



**Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement**  
4, rue Jean Lantier-75001 PARIS

**Project title:**

**POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH STRUGGLE AGAINST CORUPTION**

***Submitted by:***

***NGOs Forum -Kraljevo***

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**NGOs Forum - Kraljevo** is an association of two non-government organisations - *Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA, Kraljevo Centre for Human Rights and Centre for the Development of the Non-Profit Sector of Central Serbia (CDNPSCS)*. These NGOs are non-political, non-profitable organizations intended for promotion of human rights, humanitarian activities, spreading the idea of civic society, struggling for democratization of the system, health promotion, education of the young in domain of culture, informing, ecology... LINGUA was established in 1997 during citizen's protests against the regime of Milosevic. With *Belgrade Centre for Human Rights – Kraljevo office*, we emerged as an organisation through a number of activities aimed at sensitizing local population on issues of democracy and tolerance during the height of Milosevic's regime. At the very outbreak of the Kosovo displacement crisis in June 1999, we assumed responsibilities in emergency assistance to the massive number of IDPs moving towards north. Information and database relating to internally displaced persons (IDPs) provided by Forum prove to have been essential professional background for most of international agencies and NGOs involved in humanitarian assistance. Since November 1999 owing to their large scope of activities, Forum of NGOs has been the implementing partner to *Norwegian Peoples' Aid* in realising all the projects aimed to humanitarian, developing and psycho-social assistance for the IDPs and the refugees settled at the territory of Kraljevo region. Since May 2001, Forum has been the implementing partner of the *Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector (CRNPS)* from Belgrade in opening an Office of *Regional Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector of Central Serbia (CDNPSCS) in Kraljevo*.

Forum is active through a wide range of social activities and civil actions aimed to solving local community problems of self-management capacities building, social integration, and multicultural interaction. Most of the activities take place at *LINGUA Centre* located in Kraljevo. The Centre has become a recognizable place for all socially deprived population categories as a spot where solidarity and social support are made use of.

We achieve our tasks at two locations in Kraljevo. One is intended for administration (offices), and the other comprises the *LINGUA Centre* where most of the activities take place, such as Micro Crediting Programme; Volunteering Centre; Medical/Psychological Advisory; Women's Workshop (training programme for women on sewing, knitting, etc.); Computer School and Internet Café (computer training for young people); Problem Solution of IDPs and Refugees in Co-operation with Local Authorities (Legal Advisory); Social Cooperative; Info Desk (information service) – all being intended for the most vulnerable population. Additionally, we have realised several training seminars on Organisation Strategic Planning for directors and managers of public enterprises and municipality services. We have also realised training seminars on Business Plan Writing aimed to private business development.

Presently, there are 15 Forum activists (engineers, students, agronomists, teachers, economists, lawyers, medical doctors, psychologists, etc.) at the Centre engaged in projects realisation. Besides, we have over 30 members of various professions and 50 volunteers. We favors teamwork organised in accordance with particular projects/problems being worked on.

In the democratization and transition process, in co-operation with local authorities we make efforts to help those citizens who certainly will be impoverished in the processes mentioned.

Having identified and addressed the most current problems of the society, such as high unemployment rates, poverty, revitalization of villages, we try to support both citizens and local authorities to solve the key problems with economic self-strengthening projects, micro credits, education of citizens and employed in system institutions.

We are sure this is an adequate way of creating the preconditions for initiation and development of civic society as the first step in organising a modern state.

### **Background of the project**

The corruption as the type of moral depravity, presents very compound and stratified phenomenon. It is tightly connected to politics and then it has unimagined, destructive power. It is especially expressed in surroundings in which the poverty, for a long time, hold in clamps the greed for material property. The term corruption is usually connected to penal persecution and regulations of penal statute. In that purposes it is being determined as the appearance of bribery-accepting the bribe. However, the real meaning is much wider. In a word it is the change of the health condition into a polluted, rotten, perverted one. In case the people don't work on keeping its democracy, if they lack civic virtue and responsible government, then democracy falls as the plunder of corrupted greedy persons. The political parties, traditionally strongpoint of democratic system have been shaken by bad reputation and are being condemned more and more also by the citizens who are estranging from making decisions. Since the citizens are leaving political parties more and more, the democracy is risking becoming ambivalent and helpless formality. Every civic right, though guaranteed by law, can be broken by unskilled and corrupted leaders. therefore it is obvious that corruption problem, when speaking about social development, industry recovery, greater standard, the police and the judiciary independence, transparent and responsible government, presents the largest problem in our society. Though this problem is noticeable at every step, it is not clear why such a little attention has paid to it. In this Forum NGOs sees the biggest barrier. The lack of true actions with sincere wish for corruption decrease presents one of the major causes of enormous scale of this problem in our society.

According to the Transparency International report, on the list of 133 countries ranked, in January 2004, in regard to the corruption index, the State community of Serbia and Montenegro has ingloriously ranked 106<sup>th</sup> in the world. Our country is in the group with Macedonia, also with Honduras, Bolivia, Sudan, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. Making comparison, out of the states of former SFRJ, the highest index has Slovenia-5, 9; Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia are even 60 places after Serbia. Nor the domestic public opinion research work gave better picture. The corruption is marked as one of the biggest social problems which spread over all the segments of life: the judiciary, the police, the health department, the education, public and local administrative organs, and the economy.

Unfortunately, due to living for 10 years in a state, which did not respected even minimum democratic standards, waged wars, a state that was bombed and under sanctions, common citizens have lost the criterion of "normality" and guidelines for normal social events and directions. Corruption has not spread its roots only at the top of the state, but also everywhere – from the bottom to the top. A common citizen does not realize corruption as a negative feature that should be uprooted; on the contrary, corruption is an easier, and sometimes the only way to reach the desired ambition. Corruption in all fields is something that is expected here, logical, normal, nothing to wonder about, rather envy than indignation. The majority of people realize corruption as a way to survive, and they are not aware of it at all. That impedes the solving of the problem and seriously hinders the struggle against corruption in our environment.

The experience that Forum NGOs Kraljevo gained during realisation of the project *Be brave! Say no to corruption!* (realised in 2003/2004, donors was *Olof Palme International* from Sweden) as well as data collected by Transparency International indicates that the corruption problem needs to be addressed five years at least in order to encourage the citizens for active engagement in the fight against this destructive feature. Within the project *Be brave! Say no to corruption!*, in February 2004 Forum activists conducted a poll among citizens of Kraljevo with the aim that the citizens themselves estimate the success/impact of the media campaign realised through this project as well as to learn from the citizens their opinion on solving the corruption problem. The poll was conducted with the method of random patterns in a group of 330 citizens. An analysis of the poll indicates that the citizens recognize the problem of corruption as one of the most current problems in the local community.

Paradoxically, although they are aware of the corruption problem as well as of its consequences, only forty per cent (40%) of polled citizens consider that reduction of corruption can directly affect the improvement of their living standard and poverty reduction. The majority of citizens consider repressive methods by the Government as the most efficient way to reduce corruption, while the opinion on citizen's change of conscience on necessity of individual engagement in fighting corruption is on the last position among the answers.

The position of Forum NGOs is that the citizens have to become aware of the fact that they themselves are a part of the overall problem, and that the struggle begins from the "bottom" in order to reach the top itself. Expectations of the citizens that the problem will be solved by dismissing a few corrupted individuals from the top are superseded. It is realized that the problem is more complex and requires engagement of each individual as well as to change the attitude of being indifferent toward this problem.

First, it is necessary to encourage people and enable them to realize the significance of individual engagement in the struggle against corruption in order to meet these objectives.

With the realisation of the project *Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption* Forum NGOs plans to install a hot line telephone at which citizens can report examples of corruption they experienced as well as to be encouraged to come to the office with evidences concerning corruption. Depending on the degree of difficulty of each case, Forum NGOs personnel engaged in realisation of this project shall review and forward all cases (public and anonymous) to the police, Prosecutor's Office or to the Municipal Anti-Corruption Commission. Based on positive experience gained during the realisation of the project *Be brave! Say no to corruption*, when during one contact TV programme over thirty people called and spoke about their own experiences concerning corruption in public; we are convinced that the hot line telephone will even more encourage the citizens to report daily concrete examples of corruption. The number of the hot line telephone as well as the address of the office shall be printed on all leaflets, labels and posters, which shall be realised in the media campaign.

### **Problem description**

With the realisation of the project *Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption* in addition, planned activities, we want to affect the reduction of corruption in the Region of Kraljevo with synchronised activities of Forum NGOs, the Municipal Anti-Corruption Commission, local Police, and Municipal Prosecutor's Office in order to encourage citizens for active engagement in the fight against corruption.

The position of Forum NGOs is that all preconditions for successful realisation of the project *Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption* are met.

Due to realisation of the *Be brave! Say no to corruption* (realised by Forum during 2003/2004) and a series of public discussions on corruption and crime in the past year, Forum NGOs has established good co-operation with the police in Kraljevo and investigation bodies. Professional human resources in Forum NGOs and remarkable co-operation with institutions of the system (prosecutor's office, police, media, and local authorities) will enable undisturbed realisation of the planned project.

### ***Project Objectives***

- Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption. Reduction of corruption will result in higher international investments during the privatization process, and that will directly affect the improvement of the living standard of the citizens in Kraljevo Region.
- We want to support our citizens to set themselves free of all fears and concerns, and to motivate them for active involvement in the struggle against corruption by realising this project.
- We are convinced that our campaign will positively provoke other NGOs and system institutions to join our campaign and initiate similar actions on their own.
- We are certain that our campaign will have a psychological impact on the majority of corrupted individuals and institutions, and frighten them in a way.
- One thing that this project will hopefully produce, as a valuable benefit for our community is initiation a series of programmes (in co-operation with local authorities) related to the problem of corruption, and to finally result in passing an Act on Anti-Corruption in the Republic Parliament.
- Realisation of programmes such as introduction of an Ombudsman as an active control of power, volunteers as a control of this feature in state organisations, etc.

### ***Target Group***

Citizens of Kraljevo Municipality and of neighbouring municipalities (Trstenik, Vrnjacka Banja, Krusevac and Cacak) covered by programmes of Radio/TV Kraljevo. Total number of population in the above-mentioned municipalities is approximately 400,000.

Forum NGOs convinced that can animate specially people employed in local self-government bodies, state institutions (justice administration, police, education, health-care, and NGOs).

Research results indicate that the gender ratio of the target group involved in the project is 51:49 in favour of women. The Forum NGOs Assistant team consists of two persons; one of them is a lady.

### ***Activities***

#### ***Detailed activities plan (per phases)***

##### **▪ *The first phase: Corruption in justice administration***

*Duration: 2 months*

- 1) Preparation and printing of posters B2 4/0, about corruption in justice administration - to be presented (attached to exposed surfaces) during the first month of project realisation. Justice administration anti- corruption posters number of copies is 300 pieces.
- 2) Preparation and printing of leaflets A5 4/0 to be achieved during the first 10 days of the first month of project realisation. Leaflet contents would also comprise definitions of our and foreign corruption- treating law acts. The leaflets would also comprise particular forms of corruption in justice administration. No of leaflet copies: 3,000. *Forum* activists would distribute the leaflets to people in one-door-to-another action, putting them in individual mailboxes, and at busy public spots in the town. The leaflets would also be distributed to all

judges of Municipal, Economic and Regional courts in Kraljevo. They would be distributed all the time, to the end of the first phase completion.

- 3) Preparation and printing of labels A6 4/0 to be achieved for the first 10 days of the first month. Design of labels would be in accordance to the posters design. Number of justice administration anti-corruption labels: 1,000 pieces.

Labels distribution would be achieved the same way as leaflets and to the same target group. They would be distributed continually to the end of the first phase of the project.

- 4) Contact programme on TV Kraljevo (hired term of 60 minutes) with special guest (expert for corruption). Central issue: corruption in administration of justice

- ***The second Phase: Corruption in Health Care***

*Duration: 2 months*

As the activities stated in the first phase are to be repeated in the remaining four and realised in almost identical manner, only the activities and details different from the former would be given below. Dynamics of activities are also identical to the first phase.

- 1) Making, printing and adequate exposing of posters about corruption in health care
- 2) Making, printing and distribution of leaflets about corruption in health care
- 3) Making, printing and distribution of labels about corruption in health care
- 4) Contact programmes on TV Kraljevo with special guest

- ***The third phase: Corruption in Education***

*Duration: 2 months*

- 1) Making, printing and adequate exposing of posters about corruption in education
- 2) Making, printing and distribution of leaflets about corruption in education
- 3) Making, printing and distribution of labels about corruption in education
- 4) Contact programmes on TV Kraljevo with guest

- ***The fourth phase: Corruption in Public Enterprises and in local-government bodies***

*Duration: 2 months*

- 1) Making, printing and adequate exposing of posters about corruption in public enterprises and local self-government bodies
- 2) Making, printing and distribution of leaflets about corruption in public enterprises and local self-government bodies
- 3) Making, printing and distribution of labels about corruption in public enterprises and local self-government bodies
- 4) Contact programmes on TV Kraljevo with participation of guest

- ***The fifth phase: Corruption in Police***

*Duration: 2 months*

- 1) Making, printing and adequate exposing of posters about corruption in Police
- 2) Making, printing and distribution of leaflets about corruption in Police
- 3) Making, printing and distribution of labels about corruption in Police
- 4) Contact programmes on TV Kraljevo with participation of guest

- ***The sixth phase: Publishing a Bulletin of corruption and of the poll conducted***

*Duration: 2 months*

During the first month of this phase *Forum* activists would conduct a poll among Kraljevo citizens. Questioned people would evaluate the project campaign and suggest solutions for

corruption relieving. Poll would be conducted by random sample method over 200 participants. Questionnaires would be answered (filled-in) anonymously.

Upon completion of media campaign and based on the experience gained by *Forum NGOs* activists during the first five phases and the polls conducted, a bulletin would be published in 1000 copies comprising all suggestions, analyses and prospective solutions to the problem and distributed to people, media, NGO activists, those employed with the project-comprised institutions.

### ***Results***

- Reduction of corruption will result in higher international investments during the privatization process, and that will directly affect the improvement of the living standard of the citizens in Kraljevo Region.
- Encouragement of citizens and their active involvement in the struggle against corruption can result in reduction of this deviant feature.
- Successful project realisation can have a positive impact on the citizen's change of conscience as well as on further democratization of the system, because there is no democracy without active and self-conscious citizens.
- Animation of women for active engagement in the fight against corruption will have a positive psychosocial impact. The women are double vulnerable in the transition process-women are the first to loose their jobs in the Kraljevo Region, because they were employed mainly in textile industry, and by this, the lack of income reflects on their status in the family alike. With active involvement in oppressing corruption, women will feel more socially useful, and in this way, they will have more self-confidence.

### ***Implementation of the project***

The basic activity of this project is a media campaign that would be realised continuously in five phases. The media campaign would last ten months.

Along with the media campaign in the first month of project realisation Forum NGOs plans to install a hot line telephone at which citizens can report examples of corruption they experienced as well as to be encouraged to come to the office with evidences concerning corruption. Depending on the degree of difficulty of each case, Lingua personnel engaged in realisation of this project shall review and forward all cases (public and anonymous) to the police, Prosecutor's Office or to the Municipal Anti-Corruption Commission. The number of the hot line telephone as well as the address of the office shall be printed on all leaflets, labels and posters, which will be realised in the media campaign.

Upon completion of media campaign and based on the experience gained by *Forum* activists during the first five phases and the polls conducted, a bulletin would be published in 1000 copies comprising all suggestions, analyses and prospective solutions to the problem and distributed to people, media, NGO activists, those employed with the project-comprised institutions.

***The time schedule for implementation:*** 12 months

### ***Sustainability:***

Since the activities planned by the project are completely complementary with the assignments of the Municipal Anti-Corruption Commission, we are convinced that upon the realisation of the ***Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption*** project the Commission in co-operation with Forum NGOs will continue the encouragement process of citizens for active

engagement in oppressing corruption with financial support by the local authorities, media, and Republic institutions.

***Evaluation:***

A poll among 200 citizens of Kraljevo will be conducted in the final month of project realisation. A comparative results analysis of a poll conducted in February 2004 with the poll analysis concerning the realisation of the project will be the best success indicator of the realisation of the *Poverty reduction through struggle against corruption* project.

***Others information:***

- Research results indicate that the gender ratio of the target group involved in the project is 51:49 in favour of women. The Forum NGOs Assistant team consists of two persons; one of them is a lady.
- The women are double vulnerable in the transition process- women are the first to loose their jobs in the Kraljevo Region, because they were employed mainly in textile industry, and by this, the lack of income reflects on their status in the family alike. With active involvement in oppressing corruption, women will feel more socially useful, and in this way, they will have more self-confidence.
- Organisation responsible for project realisation is ***Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA- Kraljevo***