What is the significance of this project from the point of view of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija (OKM)?

I.P.: The project of free legal aid for internally displaced Serbs and non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija in property matters is extremely important because it provides continuous free legal support to people who have been forced to leave their homes in Kosovo and Metohija since June 1999. These people are usually in a difficult financial situation and live in collective centers or pay rent for rented apartments and houses while their houses, apartments and properties in Kosovo and Metohija have been usurped or destroyed. In order to obtain restitution or the right to compensation for their destroyed property, they are forced to conduct long-term court disputes or other proceedings before the bodies of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo and Metohija. Also, many of them were expelled from their jobs in Kosovo and Metohija and are trying to exercise their rights in the companies where they worked for years. All of the above court or administrative proceedings require the engagement of a lawyer or professional legal aid, which requires the allocation of funds, i.e. it represents a large expense for the already materially endangered IDPs.

This project enables IDPs to receive the best possible professional legal aid from experienced lawyers and attorneys who know the situation and regulations in Kosovo and Metohija, free of charge for IDPs, which enables them to regain or protect their property and other rights in Kosovo and Metohija. This is the only Free Legal Aid Project that allows IDPs to be represented before courts or other bodies in addition to providing legal advice or writing submissions.

The IDP Property Rights Protection Project also contributes to the possibility of sustainable return of IDPs to Kosovo and Metohija, since unresolved property issues, in addition to the lack of a secure environment, are the main reason for the extremely low percentage of IDPs returning to Kosovo and Metohija.

The work of the project on the cases it deals with is also of great importance for the assessment and reports on the state of human rights in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Based on all the above reasons, the Office for Kosovo and Metohija provides full support to the Project of Free Legal Aid for Internally Displaced Serbs and Non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija, as it is of great interest to our people from Kosovo and Metohija.

Newsletter: In addition to this project in which the Office for Kosovo and Metohija cooperates with the EU in providing legal aid, what are other types of aid for IDPs in which it participates or which is directly provided by the OKiM?

I.P.: - Aid to returnee households in order to provide basic living conditions for returnee communities through intervention procurement of basic foodstuffs and equipping households with basic furniture, as well as affirmation of return through go-see visits. In this way, the basic living conditions of the returnees are provided. Construction of houses is often left to themselves.

- Support to projects of non-profit organizations and institutions aimed at providing aid to the endangered population in the entire territory of Kosovo and Metohija, IDPs and families of abducted and missing persons.

Projects for construction and reconstruction of houses and residential buildings that are being implemented in order to solve problems related to the generally poor housing conditions of persons from socially endangered categories of returnees and IDPs in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Projects include:

- Reconstruction of devastated individual facilities and construction of accommodation facilities with the necessary functions for collective accommodation (current care for the return of displaced persons to the returnee location) From May 2019 to June 2021, 99 houses / individual residential buildings were built.
- Construction of residential buildings. From May 2019 to June 2021, 566 housing units were built within 42 buildings in the municipalities of Leposavić Zvečan, Kosovska Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Vučitrn and Obilić
- Delivery of construction materials. From May 2019 to June 2021, construction material was delivered to 802 households.
- Construction of traffic and other public infrastructure (water supply, transformer stations, ambulances, kindergartens, etc.)

A particularly important project of this type is the construction of the returnee settlement "Sunny Valley" at Mali Zvečan in Zvečan with funds from the budget of the Republic which includes the construction of 135 residential buildings with a total of 355 housing units and accompanying public buildings schools, churches, markets, community center, health center. sports fields, kindergarten and traffic infrastructure.

This is the only Free Legal Aid Project that allows IDPs to be represented before courts or other bodies in addition to providing legal advice or writing submissions.

It is of great interest to continue with the presentation of the project in the media, and cooperation with associations and associations of IDPs is needed...



It is planned to provide living and working conditions for 35 returnee families with 1200-1500 people by building the settlement. The Sunny Valley settlement will enable the sustainable return of the returnee community because returnees will have provided public infrastructure and economic conditions for living and working, unlike failed return projects implemented by international organizations and Pristina, which were based only on building typical houses without any conditions for further survival of returnees.

- Aid to returnee families, which includes regular monthly financial aid to returnee families. From May 2019 to June 2021, 483 returnee families received this financial aid.

- Aid to returnee communities in the realization of spring and autumn sowing through the procurement and distribution of sowing raw materials for autumn and spring sowing (seed materials, mineral fertilizer). The spring and autumn sowing covers about 2,600 hectares of arable land in Kosovo and Metohija, which is cultivated by about 1,100 households in 9 municipalities - Klina, Istok, Peja, Vucitrn, Prizren, Novo Brdo, Ferizaj, Skenderaj and Rahovec.

- Ensuring the improvement of living conditions of IDPs and support for sustainable return through support and cooperation with the IPA 2014 Project. The project supported return to Kosovo and Metohija through the allocation of returnee packages, training and grants for starting business activities. The office financed the project with 175,000.00 euros, 87,500.00 euros in two years.

With the realization of the mentioned project, a total of 96 returnee packages of aid in the form of furniture and white goods were awarded to returnee families in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as 294 grants for turning or improving business activities. In addition, a significant contribution to the economic self-sustainability of IDPs and returnees was made through the provision of 162 months of training and retraining and 340 short business trainings.

As a work of co-financing by the Office, 200 gift payment cards were obtained and distributed to returnees in the amount of 60,000 dinars as a type of monetary grant to returnees for the needs of the reintegration period.

- Legal aid by the Office in the form of providing oral and written legal advice to IDPs by the Office staff to persons seeking help with problems in various areas (labor law, pensions, administrative procedures, social benefits, etc.). The mentioned legal aid is also provided by addressing the Office to the competent institutions in order to solve the problem.

- Providing conditions for the work of local governments and public services (education, health, social services, etc.) that enable returnees to live and work on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija or provide IDP services in the places of their previous residence.

Newsletter: To what extent has the presentation of the project and its results in public contributed to better informing IDPs about their rights?

I.P.: As much as we can see regular writing in the media such as daily newspapers or RTS thematic TV documentaries such as "Pravo na sutra" about cases the project deals with, such as the case of Nadežda Jovanović from Priština or Gordana Nogo from Glogovac, the statements of the representatives of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija greatly contribute to the fact that IDPs are aware that there is an organized way to initiate proceedings to protect their rights in Kosovo and Metohija and that they are not left to themselves.

It is of great interest to continue with the presentation of the project in the media, and cooperation with associations and associations of IDPs is needed in order to get as many representatives of the user population as possible information about the opportunities provided by the project.

Refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Although a large number of those who fled the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s have so far resolved status issues and fully reintegrated into new environments, there are still a significant number of those who have not yet succeeded.

Their most common problems are the lack of personal documents, in terms of ID cards and birth certificates, unresolved citizenship status, the right to pensions and housing issues.

The free legal aid project, in addition to internally displaced persons from Kosovo* and returnees upon on readmission agreements, provides support in resolving status issues to this category of citizens.

The legal assistance available to refugees is reflected in obtaining documentation from the place of origin, registration in the registry books

of the Republic of Serbia, legal counseling and preparation of legal documentation and submissions.

In order to provide them with aid in a timely and efficient manner, the project has established cooperation with the local organization "Civil Rights Project" from Sisak.

In cooperation with this organization, in the past year we have successfully obtained over 40 documents from the Republic of Croatia, and thus helped our users to resolve their status and housing issues.

In addition to the organization from Sisak, in order to reach as many refugees as possible who still need legal aid, we have established cooperation with refugee associations in Serbia.

- Association of
Serbs from Croatia
- Association of
Croatian pensioners
- Coalition of Refugee
Associations

In 1993, the beneficiary escaped from the Republic of Croatia, precisely from the village of Besovac, municipality of Ogulin, and settled in Niš. During her stay in the Republic of Serbia, she lived as a tenant, and she did not have personal documents of the Republic of Serbia, except for the refugee ID.

During July 2021, by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, the beneficiary was sent to the project office in Nis, to be provided with legal aid in obtaining documents from the Republic of Croatia to exercise rights in the Republic of Serbia, and most citizenship Republic of Serbia. The beneficiary also applied for an apartment from the Regional Housing Program (RHP) in a building built from the Program in Nis.

In order to exercise the right to receive an apartment from the RHP program, the users needed to obtain a birth certificate, birth certificate and a certificate of CRN in order to be admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Since the case was marked as urgent in order to obtain the keys to the apartment from the RHP program, the legal team of the Niš office contacted the partner organization from Sisak on the same day, which obtained and sent the requested documents from the competent institutions in Croatia and submitted them during the same month.

**Over the past year,
our mobile teams have
proven to be an effective
method of "extended
arm" direct free legal aid.**

In accordance with calls, initiatives and needs, in cooperation with local commissioners of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, local institutions and relevant NGOs, mobile legal teams go on field and organize meetings with users in all municipalities and cities where the need arises. Visits to numerous centers of collective accommodation of users are often organized, as well as at the invitation of users who are not able to directly approach the meeting place due to health reasons, legal experts provide legal aid by visiting their homes.

Guided by the motive of providing adequate access to information, advice and effective legal aid Mobile legal teams in the period from October 2020 to October 2021, considered legal issues, indicated and provided the necessary legal aid through 25 field visits, met, heard and considered legal doubts and unresolved legal issues of more than 40 persons and in more than 60 legal cases provided legal aid, necessary information, counseling and representative professional legal aid.

Among the cities and municipalities visited are Arilje, Bajmok, Ivanjica, Klina - Veliko Krusevo, Krusevac, Kursumlija, Lucani, Pozega, Priboj, Prijepolje, Subotica, Uzice, Strpce, Aleksandrovac, as well as users residing in the Belgrade municipalities of Mladenovac and Grocka.

It is the professionalism, continuous work and experience of legal teams that enables the identification and solution of the most common legal needs of users and ensures that those legal aid mechanisms that enable efficient legal aid are individually designed and strengthened, and that examples of best practice are defined as the most efficient solution. With high professionalism and dedication of the mobile team, field visits are prepared and realized in a coordinated and expeditious organization, based on analysis and well-synchronized information, with feedback at local levels, thus providing mobile legal aid tailored to timely and effective legal support.



House call to a beneficiary from Jagodina



Mobile from our office in Kursumlija



Mobile from Gračanica with a beneficiary from Štrbac



Legal advisors of the Belgrade office with readmission applicants from Subotica



Field visit to Požega

Thematic reports

Thematic reports are part of the activities of the project team and external associates dealing with the protection of human and property rights of internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, refugees and returnees under the readmission agreement. These reports aim to shed light on some of the most common problems of the project's target groups and highlight the potential of solutions that are regularly discussed in thematic working groups - panel discussions. The reports are being discussed in order to better and more systematically review the entire process of protection of property rights of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees upon readmission.

From October 2020 until today, we have produced three new thematic reports:

- Privatization of socially-owned enterprises in Kosovo*
and exercise of rights to a share of 20% of privatization
- The impact of the Skopje Initiative on the exercise
of the rights of internally displaced persons
- Support to Refugees from the Republic of Croatia
and Bosnia and Herzegovina through free legal aid



The report "Support to Refugees from the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through free legal aid" was presented in a panel discussion we organized on 3 November 2021 in Belgrade. The event was opened by the Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija Igor Popović by emphasizing the importance of the project in empowering target groups. Project expert for cooperation with local communities, also the author of the report, Maja Simeonovska presented an analysis of the most common legal problems of refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as possible solutions that could enable their integration and realization of basic human rights. One of the panelists was Ružica Banda, a representative of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, who presented the Regional Housing Program and the results the program has achieved so far. The legal advisor of the project, Dragan Gavrilović, presented some examples from the field that the legal team of the project met. In addition to the representatives of the project and the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the refugee association, UNHCR and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO).

"The fact is that refugees are in one country and claim their rights in another or have to obtain relevant evidence in order to have access to rights in the country in which they are integrating. This includes monitoring the development of the legal system in the surrounding countries. Since these are mostly vulnerable groups, that is not possible, and they do not have the legal education to see to it themselves. So legal aid is still necessary, especially in terms of informing users on how to exercise their rights and which are the competent authorities both in Serbia and in the countries of origin, as well as for obtaining the necessary documentation..."

Ružica Banda, OSCE Mission to Serbia

... number of cases related to employment rights, more precisely to the privatization of companies in which internally displaced persons were employed is not negligible...

Interview with Dragan Gavrilović

The project of free legal aid also provides support to internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija for exercising their employment rights. It is estimated that around 60,000 IDPs worked in socially-owned enterprises that were in the process of privatization in recent years. We talked to Dragan Gavrilović, Senior Advisor for Project Capacity Development, about the rights that IDPs exercise in these proceedings and how the project helps them.

Newsletter: *In addition to providing legal aid in connection with illegally occupied or damaged property and obtaining documentation, the project also provides support to IDPs for legal issues related to the exercise of employment rights. What are the problems that IDPs address with the project?*

D.G.: Although most of the cases we are dealing with are related to illegal occupation of real estate, damaged property or obtaining documentation in Kosovo* for users who are internally displaced in Central Serbia, I can't help but look back and point out that the number of cases related to employment rights, more precisely to the rights arising from the privatization of companies in which internally displaced persons were employed until 1999 is not negligible and, when due to generally known circumstances they were forced to leave Kosovo* and find refuge in one of the places in Central Serbia. Specifically, the project provides expert aid in cases where beneficiaries are entitled to a share of 20% of the privatization of the company.

Newsletter: *Privatization of social-owned enterprises in Kosovo* is ongoing. What does this mean for IDPs who worked in these enterprises until the displacement? (Who is entitled to 20% of privatization?)*

D.G.: Privatization is underway in Kosovo*, and is being carried out by the Privatization Agency based in Pristina. The implementation of the privatization procedure is a very important issue for internally displaced persons from Kosovo*. It is very important to mention that according to some sources, socially-owned companies employed over 60,000 workers with the status of internally displaced persons. The privatization process itself is very important for project beneficiaries, especially bearing in mind that our beneficiaries are entitled to a certain compensation after the privatization procedure, ie the share of privatization to which project beneficiaries are entitled, due to the fact that they were employed in these companies. The right to a share from privatization is regulated by UNMIK Regulation 2003/13, and it stipulates that these are persons who were on the payroll

of the privatization subject for at least 3 years at the time of privatization and were employed by the company at the time of privatization.

Newsletter: *How many enterprises have been privatized so far and how many are the total beneficiaries whom the project has helped to realize the rights to a share of 20% of privatization?*

D.G.: According to the data we have, from the beginning of the privatization procedure until today, a large number of companies have been privatized through 106 privatization groups. Since the beginning of the free legal aid project, i.e. since 2008, our legal team has provided aid in dozens of privatization procedures and assisted in the procedures of exercising the right to a share of 20% of privatization. On this occasion, I would like to point out that during this mandate in the period from January 2019 until today, our team has successfully completed more than 500 cases and helped more than 500 users exercise the right to a share of 20% of privatization, which is an impressive number of resolved cases. In only two years of the project mandate, especially bearing in mind that a large number of cases relate to illegal occupation of real estate, damaged or destroyed property or cases in which the Project obtains the necessary documentation for project beneficiaries.

Newsletter: *Can and in what way IDPs get information themselves about the status of privatization and are they on the list?*

D.G.: The procedure of exercising the right to a share of 20% of privatization begins with the publication of a temporary list of employees and former employees who exercise the right to a share of 20% of privatization. This list consists of the Union of Independent Trade Unions based in Pristina together with the Privatization Agency based in Pristina. After compiling the list, it is published on the website of the Privatization Agency, as well as in daily newspapers published in Serbian in Central Serbia. I am of the opinion that this way of informing the Privatization Agency is very problematic, given that a large number of internally displaced persons who were employed in a social enterprise in Kosovo

...in the period from January 2019 until today, our team has successfully completed more than 500 cases and helped more than 500 users exercise the right to a share of 20% of privatization ...

and Metohija are elderly, so the assumption is that they are not able to use tools such as the Internet and follow the news on the website of the Privatization Agency of Kosovo on a daily basis.

The second aspect is financial. Bearing in mind that it is done about the users who left their places of origin in Kosovo*, most of them still have problems with real estate in Kosovo*, it is concluded that this category of persons is not able to allocate funds to buy newspapers every day.

Regardless of these facts, the free legal aid project, in addition to providing legal aid, also has expert teams that follow news and announcements related to the publication of lists related to project beneficiaries and thus contribute to each beneficiary being informed about the publication of the list and further steps in proceedings related to privatization rights.

Newsletter: What are the concrete steps that the project is taking in these procedures?

D.G.: Concrete steps after the publication of provisional lists, regardless of whether the beneficiary found out for himself or is a free legal aid project by monitoring notifications through his expert teams, are preliminary examination of provisional lists published and immediate notification of beneficiaries regardless whether the beneficiaries are on the list of workers exercising this right or are again excluded from the list as persons who do not exercise this right. The next steps are the necessary verification of documents for clients (workbooks, decisions, other evidence of employment) before the competent notary public in Kosovo*. After the verification of the documents, the clients are appealed against the temporary lists, the certified evidence is attached and they are sent to the Privatization Agency for decision-making. The complexity and length of these proceedings is shown by the fact that almost 90 percent of these cases will be completed only before the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court in Pristina, but nevertheless, during the entire procedure the free legal aid project provides legal aid to users and serves as support to beneficiaries until the final exercise of privatization rights.

Newsletter: What is the significance and role of the free legal aid project in the procedures for exercising the right to a share of 20% of privatization?

D.G.: The importance and role of the free legal aid project is shown by the fact that the project is at the service of clients through 6 offices, namely 4 offices in Central Serbia and 2 partner organizations in Kosovo*, which practically covers the work throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia, which facilitates access to users and allows them to contact one of the project offices without any problems or additional costs in order to provide legal aid in these cases. As I mentioned, most IDPs live in very poor economic conditions, so it is very important that they can exercise their right under privatization through project legal advisers, which includes free representation by project lawyers in court proceedings in Kosovo*. If all factors are taken into account, we come to the conclusion that the free legal aid project is of great importance and that the role in exercising the rights of users to privatization rights is great, because otherwise users would be left to fend for themselves with the only alternative to hiring private lawyers in Kosovo*, going to Kosovo* and all other activities, and the costs of these activities might exceed the amount of money that users would earn by obtaining funds from privatization.



Pravo na sutra

The free legal aid project has continued cooperation with the Radio Television of Serbia on documentaries "Pravo na sutra - Special" on the problems of the target groups of the project, as well as the aid available to them through this project.

In the past years, two series of three episodes were broadcast on RTS 2. The series, broadcast in January and February this year, was dedicated to returnees upon readmission agreements and the problems they face upon return after frequently many years of residence in one of the countries of the European Union. In this series, in addition to the aid provided by the project in resolving legal and status issues, we also referred to the wider range of aid provided by various organizations, local governments and the European Union through projects aimed at this category of citizens.

In March and April, we successfully carried out a series in which we presented the support we provide in the form of obtaining documents from the place of origin for all three target groups. We also referred to the rights of internally displaced persons to realize their share from the privatization of companies in which they worked until emigration, and the mechanisms of legal aid in these cases. Also, in this series, we paid special attention to refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through conversations with project beneficiaries, we presented the segments in which they need help the most, and we also presented the Regional Housing Program, which is implemented for refugees in the region in cooperation with the European Union and the Republic of Serbia.



Filming in the Belgrade office



Statement of a refugee from Croatia recorded in Gadzin Han



A family of returnees from Subotica



Illegally occupied property in Prizren

The beneficiary is an internally displaced person residing in Vojvodina.

When in 1999 she left Kosovo*, she left behind her property in the center of Prizren, more precisely the plot on which she started building a house. An unknown person took advantage of the absence of the owner and built a huge house on several floors on the already started basis. When, after a few years, the party visited its property, she was shocked by the situation on the ground. She immediately turned to the HPD and the free legal aid project. Although the proceedings with the HPD ended with the confirmation of our party's property rights, the defendant continued to use our party's property. The project initiated a lawsuit on behalf of this beneficiary for the eviction and restitution of property. After several years of court proceedings, the process ended with a final and enforceable verdict ordering the opposing party to move out and return the property to its previous state. However, the defendant refused to voluntarily execute the court verdict. The project initiated the execution procedure on behalf of the party.

Unfortunately, the court ordered our beneficiary to deposit funds in the amount of 19,000.00 Euros in the name of demolishing the illegal building in order to return the plot to its previous state. The project's lawyers were faced with an impossible legal situation that required the initiation of many proceedings, both with the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA) and the competent Prosecutor's Office.

All judicial institutions denied their jurisdiction with by claiming that it is a civil matter. The project's lawyers initiated proceedings before the Constitutional Court in Priština by filing a constitutional complaint in June 2018.

Finally, in March 2021, the Constitutional Court ruled that the constitutional complaint was admissible. The execution process will be continued according to the order of the Constitutional Court. This is a great victory in this long struggle to return its property to our party.

Privatization of DP IFS Progres Prizren

The social enterprise "Progress" from Prizren was privatized in 2013

Pursuant to the Law on Privatization in Kosovo*, all employees who have worked in the socially-owned enterprise for more than three years are entitled to a share of 20% of the profits gained in the privatization process, which includes more than 100 project beneficiaries who worked in this company until 1999. The Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, which refers to the issues of the Kosovo Privatization Agency, passed a final verdict in 2019, which included our users in the list of employees who exercise this right. The verdict was delivered to the address of the non-governmental organization with which the project cooperates in Gračanica, after which the legal teams contacted all users listed in the verdict

for further action and payment of money.

The first step was to instruct users to open accounts in one of banks in the territory of Kosovo*, counseling and assisting in that process. After that, the lawyers met with each beneficiary individually and compiled and submitted a Request for payment of a share of 20% of the privatization for each. This process was slowed down by the resulting COVID-19 virus pandemic, and legal advisers held meetings during the emergency, respecting all prescribed protection measures, in order to speed up this process. To date, 86 beneficiaries have received a 20% share of the privatization.

Tenancy Right Compensation

The beneficiary of the free legal aid project is an internally displaced person from Pristina, now residing in Novi Sad

She addressed the project regarding an apartment in Priština. Namely, the client had had the right to use the apartment until the displacement, and after that an unidentified person entered the apartment. She reported her tenancy right to the Housing and Property Commission (HPD), at the time the competent institution for property issues in Kosovo*. The commission made the decision in favor of the unidentified person, who was in the apartment at the time, and the project's client was compensated by the same decision (monetary amount) in the name of the right of use she lost with that decision.

The beneficiary insisted on initiating court proceedings to challenge such

a decision, which the project's legal team did, and also initiated proceedings before the body responsible for enforcing HPD decisions, the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency, for payment compensation.

In July 2021, we received a notification from this agency that a decision had been made for the user, which must be taken over by the agency in Priština, so our legal advisors in Kosovo* took the decision and submitted it to the user.

The decision assessed the value of the apartment and the amount of compensation. After that, the client was paid the amount of money determined by the decision.

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The EU project "Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising of rights of IDPs, refugees and returnees"

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