

The construction of mini hydropower plants has brought many problems in Montenegro

For the construction of SHPPs on the river Cestogaz, the investor and privileged concessionaire Dekar and Dekar Energy, whose owner is Momcilo Miranovic, does not have a concession or a building permit. Snezana Kaludjerovic, senior legal advisor at the Center for Civic Education (CCE), says that in this way Miranovic provokes locals who protest day and night for months to protect the natural good – the watercourses of the rivers Crnja, Ljubastica, Cestogaz and Crni potok, and possibly tries to artificially create costs to later try to compensate.

CCE points out that the actions of the court and prosecutor's office in Kolasin, which have not yet decided on criminal charges and lawsuits initiated by locals since July, the local community of Bare Kraljske and non-governmental organizations against Dekar and Dekar Energy, are also indicative.

He reminds that the right of citizens to a healthy environment is proclaimed by the Constitution of Montenegro, as the highest legal act of the state and numerous international legal acts in the field of environmental protection and spatial planning.

CCE also asked the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism to review the legality of issued building permits for the construction of SHPPs Crnja, Crni potok and Ljubastica, ie water consent given for issuing building permits, estimating from the existing documentation that there was no geological research project on these watercourses.

CCE calls on the SDT to urgently review the concession agreements relating to these three rivers, a tributary of the UNESCO-protected Tara, as well as the process of issuing building permits for them, and in particular to determine whether there is a criminal association in the theft of the Cestogaza River. is located in the Komovi Regional Nature Park.

"As a support to the locals, CCE will continue to monitor this issue closely," concludes Kaludjerovic.

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