

**ACTIVITIES
REPORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT
OFFICE FOR
COOPERATION
WITH NGOs
2013
2014**



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs





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MISSION, VISION AND GOAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs

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 continuously improving the quality of cooperation between civil society and the state.

GOAL

Effective and efficient coordination of public administration authorities in developing cooperation with associations and other CSOs in drafting and implementing public policy.



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs



ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs – SPECIAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. IMPROVING 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
- 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 setting up consultations with the interested public and drafting annual reports on consultations which were conducted to the Croatian Government
- Providing training to civil servants charged with the implementation of effective public consultations

- 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

3. PROVIDING 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 associations projects and programmes by the state budget
- Providing training to civil servants in the efficient financing of projects and programmes of associations in the interest of the public good
- Drafting reports to the Croatian Government about the allocation of public sources funds which were earmarked and paid to associations in order to support their programme activities

4. EU PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Planning, preparing, implementing and coordinating projects financed by the state budget funds and EU funds aimed at supporting civil society development
- Carrying out financial management and quality assurance activities in the implementation of civil society sector projects and programmes financed by the EU funds
- Co-financing associations and other CSO projects which have obtained support from the EU funds
- Europe for Citizens Programme Contact Point

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, other international bodies and similar institutions in line with the Office's purview
- 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; more than 300 written inquiries in 2013 and more than 600 in 2014 were replied
- Organizing professional development and training programmes in developing cooperation with civil society together with the National School for Public Administration and a number of local and regional self-government units

THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs IN NUMBERS



21 staff members at the end of 2014



More than **900 replies to citizens' inquiries** (about registration and activities of CSOs in Croatia, opportunities for financing and monitoring the work of CSOs, etc.) via electronic and regular mail



83 workshops/seminars/debates on:

- Consultations and shaping public policy: 34
- Financing: 4
- Europe for Citizens: 23
- Information and implementation workshops on EU tenders: 22



5 brochures published by the Office



Over **500,000 visits** to the Office web site



Office representatives took part in **19 working groups**



63 IPA Projects with the total value of 12.3 million euro monitored



Tenders whose total value was **5.5 million euro** launched under IPA 2012



100 projects contracted in the amount of **6.45 million euro** under OP Human Resources Development 2007-2013

1



IMPROVING STRATEGIC AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

PLATFORM FOR MONITORING THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE CREATION OF AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT 2012-2016

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.

The Office has made a breakthrough in monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development by developing a new online platform which makes it possible for the implementation to be monitored in real time. The project is often mentioned as an example of good practice in monitoring the implementation of strategic documents. The platform has been available since July 2013 at <http://strategija.uzuvrh.hr>

Apart from implementing a number of measures and activities, the Office coordinated the overall process of Strategy implementation. It regularly collected reports from all implementing bodies and co-implementing partners and published them on a special web site devoted to the implementation monitoring: strategija.uzuvrh.hr. In order to ensure horizontal coordination with implementing bodies and co-implementing partners at the national and local level, in cooperation with the Council for the Development of Civil Society, the Office facilitates a continuous

two-way exchange of information among those implementing public policy measures in different public administration authorities, local and regional self-governments and CSOs.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO DRAFTING LAWS AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

In 2013 and 2014 the Office actively participated in drafting a number of laws, strategic and planning documents which aim to improve the normative framework for civil society development, i.e.:

Law on Associations

Law on Financial Operations and Accountancy of Non-Profit Organisations

Law on Humanitarian Aid

Law on the Right to Access Information

Law on Volunteering

Youth Law

Tourism Services Law

Electronic Media Law

Law on the participation of civilian experts in international missions and operations

National Strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

National Strategic Document for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child

Strategy for Social Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Croatia 2014-2017

National Youth Programme 2014-2017

Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia

National Programme “Healthy Life”

Youth Guarantee

Thematic working groups for the development of programming documents for the EU financial framework 2014-2020

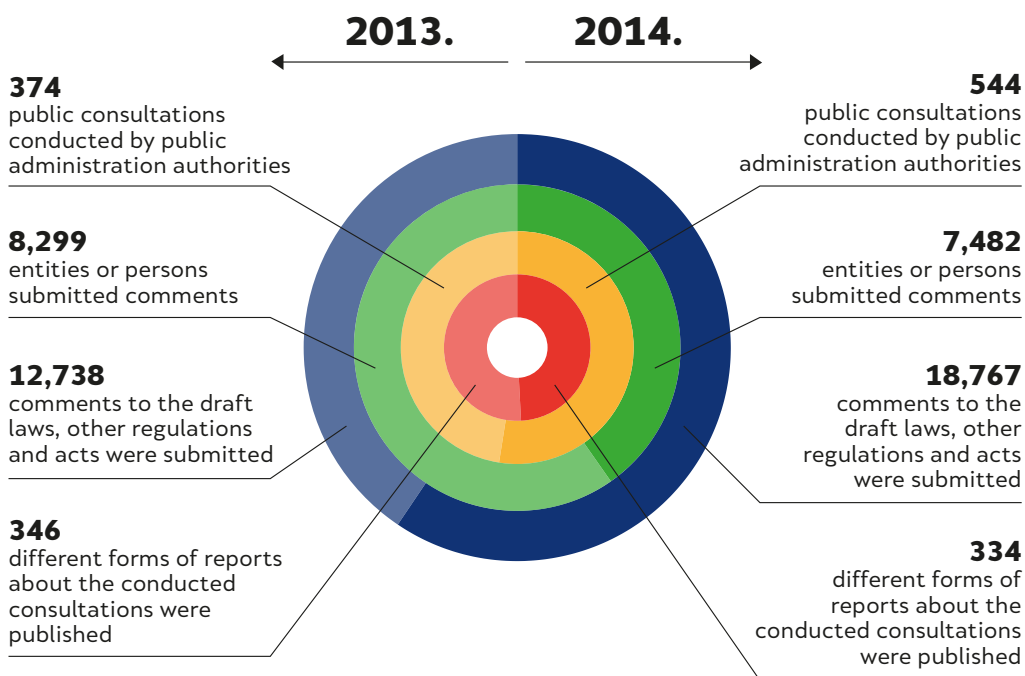
Working group for the EU funds

2

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

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INTERESTED PUBLIC IN 2013 AND 2014

Consultations represent a process during which public administration authorities ask for and receive feedback from the interested public concerned in procedures of adopting laws, other regulations and acts. The Office for Cooperation with NGOs is monitoring 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 charged with drafting annual reports on the adherence to the Code and submitting it to the Croatian Government.



Apart from drafting reports on the conducted consultations, the Office for Cooperation with NGOs continued to provide training on the implementation of effective consultations together with the National School of Public Administration. It organised meetings of coordinators for consultations appointed by public administration authorities, Government offices and other state institutions.

Furthermore, a project has been initiated to establish a joint online system for public consultations within the central state portal savjetovanja.gov.hr. The project is coordinated by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs in cooperation with BIZImpact project team, Ministry of Administration and the Prime Minister's Office.

THE DECLARATION ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIES AND CSOS

The Declaration on the Cooperation between Cities and CSOs is the result of collaboration between the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the Association of Cities in implementing measures and activities envisaged by the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2012-2016. By undersigning the Declaration, mayors

expressed their readiness to develop cooperation and partnership with CSOs and their commitment to implement activities aimed at improving consultations and establishing a transparent and efficient system of financing and supporting the implementation of CSOs projects and programmes in the interest of the public good.

By the end of 2014 the Declaration was undersigned by mayors of 75 cities.

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.

Among the many results achieved under the Action Plan for implementing the Open Government Partnership initiative in Croatia, we would like to emphasise the following:

- The amendments to the Croatian Government Rules of Procedure (OG 121/2012) stipulate that draft laws, other regulations and laws must be accompanied by reports on conducted consultations with the interested public upon referring them to the Government Procedure
- New Law on the Right of Access to Information, which came into effect in March 2013, brings new obligations for all public administration authorities (whether national, regional or local). They are obliged not only to publish draft documents for public consultations proactively, but also to publish reports about the consultations that were conducted. The reports must comprise feedback regarding all received comments, which includes explanations why comments were not accepted

- Preconditions for the setting up of the Information Commissioner Office have been fulfilled. The role of the Information Commissioner is to efficiently promote and facilitate the right of access to information.
- The Political Activity and Election Campaign Financing Act (OG 24/2011, 61/2011, 27/13, 02/14) set up a unique framework for transparent political party financing and an independent system of monitoring and sanctioning in case of breaches.
- Due to the positive results in implementing the initiative, Croatia began its mandate as a new member of the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership initiative on 1 October 2014.

NGO OPEN DOOR DAYS

NGO Open Door 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 being implemented by associations in Croatia. Different activities are organised in and out of the associations premises, on a given day or days the doors of associations are opened to all the interested citizens.

NGO OPEN DOOR DAYS 2013

NGO OPEN DOOR DAYS 2014

12-15 June 2013

5-7 June 2014

More than 450 NGOs from all over Croatia took part

More than 400 NGOs from all over Croatia took part

The European Year of the Citizen 2013 was marked

20 NGOs were awarded training in online marketing

15 NGOs were awarded training in online marketing for non-profit organizations

www.daniudruga.hr website and the Facebook page [facebook/Dani Udruga](https://www.facebook.com/DaniUdruga) were enhanced

5 panel discussions were held

Leaflet Associations in Croatia was published

- * “CSO and EU institutions: what kind of dialogue can we expect?”, Zagreb
 “Fighting corruption openly and responsibly”, Split
 “Reducing violence among youth through volunteering“, Osijek
 “Civil society, EU funds and sustainable development”, Pula
 “Equal opportunities for all through advocating human rights and combating discrimination”, Knin

RESEARCH RESULTS ON THE ASSOCIATIONS CAPACITY AS SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS IN CROATIA

In April 2013 the Office published a questionnaire in order to collect information about the non-profit organisations social service providers or potential providers in Croatia and their current capacity. Based on research results involving a sample of 119 associations a [report](#) with [infographic](#) was produced in order to give an overview of the

most interesting information. The results show that most frequently associations provide services aimed at improving the quality of life and culture, psychosocial support and counselling. The services are generally provided to persons with disabilities, children and their families, youth and the elderly. The report includes the associations views of the current system of financing community based social services and recommendations for improving it.

Frequently stated proposals for improving the system of financing community based social services:

1	Continuous financing of projects/programmes with highest priority provided by associations in the field of social services
2	Better monitoring of project implementation including field visits
3	Extending the period of financing programmes from one to two years
4	Securing funds for association staff members' training
5	Defining criteria for evaluating associations on the basis of quality of their programme activities and their results
6	Setting up a registry of social service providers that fulfill certain quality standards (in order to give them priority upon applying to tenders).
7	Regular financing for association core activities

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 in the national programmes of allocating state budget funds to support CSO projects and programmes and analyses the annual Ministry and Croatian Government Office reports 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 pertain to 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.

- 4 sessions of the Council were held in 2013
- Members of the Council for the Civil Society Development's fifth composition were appointed
- Members of the European Economic and Social Committee were elected from CSOs
- 5 sessions of the Council were held and operational plans for the Council were defined in 2014
- A Decision on the amendments to the Decision on establishing the Council for the Civil Society Development was adopted which increased the number of members/deputy members by two, in order to include the representatives of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the representatives of CSOs dealing with consumer protection

**13 ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES
OF ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Human rights protection and promotion
2. Health protection and improving the quality of life
3. Providing care to Persons with disabilities
4. Childcare
5. Environmental protection and sustainable development
6. Social care
7. Youth in action
8. Democratization, rule of law and education development
9. Culture
10. Associations related to the Homeland War
11. Sport
12. Technical culture
13. Consumer protection

**1 TRADE UNION
1 EMPLOYER
1 FOUNDATION**

1. Trade Union
2. Employers' Associations
3. Foundation

**15 APPOINTED PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
AUTHORITIES
REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
2. Ministry of Health
3. Ministry of Culture
4. Ministry of Social Policy and Youth
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection
7. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
8. Ministry of Public Administration
9. Ministry of Economy
10. Ministry of Labour and Pension System
11. Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
12. The Prime Minister's Office
13. The Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities
14. The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
15. National Foundation for Civil Society Development

3



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

INFO DAYS

Every year the Office for Cooperation with NGOs organises Info days on the tenders for financing CSO projects and programmes by the state budget and a part of the income from games of chance in cooperation with public administration authorities, the Croatian Government and public institutions financial support providers.

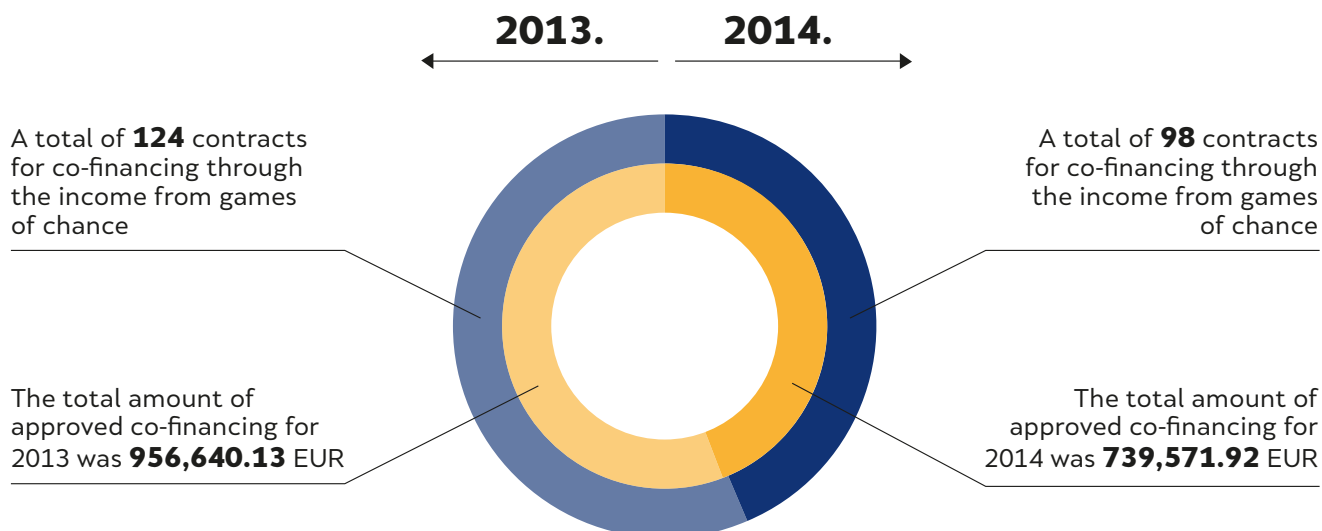
2013 AND 2014

- Info days were available live via the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports web site, and the interested public could send their questions directly via email and in this way actively participate in the discussion
- 400 people visited the events

CO-FINANCING

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

- Providing co-financing for 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 based on the report issued by the Committee for assessing the applications for co-financing CSO projects and programmes submitted to the public call
- The Committee makes its decisions in line with the Rules for co-financing CSO projects contracted under the EU programme, which are adopted every year



INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMISSION

Interdepartmental Commission for Coordinating the Policy for Financing CSO Projects and Programmes from the Croatian State Budget was set up in July 2012. The purpose of setting up the Interdepartmental Commission was to establish and implement effective coordination of public administration authorities, Government Offices and other public institutions in procedures of allocating grants from the state budget to projects and programmes of special interest for the common/public good implemented by CSOs in Croatia.

Also, Interdepartmental Commission was set up as a way of responding to the need for harmonizing all CSO projects and programmes financing by the national sources and EU funds, in view of the effective use of society's resources and the rational and transparent use of all public sources funds.

Interdepartmental Commission's activities:

- Drafting the minimum formal requirements that CSO projects and programmes need to fulfil when applying to tenders for co-financing by the state budget and related standard documentation
- Drawing up the 2014 annual plan of tenders, public calls and other programmes of financing CSO projects and programmes by the Croatian State Budget and the EU Funds
- Drawing up the 2015 annual plan of tenders, public calls and other programmes of financing CSO projects and programmes by the Croatian State Budget and the EU Funds

4

EU PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNDER IPA COMPONENT I PROGRAMME - TRANSITION ASSISTANCE AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

Under IPA component I - Transition Assistance and Institution Building, the Office has the role of the Project Implementation Unit. It monitors how successfully the projects aimed at supporting civil society under IPA component I, which are financed and contracted by the Central Financing and Contracting Agency, are being implemented.

63 projects were implemented under IPA component I in 2013 and 2014 (IPA 2008, IPA 2009, IPA 2010 and IPA 2011). Within these programmes the CSOs were implementing activities related to democratization, anti-discrimination, human rights, sustainable return of refugees and national minority integration, social services, fight against corruption, increased transparency and good governance in Croatian public administration, prevention of violence among youth and children, promoting volunteering, sustainable development and environmental protection.

As part of the implementation of the above mentioned projects, Project managers from Project implementation unit went on **62 field visits** to beneficiaries of the EU support and made analysis and reviews of **119 quarterly reports, 28 interim reports** and **29 final reports**. They also participated in various activities and project closing ceremonies.

IPA 2008 PROGRAMME “ENHANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR FOR THE MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU ACQUIS”

In 2013 and 2014 the Office monitored the implementation of 16 projects in the total amount of 3.33 million EUR within three grant schemes.

[A list of contracted projects under IPA 2008 Programme](#)

1

Enhancing the capacities / roles of the CSOs in monitoring of the implementation of the EU Acquis in field of the comprehensive anti-discrimination strategy

- 11 associations and 1 University were involved in implementing 5 projects all over Croatia
- 45 CSOs enhanced their capacities for monitoring and analysis of anti-discrimination policy
- 5,874 members of marginalized groups received free legal aid
- Zagreb University Faculty of Law introduced a course anti-discrimination law in the EU legal system
- Recommendations for improving the Family Law, Law on Association, Anti-discrimination Law and Free Legal Aid Law were drawn up – CSO recommendations were accepted during the drafting of the Free Legal Aid Law and Family Law. The National anti-discrimination Plan was analysed and recommendations for its improvement were made
- Research [on anti-discrimination policy related to equal participation of women and men in politics](#) was conducted: 2 reports were made for 2011 and 2012 on the free legal aid implementation and the Anti-discrimination Law, [Representation and indicators of discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes in Croatia](#); Racism and associated discriminatory practices in Croatia
- The following publications were produced: “Implementation of Anti-discrimination Legislation: A Handbook for Civil Society”; [“Expansion of the Political Sphere – New Perspectives on Women’s Political Participation”](#), a handbook “Let the Other Side be Heard: [Audiatur et altera pars]: examples of gender and ethnic discrimination”; A Collection of Selected Decisions – [A Critical Outlook on the Implementation of Anti-discrimination Guarantees in the European Court of Justice Practice](#); [A Seminar Handbook – Additional materials for teaching the course on antidiscrimination law in the EU legal system](#)

Enhancing the participation of the CSOs in monitoring of the implementation of the EU Acquis, in the field of fight against corruption and the overall transparency, openness and accountability of public administration bodies

- 5 projects were conducted by 15 associations in partnership with 5 Universities and Faculties all over Croatia
- 86 daily events were organized in which training was provided to 1,768 representatives of CSOs, institutions, local self-governments and the media on public administration authorities' transparency, assessing local self-governments' integrity in public procurement procedures, conflict of interest, recognizing and combating corruption
- Research on the visibility of local and regional and national public administration authorities was conducted – LOTUS “Research results on the visibility and openness of local and regional self-governments in Croatia”; DUH “Index of good governance in Croatia 2012 – research results”; based on research results on the visibility of public administration authorities' work LOTUS and DUH a database was created. Several reports were made based on research dealing with the implementation of the Right of Access to Information Law, anti-corruption strategy, the legal framework on the conflict of interest as well as the Croatian Government [“Good governance and all it entails”](#). Also, public opinion polls on the visibility of local self-government's work was conducted in Split-Dalmatia county
- A portal (database) for monitoring public procurement procedures was created: integrityobservers.eu
- Research on unacceptable behaviours was conducted on 4 Croatian Universities (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek) aimed at combating discrimination and corruption in academia. Policy and procedures dealing with equal opportunities and combating discrimination, conflict of interest, nepotism, prevention of bullying, etc. were drafted and 5 educational films were made. All this is available on a special [web site](#).
- Advocacy network, an informal network consisting of 70 associations was expanded and enhanced; together with Platform 112 it broadened its cooperation with public administration authorities in connection with monitoring policy implementation

Developing capacities of CSOs for systematic monitoring and advocacy of sustainable development policies and integrated approaches to waste and water management, transport, regional development, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental safety

- 12 associations, 4 international associations, 3 local and regional self-governments, 3 public institutions and 1 trade union took part in the implementation of 6 projects
- 42 trainings were organized for 1,028 representatives of CSOs, local and regional self-governments and the media on public policy, sustainable energy sources, sustainable development, policy analysis and shadow reporting, multi-sectoral partnership...
- 1 public campaign was held in connection with the initiative and referendum entitled “Srd is ours”
- 13 policy analyses of the sustainable development sector were made: 8 analyses dealt with the sustainable use of renewable energy sources in the Croatian legislation, [“Analysis of the Croatian policy of agricultural land management”](#), [“How can we avoid cutting the branch we are sitting on?” – Sustainable renewable energy sources management policy in Croatia](#), [“Proposed measures for improving energy efficiency in households 2014-2016”](#), [Local agenda and action plan for Karlovac rivers](#), [“IPARD yesterday/today/tomorrow – Shadow report on the implementation of IPARD programme in Croatia 2010-2012”](#), [Report on the absence of public participation in planning the construction of a biomass cogeneration power plant \(BE-TO\) in Velika Gorica](#)
- 4 public opinion polls were conducted: 2 surveys i.e. consultations with general public [in the process of drafting the 3rd Action Plan on energy efficiency in households 2014-2016](#), [“Questionnaire on Karlovac rivers”](#), [“Online questionnaire on the attitudes of the interested local communities public to renewable energy sources \(RES\)”](#)
- Produced publications: [“Participating efficiently”](#), [“Karlovac rivers, management and protection – local agenda for Karlovac rivers”](#), [“Energy management – good practice examples”](#), [“How can we have better public policy – civil society sector’s contribution”](#), [“IPARD yesterday/today/tomorrow – Shadow report on the implementation of IPARD programme in Croatia 2010-2012”](#), [“FOR the renewable energy sources! A handbook on publicly advocating renewable energy sources”](#), [“Renewable energy sources potential – 20 county studies”](#), [“How can we avoid cutting the branch we are sitting on?” – Policy of sustainable renewable energy sources management in Croatia](#), [A handbook on strategic environmental impact assessment”](#)

IPA 2009 PROGRAMME – “ENHANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) AS PROACTIVE SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU ACQUIS”

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs monitored the implementation of 15 projects in the total amount of 2.81 million EUR within 2 grant schemes

1

Building capacities of the CSOs for implementing innovative social service delivery programmes in the Areas of special state concern

- 9 associations, 3 institutions and 3 local self-governments took part in the implementation of 6 projects
- 2,771 people received training on the provision of community based social services, protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, victims of sexual violence, children without adequate parental care, volunteering and volunteer management
- 5,265 people and 123 organizations participated in the project activities
- Intersectoral cooperation between CSOs and local self-governments or relevant local institutions was developed (an informal network of CSOs was set up and 13 cooperation agreements were signed with social care centres, police stations and local self-governments, schools and an agency)
- Local support centres were established: work centre in Knin for persons with intellectual disabilities and an Info-desk in Plaški for persons with disabilities
- Publications produced: “A Handbook for foster parents”, [“Minimum standards – feminist model of social services for working with women victims of sexual violence”](#) and [“A Community for all ages”](#)
- A web site named [A Safe Place](#) was designed to offer information on legal solutions, the ways of providing support to women victims of sexual violence, counselling and a list of organizations and institutions that provide support to victims of violence all over Croatia

[A List of contracted projects](#)

Building capacities of CSOs for monitoring and advocacy in the field of democratization, human rights, minority integration and sustainable refugee return in the Areas of special state concern

- 26 associations, 2 local and regional self-governments and 1 public institution took part in the implementation of 9 projects
- Research was conducted on: the status and problems of refugees and returnees, members of the Serb national minority; the exercise of rights of the Serb national minority in Slavonia; a separate system of education for national minorities; the possibility of receiving education on the ethnic minority language and script; employment of national minorities in line with article 22 of the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities; on the local self-governments' compliance with the [Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities, on national minorities in Osijek - Baranja county](#)
- Publications: [A study on the status of refugees from the Republic of Croatia, Exercise of rights of the Serb national minority](#); [Living together – learning together](#); [Experimental introduction of the civic education curriculum: Conclusions and recommendations](#), [A handbook for teachers: Assistance in organizing civic education](#); [A handbook for the media and other stakeholders: Multi-ethnicity, return, development](#); [Artists in exile, Supporting the rule of law](#)
- Recommendations for policy improvement were drafted during intersectoral cooperation between associations, state and local authorities and the Council for National Minorities
- Preconditions for systematic, good quality introduction of civic education were developed, the methodology for systematic integration, implementation, curriculum monitoring and evaluation was designed and tested; [the school curriculum](#) was made and recommendations for the curriculum for human rights and democratisation in higher education were prepared
- Basic living conditions were improved for 5,542 returnees and other members of vulnerable groups
- 538 representatives of associations, the media, national minority organizations, attorneys and local self-governments participated in education activities about the rights of national minorities and the development potential of multinational communities, legal protection mechanisms and the analysis and monitoring of anti-discrimination policy implementation, 100 teachers and professional staff received training on teaching civic education
- 6,451 citizens participated in social activities aimed at better integration or increasing sensitivity towards national minority members, 217 young people participated in the training programme on human rights, tolerance and active citizenship

- Two initiatives were launched: [GOOD Initiative](#) (for systematic, good quality introduction of civic education) and [Croatia for all of us](#) (advocating antidiscrimination)
- [A Catalogue of informal education programmes](#) was produced
- An [IT tool](#) was developed for monitoring and reporting on cases of discrimination, human rights infringements, racism, xenophobia and the implementation of related policy
- 4 social councils were set up and 207 solutions to problems of returnees and other members of social excluded groups were found (in 4 counties)

[A List of contracted projects](#)

IPA 2010 PROGRAMME: “ASSISTING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING PUBLIC AND ACQUIS RELATED POLICIES”

- 14 projects in the total amount of 2.65 million EUR were aimed at enhancing Croatian influence of associations through their participation in policy implementation under 4 grant schemes/areas:
 - Promotion of equal opportunities principle and combating discrimination
 - Combating corruption
 - Prevention of violence among children and youth and promoting volunteering
 - Sustainable development and environmental protection policy
- Upon signing the contracts for all 4 grant schemes, a workshop was organised in May 2013, in cooperation with the Central Financing and Contracting Agency, where grant users had the opportunity to learn important information about the procedures and rules that contract implementation entails
- 11 projects were successfully completed. In 2015 the remaining 3 projects are expected to be completed and final reports adopted

[A list of contracted projects under IPA 2010 Programme](#)

1

“Supporting the efforts of CSOs for the prevention of violence among youth and children and fostering youth volunteering”

- 14 associations, 4 local and regional self-governments and 6 public institutions took part in the implementation of 4 projects in 9 counties
- 15,709 young people from 134 schools and other public institutions volunteered for the public good
- 465 volunteering and local campaigns were organised
- 78 teachers and other professionals from 46 schools received training to become volunteer coordinators; 120 teachers received training on non-violent communication, prevention of violence, working with volunteers; 62 teachers and professional staff from 22 schools were trained on civic education focused on non-violence; 30 CSO representatives were trained on volunteering and its role in the prevention of violence

- 174 young people were provided training in violence prevention, civic education and human rights
- 82 young people took part in 119 creative workshops on the topic of violence
- A web site: www.volontiram.info was redesigned and now contains a new application which enables school children to publish news about volunteering clubs' activities
- A documentary film [Make a change](#) was made
- A [web site](#) was set up as a resource centre for teachers, experts and students interested in educating for human rights and democracy; it contains numerous publications in connection with particular human rights and different types of educating for human rights, peace, democracy, interculturalism and other related fields.
- An institution for peace education and civic activism – Mirta was established with the aim of providing employees in the education sector with certified continuous professional development programmes as a way of supporting schools in implementing civic education
- A modular education curriculum in volunteer management was developed aimed at the institutions that provide youth education, training and care. Two curricula were developed: “An introduction to volunteering” and “Youth violence prevention”. A 6-day training programme with 2 modules was designed for teacher training in civic education. A 250-hour training and mentorship curriculum was developed (220 hours of training and 30 hours of practical work). Teaching plans and summaries were made and published in a brochure entitled Peace studies from the inside.
- 4 publications were made: [“A generation for V – A handbook on volunteering for secondary school students”](#); “Make a change!” – a collection of teaching plans; “Make a change!” – a handbook; and “Heart to heart – a handbook on using communication models as mediation tools”, a teacher’s handbook for violence prevention and reduction through civic education
- Two researches were conducted: [“If it were up to me! – a research on the attitudes of children and youth in Croatia”](#) and [A handbook with research results on bullying and an overview of bullying prevention programmes](#)

Supporting the efforts of CSOs for monitoring and promoting transparency, effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness of public administration in fighting against corruption

- 17 associations, 1 Foundation and 2 public higher education institutions were involved in the implementation of 3 projects in 10 counties.
- 6 publications were published: [Our water: Improving utility services; Who owns the real property previously owned by the? – conversion experiences in Croatia; Guidelines on developing and efficiently following A Code of conduct for teachers](#); The perception of petty corruption and unethical behaviour in secondary schools in Croatia (available in Croatian and English); A collection of teaching plans, A collection of students' works.
- 3 policy papers were developed: The transparency of public procurement in the defence sector; [A proposal of topics to be discussed at the National Security Council](#); and Different models of monitoring particular police powers – a proposal.
- 336 people took part in 14 training programmes which dealt with concession management, combating corruption in space management, identifying corruptive practices in defence sector public procurement procedures and identifying corruptive practices in secondary education institutions.
- 781 people participated in 10 public debates which were organised for the purpose of advocating change in the public policy governing the physical planning in the local community, water management and the conversion of facilities previously owned by the military.
- Interactive web site was set up containing information on property previously owned by the military in Croatia www.vojnaimovina.milimap.com
- 562 articles were published in connection with physical planning, water and maritime demesne management and are available at: prostornapravda.org
- Legal aid was given in seven cases dealing with corruptive practices in space management in the local community.
- Declassification of data (DUUDI/AUDIO) on property previously owned by the military in Croatia was initiated.
- The participation in the work of 6 parliamentary committees was facilitated which directly influenced the adoption of four public policies in connection with building, physical planning, maritime demesne and forest area management.

Supporting CSOs in promoting and monitoring of equal opportunities and non-discrimination related policies

- 16 associations and 1 secondary school participated in 3 projects in 17 counties.
- A research on the discriminatory practices in connection with human rights violations and discrimination was conducted; based on research results and three personal stories a publication [“Think locally, act nationally”](#) was created and a documentary entitled “I belong to nobody” was produced.
- A research on discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities was conducted and a handbook on identifying discrimination of persons with disabilities and the possibilities of protecting their rights was created; outlines for local strategies on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities were drafted; results are available at the [project web site](#).
- About a dozen advocacy activities were conducted; [an informative and educational play](#) was created in order to raise awareness of local communities about the rights and needs of persons with mental illness.
- An educational handbook for associations [“Analysis and advocating public policy”](#) was published.
- A research was conducted on the secondary school students’ attitudes towards migrants and asylum seekers and identification of their needs; a theatre play [“Passive Resistance”](#) was created which focuses on the discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes relating to migrants and asylum seekers. A handbook “Protection of refugees and vulnerable migrant groups” was created in order to strengthen the capacities of teachers and trainers for supporting migrants and asylum seekers.

Supporting CSOs contribution in designing, implementing, promoting and monitoring of sustainable development and environment protection policies

- 5 associations and 2 public institutions took part in 3 projects in 6 counties
- 751 local associations and authorities' representatives participated in the trainings on sustainable energy local development; preparation and implementation of sustainable energy projects; right of access to information and the judiciary and public participation in procedures related to environmental and nature protection (Aarhus convention); on instruments of direct democracy
- 447 citizens participated at household energy efficiency workshops (household measures, DIY solar panels methods, waste recycling, etc.)
- 4 large environmental associations provided to smaller environmental associations with 40 legal and professional consultations and participated in court cases 27 times in connection with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments (SEIA)
- 16 students from Zagreb Law Faculty analyzed case studies dealing with the right of access to information and in public participation in procedures relating to environmental and nature protection as a part of the Street Law seminar
- A document package in connection with the right of access to information and public participation in procedures related to environmental and nature protection and recommendations for improving the existing practice was sent to all local and regional self-governments in Croatia (128 cities, 428 municipalities, 20 counties and the city of Zagreb)
- There was a competition for selecting [the best example of successfully organizing public participation /the best public authority as an organizer](#)
- 3 education centres were equipped for training, namely Zamršje, Sjeverovac and Višnjan
- 14 reports were drafted: 3 reports on the analysis of the existing local energy policy in 3 counties; 3 sustainable energy action plans (SEAP) were proposed for 3 local action groups. The following documents were drafted: a handbook "[Energy for Local Development](#)", [Green Hotline Monitoring Report](#), 3 County Reports (Policy Assessment Reports), [Proposals for improving the practice of public information and participation on the local and regional level](#), [Green Forum comments on the third draft of the National report on the implementation of UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters \(Aarhus Convention\)](#), [CSO Report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Croatia](#) (which was submitted to the Convention Secretariat), [Environmental Impact Study: Advocating environmental protection in court](#).

IPA 2011 PROGRAMME “ACTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR ENSURING DURABILITY OF POLICY REFORMS IN POST-ACCESSION CROATIA”

A dissemination workshop for potential applicants was held in June 2013 aimed at presenting the tender documentation, tender aims and priorities, eligibility criteria and the evaluation procedure for the following two grant schemes:

1

Reinforcing support of CSOs in enhancing transparency and good governance in Croatian public administration

- 12 CSOs signed grant funds agreements in the value of 2.7 million EUR by the end of 2014. Selected projects will develop capacities and cooperation between citizens and public administration in order to improve public administration’s transparency and openness and policy related to physical planning, budget management, human rights and improving higher education in Croatia. Also, projects will be conducive to public participation in decision making.
- Projects are being implemented in 17 counties in partnership between 53 CSOs, 5 public institutions and 4 local (regional) self-governments.

[A list of contracted projects](#)

2

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

- 6 CSOs signed grant funds agreements in the value of 750 000 EUR in September 2014. The projects aim to build intersectoral partnerships and improve the management system in the protected areas, and raise awareness on the importance of sustainable use of natural resources for the social and economic development of Croatia.
- It is expected that the partnerships between associations and public sector that are encouraged, will contribute to better natural resource management. Furthermore, citizens will be encouraged to cooperate with the public sector in order to support local socio-economic development based on sustainable use of natural resources and encourage further development of the tourist supply aimed at strengthening economic results and providing considerable opportunity for creating “green” jobs.
- Projects are being implemented in 12 counties in partnership between 10 associations, 13 public institutions for protected natural resource management, 2 primary schools, 2 local (regional) self-governments and 1 nature park.

[A list of contracted projects](#)

- A workshop was organised for future assessors of project proposals who work in bodies belonging to the Operating structure and are in charge of managing and implementing the IPA programme components I and IV and in the European Social Fund under the project **“Implementing Assessment of Project Proposals within the IPA 2011 Civil Society Grant Schemes based on standardized assessment criteria”**. 20 representatives of authorities in charge of managing and implementing EU programmes and projects participated. Project results were presented in the form of a document entitled [*Guidelines for Assessors*](#) which defines uniform criteria for assessing project proposals to be submitted in future grant fund tenders. During the workshop participants made comments on the draft document which was subsequently fine tuned based on the comments. 80 copies of the Guidelines were printed and distributed among Operating structure bodies.

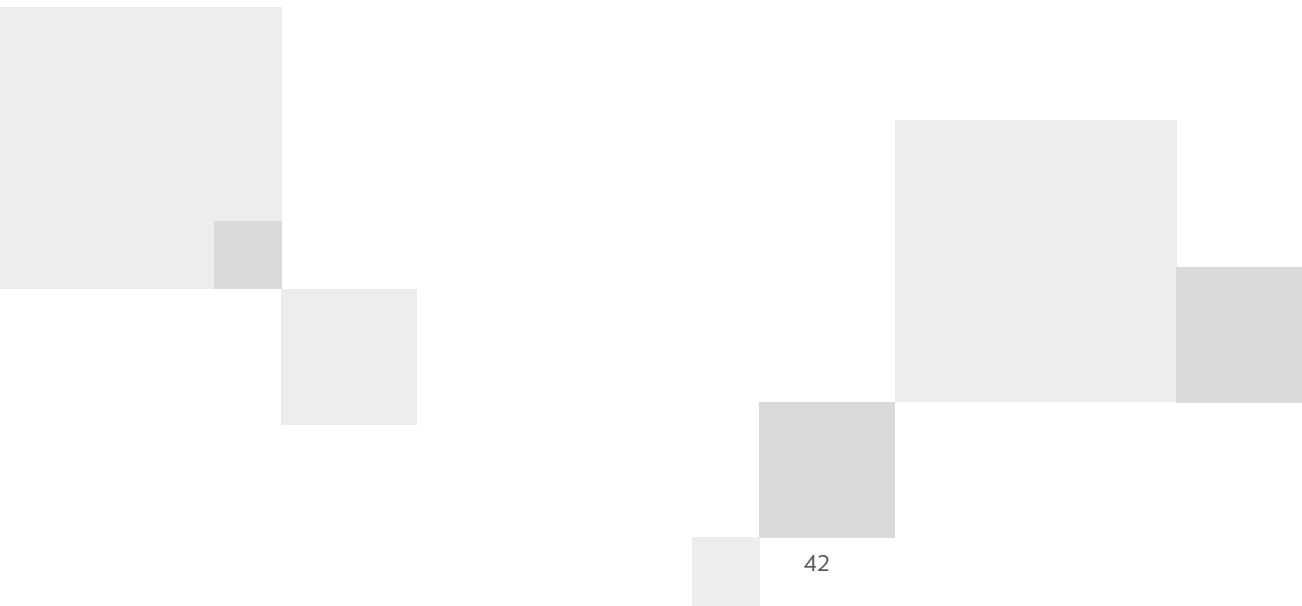


IPA 2012 PROGRAMME “CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS - INTERNAL CONTROL MECHANISM FOR SAFEGUARDING THE EU STANDARDS”

In May 2014 a Call for project proposals was launched together with a dissemination workshop for potential applicants for the following grant schemes:

- 1** Building capacities of CSOs for ensuring effective implementation of the EU standards in the Enforcement of human rights
- 2** Fostering Innovative Forms of Philanthropy in Local Communities to Support Sustainability of Civil Society
- 3** Building Local Partnerships for Open Governance and Fight against Corruption in Responsible Management of Natural Resources

Total value of the projects is 5.5 million EUR and they are expected to begin in July 2015.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT 2007-2013 AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

In August 2012 the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development became the accredited bodies for the implementation of the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development” and the European Social Fund activities under Priority Axis 5 “Strengthening the role of civil society for better governance”, measure 5.2. “Strengthening the role of civil society organisations for socio-economic growth and democratic development”.

Pursuant to the Ordinance on bodies charged with management and control of the funds from the European Social Fund in September 2014 the Office for cooperation with NGOs became an Intermediary Body level 1 in the implementation of the Operational Programme "Efficient Human Resources" under Priority Axis 4 “Smart Administration”, Investment Priority "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".

Projects planned under this Operational Programme will aim at developing CSO capacity, especially associations and social partners as well as strengthening civil and social dialogue for better management.

As an Intermediary Body level 1 the Office for Cooperation with NGOs drafts the project selection criteria and guidelines for applicants, selects projects for funding, secures project financing from its own funds, cooperates with Intermediary Body level 2 in monitoring project implementation progress, submits requests for the payment of public funds to beneficiaries and gives approval and ensures their payment, implements prevention activities, identifies and corrects irregularities and establishes measures for combating fraud. In 2013 and 2014 the Office announced five tenders for grant funds aimed at strengthening CSOs in Croatia. The tender activities will be supporting the CSOs which:

- Resolve problems in the local communities and encourage citizens' involvement in the community in partnership with local self-governments;
- Advocate policy for promoting employability, social inclusion and improving the quality of life for all Croatian citizens with special focus on vulnerable social groups;
- Implement volunteering activities and engage volunteers, working to increase the number of Croatian citizens who participate in volunteering activities in order to increase their chances for employment;

- Work to enhance CSO capacity for providing social services and establish partnership and cooperation between civil society and other stakeholders engaged in social service provision;
- Are active in local communities in order to receive public funding for implementing solutions tailored to local problems.

In cooperation with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and Regional support centres the Office for Cooperation with NGOs has organised dissemination workshops for potential applicants in all five tenders. The workshops were organised in Rijeka, Varaždin, Split, Osijek, Zagreb, Vukovar, Gospić, Petrinja, Zagreb, Vukovar, Gospić, Petrinja, Koprivnica, Dubrovnik, Zadar, Sisak, Pula, Slavonski Brod and Zabok. 801 people took part in the workshops.

Grant schemes under the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 2007-2013 and the European Social Fund:

1

Support Structures for CSOs at the Regional Level

- 9 contracts on the allocation of grant funds were signed in November and December 2013 in the total amount of approximately 600 000 EUR. Project activities are aimed at building the capacity of CSOs that resolve problems in the local communities and encourage citizens' involvement in the community in partnership with local self-governments.
- 21 CSOs, 13 local and regional self-governments, 3 public institutions and 2 development agencies participated in project implementation

[A list of contracted projects](#)

2

Supporting CSOs capacity for advocacy and motivation programmes for socially excluded groups

- In February 2014 contracts on the allocation of grant funds were signed with 12 CSOs for projects whose activities include encouraging employment of youth and persons with disabilities; involving vulnerable groups in decision making procedures; and encouraging social inclusion especially focused on underdeveloped areas and the islands. The value of contracted projects is approximately 1.33 million EUR.
- Projects have been implemented in partnership between 36 CSOs and 4 public institutions.

[A list of contracted projects](#)

3

Supporting contribution of CSOs active in the field of volunteering to strengthening of economic and social cohesion

- 9 CSOs signed contracts on the allocation of grant funds in the amount of 1 million EUR in March 2014. The projects comprise volunteering programmes that include mobile support teams to families and parents of lower socioeconomic status; setting up volunteering information centres for providing support to Alcoholics Anonymous and victims of domestic violence; setting up Vukovar Volunteering Centre; training school staff to organise volunteering initiatives; and including vulnerable social groups in local community activities through volunteering.
- Projects have been implemented in partnership between 33 CSOs, 18 public institutions and 6 local and regional self-governments.

[A list of contracted projects](#)

4

Capacity Building of the Civil Society Organizations Active in the Field of Social Service Delivery

- The call for proposals launched in July 2014 was aimed at enhancing CSO capacity in social service delivery and strengthening civil society cooperation with other stakeholders that deliver social services. A dissemination workshop for potential applicants was organised in July 2014 and contracts with beneficiaries were signed already in December 2014.
- The Call generated 96 applications for funding and 30 project proposals were selected. In the following 14 months projects will be implemented all over Croatia. It is expected that the projects will have a long term contribution to decentralisation and deinstitutionalization of social services as well as develop services in local communities. Project total value is 2.35 million EUR.
- Projects have been implemented in partnership between 109 CSOs, 7 public institutions and 6 local self-governments

[A list of contracted projects](#)

5

Micro projects of support to the innovative activities of small CSOs for local development

- A call for proposals was launched in July 2014 with the intention to strengthen the capacity of CSOs active in local communities for obtaining public funds in implementing solutions tailored to specific local problems. The call was particularly directed to local CSOs that did not have experience in running projects funded by the EU.
- A dissemination workshop for potential applicants was organized in July 2014. In total 86 project proposals were submitted and 40 were selected. The contracts with beneficiaries were signed already in December 2014.
- CSOs shall be implementing EU funded projects for the first time in 16 counties with the total value of 1.18 million EUR. This will ensure better and more equal regional distribution and financing of CSO activities in Croatia.

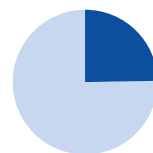
[A list of contracted projects](#)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs is also a 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 strengthening the feeling of European identity and belonging to the European Union through networking and exchange of knowledge, experience, tradition and vision of progress.

- Apart from being the Contact Point for Europe for Citizens Programme, the Office for Cooperation with NGOs was also appointed as the National Contact Point for the European Year of Citizens in 2013. The Office organized various presentations, workshops and discussions and informed the public about the Europe for Citizens programme and the goals of the European Year of Citizens through media. It also organized discussions on the topic of citizen participation in the decision making procedures on the local, national and EU level in order to encourage more active citizen involvement in decision making procedures as well as their participation in the first EU Parliament election in Croatia. In the discussions the general public was informed on the fundamental rights of EU citizens i.e. freedom of movement and EU fundamental rights (freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, including the rights of national minorities).
- With the financial assistance of the European Commission a [leaflet](#) was designed on the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme in Croatia from 2007-2013. The leaflet lists the data on the total amount of funds and beneficiaries from 2007-2013.

Proportion of funds paid and funds disbursed



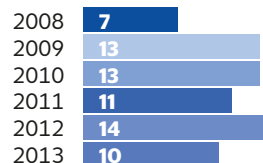
The amount of EU membership fee from 2008-2013 = **467,500.00 EUR**
Disbursed funds (project beneficiaries only) = **2,623,262.95 EUR**

Beneficiary to partner ratio



Number of beneficiaries = **68**
Number of partners = **206**

Number of beneficiaries per year



Total funds allocated to project beneficiaries per year

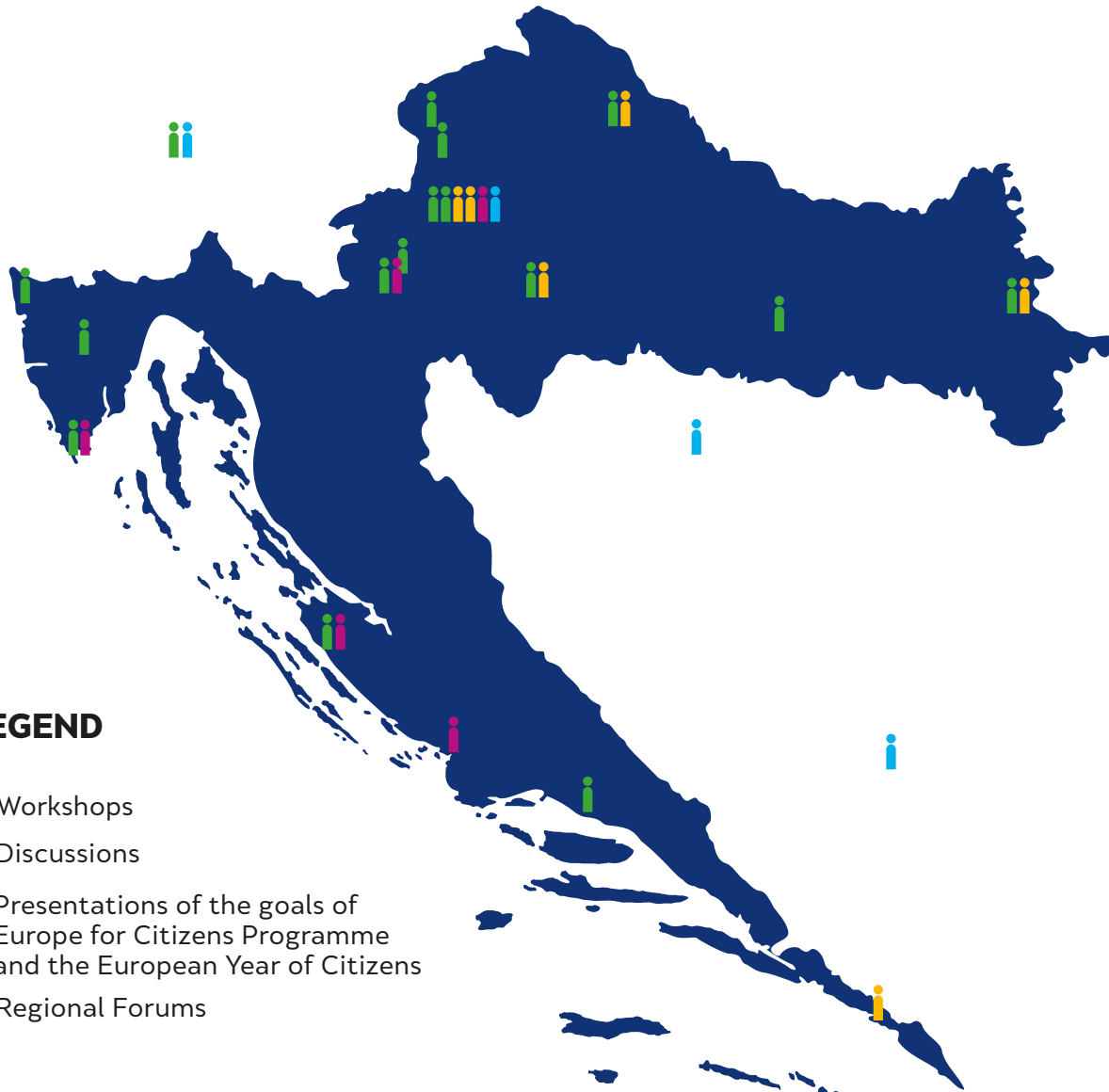


- A new EU Programming Period began in 2014 and the Office applied to be the National Contact Point for the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020. At the Croatian Government session from 18 December 2013, a Decision on appointing the Office for cooperation with NGOs the National Contact Point for the Europe for Citizens Programme was adopted.
- In May 2014 [Programme Guide](#) was published together with tender documents for the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020. Projects need to be aligned with the following priorities (according to strands):
 - Strand 1 – European remembrance – priorities for 2014 – the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the 10 years of enlargement of the EU to central and Eastern Europe.
 - Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation – priorities for 2014 - the 2014 elections to the European Parliament and citizens' participation in the democratic life of Europe, discussions on the future of the EU.





In order to increase the visibility of the Programme and the activities of the Croatian Contact Point in 2014 a new visual identity was created and the logo that was designed is used in all promotion materials.



6 discussions, 5 Programme presentations, 16 workshops for potential applicants and a Regional Forum were organized in 2013 and 2014. Employees of the Office trained **448 people** in the possibilities of project funding and project proposal drafting. They provided information to **557 people** on the Europe for Citizens Programme.



LEGEND

-  Workshops
-  Discussions
-  Presentations of the goals of Europe for Citizens Programme and the European Year of Citizens
-  Regional Forums



Regional Forums:

Regional Forum in Sarajevo – October 2014
Regional Forum in Zagreb – November 2014
Regional Forum in Ljubljana – November 2014
Regional Forum in Laktaši – December 2014



Workshops:

Zagreb – January 2013
Zabok – January 2013
Vukovar – April 2013
Sisak – May 2013
Karlovac – June 2013
Koprivnica – November 2013
Pazin – July 2014
Draganić – July 2014
Zagreb – may 2014
Sv. Križ Začretje – May 2014
Umag – May 2014
Ljubljana – November 2014
Požega – April 2014
Pula – April 2014
Zadar – May 2014
Split – July 2014



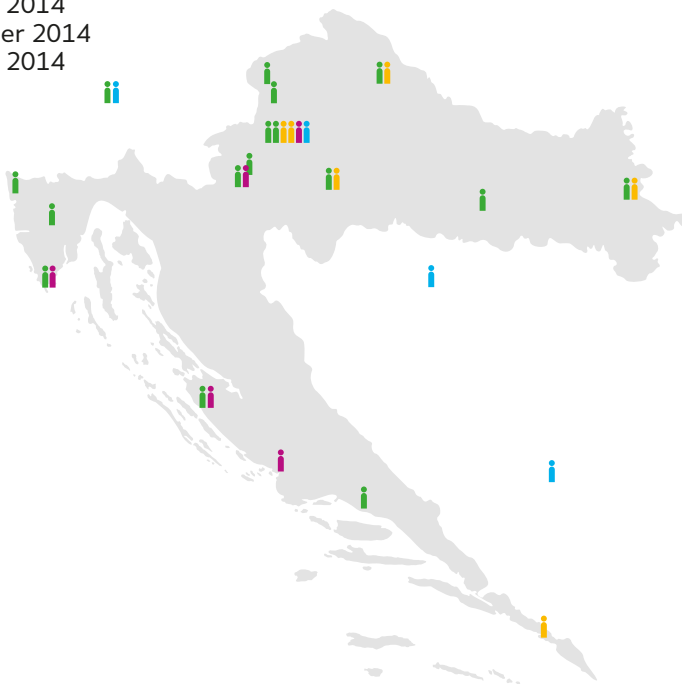
Discussions:

Vukovar – „Citizen participation in decision making procedures”, April 2013
Sisak – “Citizen participation in decision making procedures”, May 2013
Koprivnica – “Active citizens and civil society for local community development”, November 2013
Dubrovnik – “Ways of encouraging better cooperation of citizens, CSOs and the local authorities”, September 2013
Zagreb – “CSOs and EU institutions: what kind of dialogue can be expected?”, June 2013
Zagreb – closing event “European Year of Citizens: What have we learned?”, December 2013



Presentations of the goals of Europe for Citizens Programme and the European Year of Citizens

Pula – International conference “European Year of Citizens 2013”, April 2013
Zagreb – Round table “Croatian citizens as active EU citizens: how to reach the goal?”, May 2013
Karlovac – A two-day meeting of a cross-border network of active citizenship organizations, June 2013
Zadar – Presentation of the Europe for Citizens Programme, October 2014
Šibenik - Presentation of the Europe for Citizens Programme, October 2014



5

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Office fosters continuous cooperation with government institutions in countries of Southeast Europe and beyond. In 2013 and 2014 the cooperation encompassed the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, and Morocco. The Office staff organised various activities in providing support to the government and CSO representatives who participated in study visits, seminars and conferences. Croatian experience and good practice relates to the strategic framework for the cooperation between the state and civil society, key documents, financing CSO programmes and projects, and the standards applied in consultations with the interested public in adopting public policy.

STUDY VISITS TO THE OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs

- Delegation composed of the representatives of the Iraqi Government Federal Administration for NGOs and the Iraqi Parliament Committee for Civil Society (November 2013)
- CSO representatives from Serbia, Kosovo and Albania – partner organizations of the Olof Palma Centre from Sweden (November 2013)
- Delegation composed of the representatives of the Montenegrin Coalition of associations for monitoring the negotiation process under chapter 23 (November 2013)
- Representatives and associates of the Serbian Government Office for Cooperation with Civil Society (January 2014)
- Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Civil Society and the representatives of the National Commission for Dialogue with Civil Society (May 2014)
- Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan composed of representatives of the Ministry for Political Development and Parliamentary Affairs (June 2014)

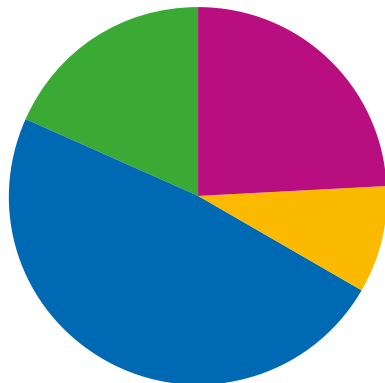
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INFORMATION AND TRAINING

With a view to ensuring 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 in cooperation with the National School for Public Administration organizes different workshops. The workshops are intended for state and local civil servants who are in charge of providing information, cooperating with associations and other CSOs and interest groups as well as preparing and conducting tenders for financing associations projects and programmes. The Office organizes dissemination workshops for potential applicants to EU tenders.

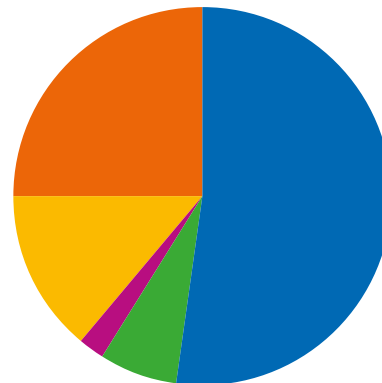
2013

- **8 seminars** on civil society participation in shaping public policy – 138 participants from public administration authorities, government offices and local and regional self-governments
- **3 seminars** on financing CSO projects and programmes from the public sources were organized with **75 participants** from public administration authorities, government offices and local and regional self-governments
- **16 dissemination workshops** for potential applicants to EU tenders
- **6 workshops** for potential applicants to the Europe for Citizens Programme – 237 participants from CSOs and local and regional self-governments



2014

- **23 presentations** of the new normative framework for CSOs - 2,163 participants from CSOs, public administration authorities, government offices and local and regional self-governments
- **3 workshops** which provided training to 75 central state and public civil servants on the efficient implementation of public consultations
- **1 seminar** on financing CSO projects and programs from public sources for participants from public administration authorities, government offices and local and regional self-governments
- **6 dissemination workshops** for potential applicants to EU tenders
- **11 workshops** for potential applicants to the Europe for Citizens Programme – **211 participants** from CSOs and local and regional self-governments



WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH NGOs RANKED SECOND ACCORDING TO THE INDEX OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN CROATIA

On 26 April 2013 Gong's Research Centre in cooperation with the Institute of Public Finance presented the results of the research "Good Governance in Croatia" at a conference entitled "Right to Good Administration in Croatian Practice". The research was conducted on a sample of 29 public authority bodies (the Government, 20 Ministries, 7 Government Offices and the Parliament) that have major influence on the quality of decision made and on their implementation.

Sources of data included bodies' official web sites and answers to the questionnaire with additional answer verification with the competent bodies.

According to research results the state authority body which ranked highest was the Ministry of Public Administration, whereas the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs followed as second with only 3% fewer points. Ministry of tourism ranked third.

THE OFFICE BUDGET 2013-2014

2013 BUDGET

State budget
(10.3%) - 7,955,000.00 kn

- Regular activities and programmes of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the national (state budget) component of EU project co-financing

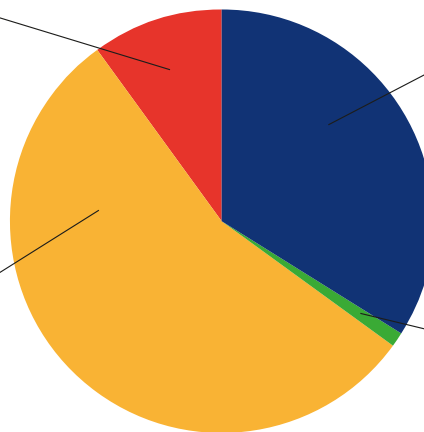
Games of chance revenue
(55.6%) - 42,935,919.00 kn

- National Foundation for Civil Society Development – support to associations for community development (87.2%)
- The Office for Cooperation with NGOs co-financing of EU projects implemented by CSOs

EU IPA Pre-accession assistance programmes
(33.9%) - 26,256,162.00 kn

European Union programmes
(0.2%) - 150,000.00 kn

- European Commission's support to the activities of Europe for Citizens Contact Point



In total:
77,297,081.00 kn

2014 BUDGET

State budget
(12.23 %) - 15,683,840.00 kn

- Regular activities and programmes of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the national (state budget) component of EU project co-financing

Games of chance revenue
(40.49%) - 51,909,692.00 kn

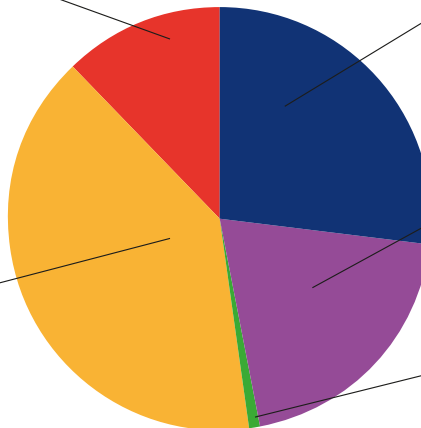
- National Foundation for Civil Society Development – support to CSOs for community development (90.45%)
46,954,703.00 HRK
- The Office for Cooperation with NGOs co-financing of EU projects implemented by CSOs (9.55%) – 4,954,989.00 HRK

EU IPA Pre-accession assistance programmes
(26.91%) – 34,499,580.00 kn

Operational Programme Human Resources Development – European Social Fund
(20.24%) – 25,953,540.00 kn

European Union programmes
(0.11%) – 150,000.00 kn

- European Commission's support to the activities of Europe for Citizens Contact Point



In total:
128,196,652.00 kn

Detailed information on the budget execution by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs is regularly published on the Office's web site.

