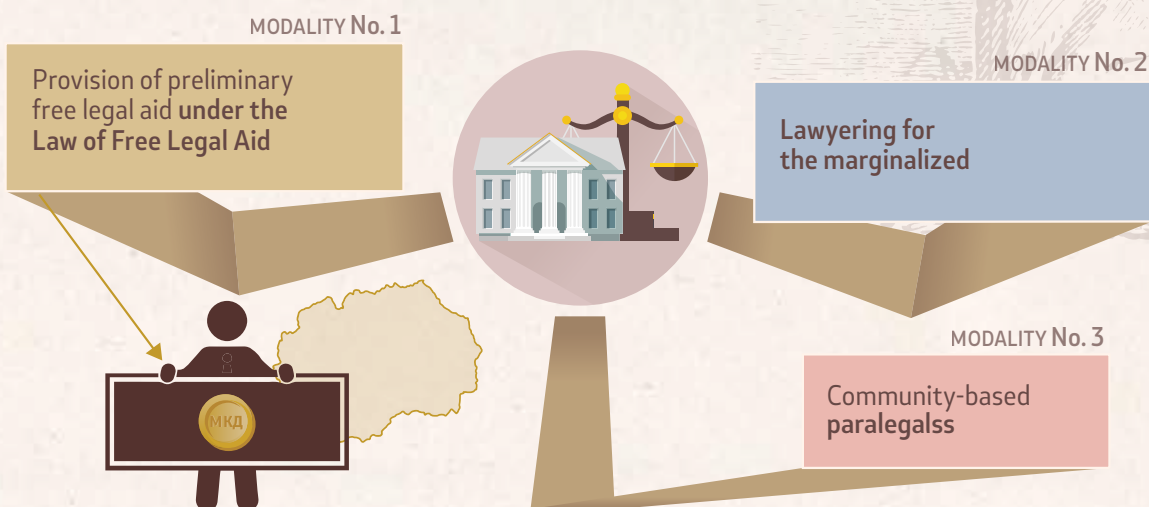




The cost of FREE LEGAL AID and PARALEGAL SERVICES for POOR and other MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES in Macedonia

Limited access to justice for poor, Roma and other marginalized communities has provoked the establishment of different legal aid modalities. Currently there are **THREE** modalities of provision of free legal aid and services in Macedonia.



Only the first modality is financially supported by the state.

The second and the third modality are entirely supported by foreign donor agencies' aid.

To strengthen the case for institutionalizing and implementing policy frameworks that respond to the unmet justice needs of the poor and marginalized we conducted analysis of:

- A) THE COST TO THE ORGANIZATIONS OF PROVIDING THESE SERVICES;**
- B) COSTS INCURRED BY CLIENTS;**
- C) BENEFITS TO CLIENTS.**


A

THE COST to the organizations of providing these services

COSTING FREE LEGAL AID UNDER THE LAW ON FREE LEGAL AID

 The average cost per case **1.786 MKD**
 Poor people's cases per year **120.543**

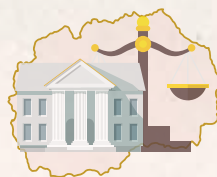
 x  = **215.169.255 MKD**
 (TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED PER YEAR)

 If authorized organizations could employ attorneys without passed bar exam, the per-service cost would decrease to **1.286 MKD**

 x  = **154.998.523 MKD**

(TOTAL REQUIRED BUDGET TO COVER THIS COST FOR ALL POOR PEOPLE WHO NEEDED LEGAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION IN A YEAR)

However, the Ministry of Justice allocates **only 3.000.000 MKD** per year for free legal aid.



MODALITY No. 1

COSTING FREE LEGAL AID BEYOND THE LAW ON FREE LEGAL AID

 Mean cost per client **2.013 MKD**
 Poor people's cases per year **120.543**

 x  = **242.652.101 MKD**

(TOTAL REQUIRED BUDGET TO COVER THIS COST FOR ALL POOR PEOPLE WHO NEEDED LEGAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION IN A YEAR)

MODALITY No. 2

COSTING PARALEGAL SERVICES

 The average cost per case **1.765,58 MKD**
 Poor people's cases per year **20.797**
 (estimated number of Roma cases that would need these services)

 x  = **36.719.495 MKD**
 (TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED PER YEAR)

Per-case cost of the paralegal organizations **1.766 MKD** + Per-case cost of ESE's support **1.299 MKD**
 (provides technical assistance and support to organizations)

TOTAL COST = 3.064 MKD
 (PER CLIENT)

3.064 x 20.797 = 63.726.467 MKD

(TOTAL COST FOR PARALEGAL SERVICES)

MODALITY No. 3

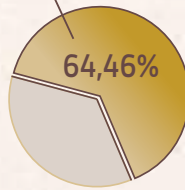
B

COSTS incurred by clients

Poor and other marginalized clients incurred various types of costs while resolving their legal problems. Client travel costs are the most common.

Travel costs were incurred by **107** of the **166** clients

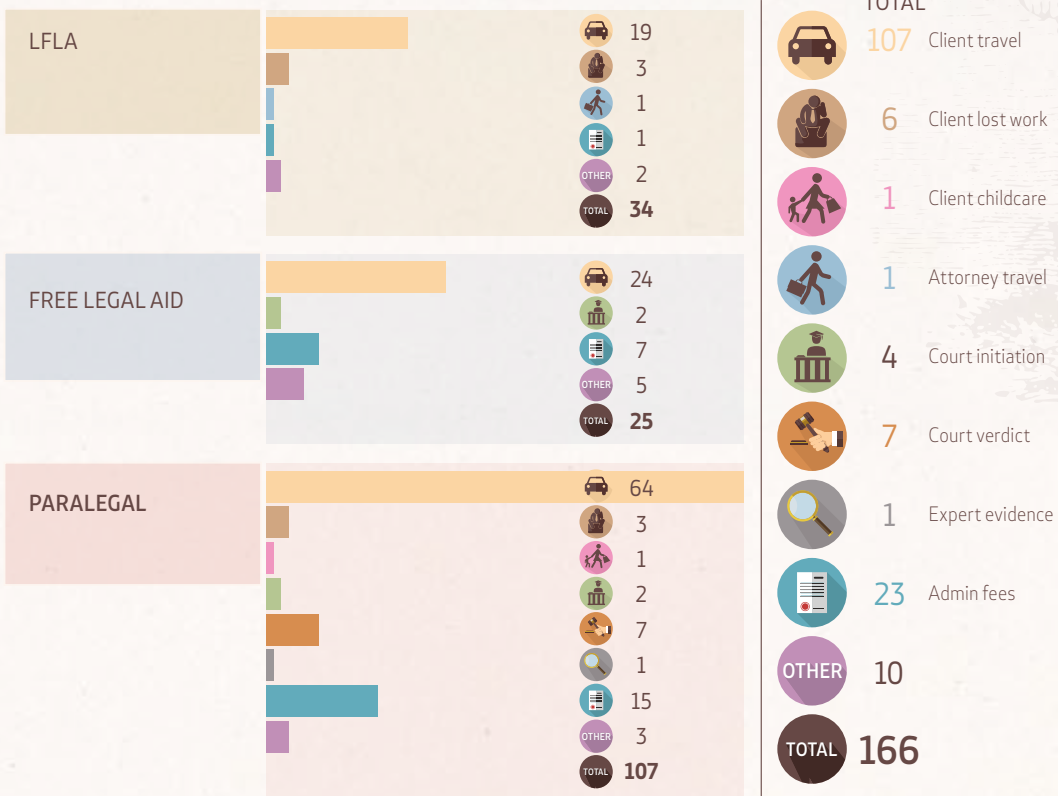
Only one of the Free Legal Aid clients did not incur these costs.



More generally, poor clients may be forced to walk because they simply do not have money to pay for other forms of travel.



TABLE. Number of clients incurring different costs by service type



The table shows a substantial difference in the mean and median, particularly for the paralegal clients. The research shows that there are several exceptional cases with very high costs that increase the mean but do not affect the median. The detail of the cases shows that there are reasonable explanations for these high costs.

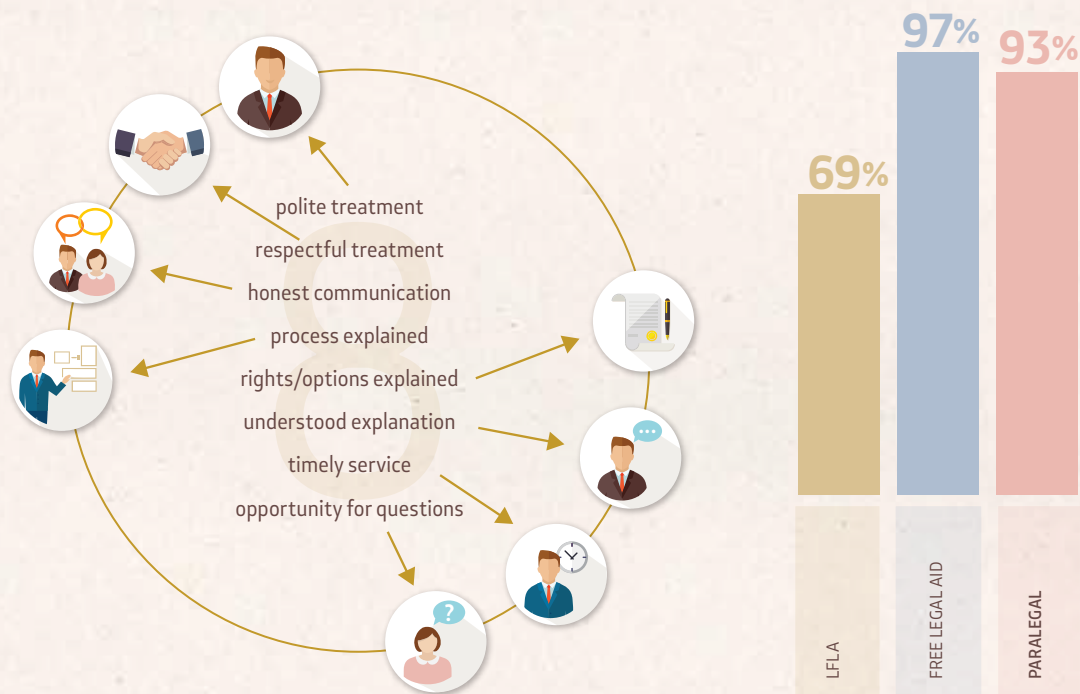
TABLE. Total costs by service type (MKD)

Type	Number of clients	Total MKD	Mean cost	Median Median
Free Legal Aid	25	17.820	713	300
LFLA	34	8.475	249	100
Paralegal	107	152.597	1.426	140
Total	166	178.892	1.078	140

C

BENEFITS

Clients' BENEFITS are calculated based on the mean for the ratings for EIGHT ASPECTS of the services provided by the organizations.



For benefits, Free Legal Aid organizations operating outside of the LFLA are scored 97%, paralegal services 93%, and LFLA services much lower, at 69%.

TABLE.

Summary comparison of costs and benefits per client (Costs in MKD)

		Poor users	Government	NGOs	Attorneys
LFLA	Costs	243	13	1.785	5.368
	Direct costs	155	13	1.785	5.362
	Indirect costs	88	0	0	6
	Benefits	69%			
FREE LEGAL AID	Costs	719	0	2.013	
	Direct costs	380	0	2.013	
	Indirect costs	339	0	0	
	Benefits	97%			
PARALEGAL	Costs	1.427	0	3.065	
	Direct costs	1.367	0	3.065	
	Indirect costs	60	0	0	
	Benefits	93%			

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