

PRESS RELEASE

With reference to the case of the suspension of the construction of the Hydropower Plant and the water factory in Thirrë.

The Administrative Court of Appeal accepted the request of 166 residents of the villages of Thirrë, Sang and Hebë, represented by the lawyers of the "Centre for Legal Empowerment" for the suspension of works in the implementation of the projects:

- 1) **HPP Thirrë**, for which is approved the Permit for Use of Water Resource no. 16, dated 27.04.2017, of the Mat Water Basin Council and preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment no. 103, approved by decision no. 07, dated 21.02.2017.
- 2) **The water factory with the destination "Bottle or container packaging"** for which is approved the Permit for Use of Water Resource no. 03, dated 27.02.2017 of the Mat Water Basin Council, amended by decision no. 10, dated 22.12.2017 and preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment no. 665, approved by decision no. 56, dated 07.11.2016.

The residents of the area have opposed the construction of the Thirrë HPP and the water factory at the Krazhna source for 3 years since these projects damage the environment and their legitimate economic interests related to the development of agriculture and livestock.

CLE's lawyers managed to prove to the Court the possibility of a serious, immediate, and irreversible damage to the environment and the economic interests of 166 residents of the villages of Thirrë, Sang and Hebë from the implementation of administrative acts and the development of projects.

This decision of the Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal was taken a few months after the Tirana Administrative Court of First Instance abolished the above acts, because it assessed that they were approved in violation of the law.

The victory of the residents of Thirrë, Sang and Hebë villages marks another important success of the "Centre for Legal Empowerment" and "EcoAlbania" in protecting the environment from illegal actions through court decision-making.