



ANNUAL REPORT

2000

1. ELECTIONS

A. Election monitoring

This was the year of observers - over 7 000 independent observers monitored all sorts of elections throughout the year.

a) Big

- ▶ January 3 - Parliamentary elections in Croatia and Croatian embassies were observed by 5 500 domestic, non-partisan GONG observers.
- ▶ January 24 - The first round of Presidential elections was observed by around 5 000 GONG observers; 1 000 of them new.
- ▶ February 2 - The second round of Presidential elections was observed by 4 500 observers; 500 of them new.

! GONG also undertook **PVT** (parallel voting tabulation), which confirmed official election results with an error smaller than 1%. GONG announced results of the first round of Presidential elections in media even before than the State Electoral Committee.

!! After Parliamentary elections and first round of Presidential elections US State Secretary Madeleine Albright organized a reception for GONG and its volunteers in Mimara museum Zagreb where she congratulated all observers for their initiative, efforts and courage.

b) Small

- ▶ Extraordinary elections in Croatia, 2000 - Kutina, Perusic, Zagreb, Velika Gorica, Vrbovec, Otocac, Ivanic Grad, Nova Gradiska, Samobor, Preko, Murter, Gornja Reka, Donji Lapac, Nin, Vir, Stara Gradiska, Bakar, Slatina, Pitomaca, Petrinja, Nova Bukovica and Ljubescica - around 500 new observers.

c) The smallest

- ▶ July - local referendum - Sv. Kriz Zacetje - 2 observers
- ▶ December - Zagreb City Quarters elections - 150 observers

d) International

- ▶ June - local elections in Podgorica and Herceg Novi, Montenegro, 7 GONG observers.
- ▶ December - local elections in Bryansk region, Russia, 2 GONG observers

B. Education

a) International

During and after the successful campaign "We the citizens are observing", GONG held numerous meetings and trainings for similar organizations from this part of Europe.

Some of them are:

CCI - Center for Civic Initiatives and their partner organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina (February and March, in B&H and Croatia)

CEMI - Center for Monitoring the Elections and **CDT- Center for Democratic Transition**, Montenegro (June, August, September, in Montenegro)

CESID - Center for Free Elections and Democracy, Serbia (March, in Croatia)

NGOs from Serbia, which participated in OTPOR activities (August, in Montenegro)

KACI - Kosovo-Albanian Civil Initiative, Kosovo (October/November, in Kosovo)

24 NGO representatives from Central Asia (November, in Zagreb)

b) Civic Education

▶ 3 different posters in 20 000 copies, two types of brochures in 150 000 copies, 2 types of flyers in 210 000 copies and observers' handbook in 10 000 copies, containing numerous information on election procedure. All those materials were distributed till February 7, 2000 as a part of "We the citizens are observing" campaign.

▶ 10 different audio and 7 video educative clips related to Parliamentary, Presidential, Local and Town elections were emitting free of charge on Croatian National Television which recognized the importance of civic education on election processes.

▶ GONG trainers held over 150 workshops where they educated over 7 000 non-partisan observers who monitored elections in Croatia throughout year 2000.

▶ During educative campaign for Zagreb City Quarters, 2 cartoons, 5 audio clips, 3 posters in 25 000 copies and brochures in 200 000 copies were created to inform citizens about functioning and authorities of city quarters self-government.

2. PARLIAMENT PROGRAM

Apart from monitoring the elections, at the beginning of 2000, GONG created and further developed Parliament Program which main goals are - building up citizens' trust in democratic institutions and elected representatives by bringing citizens closer to their work, stimulating communication between voters and their elected representatives and making state institutions' work more transparent.

The Program consists of various key projects, and here are some of the most important results:

A. "Open Sabor (Open Parliament)"

Until September 1999, it was nearly impossible for citizens to attend parliamentary sessions. It was only with the pressure coming from various NGOs that made the gallery in Croatian Parliament (called *Sabor*) open for their activists. After Parliamentary elections, GONG invited Sabor to officially open the gallery for all interested citizens, which was eventually done. As citizens themselves didn't know about that possibility, GONG started "Open Sabor" project that enabled 225 citizens to attend parliamentary sessions and over 720 citizens to visit Sabor in 2000. Those visits to Sabor that are organized on Mondays were initiated by GONG (citizens call GONG to announce their interest to visit Sabor), and are organized in cooperation with Sabor (formal guiding through the Sabor building and a short lecture).

! GONG started to work on "Booklet about Sabor" which will give an interesting insight into the mechanisms of legislative procedures in Croatia. It will also show some yet unknown but very interesting details about the work of MPs and parliamentary services. Due to Constitutional changes Croatia had to face, and later on changes of Sabor's Procedures, the booklet had to be re-written a few times and will be printed in 2001.

B. "Citizens' Hour"

In Croatia, communication between voters and their (present and future) elected representatives exists only during pre-election period. That is one of the main reasons why GONG started this project.

"Citizens' Hour" is created as a meeting of citizens and their elected representatives on local and national level, which gives citizens the opportunity to ask various questions, give comments and critics, but also suggest possible solutions to existing problems.

The project started in November, after preparations, and only during first two months, 14 "Citizens' Hours were organized (panel discussions, visits to high schools and pensions, radio talk shows) with

over 1 000 citizens and around 50 elected representatives who participated on all levels-MPs, town Meyers, municipality Meyers, representatives of different ministries and town offices and experts.

C. “Getting to know local representative bodies”

After Sabor opened its doors for citizens, GONG made an inquiry about to what extent county, city and municipality councils and assemblies are open to the public and started informing citizens about their right to attend local representative bodies' sessions. GONG organized visits to those bodies' sessions, for citizens who were interested, in order to educate them about the mechanisms of local government and self-government. Although in some regions this project was accepted with lots of resentment coming from officials, as time went by the citizens visiting sessions became regular guests. During the two months (November and December), citizens attended 11 sessions of different local bodies.

D. Internship Program

The goal of “Internship Program” is introducing the institution of volunteering of young professionals and students in state bodies. Our first goal was introducing Internship in Parliament, more precisely, volunteering of students for MPs. Apart from many countries of Western democracies where this type of practice already exist, this is the first initiative of this kind in Croatia.

The initiative was introduced to Mr. Tomcic, President of Parliament in summer, and to all MPs in September. 28 MPs immediately showed their need for a volunteer which encouraged GONG to seek once again the official permission from Sabor. Unfortunately, permission came after the program was already brought to life (April 2001). In the meantime, program was developed through self-education of GONG about countries that already started similar programs and preparations started for the beginning of program in 2001.

E. Initiatives

GONG made a questionnaire for MPs in September and October which showed that Croatian MPs work in a lot poorer conditions than their colleagues in other countries - most of them don't have their working space, equipment (desk, computer) and professional staff. That is why we suggested Croatian Sabor a few initiatives in order to meliorate the work of MPs, but also to make some easily accessible sources for MPs as well as citizens:

-Transparency of legislative process - enabling access to law proposals for interested subjects like unions, NGOs, enterprises, institutions. In order to cut down the costs, GONG suggested daily improvement of Sabor's web pages, which would publish law proposals and later on, entire legal procedures on Internet. Our initiative was heard, but never any progress was made.

-Opening of Internet room for MPs – suggestion to fix up a room with a few computers, which would enable MPs to search the Internet, gather information, communicate with citizens etc. (the room was opened in 2001, with a donation from NDI).

F. Education of citizens

▶ We printed 8 issues of newspapers called “GONG - voice of active citizens” (each edition in 25 000 copies) which we used to also present the role and work of other NGOs as well as some socially attractive topics. Those newsletters were distributed free of charge on squares, shops, libraries, faculties and in other NGOs.

▶ In April we distributed 100 000 flyers “Who is my MP” which we used to introduce MPs and their contact numbers to citizens. 10 different flyers were printed, according to electoral units in Croatia.

▶ In October we printed 5 000 “Citizens' Hour” posters which presented so much needed communication between voters and elected representatives on all levels of government. At the end of the year, an audio-clip about “Citizens' Hour” was produced.

▶ As a part of “Open Sabor” project and “Getting to know local representative bodies”, we distributed thousands of flyers in order to inform the public about the possibility of visits to Sabor and local bodies.

▶ With the support of Croatian Government, in December we introduced 060 20 20 20 phone line, as a beginning of long process of self-financing of our activities (the cost of one phone call is 1,39 kn/min). This phone line is open to all sorts of inquiries about elections, work of state bodies and GONG’s programs and activities.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GONG’S PRESENTATIONS

▶ *March* - Suzana Jasic participated in one-week program in Washington where she presented GONG’s campaign and experiences from the past elections; organizers: Freedom House and NED - National Endowment for Democracy.

▶ *May and June* — In Bijeljina, B&H, 10 GONG activists were present at two conferences that were organized for election monitoring organizations from ex-Yugoslavia; organizer: OSCE.

▶ *May and June* - Vladimir Pran participated in a six-week internship program in USA where he worked with similar organizations like GONG (Common Cause, League of Woman Voters); organizer: Freedom House.

▶ *June* - Aleksandra Kuratko participated at “Strategy for democratic Serbia” conference in Szeged; organizer: Freedom House

▶ *June* - Suzana Jasic participated at a conference in Berlin called “Democratic changes in Central and Eastern Europe, where she met with Madeleine Albright; organizers: NED and various German foundations.

▶ *June* - Ana Zunic went to two-week program “The work of NGOs in the local communities and cooperation with local governments” in Hungary; organizers: USAID and Croatian Government.

▶ *July* - Renata Garic participated at Bratislava conference called “ Processes in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia”; organizers: Slovakian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East West Institute.

▶ *July* - Suzana Jasic went to a four-week program in USA (International Visitor Program) “NGO Management”; organizer: US Department of State.

▶ *August* - three GONG activists (Igor Bajok, Suzana Jasic and Aleksandra Kuratko) participated at conference of monitoring organizations in Budapest; organizers: NDI and OSCE.

▶ *September* - Vladimir Pran went to “Sustainability of the Third Sector” conference in Budapest; organizer: Civil Society Development Foundation.

▶ *September* - Vice-governor’s Office Delegation from Minnesota visited GONG.

▶ *September* - Biljana Jelinic was invited to the “Regional Training-camp on Human Rights”; organizers: International Helsinki Committee and Croatian Helsinki Committee.

▶ *October* - Vladimir Pran participated in the regional conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Parliament in Mostar; organizer: OSCE.

▶ *November* - Suzana Jasic presented GONG at second summit of World’s Movement for Democracy in Sao Paulo, Brazil; organizers: World Movement for Democracy and NED.

▶ *November* - Masa Kovacevic went to “Youth and its role in empowerment of democracy in the region” that was held in Bucharest, Romania; organizer: Asociatia Pro Democratia.

▶ *November* - Ivna Bajsic participated in “First East-European Dialogues” in Koszeg, Hungary; organizer: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

▶ *November* - Ken Wollack, President of National Democratic Institute (NDI) Washington visited GONG.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

 The year started great, but it didn’t last for long. In July 2000, due to financial difficulties and lack of donors, we had to close 9 out of 13 Regional Offices, and during July and August, the whole organization nearly had to be closed down. Thanks to great efforts and volunteer work of remained Regional Offices, we managed to last through the summer. In September, some of GONG’s projects

were approved by USAID and by the US Embassy, and with the beginning of the year 2001, some other donors approved them too. Since then, the organization is quite stabile, with one new lesson learned: fast organizational growth (from 1 to 13 offices) in short period is dangerous and not sustainable in the long term. For further development it is necessary to take slow and thorough steps.

! In September 2000, GONG General Assembly was held. There, GONG's new Statute and Board of Directors were voted (Zinka Bardic, Veljko Kukulj, Mica Mladineo, Goran Radman and Sinisa Rodin), and Suzana Jasic was once again elected as Executive Director in her second mandate.

!! After that Assembly, major changes in GONG's care for volunteers and members took place, the new database is being created and some internal working rules of organization and work with volunteers are created.

GONG activists meet on several occasions:

- ▶ *March* - An evaluation seminar on "We the citizens are observing" campaign was held in Porec.
- ▶ *June* - Martina Belic and Rada Boric held a workshop on strategic planning in Zagreb.
- ▶ *October* - Head Office organized a workshop for Regional Offices about Parliament Program in Zagreb.
- ▶ *December* - GONG organized a seminar to evaluate present activities in Parliament Program for all offices in Stubicke Toplice. Also, as a part of that seminar, workshops on mechanisms of local government and self-government and Internship Program were held.
- ▶ *December* - A workshop on "Project Proposals Writing and Fundraising" was organized for all offices. Trainers were from EOS and the workshop was financed by AED.

5. OTHER

A. Cooperation with institutions

- ▶ *May – November* - GONG was a member of two working groups of Croatian Government: criteria for financing NGOs from state budget (Aleksandra Kuratko) and new law proposal on NGOs (Zvonimir Mataga).
- ▶ *June* - Focus groups for OTI evaluation were organized (Office of Transitional Activities), which ended its mandate after two-year work as a part of USAID. Focus groups were organized in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, by Varazdin, Osijek, Split and Zagreb offices.
- ▶ *July* - Suzana Jasic and Ivna Bajsic participated in NDI workshop organized for MPs which topic was the work of MPs in their electoral units.
- ▶ *October* - Ana Zunic and Igor Bajok participated in NDI conference with MPs, which was dealing with "Citizens' problem-solving and opening offices in electoral units".
- ▶ *November* - Ana Zunic participated in a workshop named "Developing the model of cooperation between NGO and the State" which organizers were Governmental Office for NGOs and AED.
- ▶ *December* - Jasmina Vukas and Aleksandra Kuratko joined NDI's seminar with MPs which topic was "Communication strategies".

B. Other activities

Alongside activities proscribed by GONG's Statute and strategic plan, our offices undertook a number of different projects important for the local community:

- ▶ *April* - Petition for protection of Youth Hostel in Zagreb - all offices.
- ▶ *April and May* - A survey on local needs, fears and problems which consisted of opinions of over 1000 citizens and was financed by Swedish Helsinki Committee - all offices.
- ▶ *May* - Ecological action in Korenica - Regional Office Korenica.
- ▶ *June* - Action of cleaning the graffiti in Zadar - Zadar Regional Office.

! GONG started building application system for NGO management in Croatia called **NGOffice** in cooperation with firm Microsoft Croatia and Governmental Office for NGOs.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2001 (in KN)

Average exchange rate is 1 USD = 8,2 KN

Fiscal year starts January 1st and ends December 31. Financial report includes statement of assets and liabilities, consolidated statement of income and expenditure by budget lines.

Balance Sheet

Assets

Tangible Assets	70.348
Cash & Cash equivalents	300.743
Total Assets	<u>371.091</u>

Liabilities

Fund Balance	371.091
Total Liabilities	<u>371.091</u>

Consolidated Statement of Income

Income

Grants and Donations	3.197.323
Revenues	738.652
Total Income	<u>3.935.975</u>

Expenditure

Services	2.018.882
Depreciation	20.435
Tangible Costs	194.426
Other Costs	1.298.633
Costs for Employees	32.509
Total Expenditure	<u>3.564.885</u>

Income over Expenditure 371.090

Expenditure by Budget Lines

Personnel Expenses

Salaries	19.604
Taxes from Salaries	12.905
Honorarium	1.206.699
Taxes	210.361
Total Personnel Expenses	<u>1.449.569</u>

Other Costs

Accountant Services	14.640
Office Supply	172.646
Rent	144.763
Utilities	23.089
Communication	278.620
Photocopying	42.264
Advertising	592.240
Printing Costs	213.860
Travel Costs	76.729
Accommodation	
- seminars and workshops	516.078
Refreshment	11.910
Other Costs	8.042
Total Other Costs	<u>2.094.881</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>3.544.450</u>

SPECIAL THANKS

GONG is non-profit organization. With volunteer work of citizens and with all received supports and donations we were able to accomplish our goals and tasks.

Financial Support (in HRK)

Up to 1.000

- Crtorad d.o.o.
- City of Petrinja
- City of Slavonski Brod
- City of Delnice
- City of Mali Losinj

Up to 5.000

- Tourist Community of Zadar City
- Zadar County
- IDEE
- Municipality Plitvicka Jezera

Up to 10.000

- City of Rijeka
- Sisačka banka d.d.

Up to 50.000

- Westminster Foundation for Democracy, GB
- Dutch Embassy in Zagreb
- Istria County
- National Endowment for Democracy, USA
- Press Now, The Netherlands
- Rutgers, USA

In - kind supporters (in HRK)

Up to 1.000

- People's University in Ivanic Grad
- INA – Industrija nafte d.d.
- Iskon Internet d.d.
- HT - Hrvatske telekomunikacije d.d.

Up to 2.000

- Ministry of Defense of Republic of Croatia

up to 5.000

- King Računala d.o.o.
- Arto d.o.o.
- British Embassy in Zagreb

Up to 100.000

- The Office of the Special Envoy of the European Commission in Croatia
- OSCE Croatia
- Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb

Up to 500.000

- Government of Republic of Croatia
- American Embassy in Zagreb
- Swedish Helsinki Comity
- Canadian Embassy in Zagreb
- Freedom House, Hungary/USA
- NDI and USAID, Zagreb/USA
- Open Society Institute Croatia

Up to 1,000.000

- City of Zagreb
- USAID - OTI, Croatia

Up to 8.000

- UNHCR, Zagreb

From 10.000 to 20.000

- Span d.o.o.
- Microsoft Croatia d.o.o., Zagreb
- Canadian Embassy in Zagreb

Over 2,000.000

- Croatian Radio Television

Special thanks to all citizens whose contributed to any GONG's activity by their volunteer's work. Without the most valuable – volunteers' work and civic support - this report would be a lot shorter and GONG would be a lot different. And despite the money - a lot poorer.

