

Paying to access public information - Croatia

Submitted on 17 Sep 2013 by Zdenka Zubcic

Tenderi Ltd is a company from Croatia that collects public procurement information and distributes it to its users.

The Croatian National Gazette is forcing us to pay around 4000 EUR net per year to access public tenders from them. If we don't pay, they will block our approach to the tenders. Our competitors in Croatia are faced with the same situation. We have tried to contact the public procurement office in Croatia, but nobody seems to realize that having to pay for public information is a problem.

We have been paying for this service since June last year. National Gazette does not allow us to download data from the regular web site (<https://eojn.nn.hr/Oglasnik/>) where the tenders are published. We have to use a special web service that they created just for 'commercial users' as they call us.

Creating this special web service, which we did not ask for, was costing them money and this was the excuse they used for charging us. They openly told us that they will block our approach to the regular website if we don't pay. Only after the payment was made did we get access to the web service.

Initially, the price they wanted us to pay was even higher, however, we negotiated (together with some other 'commercial users' - in a group we were stronger) and we managed to get a lower price of 4000 € per year. The price for commercial users is not publicly announced on the web site of National Gazette, although [prices for regular users can be found here](#).

By spring, the situation had changed. The National Gazette included concessions in their regular web site, but not their special web service. Of course, all commercial users complained but the answer from National Gazette was that concessions are not contractually covered by the price they are paying. For now, we are allowed to copy concessions from the 'regular' web site, but we are expecting that they will force us in the future to pay a higher price to access this data and they will not allow us access from the regular site.

Last year, National Gazette also introduced a service similar to ours - users can pay for an email service to get tenders from a certain branch. They told us that they see us as competitors and that was also the reason why they wanted to charge us for taking tenders from them.

The National Gazette obviously sees public tenders published on its web site as being protected by copyright.

To find out more about the the status of PSI re-use in Croatia visit us at the upcoming [ePSIplatform Budapest workshop](#).