**DECISION**

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT**

**(»Official Gazette«, no. 140/09, 42/12, 61/14, 62/17)**

**(UNOFFICIAL CONSOLIDATED TEXT DRAFTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs)**

I.

This Decision establishes the Council for Civil Society Development (hereinafter: the Council), defines the tasks and the composition of the Council, as well as regulates other issues in the scope of work of the Council.

II.

The Council is an advisory body to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, acting towards developing cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the civil society organisations in the Republic of Croatia in the implementation of the National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, the development of philanthropy, social capital and cross-sector cooperation in the Republic of Croatia.

The tasks of the Council are the following:

– participation in constant monitoring and analysis of public policies referring to and/or affecting civil society development in the Republic of Croatia and cross-sector cooperation;

– participation in expressing opinions to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on legislation drafts affecting the civil society development in the Republic of Croatia, as well as participation in the organisation of an apt way to include and engage CSOs in discussions about regulations, strategies and programmes affecting the development and functioning of civil society both on the national and European level, and cooperation with the public and private sector;

– cooperation in planning priorities of the national programmes for public funding of programmes and projects of CSOs, along with the analysis of annual reports of the ministries and offices of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on CSOs' projects and programmes financed;

– participation in programming and setting priorities for the use of EU funds that are available for the Republic of Croatia, based on the efficient system of consultations with CSOs;

– performing tasks which meet the general purpose of the Council's function and which are covered by the aims of the National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development;

– cooperation with the Croatian representatives of civil society in the European Economic and Social Committee in formulating positions of civil society on the level of the European Union;

– candidacy and election of CSO representatives in committees, advisory or working bodies at request of state administration bodies, the Government offices and other public authorities.

The state administration bodies and the offices of the Government of the Republic of Croatia are obliged to submit complete information via the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs on their decisions on financing associations and other civil society organizations in the Republic of Croatia for the previous budget year.

When performing its tasks, the Council may establish its permanent and temporary working groups.

The Council submits the report on its activities to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on an annual basis.

III.

The Council has 37 members:

* 17 representatives of public authorities – line ministries, offices of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development,
* 14 representatives of associations and other civil society organizations,
* three civil society representatives from foundations, trade unions and employers' associations and
* three representatives of national associations of local and regional self-governance.

Each member of the Council has its deputy.

The Council has a president and a vice-president. The president of the Council is elected by all the members of the Council from the ranks of representatives of associations and other civil society organizations. The vice-president of the Council is elected by all the members of the Council from the ranks of representatives of state administration bodies and offices of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The president, the vice-president, the members of the Council and their deputy members are elected for a three-year mandate and can be re-elected.

The mandate of the members of the Council begins on the day of their nomination from the part of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The members of the Council can submit their resignation. The resignation is to be submitted in a written form to the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, which then conducts the election of a new member of the Council in a manner defined by this Decision and the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

IV.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia appoints members and deputy members of the Council on the proposal of:

a) public authorities:

* Ministry of Science and Education
* Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy
* Ministry of Health
* Ministry of Culture
* Ministry of Croatian Veterans' Affairs
* Ministry of Finance
* Ministry of Environment and Energy
* Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
* Ministry of Public Administration
* Ministry of Labour and Pension System
* Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
* Ministry of Tourism
* Central State Office for Sport
* The Prime Minister's Office
* The Croatian Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities
* The Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs and
* National Foundation for Civil Society Development.

b) associations and other civil society organizations according to the procedure conducted in line with the Rules of Procedure of the Council, from the following areas of activities:

* democratization, rule of law and education development,
* the youth activities,
* activities of associations emerged from the Homeland War,
* culture,
* childcare,
* care for persons with disabilities,
* social welfare,
* sports,
* technical culture,
* tourism,
* human rights protection and promotion,
* environment protection and sustainable development,
* health protection and quality life improvement,
* consumer protection.

c) the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, which nominates representatives of civil society organizations from the ranks of:

* foundations,
* trade unions,
* employers' associations and
* national associations of local and regional self-government.

V.

The procedure of the nomination and election of the members of the Council and their deputy members from the ranks of associations and other civil society organizations is conducted no later than three months prior to the expiration of the mandate of the Council, in a manner determined by the Rules of the Procedure of the Council.

VI.

The expert and administrative tasks for the Council are performed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

VII.

The members of the Council do not receive remuneration for their engagement in the Council, but they have the right to remuneration of the expenses generated from their participation in the activities of the Council, namely the working bodies of the Council.

VIII.

The Council adopts the Rules of Procedure which define the following: the rights and the obligations of the members of the Council, the election, rights and obligations of the president and the vice-president of the Council, preparation and manner of convening a session, course of a session and manner of decision-making, working groups of the Council, issues referring to financial and organizational support to the members of the Council, procedure of nomination and election of representatives of civil society organizations in committees, advisory or working bodies on the request of state administration bodies, the Government offices and other public authorities, criteria and procedure of nomination and election of the members and deputy members of the Council from the ranks of associations and other civil society organizations, as well as other issues regarding the organization and work of the Council.

IX.

The members of the Council for Civil Society Development, appointed in line with the Decision on the Establishment of the Council for Civil Society Development (»Official Gazette«, no. 140/09, 42/12 and 61/14), shall continue with their work until the appointment of the members and deputy members of the Council in line with the provisions of this Decision.

The Rules of Procedure from the Article IV. of this Decision will be adopted by the Council within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Decision.

X

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and be published in the »Official Gazette«.