

Municipalities to Take Final Steps for Complete Implementation of the Property Laws

Each month new municipalities in BiH join the group of those having completed their outstanding property claims. To date 32 municipalities throughout BiH have done so. To ensure transparency and a standardized approach, the agencies involved in the Property Law Implementation Plan, OHR, OSCE, UNHCR and CRPC, have approved a set of guidelines to verify that municipalities have complied with all the legal obligations under the law.

These guidelines indicate concrete measures that the housing authorities are expected to take in their own municipalities before declaring PLIP substantially completed. The municipalities are required to report all solved claims, to make unused alternative accommodation available to neighboring municipalities, to regularly review the lists of alternative accommodation beneficiaries, and to maintain sufficient administrative capacity to deal with any property claims submitted to their offices in the future.

International agencies working in the field will assess together with the housing bodies that all requirements to declare Property Law Implementation substantially completed have been met. The State Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons will be kept fully informed on the completion in the respective municipalities as will the media. This will ensure transparency of the process and ensure that it is equally applied throughout BiH. Finalizing Property Laws Implementation is only one step towards the full realization of Annex VII. Municipalities remain obliged to facilitate the

return of refugees and displaced persons by other means to make the returns sustainable.

Municipalities that have completed the Property Law Implementation can now fully dedicate themselves to their economic and social development and progress towards a normal life.

You can find the guidelines on: <https://www.ohr.int/plip/>