

**USAID COMMERCIAL LAW REFORMS IN CROATIA**  
**Monthly Project Summary and Report –August 2001**

Date: September 10, 2001

To: Mr. Fred Clapps, USAID/Croatia

Re: Monthly Project Summary and Report for August 2001

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**1. Project Identification**

Title: USAID Commercial Law Reforms in Croatia

Contractor: Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc.

Contract Number: PCE-I-00-98-00013-00

Task Order No.: 808

**2. Project Performance Dates**

Period of Performance: May 1, 2001 – August 12, 2003

Start Date: May 1, 2001

Report Date and Number: August 6, 2001, No. 3

Anticipated Completion Date: August 12, 2003

**3. Key Technical Advisors:**

Thaddeus Bejnar, Gordon Campbell, Aimee Carter, Rick Martin, Melinda Ostermeyer, Eufrona Snyder, Bob St. Vrain, Fred Yeager

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**I. LAND REGISTRY**

- Continuation of interviews and assessments at the Zagreb LRO on various issues regarding modernization, backlog clearing, training, organizational change.
- Preparation of recommendations and test implementation report for lawyers self service area in Zagreb LRO.
- Meetings and corresponding with Bar Association, Chamber of Notaries and LRO Management to prepare for LRO Working Group meeting in September.
- Meeting with USAID and State Geodetic Agency to continue assessment for proposed land registry / cadastre harmonization project in Lijnjan
- Consultation with IGEA software developer for design of an index of plots database for the LRO
- Continuation of preparation of EDP and modernization implementation plan for Zagreb LRO
- Continuation of research and assessment of management training providers was conducted in preparation for management training courses to be organized for Municipal Court Judges and LRO
- Reporting on status and findings from various LRO modernization activities
- Assessment and problem identification of data entry for Z plomb file submission data
- Continued land registration legal reforms review and identification
- Preparation of a Management Modernization Strategy paper for LRO Management to deal with all aspects of modernizing the Zagreb LRO
- Continued meetings with DFID project team to discuss various issues concerning land registration and cadastre modernization and to coordinate contact with the MoJ

Backlog Unit Type	Total cleared to date
Current resolution files (Z) typed	4637
Old Kalendar Files (Z) rejected	440
Plumbed files (Z) resolved	1204
Plumbed files (Zs) resolved	250
Plomb file database index entries	11246
Old Kalendar files (Zs) rejected	729
Registration entries	1805
<b>Total backlog actions to date</b>	<b>20311</b>

### *Coordination*

- Ministry of Justice for participation on MoJ Working Groups
- Municipal Court, County Court, and Cadastral Office, Pula, Croatia for land registry / cadastre harmonization project Liznjan.
- Bar Association, Zagreb, Land Registration Working Group matters
- Chamber of Notaries, Zagreb, Land Registration Working Group matters
- World Bank UK DFID project for a number of land registry and cadastral reform issues
- State Geodetic Agency Zagreb for harmonization of land registry and cadastre in Istria
- City Cadastre Office, Zagreb, for land registry harmonization

## **II. COLLATERAL AND COMPANY REGISTRY**

- MOJ announced the members of the Collateral Registry Working Group and they are:  
CROATINA BANKING ASSOCIATION - Mladen Ćorić, Manager of Legal Department, Zagreb Bank  
CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY - Jasminka Trzun, Advisor to President of the CCE  
SUPREME COURT - Marijan Ramušćak, Judge  
CROATIAN NOTARY PUBLIC CHAMBER - Stjepan Volarić, notary public  
CROATIAN BAR ASSOCIATION – to be appointed

## **III. COURT/JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- Meeting with Assistant Law Professor Katerina Dulcic to finalize Bankruptcy Brochure.
- Meeting with Company Registry Judge Ika Mohorovic on typical paper flow requirements and procedures
- Daily meetings with members of Rijeka Working Committee on the forms and procedures
- Meeting of Legal Reform Group whose members are European Union, NCSC Municipal Court Project, Booz Allen Commercial Law Reform Project and ABA/CEELI. Significant discussion of Case Management and Group concluded that the Group would pursue some sort of program for a Case Management Awareness Campaign. Also discussed was Judges' Web and its benefits

### *Model Pilot Court*

- Completed design of 20 various standardized forms and related procedures for use by attorneys and the court
- Completed the specifications of the supplies and equipment requirements for the recommended filing system
- Completed the glossary of terms for the Model Manual Case Management System ("CMS")
- Completed a Cover Sheet, Forward, Overview, and Table of Contents for the CMS manual
- Completed the design of an automated flow of the paper
- Documented over 100 changes to the rules

- Traveled to Split to organize start-up of pilot Split Commercial Court activities including interviewing candidates for interpreter, arrange hotel and related facilities, e.g., Internet access, faxing and copy service.

#### ***Model Pilot Court***

- Completed "Cover Sheet" with basic requirements for opening a case and is to be completed by the filing attorney and submitted with all claims
- Completed "Standard Claim Form" and requirements for submitting documents to the court
- Completed questionnaire form for survey of judges, staff, attorneys and general public to determine attitudes towards the courts and possible improvements to the system
- Completed collection of High Commercial Court case data analysis for 1999 and 2000
- Completed organizational chart for Zagreb Commercial Court in English

#### **IV. Legal Information**

- Thaddeus Bejnar, independent consultant, completed his assessment of the Legal Information System in Croatia, including review of the Judges' Web. He expects to present his assessment early September.

#### **V. PROBLEMS**

##### ***Land Registry***

- MoJ continues to be slow to decide on Booz-Allen participation in official Working Groups
- Management decisions from the LRO Zagreb take an unreasonable amount of time and adversely affect all Booz-Allen initiatives to make efficient changes to LRO operations

##### ***Model Pilot Court***

- MOJ has not yet signed off on the Model Manual Case Management System workplan. Significant changes in or rejection of the workplan could cause delay and other complications as project adjusts to the new requirement
- Zagreb Commercial Court has not given time and date for staff to collect baseline date information

#### **VII. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

##### ***Land Registry***

- Investigate Municipal Land Registry and Cadastre Offices in selected small centers in Istria for status and harmonization of records in preparation for pilot project.
- Facilitate LRO Working Group meeting in September.
- Decide on supplier for LRO management training third week in September.
- Testing of self-service area for lawyers in Zagreb LRO

##### ***Collateral And Company Registry***

- Local Consultant, Law Professor Edita Čulinović Herc should complete review of the draft law on Collateral Registry and Eufrona Snyder's questions
- Meeting of MOJ's Collateral Registry Working Group

##### ***Court /Judicial Administration***

- Complete arrangements with PULS for three focus groups on Croatian Commercial Courts – focus groups to be (1) company lawyers, (2) company executives whose companies are in Split and (3) private attorneys active in Commercial Court litigation
- Independent Consultant on Task 6 Enforcement expect to arrive in Zagreb in late September to begin Task 6 activities
- Finalize the Case Management Awareness Campaign with Legal Reform Group
- Rick Martin will move to the Commercial Court in Split – one of designated pilot courts – to continue his work

**USAID COMMERCIAL LAW REFORMS IN CROATIA**  
**Monthly Project Summary and Report –July 2001**

Date: August 6, 2001

To: Mr. Fred Clapps, USAID/Croatia

Re: Monthly Project Summary and Report for July 2001

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**1. Project Identification**

Title: USAID Commercial Law Reforms in Croatia

Contractor: Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc.

Contract Number: PCE-I-00-98-00013-00

Task Order No.: 808

**2. Project Performance Dates**

Period of Performance: May 1, 2001 – August 12, 2003

Start Date: May 1, 2001

Report Date and Number: August 6, 2001, No. 3

Anticipated Completion Date: August 12, 2003

**3. Key Technical Advisors:**

Thaddeus Bejnar, Gordon Campbell, Aimee Carter, Rick Martin, Melinda Ostermeyer, Eufrona Snyder, Bob St. Vrain, Fred Yeager

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**I. LAND REGISTRY**

- Continuation of interviews and assessments at the Zagreb LRO on various issues regarding modernization, backlog clearing, training, organizational change.
- Completed an assessment of in-take operations and preparing analysis report for the LRO.
- Meetings with Bar Association to review strategy for future LRO Working Group Activities. Developed complete list of issues raised by the Working Group and a proposed action item agenda, which prioritizes and outlines a strategy for addressing issues over the next year. Also developed proposed 6-month action strategy for Legal Changes Subgroup. Proposals will be discussed with Working Group members and agreed upon at the next meeting.
- Meetings in Pula with Municipal Court, County Court and Cadastre Office to conduct situation analysis for proposed land registry / cadastre harmonization project in Lijnjan
- Consultation with IGEA software developer for design of an index of plots database for the LRO
- Continuation of research and assessment of management training providers was conducted in preparation for management training courses to be organized for Municipal Court Judges and LRO
- Reporting on status and findings from various LRO modernization activities
- Continuation with the facilitation of IT implementation in the LRO Zagreb
- Assessment and problem identification of data entry for Z plomb file submission data
- Continued land registration legal reforms review and identification
- Continuation of planning for the establishment of lawyer self service areas for Zagreb Land Registration Office.
- Completed survey of lawyers on common request types, service needs, familiarity with Land Books and the production of extracts in order to design structure for self-service area. Based on these findings, preparing proposal for self-service area for review by LRO.

Backlog Unit Type	Total cleared to date
Current resolution files (Z) typed	4637
Old Kalendar Files (Z) rejected	440
Plombed files (Z) resolved	1160
Plombed files (Zs) resolved	250
Plomb file database index entries	8328
Old Kalendar files (Zs) rejected	729
Registration entries	1761
<b>Total backlog actions to date</b>	<b>17305</b>

### ***Coordination***

- Ken Kopstein, Urban Institute, Zagreb, to provide information regarding land registration matters for small municipality economic and revitalization activities
- US Embassy Economic Advisor Steven Pavlovic for consultation on Lijnjan harmonization project
- Municipal Court, County Court, and Cadastral Office, Pula, Croatia for land registry / cadastre harmonization project Lijnjan.
- Bar Association, Zagreb, Land Registration Working Group matters
- Chamber of Notaries, Zagreb, Land Registration Working Group matters
- World Bank UK DFID project for a number of land registry and cadastral reform issues
- State Geodetic Agency Zagreb for harmonization of land registry and cadastre in Istria
- City Cadastre Office, Zagreb, for land registry harmonization

## **II. COLLATERAL AND COMPANY REGISTRY**

- Completed drafting of proposed law on collateral registry. Format of draft presents alternative approaches to key issues (e.g. which entity should run the registry; should the procedures for processing registration forms be administrative or adjudicative). This format will facilitate discussion by commission members who have already shown differing opinion on these issues.
- Received comments for report on Company Registry
- Received comments by key stakeholders (e.g. Notary, Chamber of Commerce, Bar Association and Banking Association) to Ministry of Justice's letter that asked for input by these entities on the laws on pledges. Responses mirrored early comments made to survey conducted and letters from Banking Association to Ministry of Justice.

## **III. COURT/JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- Working group established in Rijeka Commercial Court. Meeting held daily with individual members and weekly with the group to review activities
- Meeting of all judges from the Rijeka Commercial Court with representative of USAID. The 3 and 1/2-hour meeting covered project objectives and activities to date. Samples of various work items and forms handed over for review and comment
- A second meeting with IN2, MOJ's software advisor, clarified the programs developed by IN2. IN2 emphasized again that the MOJ want Booz Allen & Hamilton to develop a manual system that could be quickly turned into an automated system.
- Meeting with Tomulić Printing Company to arrange for a bid on file folders, labels and record storage boxes. Tomulić Printing Company has provided a quote for the record storage boxes and the bid for folders and labels is expected.

- Discussed with Ms. Katorina Dulčić, assistant law professor, brochures on
  - Controlling Commercial Court Summons
  - Registration of limited companzs and companies with founder's personal liability
  - Registration of stock companies
  - Executions in Commercial Courts
  - Commercial disputes in Commercial Courts
  - Bankruptcy Procedures
- Meeting with President Buljan, Zagreb Commercial Court, to explain the project and to arrange for statistical data collection
- After meetings with Ministry of Justice and USAID the focus of the project will be on the development of a manual case management system and Rick Martin and Fred Yeager prepared a draft "Design Activities for a Manual Case Management System" which has been submitted to MOJ for its approval and sign off
- Dr. Vjeran Strahonja verified with judges in Vara adin the information in the Strahonja report and submitted his report which shows only nominal changes for the Vara adin Commercial Court.

#### ***Model Pilot Court***

- Completed "Cover Sheet" with basic requirements for opening a case and is to be completed by the filing attorney and submitted with all claims
- Completed "Standard Claim Form" and requirements for submitting documents to the court
- Completed questionnaire form for survey of judges, staff, attorneys and general public to determine attitudes towards the courts and possible improvements to the system
- Completed collection of High Commercial Court case data analysis for 1999 and 2000
- Completed organizational chart for Zagreb Commercial Court in English

#### **IV. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

- Waiting for Melinda Ostermeyer (See June Report) to completed her report on Assessment of ADR in Croatia. She advises that it should be finished by September 1, 2001

#### **V. Legal Information**

- Thaddeus Bejnar, independent consultant, arrived in Croatia in July to begin assessment of the Legal Information System in Croatia, including review of the Judges" Web

#### **VI. PROBLEMS**

##### ***Collateral And Company Registry***

- Recent reductions in staff at the MOJ and seasonal vacations have resulted in a slow down in receipt of information and assistance.
- Presentation of law to Sabor will be delayed due to first commission meeting being set in September.
- Economic assessment delayed because of MOJ's need to determine role of the Norwegians and request to coordinate any such study with the Norwegians.

#### **VII. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

##### **Land Registry**

- Investigate Municipal Land Registry and Cadastre Offices in selected small centers in Istria for status and harmonization of records in preparation for pilot project.
- Meet with LRO Modernization Working Group members to discuss proposals and plan September meeting.
- Evaluate proposals for LRO management training seminar in the fall.

***Collateral And Company Registry***

- Submit draft of law to selected persons to review and comment, including law professors and banking association member.
- Prepare comments on other laws that need amendments to coordinate with new law for Ministry of Justice and commission.
- Commission meeting to take place in last half of September.
- Coordinate and complete economic review with Norwegians.
- Complete report on Company Registry

***Court /Judicial Administration***

- Begin planning for the Commercial Court Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for September 26
- Organize first meeting for the 6 World Bank Project Liaisons (World Bank Advisory Council)
- MOJ approval of the “Design Activities for a Manual Case Management System”

**USAID COMMERCIAL LAW REFORMS IN CROATIA  
Monthly Project Summary and Report –June 2001**

Date: July 11, 2001

To: Mr. Fred Clapps, USAID/Croatia

Re: Monthly Project Summary and Report for June 2001

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**1. Project Identification**

Title: USAID Commercial Law Reforms in Croatia  
Contractor: Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc.  
Contract Number: PCE-I-00-98-00013-00  
Task Order No.: 808

**2. Project Performance Dates**

Period of Performance: May 1, 2001 – August 12, 2003  
Start Date: May 1, 2001  
Report Date and Number: June 5, 2001, No. 1  
Anticipated Completion Date: August 12, 2003

**3. Key Technical Advisors:**

Gordon Campbell, Aimee Carter, Rick Martin, Melinda Ostermeyer, Eufrona Snyder, Bob St. Vrain Fred Yeager

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**I. LAND REGISTRY**

- Continuation of interviews and assessments at the Zagreb LRO on various issues regarding modernization, backlog clearing, training, organizational change
- Facilitation of third meeting of LRO working group with Bar Association and Chamber of Notaries
- Completion of appeals training for LRO administrative staff and presentation of certificates
- Letter to Ministry of Justice forwarded for participation of BAH on MOJ working committees
- Briefings with UK DFID consultants with the World Bank project conducted
- Preparation of a draft management modernization plan for LRO management
- Meeting attended at SGA with CTO of USAID Mission regarding possible assistance for LR and Cadastre harmonization projects in Istria
- Questionnaires and survey of legal professionals in the LRO conducted to obtain information on the use of LR services by the legal profession
- Arrangements made with the City Cadastre Office to export data for the LRO to use for the compilation of an index of plots database
- Research and assessment of management training providers was conducted in preparation for management training courses to be organized for Municipal Court Judges and LRO managers
- Draft bulletin prepared for the LRO management as an example for information distribution for policy and procedure change

Backlog Unit Type	Total cleared to date
Current resolution files (Z) typed	4637
Old Kalendar Files (Z) rejected	440
Plumbed files (Z) resolved	1160
Plumbed files (Zs) resolved	250
Plomb file database index entries	6781
Old Kalendar files (Zs) rejected	729
Registration entries	1761
<b>Total backlog actions to date</b>	<b>15758</b>

### **Coordination**

- World Bank UK DFID project for a number of land registry and cadastral reform issues
- State Geodetic Agency Zagreb for harmonization of land registry and cadastre in Istria

## **II. COLLATERAL AND COMPANY REGISTRY**

- Meeting with Assistant Minister Olga Jelčić, representative from Banking Association and BAH to discuss Banking Association's participation in to-be-established commission to draft laws on collateral registry and related secured transaction laws.
- At Assist. Min. Jelčić's request BAH agreed to assist in writing draft law for consideration at a meeting of the commission tentatively scheduled for early September 2001.
- MOJ has sent letters to interested groups requesting comments on the current law on non-possessory pledges
- Meeting with Ms. Nevenka Rogan Škrapec, Head of Informatics Division, Ministry of Justice and Goran Oparnica, IN2 (a computer software computer advising the MOJ) on current status and needs of Company Registry.
- IN2 currently working on installation of hardware and software for imaging the archives of Company Registry in Commercial Court of Zagreb

## **III. COURT/JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- Rick Martin began activities in the Rijeka Pilot Court on June 6<sup>th</sup> and will be there until about the end of August when he moves to Split
- Meeting with Presiding Judge and judges of each division of the Commercial Court in Rijeka to review procedures, review forms and templates used, discuss level of automation, discuss training received and discuss organizational structure of court.
- Collection, review and date gathering on cases
  - Completed spreadsheet on Commercial Disputes
  - Completed spreadsheet on Appeals from Commercial Court
- Meeting with MOJ
  - MOJ to pay for file folders, labels, record storage boxes for pilot courts
  - Meeting with IN2 (software provided for MOJ) and discussed with Mr. Hrvote Zunko the training manuals for software programs available to the Commercial Courts
- Completed
  - Design of complaint and cover sheet for commercial courts
  - Organizational chart for Rijeka Commercial Court
  - Baseline Data Collection forms in English and Croatian
- June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Commercial Court Advisory Council held with successful results. See copy of minutes of the meeting previously provided

- Mr. Strahonja is verifying with the judges the information contained in the “Bankruptcy Administration Project: Information Support for Court and Case Management Model and Legal Information System,” usually referred to as “The Strahonja Report”

#### **IV. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

- Melinda Ostermeyer, consultant for ADR, spent the week of June 25<sup>th</sup> in Zagreb gathering information for assessment report and recommendations on ADR

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Negotiating lease for new premises and arranging for telephone, etc.

#### **V. PROBLEMS**

- General lack of proactive management involvement from the Zagreb Land Registry Office causing slow response and follow up to issues and delayed action on modernization and organizational change
- Non responsiveness from the MOJ for Working Committee participation
- Communication with the MOJ continues to be difficult
- Summer holiday season will slow efforts and communication

#### **V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- Investigate Land Registry and Cadastre Offices in selected small centers in Istria for status and harmonization of records
- Move to new offices on or about July 15<sup>th</sup>
- Draft law on collateral registry and related secured transaction laws
- Appointment of members of the collateral registry commission
- Receipt of comments in response to MOJ letter
- Report on current status of Company Registry and recommendations
- Training for junior clerks in LRO
- Collection of Baseline data in Rijeka and in Zagreb High Commercial Court
- Forms testing in Rijeka Commercial Court
- Thaddeus P. Bejnar, short-term consultant for Legal Information, will arrive in Zagreb for approximately 2 weeks of meeting for assessment of legal information

**USAID COMMERCIAL LAW REFORMS IN CROATIA**  
**Monthly Project Summary and Report – May 2001**

Date: June 5, 2001

To: Mr. Fred Clapps, USAID/Croatia

Re: Monthly Project Summary and Report for May 2001

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**1. Project Identification**

Title: USAID Commercial Law Reforms in Croatia

Contractor: Booz·Allen & Hamilton Inc.

Contract Number: PCE-I-00-98-00013-00

Task Order No.: 808

**2. Project Performance Dates**

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Start Date: May 1, 2001

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Gordon Campbell, Aimee Carter, Rick Martin, Eufrona Snyder, Fred Yeager

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**Progress to Date by Task**

The task order began on May 1 immediately following the conclusion of the USAID Economic & Institutional Reforms in Croatia project. In addition to technical assistance, new Team members were introduced to counterparts. The Team met with the Assistant Minister of Justice, who was recently designated the Team's liaison, to discuss the project and to arrange procedures for keeping the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) informed about activities. The Assistant Minister promised to appoint representatives to serve as points of contact on each of the registries and on the Commercial Court activities. All Team members assisted in the development of the project Work Plan.

***Registries Modernization***

Ongoing interviews and information gathering sessions were conducted with judges and senior clerks in the Zagreb Land Registry Office (LRO) to discuss possible change actions and to assess new initiatives for process improvements and training for LRO staff. Initiatives focused on developing a self-service area for legal professionals, extract production improvements, planning training programs for clerks and administration staff, and developing procedures for computer system maintenance. Training for typists on producing appeals continued. On May 15, the Land Registry Modernization Working Group (LRO, Bar Association, Chamber of Notaries) had its second meeting and discussed specific proposals to improve the effectiveness of LRO operations and staff, and education of the legal profession in land registration matters. The Bar Association chaired the meeting and will provide a report of the proposals to the members. The third meeting was scheduled for mid June and an action agenda will be discussed at that time. Backlog clearing activities also continued, and the following chart shows the status:

Backlog Unit Type	Total cleared to date
Current Kalendar files (Z) resolutions typed	4400
Old Kalendar Files (Z) rejected	370
Plumbed files (Z) resolved	1160
Plumbed files (Zs) resolved	250
Plomb file database index entries	6400
Old Kalendar files (Zs) rejected	530
Registration entries	1730
<b>Total backlog actions to date</b>	<b>14840</b>

In the Collateral Registry area, the Team met with the Banking Association and Zagrebacka Bank about taking pro-active steps to participate in the drafting of legislation. The Banking Association sent two letters to the Ministry of Justice about its interest and opinions on the registry. The Team also met with the Assistant Minister of Justice, and provided an outline of the current status of work. Additional time will be needed for the Assistant Minister to become knowledgeable about the collateral registry effort; it is unclear what role and influence, if any, the Team's earlier MOJ liaison may have. The MOJ is uncertain how the efforts funded by USAID and the Norwegian project might correspond and complement each other. The Team understands that the Norwegians are looking to them to assist with the drafting of the law for presentation to the Sabor and that the focus of the Norwegian work would be in the subsequent implementation of the registry.

#### ***Court/Judicial Administration***

Prior to deployment, the Team met with the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and upon arrival in Zagreb on May 17 met with representatives of USAID, MOJ, ABA/CEELI, National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and the High Commercial Court (HCC) to establish initial contacts and secure cooperation. The Team immediately began preparing for technical assistance activities by reviewing the project objectives, laws, rules, and current operating procedures. Discussions also included validation contracts prior to World Bank procurement of automation equipment for the Commercial Courts. In addition, the Team visited the National Archives and the Zagreb Municipal Court Archives to obtain the various rules and laws effecting the retention of records in Croatia. Samples of forms and reports were secured from the printing company, Municipal Court, HCC, and MOJ. On May 23, the team attended the Croatia Investment Conference, which included a presentation on the Legal and Regulatory Environment. Based on this information various court organizational charts were developed for a better understanding of the structures within the court system.

The Team is assisting the HCC to prepare the agenda for the June 15 meeting of the Commercial Court Advisory Council to be held in Zagreb. The Team also developed Baseline Data Elements for collection of data in the six Pilot Courts. Activity in the Pilot Courts will begin in early June with the Rijeka Commercial Court.

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#### ***Coordination***

- Norwegians are a group with whom to continue cooperative efforts on the Collateral Registry.
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#### **Changes to Workplan**

- None.
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## Problems

- The changing roles and lack of relationship between the staff at the MOJ has slowed their response time to Collateral Registry activities. Additionally, the MOJ is unclear how the efforts under the USAID funded project and the Norwegian project would overlap.
  - It appears that many of the laws and rules related to the Commercial Courts need modification to a standardized and re-engineered automated system. This would include elimination of the various ledger books for automated index system, in addition to the elimination of writing docket entries on the inside of cover of file folder in favor of an online docket system. An advisor with very strong legislative writing ability may be needed for this area.
  - Funding was not provided for standardized lateral filing systems or lateral file folders, labels, etc. If funding is not identified, it is uncertain how testing in the 6 pilot courts will be possible.
  - Funding was not provided to convert all forms used in the Commercial Courts to conform to a scan-able and standardized data entry system. If funding is not identified, it is uncertain how testing in the 6 pilot courts will proceed.
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## Upcoming Activities

- Prepare response to the Banking Associations letter that requested opinions on the laws and operations related to the Collateral Registry.
- Clarify roles within MOJ on who will be leading efforts on collateral registry, and establish working group (BAH, stakeholders, MOJ).
- Conduct third meeting of the LRO Modernization Committee. Begin Junior Clerk Training.
- Begin pilot index data entry in LRO.
- Begin pilot activity in the Rijeka Commercial Court.
- Attend a seminar on Judicial Independence and Impartiality sponsored by the International Bar Association, Croatian Helsinki Committee and the Croatian Legal Center.
- Participate in the June 15th meeting of the Commercial Court Advisory Council.
- Arrival of short-term advisors to assist on the Commercial Court Project, including developing a workplan and outline of activities for the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).