

Access to Legal Advice in Slovenia

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Legal Advice in Slovenia

Identified problems:

- Numerous providers of legal counseling (lawyers, courts, NGOs)
- Introduction of implementation of ADR

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Changes:


- Adoption of the Asylum Act in 1999
- Adoption of the Free Legal Aid Act in 2001
- Adoption of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act in 2008
- Adoption of the Mediation in Civil and Commercial Matters Act in 2008

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Pravno-informacijski center nevladnih organizacij
(PIC)/Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs, Slovenia

- A legal NGO in Slovenia
- Established in 1997
- Three main fields: human rights, nongovernmental organisations, alternative dispute resolution
- Advocacy, influencing legal policies, legal counselling

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- Legal counselling in general
 - Target groups: asylum seekers, the disabled, socially deprived, the discriminated, consumers, NGOs
 - Legal basis: concession/permission from the Government (FLAA, Consumers Act) or projects
 - On the field/PIC office/via phone/via emails
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Pilot project of Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs, Slovenia (PIC) and the Peace Institute:

- PRO BONO LAWYERS project
- Implemented in 2008 and 2009
- Clearing House at PIC as a coordinator (referral mechanisms)
- List of pro bono lawyers and a list of potential clients

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PRESENT PROBLEMS

- Cutting down costs of the free legal aid system or increase of costs?
- Reduction of administrative burdens (referrals, procedures for establishing a right to free legal aid...)
- Effective right to free legal aid?
- Before: less burden for courts (detering clients from court procedures, less possible court backlogs, promotion of ADR)