

Project title: Legal support to the inhabitants of the Kosinj Valley in the process of eviction for the construction of an accumulation lake

Project promoter: KOSINJ VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Partner: -

Project implementation period: 1 May 2022 – 31 July 2022

Total project value: 4.925,41 €

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Project summary:

In 2021, the Government of the Republic of Croatia declared the HES Senj 2 project strategic: an accumulation lake of 1,155 ha is being built in the Kosinj Valley. The construction of the lake will flood mostly private land and facilities of local peasants. A monument to the civilian victims of World War II will be sunk in the village of Mlakva. HEP published a Notice on initiating the real estate purchase procedure due to the implementation of the HES Kosinj project and opened a contact office with citizens in Perušić, which is inaccessible to elderly, poor and disabled citizens. A building is being built in Perušić, which is planned to house part of the population, but there is mistrust among the residents regarding the manner and amount of compensation. In the spring of 2022, work will continue in Kosinj, so it is necessary to implement this project in the next 3 months so that residents have information about their rights as soon as possible.

The aim of the project is to legally empower residents in the process of reaching an agreement with HEP, on compensation for damage and increase public awareness in the County. Legal empowerment of residents, citizens' assemblies and raising public awareness of the impact of HES Senj 2 on the local community will enable residents to propose their own locations for relocation of cemeteries, monuments to civilian victims of World War II (Mlakva, 270 victims) and to legally strengthen their position in the agreement with HEP.

The project will present the material and emotional losses of the population to the public at the regional level. The Kosinj Valley Association will organize and implement all planned activities. The end users are the inhabitants of the Kosinj Valley whose property will be flooded, and then the inhabitants of the County and the Republic of Croatia who will be acquainted with the democratic methods of fighting for fundamental human rights.

The target group of the project are members and volunteers of the Association, representatives of investors and local and county governments who have not yet understood the problems facing the people of Kosinj.