Republic of Croatia
Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

Framework for
Government – CSO cooperation
in the Republic of Croatia

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT – CSO COOPERATION
FOR EFFECTIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - Regional Workshop
Budapest, June, 22-23, 2011
Key facts and figures

- Population in Croatia: 4,437,460
- 43,672 registered CSOs, 130 foreign CSOs, 167 foundations, 12 funds, 500 trade unions, 600 private institution
- Around 205 million EUR distributed to CSO projects each year from public sources
  - Around 137 million EUR (2/3) on local level (budgets of counties, towns and municipalities)
  - Around 68 million EUR (1/3) distributed to 5,500 NGO projects from the State budget
- Around 10 million EUR to CSO projects from EU funds (CARDS, PHARE 2006, IPA 2008)
Institutional framework for civil society organisations in Croatia

- Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs – established in 1998 (centralised system of public funding of CSOs)
- The Council for the Civil Society Development – created in 2002 as the Government advisory body
- National Foundation for Civil Society Development – founded in 2003
- Decentralised system of public funding - 20 line ministries and public bodies providing funding for projects and programmes of CSOs – introduced in 2002
Institutional framework supporting civil society development in Croatia

- National programmes and strategies
- Citizens participation
- Support & education
- CSOs
- Local and Regional Self-government
- Regional Networks
- National Foundation
- Regional Foundations
- Government Of Croatia
- Council for Civil Society Development
- Office for Cooperation with NGOs
Legal framework for civil society organisations in Croatia

- Programme of Cooperation between the Government and NGOs – drafted in 2001
- The Associations Act – adopted in 2001
- The Act on Organising Games of Chance and Prize-winning Games – adopted in 2002 – 50% revenues from lottery allocated for CSOs
- The Code of Good Practice, Standards and Benchmarks for the Allocation of Funding for Programmes and Projects of NGOs – 2007
- The Code of Practice on Consultation with the Interested Public in Procedures of Adopting Laws, other Regulations and Acts - 2009
Main activities of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

• Designing and proposing new legal framework
• Coordinating the work of public administration bodies on developing cooperation and civil dialog with CSOs
• Designing standards for the financing of CSO’s projects and programmes with public benefit activities from the state budget and other public sources (budgets of the local and regional communities)
• Monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for CSO development and enforcing measures of the Operational Implementation Plan
Main activities of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

- Improving standards of consultation with CSOs in public policy making processes
- Providing technical, administrative, professional and financial support to the Council for the Civil Society Development
- EU project implementation unit – monitoring the usage of pre-accession funds to civil society and co-financing of CSO’s own participation in providing EU projects
- Contact Point for Europe for Citizens Community Programme in Croatia
Main activities of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

• Organizing and hosting numerous round tables, public discussions, conferences, workshops on different topics from civil society sector and in cooperation with CSOs (specially in fight against corruption)
• Organizing NGO days
• Cooperation in implementing regional IPA project TACSO
• Regional and international cooperation
• Participation in EU project strengthening capacity on civil society for civil dialog in Bosnia and Herzegovina (CiDi)
The Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs in 2009 / 2010 in figures

- 12 employees in two departments
- 43 events with 3800 participants (round tables, public discussions, conferences, educations and workshops) organized and hosted by Office
- 89 educations and trainings attended by Office employees
- 125 presentations and expositions kept by Office employees in the Croatia and foreign countries
- 11 meetings of the Council for the Civil Society Development provided with technical, administrative, professional and financial support from the Office
- 381 published information and news on the Office website
- 341,784 visitors on the Office website
- 10 publications published in 14,600 copies
- 36 monitoring visits by Office employees to CSOs providing EU projects
- Over 3 million EUR is the value of the EU funded CSO projects monitored by Office
- Over 6 million EUR is the value of the EU funded CSO projects which will be contracted this and next year and monitored by the Office
- 3 million EUR is the value of the EU funded CSO projects to which Office already prepared project fiche and tendering documentation
Council for Civil Society Development

• Consultative body of Croatian Government
• Composition – 27 members
  - 12 representatives of NGOs – democratically elected through a public call for proposals and transparent voting procedure
  - 12 representatives of State institutions
  - 1 representative of trade unions
  - 1 representative of employers association
  - 1 representative of foundations
Council for Civil Society Development

12 elected representatives of NGOs
1. Protection & promotion of human rights
2. Health protection & improvement of quality of life
3. Disabled persons care
4. Child care
5. Environmental protection & sustainable development
6. Social welfare
7. Youth
8. Democratization & social development
9. Culture
10. Homeland war-veterans care
11. Sports
12. Technical culture

1 Trade Unions
1. Union
2. Employers Association
3. Foundation

12 appointees from state administrative bodies
1. Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
2. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
3. Ministry of Culture
4. Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
8. Ministry if Administration
9. Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship
10. Office of Prime Minister of Croatia
11. Government Office for Human Rights
12. Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
How the Council works?

• Monthly meetings
• Own initiative opinions and statements on draft laws, national programmes and plans regarding civil society development in the widest sense
• President elected from among Council members (from NGO representatives)
• Administrative and expert support provided by the Office for cooperation with NGOs
• Role in programming EU assistance for civil society development and priorities for EU funding
The National Foundation for Civil Society Development

• Public foundation established by the Parliament
• Operational grants, CSO capacity building, training, research, awareness-raising
• Regional foundations – local community building
• Regional CSO support networks
The National Foundation for Civil Society Development

- public foundation - distributes part of revenues from lottery / games of chance

- offers financial support to programmes that encourage the sustainability of the non-profit sector, cross-sector cooperation, civil initiatives, philanthropy and volunteerism

- EU information, training and scholarship programme for NGOs - IMPACT (Zadar)
National Strategy as a common platform

• broad consensus among civil society and government representatives, about the strategic priorities in the period 2006-11
• common platform for creating adequate legislative, administrative and social conditions for the development of civil society
• enhancing sustainability of an independent and vibrant civil society
• basis for better cooperation among donors
National Strategy – starting points

• Value basis of relations between the State and civil society
  – respect for civil society autonomy and pluralism
  – openness of State institutions and political processes towards the public
  – respect for the activities of CSOs advocating basic constitutional values

• Promoting the social cohesion as one of the key elements for the economic and social development of the country
National Strategy - structure

- Citizen’s participation in the creation of public policy
- Education for democratic citizenship and human rights
- Legal, institutional and financial framework for the activities and development of CSOs
- Regional development
- Development of volunteerism, philanthropy and foundations
- International context (EU accession, regional cooperation, development aid, social diplomacy)
National Strategy - priorities

*Strengthening capacities and participation of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies*

- Enhancing policy research, advocacy capacities of CSOs – at national and EU level
- Drafting and adopting the Code of positive practice on consultations (minimum standards)
National Strategy - priorities

*Improving current legal framework*

- Adopting new Law on foundations
- Encouraging institutional, fiscal and social incentives for individual philanthropy and corporate investments in social development partnerships
- Introducing public benefit status, revisiting tax benefits regulations
National Strategy - priorities

**Strengthening capacities of CSOs in the provision of public services**

- to include CSOs as service providers of public services, in the implementation of reforms in the areas of social welfare, health and education,

- define standards, priorities and criteria for signing high-quality social contracts, with CSOs for the provision of public services
National Strategy - priorities

Encourage active contribution of CSOs to the EU accession process and strengthening regional cooperation and stability

• encouraging exchange of knowledge and experience between civil society in Croatia and the EU
• supporting CSOs programmes and projects of regional / cross-border cooperation
• strengthening the cooperation with CSOs in the Implementation of Croatian Development Assistance to Third Countries
Operational Implementation Plan
2007 - 2011

• 57 measures
• More than 30 institutions involved in the implementation of measures
• Office is responsible for enforcement of numerous measures of the Operational Implementation Plan, coordination other institutions and drafting Annual reports
• Annual reports on the Strategy implementation adopted by the Government
Sustainable funding of CSOs programmes and projects

• Decentralised system of public funding (2002) - more than 20 public bodies providing funding for CSOs
• Law on games of chance (2002) – 50% revenues from lottery allocated for CSOs
• Code of Good Practice, Standards and Benchmarks for the Allocation of Funding to Programs and Projects of CSOs – 2007
• Transparency of funding – all data on grants awarded accessible through internet (from 2004)
• Register of non-profit organizations
Code of Good Practice of Funding Programmes and Projects of NGOs – principles for the approval of funding

1. determining priorities for the funding according public policy documents and public benefit activities
2. announcing public tenders
3. opening of received applications by a commission
4. appraisal of submitted projects and programmes by expert bodies
5. delivering written responses to applicants
6. publication of tender results
7. concluding contracts within 60 days
8. monitoring and evaluating the implementation of approved programmes and projects
Monitoring the implementation of Code of Good Practice of Funding Programmes and Projects of NGOs

- Collecting and analysing the reports on financing the civil society organizations on national and local level – on the year basis (procedures and numbers)
- Education of civil servants at national, local and regional level
- Handbook for the implementation of the Code (detailed explanation of procedure + templates)
## Financiranje udruga - Pregled odobrenih financijskih potpora

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<td>Organizacija:</td>
<td>Hrvatski filmski savez</td>
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### Rezultati pretrage

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<td>Hrvatski filmski savez</td>
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**DAVATELJI FINANCIJSKIH POTpora NA NACIONALNOJ RAZINI**

**MINISTARSTVO KULTURE**
Role of the Office in creating an enabling environment for civil dialogue

- Drafting, wide consultation process and implementing the Code on consultation of CSOs in policy making process - 2009
- Developing and implementing the Guidelines for the implementation of the Code
- Educational activities for nominated coordinators for conducting consultations
- Strengthen the capacities of public administration bodies for the implementation of European standards and methods for conducting consultations with the interested public
- Education of civil servants at national, local and regional level on models of cooperation with CSOs
- Public data base of the 125 government and parliamentarian advisory bodies involving around 800 representatives of CSOs
Odbor za ljudska prava i prava nacionalnih manjina

Procedura biranja: izbor ili imenovanje:
imenovanje

Godina osnivanja i trajanje tekućeg mandata:
15. rujna 2008. - do isteka tekućeg mandata Hrvatskog sabora

Temeljna zadaća tijela:
U djelotvornom području radnja su Odbora za ljudska prava i prava nacionalnih manjina poslovnost utvrđivanja i praćenja proračuna politike, a u postupku donošenja zakona i drugih propisa o pravima i dužnostima natječnog radnog tijela u područjima koje se odnosi na: provedbu potvrđenih međunarodnih akata koji uređuju zaštitu ljudskih prava, načelna pitanja, prijedloge i mišljenja u vezi s ostvarivanjem određenih pravaka i osiguranju tekućih mandata Ustava Republike Hrvatske o ljudskim pravima i temeljnim slobodama.

Naziv dokumenta o osnivanju i način njega objavljivanja:

sukladno čl.72. Poslovnika Hrvatskog sabora ("Narodne novine", br. 71/00., 129/00., 9/01. - pročitani tekst, 117/01., 6/02. - pročitani tekst, 41/02., 91/03., 58/04., 39/08. i 86/08.)

Članovi: Naziv organizacije civilnog društva:

Ivo Banac
Hrvatski helsinskii odbor za ljudska prava

Cvijeta Senta
Araža mladih Hrvatske

Denis Bais
Hrvatski katolički zbor "MI"

Dragana Božić Bukovac
Udruga za razvoj civilnog društva "SMART"
Other activities

• The Office is actively included in the implementation of Anticorruption Strategy (7 measures)

• Legislative activities:
  – Public Benefit Organizations Act
  – New Code of Funding CSO Programmes (harmonization of the criteria and the procedures of funding from national public sources and EU funds)
Key challenges

• **New Strategy 2012 – 2016** - need for a strong policy coordination

• **Institutionalization of civil dialogue** (structures are not substitute for real dialogue) - lack of capacities, human and financial resources of CSOs, to contribute to policy making processes

• **Building CSO capacities** to implement and monitor new legislation (Europe for Citizens Programme and IPA Projects 2008-2011), CSO as partners in communicating EU related issues to citizens

• **Systematic capacity building of civil servants** and promoting good practice examples

• **Sustainable funding:** harmonization of criteria for EU and national public funding of CSOs – danger of shifting focus from people/beneficiaries to papers
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more information
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