

Implementation of the Property Laws since January 2001

As of August 2001, the agencies engaged in Property Legislation Implementation (PLIP) announce that current totals for the implementation of the property laws rose to 32% across BiH: up to 2 percentage points since the end of July. Overall, there has been an increase countrywide of almost 11 percentage points since the beginning of the year 2001. 42% of claims for the repossession of property have been solved in the Federation; 22% in the Republika Srpska; while 27% of claims in the Brcko District have been solved.

In other words, since January 2001, the rate of implementation of the property laws in the RS rose by 9 percentage points, while the Federation and the Brcko District implementation rates both arose by 13 percentage points. Unfortunately, this rate of increase is not adequate to complete the process of property repossession in a reasonable timeframe. For that reason, a number of amendments to the property legislation in both entities are currently being discussed by the International Community and the relevant local authorities. Many of the changes will focus on further restricting the right to alternative accommodation so that only the most vulnerable individuals will be eligible. Others will address the issue of property exchanges. The changes, in addition to strong efforts by local authorities to implement them, will help boost the rates of implementation to more acceptable levels. Therefore, we fully expect agreement will be reached on these amendments and the necessary changes will be put into place in the immediate future.