



Conference

“Local Governance Tailored to Citizens – From Open Government to an Active Community”

24 April 2026

European Parliament Office in Croatia, Zagreb

Programme

09:30 – 10:00	Participant registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome speeches Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and President of Council of the Open Government Partnership Initiative Helena Beus, authorized to perform the duties of the Director of the Office, the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
10:15 – 11:15	Panel: What does open government bring to citizens? Sandra Pernar, Senior Regional Coordinator for Europe, Open Government Partnership – <i>via video link</i> Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović, PhD, Senior Research Fellow in permanent rank, the Institute of Economics Zagreb PhD Meri Šuman Tolić, Associate Professor, University of Dubrovnik Marko Ercegović, advisor, Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia Suzana Jašić, Mayor of the City of Pazin
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation of the activities of the City of Zagreb in the Open Government Partnership initiative Aleksandra Grubić Jureško, PhD, Deputy Head of the City Office for Local Self-Government, Traffic, Municipal Affairs, Civil Protection and Security, City of Zagreb



Hrvoje Kalčićek, Assistant Head for preparation and monitoring of EU digitalization projects and process development and improvement, City of Zagreb

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee break and networking

12:30 – 13:30

European examples of good practices in participatory practices

Kirsi Verkka, Head of Development, City of Helsinki: *OmaStadi as an enabler of open governance: strengthening local democracy in Helsinki*

13:30 – 14:30

Examples of participatory practices from local levels in Croatia and the European Union

(practical examples of LGUs focused on active citizen participation)

- Zlatko Brlek, Mayor of the City of Klanjec: *Small Green Towns for a Big Green Europe*¹
- Judith Hunter and Pamela Rennie Glasgow, Scotland (Open Government Partnership Local member, awarded 2023.)² – *via video link*
- Dina Bušić, Head of the Administrative Department for Culture and Sports, City of Zadar: *Enhancing all citizens participation in rethinking the city as an inclusive, sustainable and beautiful place through art and culture*³
- Maria Pia Junquera Temprano, Madrid, Spain (Open Government Partnership Local)⁴ – *via video link*
- Despina Ungureanu, Timișoara, Romania (Open Government Partnership Local member, awarded 2023.)⁵ – TBC

14:30 – 14:45

Closing words

14:55 – 15:30

Lunch and networking

¹ [\(EU Funding & Tenders Portal\)](#)

² [2023 Open Gov Awards: Glasgow, UK - Citizen Power](#)

³ [\(EU Funding & Tenders Portal\)](#)

⁴ <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/madrid-spain/>

⁵ [Timișoara, Romania | Open Government Partnership](#)