

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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INTRODUCTION

During 2022, RERI continued its development and transformation into a regional think tank focusing on specific issues related to energy transition, environmental protection, and urban planning, utilizing legal means and institutional advocacy mechanisms. Recognizing the dramatic situation regarding the independence of institutions and adherence to positive regulations in the Republic of Serbia, we believe that an organization like ours is more needed than ever. In this regard, we enthusiastically continue our fight to protect the public interest.

During the past year, we achieved some significant victories, such as the judgment against the Public Electricity Company of Serbia for endangering public health due to excessive sulfur dioxide emissions from thermal power plants. Furthermore, this judgment marks the first of its kind in nearly 50 years of the application of the Law on Obligations, since the possibility of filing so-called "environmental lawsuits" was established.

In addition to this, we initiated our work in Montenegro by establishing a separate organization that, we hope, will become recognizable to the local community in the coming period, based on the foundations set by RERI and the achievements it has made in Serbia.

Jovan Rajić, *President of the Board of Directors*

ABOUT RERI

Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute (RERI) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, established in 2017 with the aim of achieving goals in the field of environmental protection, conservation, and improvement, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.



VISION

A society in which the rule of law forms the foundation of public policies that responsibly address environmental and natural resource concerns, where environmental protection and conservation are recognized as public interests, and where the right to access information of public importance, participation in decision-making processes, and access to justice are afforded to all.



MISSION

Enhancing access to justice in environmental protection, ensuring the right to good governance, applying international and European environmental protection standards, and upholding human and civil rights.

Applying legal rights and arguments in environmental protection and advocating for the right to access justice in environmental matters.

RETROSPECTIVE: RERI's key activities in 2022

January **TPP “Nikola Tesla”**

In response to the [accidents](#) that occurred in December 2021 at the "Nikola Tesla" thermal power plant, RERI submitted commercial offence charges against the director, Milorad Grčić, and the Public Utility Company "Public Electricity Company of Serbia" (JP EPS) because they did not ensure the proper functioning of the production capacities, their continuous operational readiness, and safe usage in accordance with regulations. RERI also submitted criminal offence charges against Milorad Grčić on suspicion of committing the criminal offense of **Serious Crimes against Public Safety**, related to the criminal offense of Causing

HBIS Group Serbia Iron&Steel

Due to suspicions that the company HBIS Group Serbia Iron & Steel, which operates the former Smederevo Steel Mill, is not conducting adequate emissions monitoring or reporting its emissions in accordance with the law, RERI has submitted a request for initiation of extraordinary inspection surveillance.

“Condolences to Public Participation”

In collaboration with the organization "Ministry of Space," RERI organized a press conference titled "Condolences to Public Participation - Amendments to the General Regulation Plan of Belgrade in a Shadow of Corruption and Investor-driven Urbanism." The conference addressed the fundamental issues present in the draft of this plan and called for its immediate withdrawal from the procedure.

February **General Regulation Plan (GRP) of Belgrade**

[Together with the organization "Ministry of Space," RERI submitted objections to the Draft Amendments to the General Regulation Plan \(GRP\) of Belgrade](#), in which it pointed out and explained why this draft GRP is unlawful and detrimental to the city of Belgrade. During the public session held on February 1st, we submitted a request to the Secretariat for Urban Planning and Construction Affairs of the City of Belgrade to halt further adoption of this plan and restart the process from the beginning. This is to address all unlawful and irregular aspects and to allow the public to effectively participate in the development of this crucial document.

Bridge extension on Boulevard of Europe in Novi Sad

We have filed a criminal complaint against the Acting Chief of the City Administration for Urban Planning and Construction Affairs of the City of Novi Sad due to the reasonable suspicion of committing the criminal offense of falsifying an official document in connection with the issuance of the decision on non-compliance with the preparation of a strategic environmental impact assessment for the General Regulation Plan of the bridge extension on Boulevard of Europe in Novi Sad.

“Jaroslav Černi” Institute

The Anti-Corruption Council has published a report on the privatization of the Jaroslav Černi Institute for Water Resources, [*confirming suspicions that RERI has repeatedly informed the public about*](#). These suspicions include the failure of the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development, as well as the Anti-Corruption Agency, to protect the public interest in accordance with their powers, and their failure to provide requested information of public importance.

Integrated National Climate and Energy Plan (INECP)

After several requests from RERI to bring the process of developing the Integrated National Climate and Energy Plan (NECP) back in line with legal procedures and ensure compliance with the laws and procedures of public consultations, a meeting was held at the invitation of the Ministry of Mining and Energy. [*The meeting involved representatives of RERI, Minister of Mining and Energy Zorana Mihajlović, and her team.*](#)

March

Serbia Zijin Copper

In collaboration with the Association of Young Researchers from Bor, RERI submitted a request to the Ministry of Environmental Protection to initiate an extraordinary inspection surveillance over the company Serbia Zijin Copper. This was due to suspicions that high concentrations of arsenic in the air in Bor during 2021 were a result of ore processing at the copper smelter within their industrial complex.

“BLACK BOOK”

We have published the [*“BLACK BOOK”*](#) - a legal analysis of the case of corrupt privatization of the Jaroslav Černi Institute.



Small hydropower plant Trnavac

Following RERI's appeal in the case of the Trnavac small hydropower plant, the municipality of Zaječar issued a special decision recognizing RERI as a party in the administrative procedure. They reasoned that RERI, as an association established in accordance with the law, operates in the field of the environment and has a legal interest in participating in the procedure. Such decisions are significant for strengthening the position of associations as protectors of the public interest in administrative and judicial practice. This is especially important because the denial of party status is often the reason for rejecting RERI's requests to initiate certain proceedings, which contradicts the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

Spatial and urban planning reforms in the Republic of Serbia

In March 2022, a proposal for spatial and urban planning reforms in the Republic of Serbia was subjected to public discussion. This proposal contained numerous problematic provisions, including a ban on the participation of associations, legal entities, and individuals who do not demonstrate a "special interest" in the planning act during the public consultation process. Just one day after organizations RERI, Nova planska praksa, and "the Ministry of Space" announced a [press conference](#) to highlight the flaws in the proposed reforms, [the Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure removed the advertisement and all accompanying documentation from its official website without explanation](#), four days before the formal conclusion of the public discussion. The consultative process was terminated informally and without public notice.

„Kraku Bugaresku Cementacija 1“

RERI has filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court against the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection to approve the environmental impact assessment study for the project to establish a disposal site within the excavation area of the open-pit mine "Kraku Bugaresku Cementacija 1". The reasons for challenging this decision, apart from the poor quality of the study, are related to the fragmentation of the project into smaller parts and phases in order to downplay its environmental impact (known as *salami slicing*).

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI has filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court against Zijin company, seeking the annulment of the decision approving the environmental impact assessment study for the project of excavation and preparation of limestone in the Zagrađe-5 deposit. This action was taken because the company split the comprehensive project for increasing the capacity of the Zagrađe limestone factory and obtained nature protection and water conditions after the public consultation process. The study also fails to include all the elements required by law.

Jadar project

As well, RERI has filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court because the Government of the Republic of Serbia did not act on RERI's appeal against the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection that determined the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment study for the Jadar project for six months.

April

Contamination of the Mali Pek River

[Acting on the criminal complaint filed by us against the Zijin company](#) and the responsible individual within the company for the contamination of the Mali Pek River with heavy metals in March 2021, the competent public prosecutor's office in Negotin issued an order directing Zijin Copper and the responsible individual to pay a sum of **1,000,000.00 dinars** for the criminal offense of environmental pollution, to be used for humanitarian purposes.

Serbia Zijin Copper

The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Bor has informed RERI that a motion for indictment has been submitted to the Basic Court in Bor against the defendants Serbia Zijin Copper and the responsible individual within the legal entity. This action is based on a reasonable suspicion that they have committed the criminal offense of Environmental Pollution.

Desulfurization facilities at the "Nikola Tesla B" thermal power plant

In April, RERI filed three lawsuits seeking the annulment of the decisions issued by the Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure allowing the construction of desulfurization facilities at the "Nikola Tesla B" thermal power plant (TENT B) without the consent for the environmental impact assessment study.

HBIS Group Serbia Iron&Steel

Due to suspicions that HBIS Group Serbia Iron & Steel is not conducting emissions measurements in accordance with the Air Protection Law and its implementing regulations, RERI has filed a report for an commercial offense against this company.

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI has submitted requests for initiating extraordinary inspection surveillance over Serbia Zijin Copper to the Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. These requests are based on suspicions that the company is carrying out preparatory work for the construction of a new smelter without a construction permit and a decision on the necessity of an environmental impact assessment.

Air pollution in Boru

The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Bor has initiated a new case based on RERI's criminal complaint regarding air pollution during the period of the offense from November 2020 to January 2022.

Serbia Zijin Copper

Due to suspicions of committing the criminal offense of construction without a construction permit at the facility on the shores of Lake Robule, RERI has filed a criminal complaint against Serbia Zijin Copper and the responsible individual within the company.

May

"Jaroslav Černi" Institute

The Misdemeanour Court in Belgrade has issued a final judgment against an official from the Ministry of Economy in an offence case initiated by RERI in March for failure to provide information of public importance related to the privatization of the Jaroslav Černi Institute.

"Kučaj-Beljanica" National Park

RERI participated in the public consultation and submitted comments on the Draft Spatial Plan for the tourist destination "Kučaj Mountains." The plan envisages the construction of a ski resort and a hydroelectric reservoir within the protected zones of the "Kučaj Beljanica", which is in the process of being declared a National Park, contravening the provisions of the Nature Conservation Law. In light of this, RERI issued an appeal to the Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure, as the lead entity responsible for developing this spatial plan, as well as to the public company Urbanizam - Kragujevac and the Geography Faculty of the University of Belgrade, who are working on this spatial plan, urging them to urgently withdraw the proposed draft until it is harmonized with the existing Study for the Protection of the "Kučaj-Beljanica" National Park.

The project of raising the flotation tailings pond Valja Fundata

RERI has filed a lawsuit seeking the annulment of the decision issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, which approves the environmental impact assessment study for the project of raising the flotation tailings pond Valja Fundata. This action was taken due to procedural violations, project fragmentation, and inadequately prescribed environmental protection measures.

Serbia Zijin Copper

Serbia Zijin Copper attempted to present the project for the demolition of parts of the old copper smelter in Bor as a separate project, even though it is related to preparatory work and capacity expansion for the copper smelter. In response, RERI filed an appeal against the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, which determined that an environmental impact assessment study was not necessary.

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI and the Association of Young Researchers from Bor have submitted a request to initiate an extraordinary inspection surveillance over Serbia Zijin Copper due to suspicions that the company is carrying out construction work on a mining wastewater treatment facility in Bor without a construction permit.

The project of construction of a flue gas desulfurization plant at the TENT B thermal power plant

RERI has filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court requesting the annulment of the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection that approves the environmental impact assessment study for the construction of a flue gas desulfurization plant at the TENT B thermal power plant. This action was taken because the project was divided into multiple separate units, making it impossible to fully assess the extent and complexity of its environmental impact and predict adequate environmental protection measures.

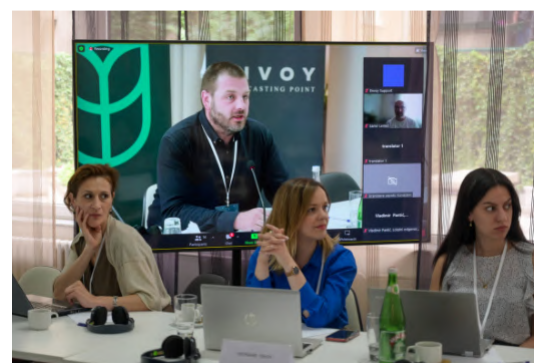
Linglong International Europe Ltd

RERI also has filed an appeal against the decision to issue an operational permit for part of the Linglong International Europe Ltd. tire manufacturing factory complex.

June

The regional conference "Environmental Law is in the Air"

From June 8th to June 10th, 2022, RERI organized a regional expert conference on environmental legal protection titled "Environmental Law Is In the Air." During the conference, presented cases and expert discussions analyzed the challenges of aligning Serbian regulations with EU legal provisions and obligations towards the Energy Community. The participation of Energy Community representatives and international experts contributed to the quality of the discussion on the transposition of European regulations into the legal systems of Western Balkan countries. Over the three-day conference in Belgrade, RERI gathered 60 participants, including over 10 international legal experts, representatives from the domestic and international academic community, as well as regional organizations in the fields of environmental impact assessment, inspection surveillance, legal representation, and public participation, criminal-court practices, including the involvement of experts in the field of energy and energy transition, climate change, and the development and application of European environmental law.



Requests for initiation of extraordinary inspection surveillance

In June, we submitted requests to initiate extraordinary inspection surveillance over Serbia Zijin Copper Bor and HBIS Group Serbia Iron & Steel, considering that they had been operating unlawfully for more than six months without an integrated permit.

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI has filed reports for an commercial offense against Serbia Zijin Copper, as well as the responsible individual within the legal entity, due to the company's commencement of construction on a mining wastewater treatment facility without the necessary permits and consent for the environmental impact assessment study.

Relocation of the Kriveljska River

RERI has submitted a request to initiate extraordinary inspection surveillance over Serbia Zijin Copper due to suspicions that the company is conducting mining activities related to the relocation of the Kriveljska River without the necessary consent for an environmental impact assessment study.

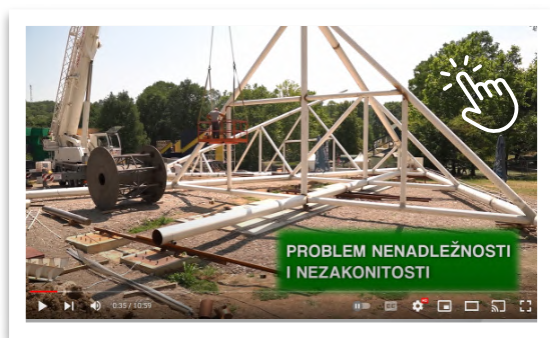
July

Guidelines for improving environmental protection

In July, we published [*Guidelines for improving environmental protection in criminal and judicial practice*](#), as well as [*Guidelines for enhancing the legal framework for inspection supervision and recommendations for best practices in conducting inspection surveillance*](#). These guidelines were promoted at public events in Belgrade, Niš, and Zrenjanin.

The construction of a panoramic ferris wheel in Vrnjačka Banja

A press conference was held in Vrnjačka Banja, where RERI, in collaboration with WWF Adria and architect Milena Zindović, highlighted numerous irregularities during [*the construction of a panoramic ferris wheel in a protected area*](#). On this occasion, we submitted a request to the Municipal Administration of Vrnjačka Banja for the annulment of the contested construction permit.



The expansion of the Zagrađe limestone factory

RERI has submitted an appeal to the Government of the Republic of Serbia regarding the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection that determines the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment study for the expansion of the Zagrađe limestone factory of Serbia Zijin Copper.

Serbia Zijin Copper

Serbia Zijin Copper was convicted of a commercial offense under the Environmental Impact Assessment Law and the Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, and was subject to a combined fine of 450,000.00 dinars. The responsible individual was sentenced to a combined fine of 60,000.00 dinars. These proceedings were initiated based on a prior report by RERI.

Linglong International Europe doo

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has accepted RERI's objection and instructed the Provincial Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection to proceed with the request for extraordinary inspection surveillance to determine whether Linglong International Europe doo has started construction work on the tire production mixer before obtaining consent for the environmental impact assessment study.

Workshops on planning of solar power plants in the Republic of Serbia

During July, in collaboration with "The Nature Conservancy," we conducted three workshops in Novi Sad, Zlatibor, and Niš. During these workshops, we engaged with representatives from municipalities and relevant institutions, non-governmental organizations, managers of protected areas, and investors to discuss the planning of solar power plants in the Republic of Serbia.



August General Urban Plan of the city of Novi Sad

[RERI submitted an initiative to the Constitutional Court for the assessment of the legality of the procedure for the development and adoption of the General Urban Plan of the city of Novi Sad until 2030.](#) This initiative was based on the argument that the plan was adopted in violation of the procedures prescribed by the Planning and Construction Act.

Construction project of a pumping station and facilities for the treatment and drainage of stormwater in Makiš

RERI filed an appeal with the Government of the Republic of Serbia requesting the annulment of the decision stating that an Environmental Impact Assessment study is not required for the construction project of a pumping station and facilities for the treatment and drainage of stormwater in Makiš.

Veliki Krivelj open-pit mine

RERI filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court requesting the annulment of the decision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection approving the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the project of increasing the capacity of dry ore flotation processing from the Veliki Krivelj open-pit mine.

Pollution of the Borska River

RERI has submitted a request to initiate a joint extraordinary inspection surveillance to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management regarding Serbia Zijin Copper. This request is based on suspicions that during the construction of the bypass tunnels for the Kriveljska River, Borska River, and Saraka Stream, there may have been pollution of the Borska River. An inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management found that activities related to these projects were being conducted without the necessary water consent and ordered the company to obtain it.

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI has submitted requests to initiate extraordinary inspection surveillance against the company Serbia Zijin Copper because they began the implementation of the project to expand the capacity of the Zagrađe lime factory without a construction permit and without approval for an environmental impact

September First 5 years of RERI

RERI, together with its collaborators, partners, and friends, celebrated its first anniversary, marking 5 years from its founding!



INECP

RERI submitted its comments and suggestions on the draft scenarios prepared in the process of developing the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia (INECP) for the period up to 2030, including the perspective up to 2050.



HBIS Group Serbia

In September, we filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court requesting the annulment of the decision granting an integrated permit to the HBIS Group Serbia company, considering that the permit does not prescribe adequate conditions for the operation of the facility, air protection, wastewater discharge control, and waste management.

MORAVACEM doo

RERI has submitted a request for dedicated measurements of pollutant levels in the air in Popovac due to reasonable suspicion of pollution that may harm human health and the environment as a result of the activities of the MORAVACEM doo cement plant.

"The Nature Conservancy"

Representatives of RERI participated in an international conference dedicated to the protection of rivers in the Western Balkans, held in Zadar and organized by "The Nature Conservancy."



October RERI in Montenegro

RERI began its work in Montenegro in 2022, and in October, the organization was officially registered in Podgorica.

Nature Park "Rijeka Zeta"

In collaboration with the organization KOD from Montenegro, we worked on a case of pollution of the Zeta River with wastewater from the local dairy "Šimšić-Montmilk." Following our complaint, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a decision determining that significant damage had been done to the natural values in the Nature Park "Rijeka Zeta" and ordered the implementation of preventive technical measures to reduce pollution of the Zeta River until the wastewater treatment plant is built.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Serbia

In collaboration with the organization FIAN International, RERI submitted its contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Serbia.

Unauthorized demolition of a protected cultural heritage site in Aranđelovac

[Together with the organization Europa Nostra Serbia, we raised awareness about the unauthorized demolition of a protected cultural heritage site in Aranđelovac.](#)

We also submitted a request to the environmental protection inspection in that municipality to initiate an extraordinary surveillance over the investor "Bukovička banja Stublina." This investor started preparatory works for the reconstruction and expansion of the "Šumadija" hotel based on a construction permit issued without the consent of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

Mini hydroelectric power plant (MHPP) "Zvonce"

We filed a criminal complaint against the former director of the Institute for Nature Conservation due to the reasonable suspicion of committing the criminal offense of *Abuse of Official Position*. Despite the fact that the nature protection conditions issued by the Institute prohibit the installation of pipelines in the bed of major waters, which the contractor for the construction of the mini hydroelectric power plant (MHPP) "Zvonce" did, the director of the Institute signed an opinion confirming that the MHPP "Zvonce" pipes were installed in the riverbed in accordance with the Institute's conditions.

"Bukovička banja Stublina"

RERI filed a report for a commercial offense to the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Kragujevac against the investor, the legal entity "Bukovička banja Stublina," and the responsible person in the legal entity, the legal representative, V.M, on suspicion of starting construction work before obtaining approval for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

Veliki Krivelj open-pit mine

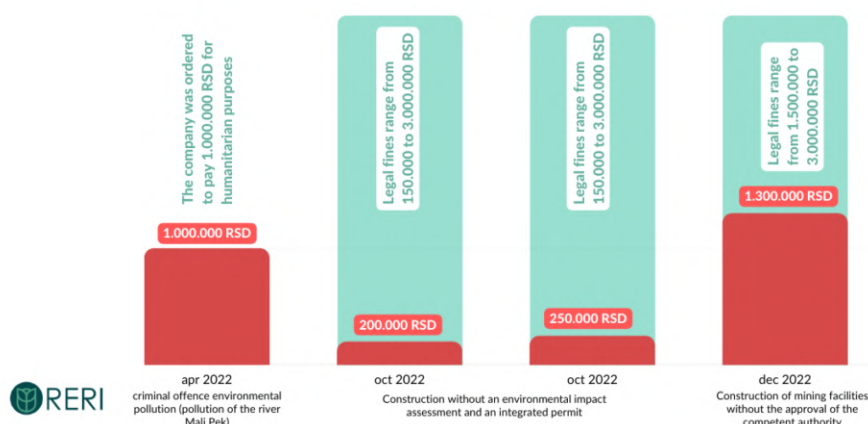
In response to a commercial offense report submitted by RERI in July 2022, the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Zaječar filed an indictment with the Commercial Court in Zaječar against Serbia Zijin Copper company and the responsible person within the legal entity. This action was taken because they initiated the expansion project of the dry ore flotation processing capacity at the Veliki Krivelj open-pit mine without obtaining the Environmental Impact Assessment Study approval beforehand.

Serbia Zijin Copper

[The Commercial Court in Zaječar issued a guilty verdict and imposed penalties on Serbia Zijin Copper company](#) because they initiated the construction and expansion of the copper smelter in Bor without obtaining approval for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study. The company was also held accountable for conducting activities without an integrated environmental permit, which is a crucial permit in environmental protection. They were fined modestly 250,000 dinars, while the responsible individual fined with 30,000 dinars.

Zijin Company has been convicted four times within less than a year for violating the Law on Mining and Geological Research. In each case, they were ordered to pay a monetary fine below the statutory minimum.

Fines for the company Zijin based on RERI's report



First-instance judgment in favor of RERI vs Public Electricity Company of Serbia (EPS)

The High Court in Belgrade has issued a first-instance judgment in favor of the Regulatory Institute for Renewable Energy and the Environment (RERI) and ordered the Public Electricity Company of Serbia (EPS) to reduce sulfur-dioxide emissions from thermal power plants due to their threat to human health and the environment. The judgment, issued by the High Court in Belgrade upon RERI's lawsuit, is the first of its kind based on regulations adopted nearly 50 years ago - the Law on Obligations. It sets a legal precedent that significantly enhances judicial practice in protecting collective interests, citizens' health, and environmental preservation.

DONETA PRESUDA – EPS MORA DA SMANJI EMISIJU SUMPOR DIOKSIDA ZBOG OPASNOSTI PO ZDRAVLJE

RERI

Serbian environmental organisation RERI wins court case against Public Electricity Company whose emissions threaten human health and the environment

РЕРИ: суд наложио да се смање емисије гаса из термоелектрана



Виши суд у Београду донео је првостепену пресуду у корист Регулаторног института за обновљиву енергију и животну средину (РЕРИ) и наложио Електропривреди Србије да смањи емисије сумпор-диоксида из термоелектрана због њихове опасности по здравље људи и животну средину, саопштено је јуче из овог института.

Како је наведено, тужба коју је РЕРИ поднео у јануару 2021. године, уследила је након више поднетих захтева за ванредни инспекцијски надзор у термоелектранама ЕПС-а због драстичног прекорачења максималних дозвољених емисија сумпор-диоксида, за које је Министарство заштите животне средине тврдило да нема основа, преноси Танјуг.

„Суд је констатовао да је покретање парничног поступка био једини преостали правни инструмент да се заустави даља опасност по здравље људи и животну средину“, наведено је из Регулаторног института.

Такође, да је ЕПС још од јануара 2018. био дужан да смањи емисије сумпор-диоксида из својих постројења, у складу са Националним планом за смањење емисија, на који се Србија обавезала ратификовањем Споразума о оснивању Енергетске заједнице.

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RERI: Sud naložio Elektroprivredi Srbije da smanji emisije sumpor dioksida iz termoelektrana KOMENTARI

Autor: Tanjug 23/11/2022 12:09

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Article

Serbia: State power utility ordered to reduce its sulfur dioxide emissions due to negative impacts on health and the environment

Air Quality Plan for Valjevo

After months of pressure exerted by RERI on the Valjevo city administration and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, a public review of the Air Quality Plan for Valjevo until 2027 was initiated, albeit with a one-year delay.

Illegal construction of properties in Boljevcu

Almost a year after filing a request for extraordinary inspection regarding the illegal construction of objects in Boljevcu, RERI received a notification in which the inspection authority informed us that four proceedings have been initiated and that the inspector has issued orders to close the construction sites in question. Additionally, a criminal complaint has been filed against unidentified individuals, the investors of the unauthorized construction, for the criminal offense of construction without a construction permit.

Serbia Zijin Copper

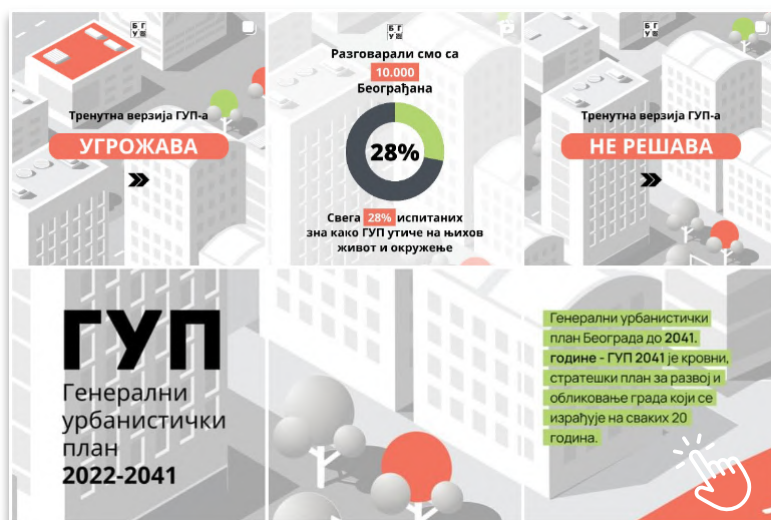
Following the commercial offence charges against Serbia Zijin Copper filed by RERI in August 2022, the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office has submitted an accusatory proposal to the Commercial Court in Zaječar. The court issued a guilty verdict, imposing a fine of **1,150,000** dinars on the legal entity and 50,000 dinars on the responsible person in the legal entity for committing a commercial offense.

Serbia Zijin Copper

We filed a report for a commercial offense against Serbia Zijin Copper, as well as the responsible person in the legal entity, because they commenced the construction of a bypass tunnel for the Kriveljska River, Borska River, and Saraka Stream within the Veliki Krivelj flotation tailings area without approval for the construction of mining facilities and for carrying out mining works.

December Belgrade Urbanists Group (BGU)

We formed the [Belgrade Urbanists Group \(BGU\)](#) with partner organizations to inform the citizens of Belgrade about the progress and procedure for creating the most important spatial document for the capital city - the General Urban Plan for Belgrade 2041. BGU activists have engaged with over 10,000 citizens to provide them with crucial information about various aspects of this process and the opportunities to actively exercise their right to civic participation.



Air Quality Plan for Valjevo

[The Protector of Citizens, based on a complaint filed by RERI in collaboration with Lokalni Odgovor from Valjevo](#), issued a decision in which they identified shortcomings in the work of the Valjevo city authorities for not adopting and implementing an Air Quality Plan with a short-term action plan, thereby endangering citizens' right to a healthy environment.

Serbia Zijin Copper

RERI participated in the main hearing before the Basic Court in Bor in a criminal proceeding initiated against the accused legal entity Serbia Zijin Copper and the responsible person in the legal entity for the criminal offense of *Environmental Pollution*.

"Construction of a Bridge across Danube without an Environmental Impact Assessment"

RERI organized a public presentation titled *"Construction of a Bridge across Danube without an Environmental Impact Assessment"* in Novi Sad, with the aim of drawing public attention to the fact that construction work on the bypass road with a bridge over the Danube at the extension of Boulevard of Europe in Novi Sad had started without an environmental impact assessment, even though it is unquestionably evident from available documentation that approval of an environmental impact study is necessary for obtaining construction permits and commencing work.

Serbia Zijin Copper

We filed a report for a commercial offense against the company Serbia Zijin Copper and the responsible person because the company began demolishing buildings within the copper smelter complex in Bor without a decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment study.

Air pollution in Belgrade

As part of our collaboration with the magazine "Oblakoder," RERI participated in the creation of two articles addressing the issue of air pollution in Belgrade.

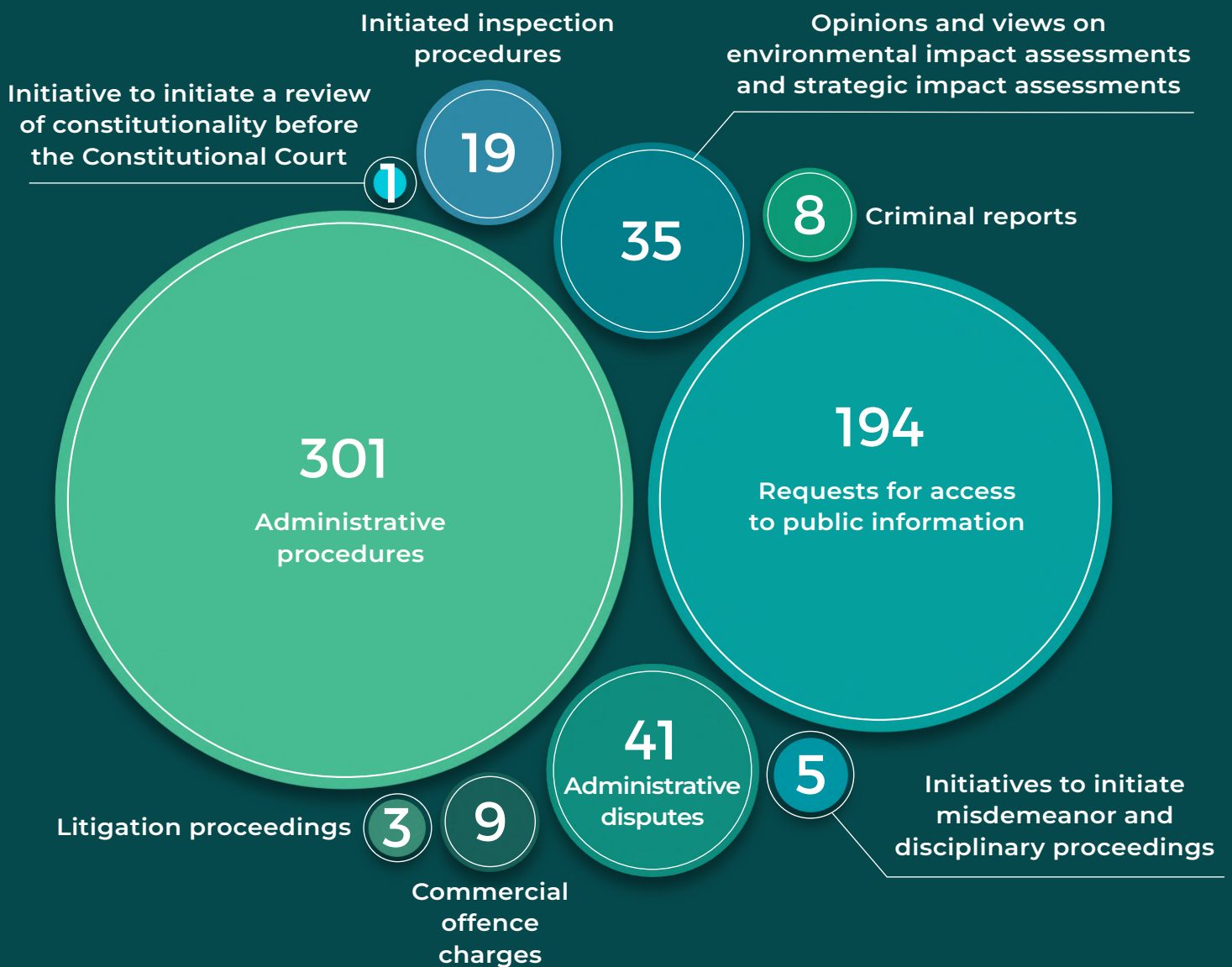
- Does Belgrade need more air quality monitoring stations?
- How much do urban planning and traffic contribute to air pollution in Belgrade?



RERI IN NUMBERS

Graph 1 - Legal Cases

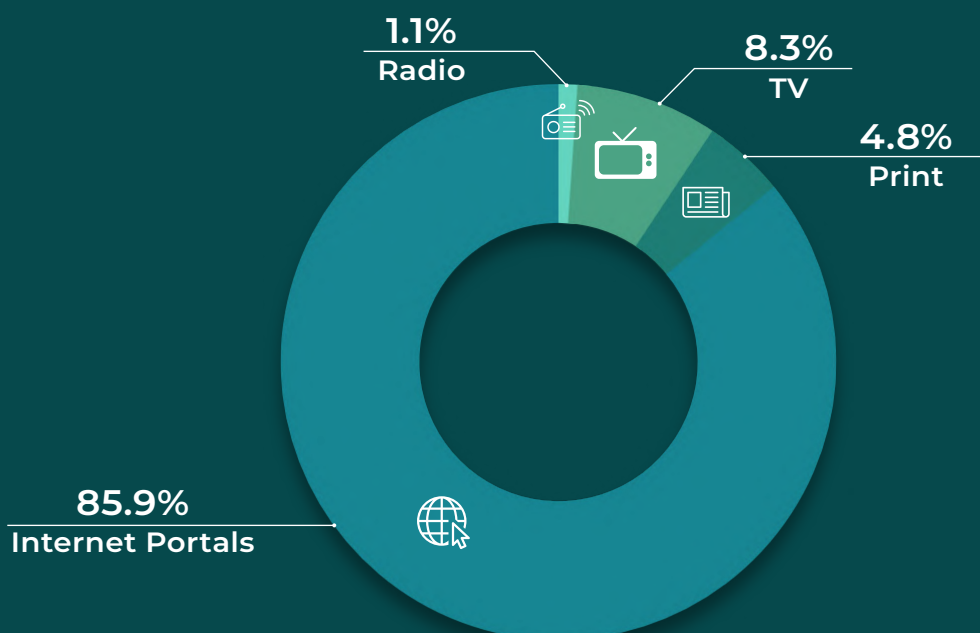
IN TOTAL: 616 CASES



Graph 2 - Participation in spatial and urban planning procedures



Graph 3 - Media Presence by Type of Media



EVENTS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

17 Public Events



5 Press Conferences



7 held workshops, 200+ participants



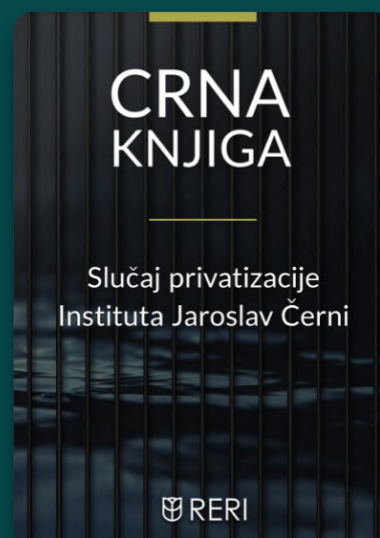
PUBLICATIONS



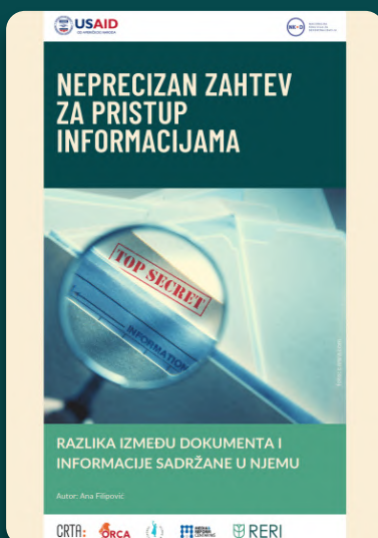
Analysis of the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources



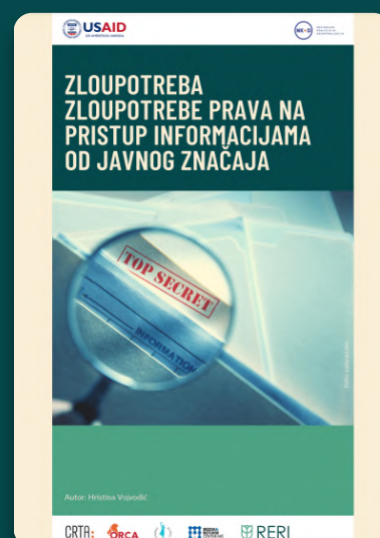
Analysis of the Law on Climate Change



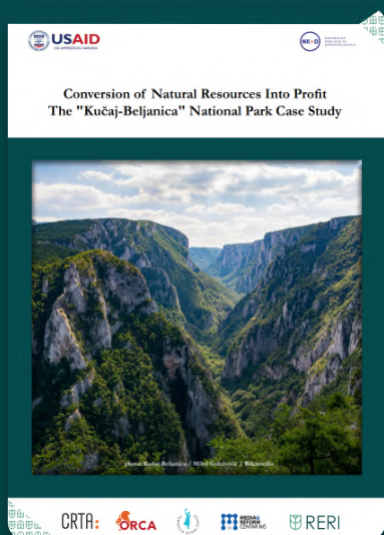
BLACK BOOK



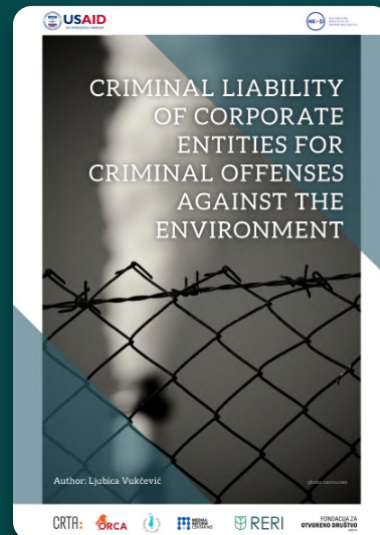
Inaccurate Request for Access to Information of Public Importance



The Abuse of the Abuse of the Right to Access Information of Public Importance



Amendments to the General Regulation Plan of Belgrade in the Shadow of Violations of the Law and Improvisation of Procedures

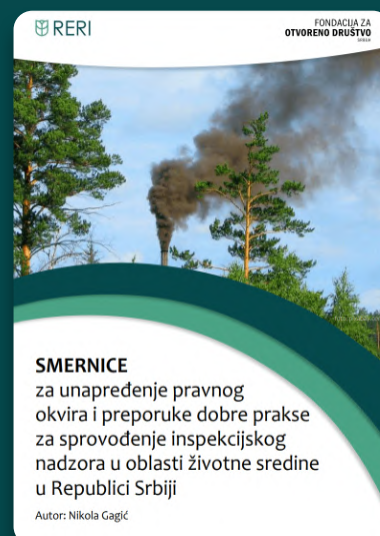




Building Permits and Environmental Impact Assessment



Guidelines for Improving Environmental Protection in Criminal and Judicial Practice



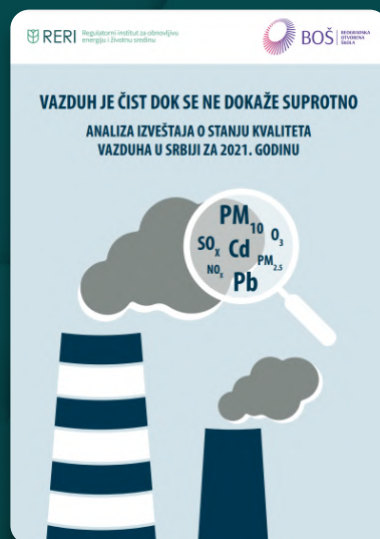
Guidelines for Improving the Legal Framework and Best Practice Recommendations for Environmental Inspection in the Republic of Serbia



Public Participation and Anti-Corruption Efforts in Spatial and Urban Planning



Draft Protocol on Cooperation between Civil Society Organizations and Business Entities in Early Public Consultations on Projects and Activities with Potentially Significant Environmental Impact



The Air is Clean Until Proven Otherwise: An Analysis of Air Quality Reports in Serbia for 2021

PROJECTS

Your Right in Your Hands - Strengthening Civil Society Capacities for Defending the Right to a Healthy and Preserved Environment through Legal Means

jul 2021
jun 2022

Donor: National Coalition for Decentralization

BLACK BOOK - Empowering Citizens to Combat Systemic Corruption in Water Management in Serbia

sep 2021
apr 2022

Donor: CRTA and the United States Agency for International Development

Planning and Building Corruption - Combating Corruption, Violations of Human Rights, and Fundamental Freedoms in Urban and Spatial Planning

dec 2020
may 2023

Donor: Delegation of the European Union to Serbia

Coal in the Western Balkans: Energy, Environmental Democracy, and Clean Air in Serbia

sep 2019
dec 2023

Donor: ClientEarth

Strengthening Oversight Mechanisms and Protection of the Right to a Healthy and Preserved Environment in the Republic of Serbia

jun 2021
jul 2023

Donor: Open Society Foundation, Serbia

Strengthening Supervisory Mechanisms and Accountability of Public Authorities in the Field of Environment

avg 2022
jul 2023

Donor: Open Society Foundation, Serbia

Fight against Pollution, Environmental Degradation, and Corruption in the Environment Related to Foreign Investments and Projects of National Significance in Serbia

jul 2021
jun 2024

Donor: Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Improving the Environment in the Western Balkans Through Regional Cooperation

may 2022
dec 2022

Donor: European Fund for the Balkans

Emergency Cut - Resolution on Air Quality Protection

may 2022
apr 2023

Donor: Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Serbia

Energy Transition in the Hands of Citizens

avg 2021
mar 2022

Donor: British Embassy

Do Not Underestimate Your Impact - Improving the Accessibility of Environmental Impact Assessment as a Preventive Environmental Protection Tool

apr 2022
nov 2022

Donors: CRTA and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

may 2022	Enhancing Multi-Sectoral Dialogue and Public Collaboration Models in Environmental Impact Assessment Processes
dec 2022	Donor: Belgrade Open School
jan 2022	(Un)protected Witness - Strengthening the Legal Position of the Society for Combating Corruption in Environmental Affairs, Urban Planning, and Construction"
feb 2023	Donor: Olof Palme Center
jan 2022	Volvox - Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Development and Monitoring of Environmental Protection
dec 2023	Donor: Delegation of the European Union to Serbia
nov 2022	Urban Planning in the Hands of Citizens
apr 2023	Donor: National Democratic Institute
mar 2022	Your Rights - Environmental Protection through Legal Means
oct 2022	Donor: Heinrich Böll Foundation
sep 2022	Improving Regional Cooperation in Energy and Climate Policy
nov 2022	Donor: Embassy of the Republic of Romania
may 2022	Contributions to strengthening climate resilience and improving policies aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change in the Republic of Serbia
feb 2023	Donor: European Climate Foundation
jun 2022	Strengthening the rule of law in climate and energy policy in Serbia
jul 2023	Donor: European Climate Foundation
jul 2022	Environment, climate change, and human rights
apr 2023	Donor: International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
sep 2022	DEEP WATERS - Fighting corruption, illegality, and misuse of public resources in water management
feb 2025	Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
dec 2022	Civil Society for Energy Transition
mar 2024	Donor: British Embassy in Belgrade

ANNUAL BUDGET 413.383,1 EUR



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August 2023

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