

Action „Stop Pirates“: Public destruction of pirated or counterfeit CD, DVD and VHS carriers with copyrighted contents

The organisations of copyright holders of Croatia and within the joint action “Stop Pirates” at the “Jadran Film” location organised on 5th October 2010 in Zagreb a public destruction of over 100 000 of pirated or counterfeit CD, DVD and VHS carriers featuring copyrighted contents. Such destruction of these forgeries was based on approximately 300 final judgments on criminal procedures concerning infringements of copyright and related rights.

The public destruction and accompanying press conference were marked by the presence of the representatives of film, music and software industries, state institutions and Croatian artists. This event was attended and supported by the representatives of competent authorities for the enforcement of intellectual property rights, including the representatives of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO).

At the press conference a statement given by M Sc Ljiljana Kuterovac, deputy director general to SIPO, and chairperson to the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (CCE IPR), gave support to this action and pointed out the economic and social damage of piracy, and still insufficient recognition of the role of intellectual property protection and social damages of piracy by the Croatian public. At that occasion were announced further activities of CCE IPR to enhance the system of intellectual property rights enforcement in the Republic of Croatia.

The paper “Economic Contribution of Copyright-Based Industries to the Economy of the Republic of Croatia”, drafted by a group of resident and non-resident experts organised by the State Intellectual Property Office and according to the methodology and support of the World Intellectual Property Office, found that in the year 2004 copyright-based industries generated 4.3% GDP of economy in the Republic of Croatia, whereby this activity employed 4.65% of the aggregate number of the persons employed in the Republic of Croatia.

The above data show a significant economic and social contribution of this industry and the circulation of pirated products inflicts significant damage not only to right holders, but to the economy in the whole, as well.