

ACTIVITIES
REPORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT
OFFICE FOR
COOPERATION
WITH NGOs
IN 2015



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs





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ABOUT THE

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR

COOPERATION WITH NGOs

Since 1998 the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs has provided professional service to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, with the responsibility for creating conditions for the development of efficient cooperation with associations and other civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Republic of Croatia.

MISSION

The Office provides an encouraging legal, institutional and financial framework for CSO activities and supports the development of a strong and autonomous civil society as an indispensable partner of the state in drafting and implementing public policy.

VISION

Proactive and dynamic professional service to the Croatian Government focused on continuous improvement of the quality of cooperation between civil society and the state.

GOAL

Efficient and effective coordination of public administration authorities in developing cooperation with NGOs and other CSOs in drafting and implementing public policy.



GOALS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE

1. IMPROVING THE STRATEGIC AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

- drafting and continuously monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development (strategija.udruga.hr)
- participating in drafting, continuously monitoring, analysing and assessing the normative framework regarding the activities of associations and other CSOs

2. CITIZEN, CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

- coordinating public administration authorities in developing the system of consultations with the interested public, managing the central website „e-Consultations“ (savjetovanja.gov.hr) and drafting annual reports on consultations which were conducted to the Croatian Government
- providing professional and administrative support to the Council for the Development of Civil Society as an advisory body to the Croatian Government
- providing professional and administrative support to the Council of the Open Government Partnership Initiative and monitoring the implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative Action Plan
- organizing the NGOs' Open Days with the aim of familiarizing the citizens and the general public with programmes and projects of associations in the interest of the public good (udruga.hr)

3. EFFECTIVE FINANCING OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES OF ASSOCIATIONS IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC GOOD

- coordinating public administration authorities and other public institutions in the harmonisation of policy, criteria and standards for financing associations and other CSO projects from public sources
- providing public administration authorities with professional assistance in preparing and conducting tenders for financing projects and programmes of associations from the state budget
- drafting reports to the Croatian Government about the allocation of public sources funds which were earmarked and paid to CSOs in order to support their programme activities

4. EU PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- programming, contracting, financial managing, quality and implementation monitoring of projects providing support to civil society development which are financed by EU funds and by the Swiss-Croatian cooperation programme
- participating in the System of Management and Control of the use of the European Social Fund in the role of an Intermediary Body of level 1
- co-financing the obligatory contribution of associations and other CSO projects which have obtained support from the EU funds
- National Contact Point for the „Europe for Citizens“ Programme

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, other international bodies and similar institutions in line with the Office's domain
- carrying out international development cooperation activities in providing support to civil society development

6. INFORMATION AND TRAINING

- providing information and professional assistance to citizens and CSO representatives
- organizing professional development and training programmes in developing cooperation with civil society in cooperation with the State School for Public Administration and a number of local and regional self-government units
- providing professional training programmes for civil servants for effective public consultation implementation
- providing professional training programmes for civil servants for effective financing of projects and programmes of associations in the interest of the public good

THE OFFICE

IN NUMBERS



23 staff members

at the end of 2015



more than 2 600 replies to the inquires of citizens, associations, institutions

(about registration and activities of associations in the Republic of Croatia, financing opportunities, monitoring the work of CSOs, etc.) by e-mail and regular mail, as well as by phone



102 workshops/seminars/debates held on:

- the usage of e-Consultations: **40**
- the implementation of the Law on Associations: **20**
- the implementation of the Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations: **26**
- the Europe for Citizens Programme: **16**



55 million HRK

from the EU funds paid for the projects under the Office's authority



38 new projects

contracted in the amount of **42 million HRK** under the EU-IPA 2012 grant schemes



94 contracts concluded on co-financing

of EU projects implemented by associations with the total value of 5.577.618,48 HRK



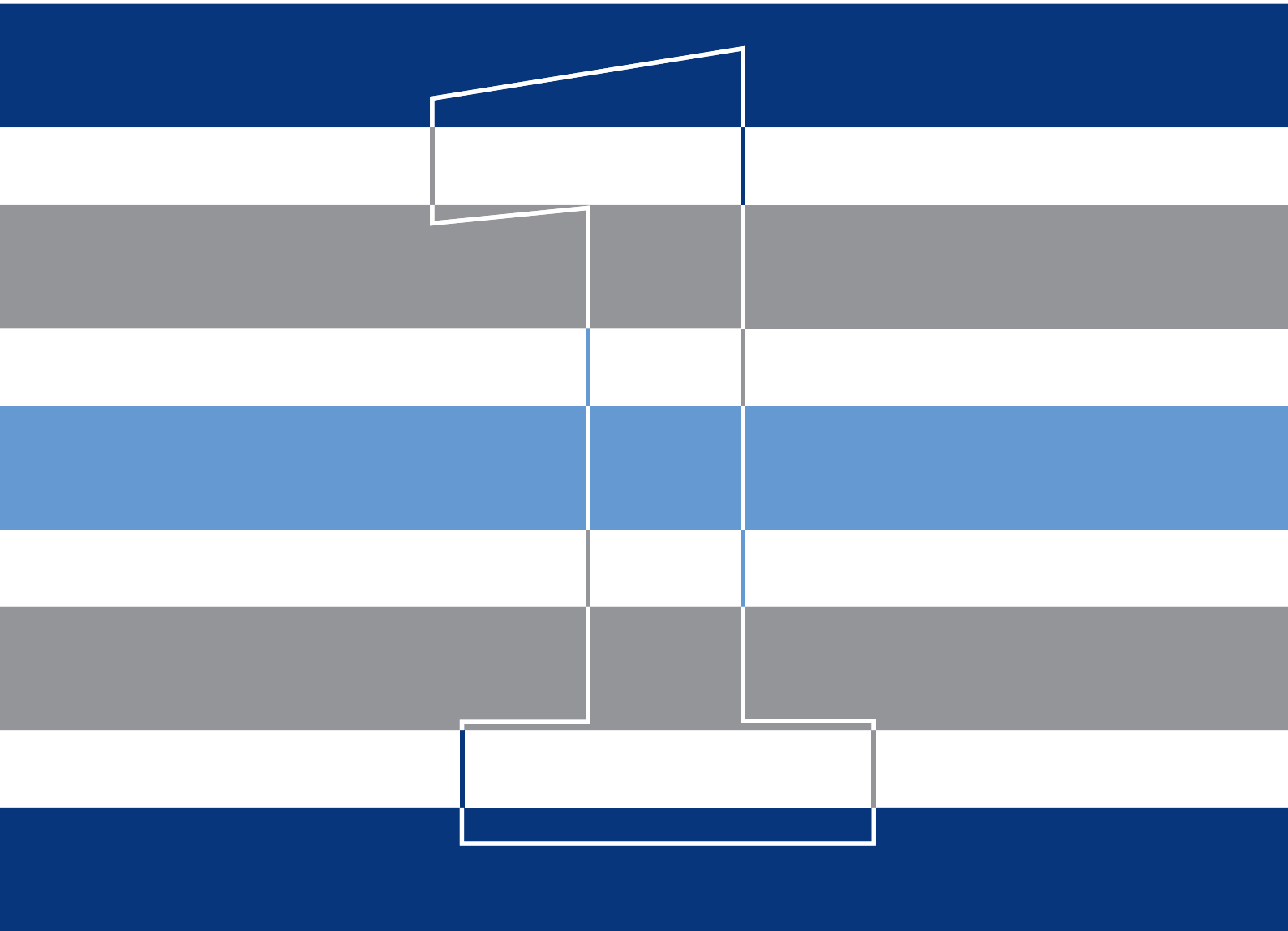
more than 255,000

visits to the Office's website



158 EU projects

of associations with the total value of more than 117 million HRK monitored



IMPROVING

THE STRATEGIC AND



NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

DEVELOPMENT

**National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment
for Civil Society Development**

National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development is a strategic document which conveys the Croatian Government's policy regarding strengthening the legal, financial and institutional system of support to CSOs as important factors of socio-economic development of the Republic of Croatia, but also as an important participant in shaping and implementing the European Union policy.



According to the Report on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development from 2012 to 2016, which was enacted at the Government session on July 23rd 2015, in the middle of its implementation period, 45 activities were completely implemented till the end of 2014, ie. almost half of the 91 activities that had been planned, while the rest of the activities are in the final implementation phase.

The key achievements are the following:

- improvement of the legal framework for activities of associations and other non-profit organizations by enactment and implementation of the new Law on Associations and the Law on Financial Operation and Accounting of Non-Profit Organizations
- regulation of the criteria and standards for financing of programmes and projects of associations from public sources by enacting the Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations
- determination of the criteria for allocation of premises in the ownership of the Republic of Croatia to be used by CSOs
- improvement of the legal framework for volunteering development
- improvement of standards and procedures of consultations with the interested public by necessary normative changes and establishment of the central website for public consultations
- improvement of the conditions for activities of non-profit media
- strengthening of capacities of associations and other CSOs enabled a 100% absorption of the EU funds available for the civil society sector

For the purpose of the implementation of certain measures and activities of the Strategy, implementing and co-implementing bodies spent 96.472.469,33 HRK from the state budget.

It is possible to follow the implementation of the measures in real time via the [web platform of the National Strategy](#), including all the important activities implemented during the year 2015.



CITIZEN, CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

Consultations with the interested public

Consultations represent a process during which public administration authorities ask for and receive feedback from the public concerned in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts. The Office for Cooperation with NGOs monitors adherence to the Code of Practice on Consultation with the Interested Public in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts (the Official Gazette no. 140/2009) and is in charge of drafting annual reports on the adherence to the Code and submitting it to the Croatian Government.

The „Report on the conduction of consultations with the interested public in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts in 2015 shows the following data:

- consultations on **608** laws, other regulations and acts were conducted
- **5 863** entities or persons submitted their comments
- **15 411** comments were submitted on draft laws, other regulations and acts
- **27%** of comments were accepted partially or completely



The central website „e-Consultations“ was presented on April 27th, 2015 in the ceremonial hall of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. This website marks the first step in developing the process of consultations with the interested public in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts, which enables a simple approach to all open consultations at one place, easier commenting of draft regulation provisions, and in general, contributes to increased quality of cooperation with citizens and all social groups interested in shaping public policy.

The central website „e-Consultations“ is an upgrade following the results of a successful project implemented by the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts which was financed by EU funds, and the application itself is linked with the e-Citizens system. The Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs is responsible for managing the e-Consultations website, as a body which is also in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Code of Practice on Consultation with the Interested Public in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts.

The website also includes [the database of advisory bodies](#) which have been established by the public authorities, with the aim of receiving feedback, comments or views about certain public policies, regulations or measures within their jurisdiction.

In addition, [the video](#) on „e-Consultations“ was designed and filmed with the purpose of informing the public about the possibilities of participating in shaping of new regulations via the application „e-Consultations“, and the campaign was launched via the mass media and social networks.

The statistics of the usage of the „e-Consultations“ in 2015 are the following:



306

The number of open consultations



909

The number of people who submitted their comments



32

The number of bodies



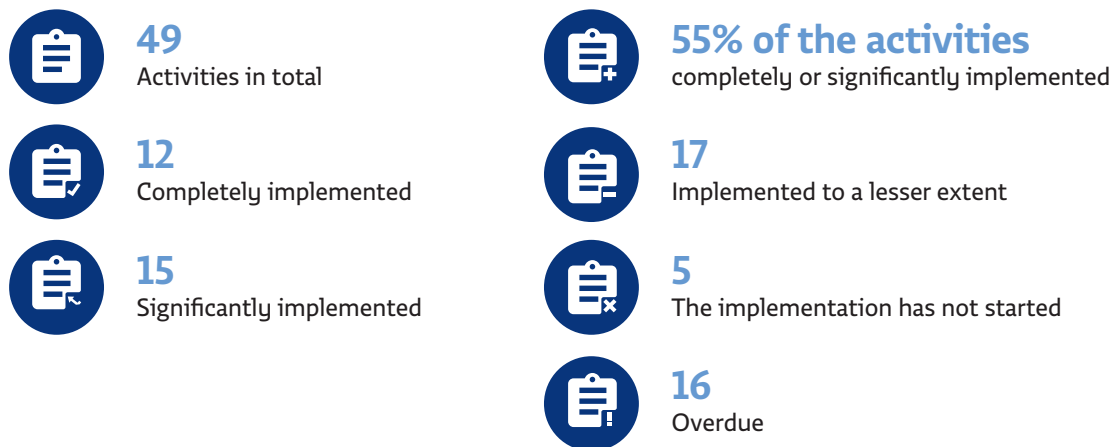
4140

The number of comments

Open Government Partnership

Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative aimed at facilitating specific progress in transparency and openness in the work of public administration authorities by involving and empowering citizens and civil society, fighting corruption and using new technologies for the improvement of quality of services provided to citizens by the public administration authorities. The Office for Cooperation with NGOs provides professional support to the work of the Council of Open Government Partnership initiative in the Republic of Croatia.

The Report on the Enforcement of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Open Government Initiative for the period 2014-2016 was adopted in October for the first implementation year:



The most significant results:

- the central state website gov.hr launched
- the central „e-Consultations“ website launched
- the database of public authorities created, which facilitates access to information
- the database browser on the payments processed from the unique account of the state budget created
- transparency of the data on the property of officials improved

NGOs' Open Days 2015

NGOs' Open Days is a traditional event aimed at acquainting the citizens and general public with the programmes and projects in the interest of the public good which are implemented by associations in Croatia. Various activities are organised in and out of the premises of associations, and the doors of the associations are open for all the interested citizens on a specific day or days.

- the NGOs' Open Days were held from May 28th to 30th, 2015
- almost **500 associations** throughout Croatia took part
- the conference „Associations as initiators of local development“ was held
- the mobile application **UdrugelInfo** was presented

UdrugelInfo



The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs created the UdrugelInfo mobile application, with the aim of increasing the visibility of organisations in a local community and improving the citizens' participation in the activities carried out by associations. The application is available for Android, Apple and Windows mobile phones and it enables a simple search for data on activities and services provided by associations. Via this application, the citizens can search for activities of associations per location and time of their occurrence, i.e. per information found in the Register of Associations, and thus contact a certain association. By using the UdrugelInfo application, the citizens can look for the associations active in the place where they live, per area of their own interest, as well as locate them on the interactive map of the Republic of Croatia.

The video was filmed for the purpose of the promotion of this application.

The Council for the Civil Society Development

The Council:

- *participates in continuous monitoring and analysis of the public policy pertaining to the civil society development in Croatia;*
- *participates in giving opinions to the Croatian Government about draft regulations which influence the civil society development;*
- *cooperates in planning the priorities of the national programmes of allocating state budget funds to support CSO projects and programmes and analyses the annual reports of the ministries and the Croatian Government Offices on CSO projects and programmes that were funded;*
- *participates in programming and setting priorities in using the EU pre-accession programmes and funds that are available to the Republic of Croatia;*
- *executes tasks which meet the purpose for which the Council was set up and are comprised by the objectives of the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development.*

- 5 sessions of the Council were held in 2015
- 2 thematic sessions of the Council were organized on the topic of economic activities of associations and nonprofit media
- the Council adopted the recommendation for prolonging the mandate of the civil society representatives in the European Economic and Social Committee
- the Council proposed 15 civil society representatives for the nomination in various advisory bodies of the Croatian Government, public administration authorities, the Government offices and other public institutions



EFFECTIVE FINANCING OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES OF ASSOCIATIONS IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC GOOD

The Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations

The results of the analyses of the previous forms of supporting programmes and projects of associations that were contracted by the public administration authorities and other public institutions, local and regional self-government units and public companies have shown very inconsistent standards in the procedures at the national, regional and local level, which contributed to possible various forms of abuse in using the public source funds for the implementation of programmes and projects in the interest of the public good. With very high allocations and increasing demands for transparency and responsibility in spending the money of tax payers in this area, the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs initiated the enactment of the Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations, in line with the obligation stated in the Law on Associations.

In March 2015 the Croatian Government enacted the Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations.

The Regulation was made with the aim of regulating the financing system of programmes and projects of associations, following the obligations of the new Law on Associations which entered into force on October 1st, 2014. The Regulation governs the general preconditions and standards of procedure that need to be ensured by the providers of financial support from the public sources, as well as the basic and additional requirements that need to be met by associations in the implementation of programmes and projects financed from the public sources.

The procedure performed by the public institutions has been precisely regulated in all the phases - from planning and preparing the financing priorities, announcement and conduction of calls for proposals, evaluation of projects, contents of grant contracts, monitoring and evaluation of project results, as well as possible termination of a contract and refund- in line with the existing positive practice, as well as the procedures applied while contracting and implementing projects financed from the EU funds.

The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs also published the Manual for Practice of the Regulation, which presents a detailed instruction for the state, regional and local administration authorities, the Government offices and bodies, as well as other public institutions which provide financial and non-financial support from the public sources for projects and programmes implemented by associations in the interest of the public good. One of the integral parts of the Manual are the attachments with the documentation forms which present a useful basis in programing calls for proposals on the national, regional and local levels.

Informing the public on financing CSO projects and programmes

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs collects data on financing CSO projects and programmes from the municipal, city, county and the state budget every year. The reports comprise analyses of the allocated funds based on the state institution, financed areas, beneficiaries and territorial distribution of the funded programmes and projects, as well as the analyses of the tender launch procedures, monitoring and assessment of the funded projects and programmes.

The Report on financing CSO projects and programmes from the public sources in 2014:

- the total of **1.666.839.081,55 HRK** were allocated from the public sources
 - _ **652.491.986,14 HRK** through tenders, public calls and other state budget programmes
 - _ **5 827** programmes and projects were financed
 - _ **1.014.347.095,41 HRK** from the budget of the local and regional self-government for CSO programs and projects

Info Days

Every year the Office for Cooperation with NGOs organises the Info Days on the tenders for financing CSO projects and programmes from the state budget, part of the revenue from games of chance and the EU funds, in collaboration with public administration authorities, the Croatian Government offices and public institutions as financial support providers.

- the Info Days were held on February 26th and 27th, 2015
- 18 authorities presented 83 tenders for financing CSO projects and programmes
- the interested public participated in person, as well as via the web video broadcast

Co-financing

Since April 2011 the Office for Cooperation with NGOs has been providing co-financing support in the CSO beneficiary counterpart funding under the EU projects, by announcing public calls for co-financing applications for CSO projects contracted under the EU programme.

- co-financing of projects under the following programmes: IPA component I, IPA component IV, IPA Cross-border cooperation, Europe for Citizens, Youth in Action, Leonardo da Vinci, PROGRESS, Health, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, IPA INFO, Multi-beneficiary IPA and tenders launched by Directorates General of the European Commission
- the co-financing amounts are set according to the Decisions on co-financing adopted by the Head of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs on the basis of the report issued by the Committee for assessing the applications for co-financing projects and programmes of associations submitted to the public call
- the Committee makes its decisions in line with the Rules for co-financing of CSO projects contracted under the EU programmes, which are adopted every year
- the total of 94 contracts for co-financing were concluded from the revenue of games of chance
- the total amount of the approved co-financing for 2015 was 5.577.618,48 HRK



EU PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the projects under the IPA component I Programme – Transition Assistance and Institution Building

Under the IPA component I - Transition Assistance and Institution Building, the Office has the role of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). It monitors the success of the implementation of the projects aimed at supporting civil society development under IPA component I, which are financed and contracted by the Central Financing and Contracting Agency.

During 2015 **the total of 58 projects were implemented within the IPA component I** (IPA 2010, IPA 2011 and IPA 2012 programmes). The PIU project managers went on **22 field visits to the EU support beneficiaries** in order to monitor efficiently the project activities that had been planned, **analyzed and approved 56 quarterly reports, 10 interim reports and 13 final reports**. They also participated in various project activities and project closing ceremonies.

Under **the IPA 2010 programme “Assisting CSOs in developing, implementing and monitoring the public and acquis related policies”** 3 projects were implemented during 2015. The two of them finished their implementation in the first quarter of 2015 within the grant scheme “Supporting the efforts of CSOs for the prevention of violence among youth and children and fostering youth volunteering”, while one project was successfully implemented under the grant scheme „Supporting the efforts of CSOs in promoting and monitoring the policy of equal opportunities and other anti-discrimination policies”.

In addition to the above mentioned, the PIU project managers monitored the implementation of the projects under the following two programmes:

IPA 2011 Programme “Active Civil Society for Ensuring Durability of Policy Reforms in Post-Accession Croatia

1. **Strengthening CSOs' support in enhancing transparency and good governance in Croatian public administration**

Marking the end of contracting process for the 12 projects under this grant scheme, in January 2015 the Office organized the discussion on the topic „Civil society contribution to fight against corruption and to public administration reform“.

The projects under this grant scheme are implemented in 17 counties and in the partnership of 53 CSOs, 5 public institutions and 4 local and regional self-government units. Within these projects more than 800 representatives of civil society, public administration, media and political parties are educated about the monitoring and advocacy of public policies, mechanisms for the prevention of corruption and civic participation in the management of budget, spatial plans and natural resources.

[The list of projects](#)

2. **Supporting CSOs in development of partnerships for sustainable use of protected areas in Croatia, including potential NATURA 2000 sites**

Six projects under this grant scheme were continued in 12 counties and in the partnership of 10 associations, 13 public institutions for protected natural resource management, 2 primary schools, 2 local and regional self-governments and one nature park.

[The list of projects](#)

IPA 2012 Programme “Civil Society Organisations - Internal Control Mechanism for Safeguarding the EU Standards”

1. **Building capacities of CSOs for ensuring effective implementation of the EU standards in the enforcement of human rights**

Under this grant scheme hundreds of applications were received, and 22 project proposals worth 22 million HRK were selected for financing. Marking the end of the contracting process, in January 2015 the Office organized a contract award ceremony in Zagreb, at which more than 50 representatives of CSOs (beneficiaries and partners on the contracted projects) participated, from the areas of protection and promotion of human rights and rights of national minorities, especially of Roma national minority, as well as representatives of the relevant institutions and the media. The purpose of this grant scheme is the affirmation of CSOs as equal and full partners in ensuring consistent enforcement of human rights, and establishing a network between CSOs, as well as the inter-institutional cooperation for assisting vulnerable groups in accessing human rights. Most of these projects will be implemented till the middle of the year 2017.

[The list of projects](#)

2. Fostering innovative forms of philanthropy in local communities in order to support CSO sustainability

In September 2015 the panel discussion „Innovations in Philanthropy“ was held in Zagreb, marking the end of the evaluation process of 26 project applications and contracting of 5 projects within this grant scheme. The purpose of this discussion was to familiarize the public with the goals of the contracted projects which will be implemented during the next two years throughout Croatia. The projects worth over 3.8 million HRK should directly contribute to the achievement of the strategic aims of Croatia in the area of the development of philanthropy, social responsibility and culture of giving.

[The list of projects](#)

3. Building local partnerships for open government and fight against corruption in the responsible natural resource management

Within this grant scheme 27 project applications were received, and in November 2015 11 projects worth 14 million HRK were contracted, which will be implemented during the following two years. The purpose of this scheme is the affirmation of CSOs as equal and full partners in ensuring open governance and transparency in the public goods management.

[The list of projects](#)

Implementation of projects under the Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013

The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs is an Intermediary Body of level 1, accredited for the implementation of the Operational Programme „Human Resources Development 2007-2013“ for the Priority axis 5 “Strengthening the role of civil society for better governance”, measure 5.2 “Strengthening the role of CSOs for socio-economic growth and democratic development”.

In 2015 the Office continued to monitor the implementation, approve and ensure the payments to the beneficiaries, who were implementing 100 projects within the five grant schemes of the Operational Programme „Human Resources Development 2007-2013“. The total of 5974 people actively participated and built their capacities in the project activities.

- **„Strengthening support structures for civil society development at the local and regional level“**
 - 21 CSOs, 13 local and regional self-government units, 3 public institutions and 2 development agencies participate in the implementation of 9 projects with the total value of around 5 million HRK
 - [The list of projects](#)

- **„Supporting CSOs capacity for advocacy and motivation programmes for socially excluded groups“**
 - 11 projects in the total value of 9.4 million HRK are implemented in the partnerships between 36 CSOs and 4 public institutions
 - [The list of projects](#)

- **„Supporting contribution of CSOs active in the field of volunteering to strengthening of economic and social cohesion“**
 - 9 project in the total value of 8.3 million HRK are implemented in the partnership between 33 CSOs, 18 public institutions and 6 local and regional self-government units
 - [The list of projects](#)

- **„Capacity building of CSOs for social service provision“**
 - 109 CSOs, 7 public institutions and 6 local and regional self-government units participate in the implementation of 31 projects of the total value of 20.59 million HRK
 - [The list of projects](#)

- **„Micro projects of support to the innovative activities of small CSOs for local development“**
 - 40 projects of the total value of around 8 million HRK are implemented in the partnership between 77 CSOs and 15 local and regional self-government
 - [The list of projects](#)

Implementation of projects under the Operational Programme Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020

The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs is an Intermediary Body of level 1 in the implementation of the Operational Programme „Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020“, within the Priority axis 4 „Good governance“, investment priority 11ii „Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels“. The aim of the projects planned within this Operational Programme will be the capacity development of CSOs, especially associations and social partners, as well as the improvement of civic and social dialogue for better governance.

The Office participated in the programming process of the ESF investment priorities, i.e. from the Operational Programme „Efficient Human Resources“, which offers funds for CSO projects from the priorities „High employment and labour mobility“, „Social inclusion“, „Education and lifelong learning“ and „Good governance“.

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the most important sources of financing for CSO programs and projects in the interest of the public good in the upcoming period. As the Intermediary Body of level 1 (IB 1), the Office programs, drafts tender documentation, takes part in project selection, and, in collaboration with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development as the Intermediary Body of level 2 (IB 2), monitors the implementation of projects after their contracting. It also carries out other activities in line with the Regulation on authorities in the System of Management and Control of the use of the European Social Fund, the European Fund for Regional Development and the Cohesion Fund, regarding the goal „Investment in growth and jobs“.

During 2015 the Office programmed tenders for building CSO capacities by the funds available within the European Social Fund, based on the following:

- the list of the key projects for the period 2014-2020, comprised on the basis of discussions held with the Council for Civil Society Development, work done by the Thematic work groups for the preparation of the programming documents for structural funds and the Cohesion Fund, as well as experiences from the previous programming periods;
- the [public consultation](#) on financing priorities from the structural funds in the programming period 2014-2020, which was conducted by the Office from October 23rd to November 6th 2013. The total of 21 organizations participated in this consultation by submitting 299 comments and suggestions;
- the additional [consultations](#) were held on April 23rd, 2015 about the tenders planned to be published in 2015.

On the basis of the above mentioned process, the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs made the List of key projects planned to be launched within the ESF in the period 2014-2020 at the approximate value of 110.000.000,00 EUR (85% EU and 15% national co-financing).

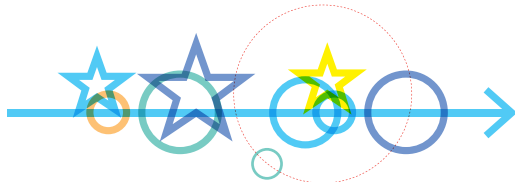
Implementation of the European Union Programme- Europe for Citizens

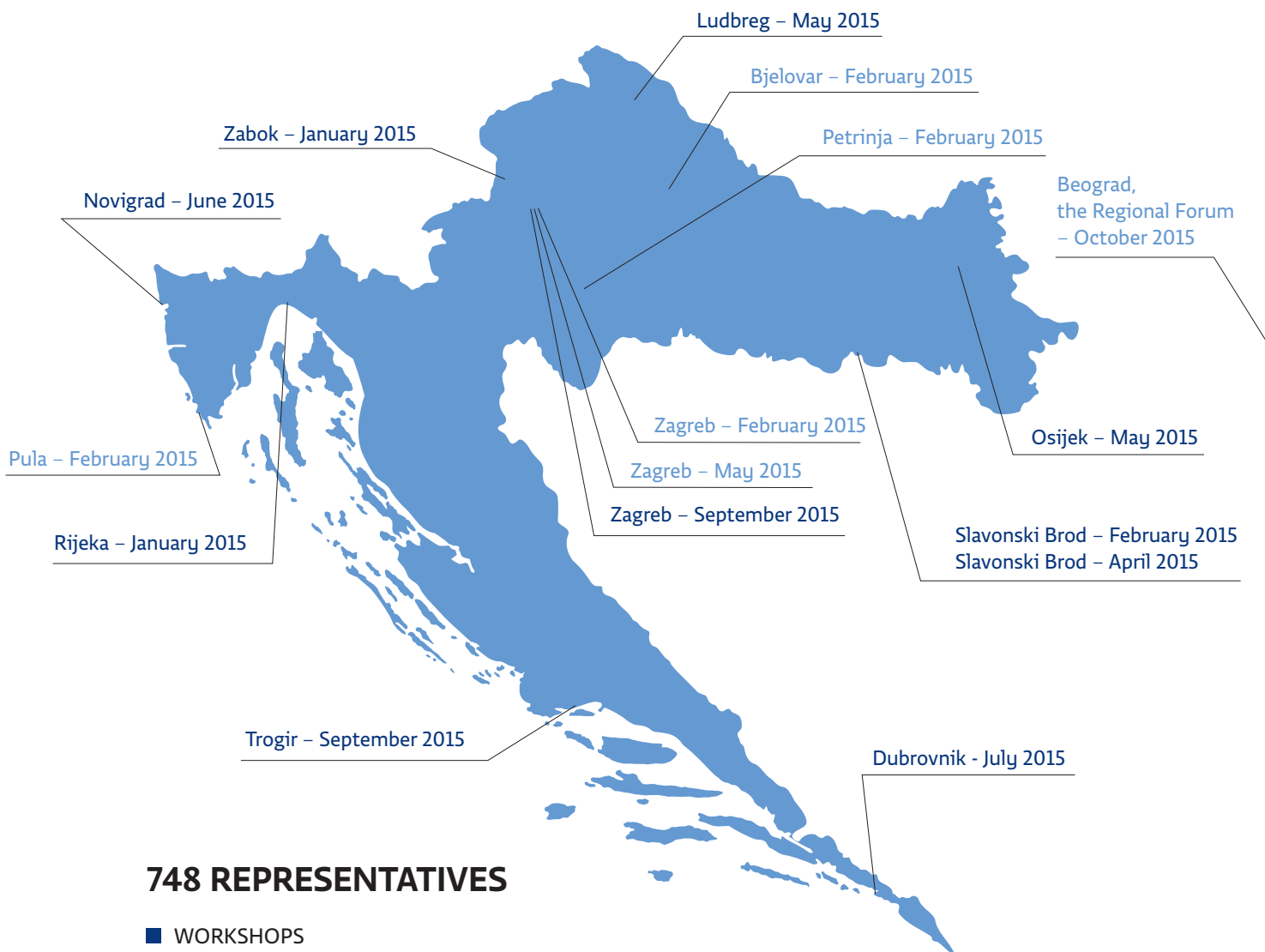
The Office for Cooperation with NGOs also acts as the National Contact Point for the Europe for Citizens Programme in the Republic of Croatia. This particular EU Programme is centralized and implemented via the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels. Its purpose is to foster the development of active European citizenship by providing financial support to organizations that are focused on fostering the feeling of European identity and belonging to the European Union through networking and exchange of knowledge, experience, tradition and vision of progress.



The employees of the Office held **10 workshops for potential applicants and 6 Programme presentations. 748 representatives of different organizations (associations, foundations, nursery schools, faculties, universities, municipalities and towns) and citizens were trained about the possibilities for project financing and preparation of project proposals** under the Europe for Citizens Programme.

- in 2015 **eight beneficiaries from Croatia were successful in the Europe for Citizens Calls for proposals**, having received the financial support worth almost 4 million HRK. In addition, 53 associations, towns and municipalities from Croatia are included as partners in the projects of the total value of 24.8 million HRK
- the **leaflet** was designed and published, containing the general information about the Europe for Citizens Programme for the programming period 2014-2020
- the work evaluation of the National Contact Point was made. The request to fill in the questionnaire was sent to 656 participants of the workshops organized by the Office in the period 2014-2015. The evaluation results were analyzed and are available on the **website of the Office**
- the Contact Point offered regular information by phone and e-mail, as well as consulting support to the potential applicants regarding the improvement of their project proposals. In 2015 nine potential beneficiaries (associations, towns and nursery schools) were provided with this form of support
- the Office employees participated at the meetings held in Riga and Paris with the representatives of the National Contact Points from the EU member states and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, as well as at the meeting of the Committee for the Europe for Citizens Programme in Brussels
- the Office began to design and create a special website dedicated to the Europe for Citizens Programme. The website will include all the information about the programming period 2014-2020, the examples of best practice from the period 2007-2013, as well as other technical information





748 REPRESENTATIVES

- WORKSHOPS
- PRESENTATIONS OF THE GOALS OF THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

The Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme

The Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Croatia concerning the implementation of the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union was signed in June 2015. Under this Programme, the Office will act both as the Intermediary Body and the Executive Agency for projects, with the objective of promoting civil society contribution to economic and social cohesion and exchange of good practice of the Croatian and the Swiss partners. In 2015 the documentation was prepared and sent for alignment to the Swiss partners in the Programme implementation, based on which the projects will be financed under two block grants: Partnership Block Grant and CSO Block Grant. The announcement of Calls for Proposals is expected in 2016.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As part of fostering regional and international cooperation in the area of civil society development, the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs continuously participates and organizes meetings with the delegations from the South-Eastern Europe and beyond in order to exchange experiences and examples of good practice for creating an enabling environment for civil society development. The Croatian experiences and examples of good practice refer to the strategic framework of cooperation between the state and civil society, key documents, the framework for financing CSO programmes and projects, as well as the standards for participating in public policy making.

The study visits to the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs:

- the representative of Chr. Michelsen Institute from Norway
- the CSO representatives from Bosina nad Hercegovina (BiH): the Helsinki Parliament of Citizens (HPG), Why Not, the Sarajevo Open Center (SOC) and the Center for Investigative Journalism (CIN), within the project „New BiH dialogue- civic networking, dialogue and critical monitoring of the European integration of BiH“
- the delegation of the Agency for the Protection of Personal Data and the Free Access to Information of Montenegro, from the Department of the Access to Information
- the Head of the Department of Civil Society Organizations of the League of Arab States



The Office employees shared their experiences by visiting:

- Morocco and the Moroccan Ministry for Relations with the Parliament and Civil Society- the presentation of the Croatian experience in creating an enabling environment for civil society development, as well as the opportunity for further exchange of experience with a number of the Moroccan state authorities on the main challenges in building cooperation with CSOs
- Uzbekistan- the presentation of the Croatian standards for financing CSO programs and projects
- Albania- the presentation of the Croatian experience in the implementation of the Open Government Partnership
- Bosnia and Herzegovina- the presentation of the Croatian experience with the aim of providing support in the adaptation and reforms of the institutions in the region
- Serbia- the discussion about the creation of a web platform which would facilitate communication and exchange of experiences between the governments; the presentation of the Croatian experience referring to philanthropy. The meeting was held on the topic of designing a new tool for the self-evaluation of the countries, regarding the advancement in creating an enabling environment for civil society development
- Montenegro- the presentation of the Croatian experience in civic participation in public policy shaping and financing from the public sources

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INFORMATION AND TRAINING

With a view to ensure continuous support to civil servants in applying standards for consultation with the interested public and financing CSO projects and programmes from public sources, the Office for Cooperation with NGOs organizes workshops intended for state and local civil servants who are in charge of providing information, cooperating with associations, other CSOs and interest groups, as well as preparing and conducting tenders for financing projects and programmes of associations. The Office also organizes dissemination workshops for potential applicants to EU tenders.



20 seminars

on the implementation of the Law on Associations



26 workshops and seminars

on the implementation of the Regulation on the criteria, standards and procedures of financing and contracting programmes and projects in the interest of the public good implemented by associations, with the total of **1260 participants** from all parts of Croatia



more than 40 training workshops

for civil servants on the effective use of the „e-Consultations“ system, with more than **200 participants**

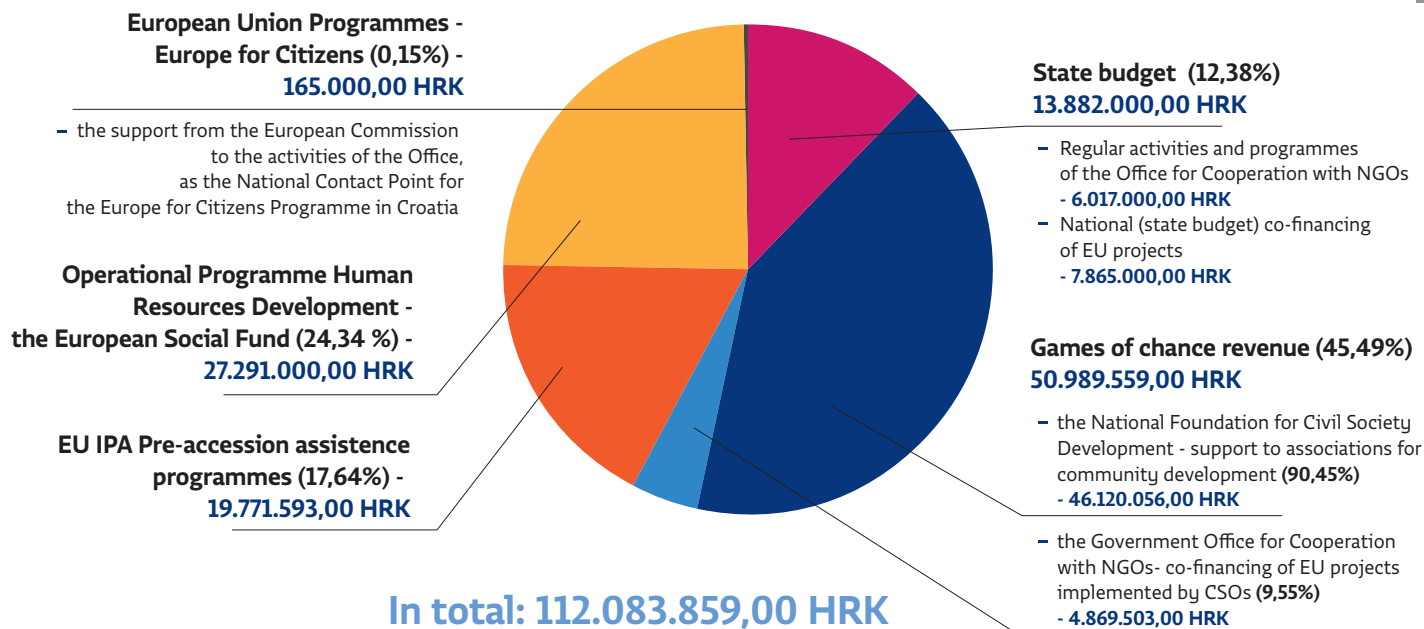


16 workshops

for potential beneficiaries within the Europe for Citizens Programme with **748 participants**

THE OFFICE

BUDGET IN 2015



The detailed information on the budget execution by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs is regularly published on the Office's website, in the special section: [Access to Information/ Financial documents](#).



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