



# 2001

## GONG'S ANNUAL REPORT

# 1. ELECTIONS PROGRAM

## A. Observing elections

During 2001, **2 600 citizens** observed elections.

### a) **Big elections**

► May 20<sup>th</sup> – **Local elections** in Croatia were monitored by 2 500 domestic, non-partisan GONG observers.

! At ODIHR press conference, Mr. Hrair Balian, Chief of ODIHR Office for Elections, pointed out how he personally monitored conduct of four big elections in Croatia and has noticed significant improvement of election procedure. In his opinion, Local elections were the last elections monitored by ODIHR in Croatia, thanks to great work of GONG, *“which gathered 3 000 observers, not only for these elections, but also the previous”*. *“I could only wish for other countries where ODIHR monitors elections that domestic observers are so warmly welcomed as they are in Croatia. The fact that their high quality work can't be easily interrupted is the key reasons why international observers are not needed in Croatia any more.”*

This is the first time ODIHR made such a statement for a domestic election observing organization.

!! July 15<sup>th</sup> – GONG published local elections results from each polling station in Croatia on web site. Considering the fact that electoral commissions published only cumulative results (each town and municipality) and not at all centralized, it were GONG activists who gathered minutes from all polling stations, typed them into a specially created data-base and made it accessible to the public. Doing that, GONG became the only institution in Croatia that gathered all polling places results and put it in an electronic version. Thanks to that database, citizens and other parties can check election results they are interested in.

### b) **Small elections**

► **Extraordinary local elections** (until March 2001): Obrovac and Krizevci – 20 observers  
► **Repeated local elections** – Matulji, Kraljevica, Zadar, Biograd, Pakostane, Marija Gorica, Brdovec, Glina, Lokve, Vis, Jelsa, Polaca, Konavle, Primosten, Stupnik, Orahovica, Dubrovnik – 80 observers

### c) **Elections in other countries**

► **Presidential elections in Belarus**, September 2001 – Upon OSCE invitation, GONG sent one long term observer (Danijela Mikovic) and two short term observers (Vladimir Pran and Dragan Zelic) to monitor elections in Belarus.

## B. Educating and informing citizens

► **We created, produced and distributed:**

- 100 000 flyers «Voters' lists» containing information on where, how and in what time limit citizens can check their data in voters' lists
- 95 000 flyers inviting citizens to observe elections and become GONG volunteers
- 10 000 flyers «Campaign info» giving general information on local elections campaign, followed by flyers “What is GONG” in order to make our appearance more transparent
- 20 000 posters and 100 jumbo posters announcing the date of elections
- 350 000 brochures containing election info – who we are voting for and how
- Hundreds of copies of “Election law for dummies”
- 3 000 brochures «I vote for the first time» and 350 GONG condoms for high school graduates who participated in “I vote for the first time” workshops
- 5 000 observers' handbooks (containing reporting forms, GONG charters, accreditations and decisions of appointment)
- 6 000 orange T-shirts and GONG handbags for observers

- 10 000 GONG stickers
- 5 000 forms/application leaflets for volunteers
- Numerous flyers for extraordinary and repeated local elections.

▶ **We produced** 5 video and audio clips dealing with voters' lists, elections and election observing, that were broadcasted with large discounts on various Croatian National Television channels and radio stations. Giving us significant discounts, Croatian National Television clearly recognized the importance of citizens' education about elections.

▶ **We educated** 50 GONG trainers who conducted 180 workshops for over 2 600 non-partisan observers.

▶ **We conducted** 46 «I vote for the first time» workshops in 35 high schools in Zagreb, Krapina, Zadar, Rijeka and Slavonski Brod for over 1 060 graduate students.

▶ **We organized** 110 civic actions and held info desks.

▶ We published **GONG's report on Local elections 2001** which we wrote in the form of a handbook on how to conduct an election monitoring campaign.

! Et the end of the year we started «**I vote for the first time**» project which goal was conducting 336 educational workshops for 10 000 high school graduates throughout Croatia. Project got recommended by Ministry of education and sports and will be conducted in March and April 2002.

!! We created «**Elections package**», a project through which we will organize public debates that will result in creation of recommendations in order to change or amend 5 most important laws regulating elections in Croatia (voters' lists, political parties, State Election Committee as a permanent body and financing election campaigns). Project proposal was submitted to European Commission in Croatia.

## 2. PARLIAMENT PROGRAM

Parliament Program, which aims to – **increase citizens' confidence in democratic institutions and elected representatives** by introducing citizens in their work, **encourage communication between voters and politicians and stimulate more transparent work of state institutions** – was developed and produced significant results.

### A. «Open Parliament»

In 2001, GONG assisted **192 citizens** in attending parliamentary sessions and **1 430 citizens** visited Parliament on Monday tours. *Monday tours* started in spring 2000 as GONG's initiative and are organized up to today in cooperation with Croatian Parliament, which provides guiding and education about the Parliament.

In order to inform more citizens about their right and possibility to visit the Parliament, we distributed numerous flyers and also kept citizens informed via our web site.

! In March, GONG started organizing high schools graduates' visits to the Parliament, especially those who live and study outside Zagreb. Due to financial help of Canadian Embassy, which covered all traveling expenses, GONG always tried to organize them a meeting with MPs from their constituencies. In 2001, students from **34 high schools** visited Parliament, and **34 MPs** met them in the session room, answering their questions and enjoying their company.

### B. «Citizens' Hour»

«Citizens' Hour», a project that enables citizens to meet their elected representatives on both national and local level, started in November 2000. Throughout 2001, GONG organized **104 «Citizens' Hours»**, **63** of them in the form of live radio talk shows and others in the form of panel discussions. Over **250 guests** (members of the Parliament, municipality, county and town representatives, ministers, town meyers, county meyers, experts, activists etc.) took part in this event. Our panel discussions were visited by over **1 850 citizens**, and nearly **150 citizens** participated in live radio talk shows.

! One of the most distinguished guests at our "Citizens' Hour" was Croatian President, Mr. Stjepan Mesic, who met over 220 high school graduates in Zagreb Youth Theatre in February 2001. For over an hour, Mr. Mesic patiently answered all their questions and listened to their comments.

### **C. »Getting to know how your local bodies function«**

Taking into account our initiative for opening doors of the Parliament to Croatian citizens, in October 2000, GONG started informing citizens about their right to be present at their local bodies sessions, as well as providing them technical help in approaching those bodies. In 2001, citizens participated in **29 sessions** of different local representative bodies.

We distributed numerous flyers as well as used our web site in order to inform citizens about their possibility and right to participate in these sessions.

In April 2001, Croatian Parliament passed the new Law on local government and self-government without an article about local representative bodies being open to the public. In June and July GONG contacted all counties, towns and municipalities in Croatia with a **proposal of a detailed article about publicity of their work** that should be put in all their statutes. Our intention was to try to explain that publicity of work doesn't mean only that members of the media can be present at local bodies sessions, but also citizens. GONG collected documents from 16 counties, 140 municipalities and 77 towns. Two municipalities and a town had repeated local elections so they were still changing their statutes. In 3 towns and 10 municipalities publicity of work wasn't regulated properly, and a town and 7 municipalities didn't wish to cooperate with GONG on this initiative. It was 12 municipalities that GONG activists were unable to contact. Gathering data is continued throughout 2002 and soon all information will be accessible for the public.

### **D. Internship Program**

#### ***a) Croatian Parliament***

The goal of «Internship program» - introducing students and young professionals volunteering in public institutions – has been fulfilled in 2001. Moreover, volunteering of students in Croatian Parliament did not only become reality, it was formally accepted by a decision of Presidency of the Parliament that was brought on April 10 2001. In the period from February until July, there were **10 interns** in Croatian Parliament that represented our first group of GONG volunteers. They all volunteered for MPs from different political parties.

In September, we sent out another questionnaire to MPs that consisted of three parts: their communication and meetings with citizens, their future cooperation with GONG and evaluation of our activities in Parliament in the previous year. In the end of this poll, 25 filled questionnaires came back to GONG, and all MPs who took their time to fill them up stated that they would like to participate more in our activities, as well as to work with an intern.

**In October 5 new interns started working for their MPs. In December, another 5 joined them and the overall number of interns in the Parliament was – 20.**

Apart from obligatory education that each new group of interns has to pass (Croatian political system, parliamentary procedure, rights and duties of interns in the Parliament, work in the office), in cooperation with NDI, we organized additional workshops and seminars:

- In October, we held a workshop called "How to be GONG intern in the Parliament?" in order to understand work of MPs better, their mandate and role in the Parliament, as well as to improve their communication with citizens.

- At the beginning of December, we organized a three-day seminar with all our old and new interns in Parliament and new interns on the local level. Also, 4 MPs, secretary general of Croatian Parliament and secretary of IDS caucus were present to help interns become more familiar with the work in the Parliament. Ms. Danica Orcic, presented work and duties of parliamentary staff. The overall objective of this seminar was to establish deeper cooperation and build new relations between interns, MPs, administrative services in the Parliament and GONG.

We are proud to point out that during 2001, we managed to build a constructive relationship with Parliamentary Secretariat and thanks to that our program was able to grow.

### ***b) Local level***

As GONG is cooperating with local bodies for a couple of years now, we noticed their need to have "Internship program" introduced in their bodies too. Regional offices sent out questionnaires and needs assessment in their town and counties (Zadar, Rijeka, Zagreb and Slavonski Brod), upon which selection was made. Regional offices identified potential candidates, trained them and prepared them for their internships that will start at the beginning of 2002.

### ***c) Croatian Government***

Governmental Office for Social Partnership, in cooperation with Management Systems International, and later Office for Strategic Development showed their interest in having interns to help their work. First selection of **5 new interns** was conducted in December.

## **E. Ad hoc Initiatives**

**a) As a part of our cooperation with Croatian Parliament**, we suggested several ad hoc initiatives in order to make MPs' work easier. Moreover, we tried to bring their work and all information closer to citizens.

- **Transparent legal procedure** – as our aim is to increase transparency of legislative process, as well as to cut down costs, in 2000 we suggested creation of new web site of Croatian Parliament with all bills, parliamentary agenda, committee agenda etc. During 2001, Parliament announced improvements and regular updating of their web site.

- **Internet center for MPs** – In 2000 we suggested opening of an Internet center in Croatian Parliament that would provide MPs with several computers in order to search the web, have easy access information and communicate with citizens. Internet center was open in Spring 2001 with NDI support in computer equipment. GONG and Microsoft Croatia were willing to make a donation in 5 software packages to the Parliament, but there was no interest coming from them.

- **Introducing volunteering in Croatian Parliament** – officially accepted by Presidency in April 2001.

- **«Orange amendments»** - An initiative that aimed to change regulations in Parliament's Rules and Procedures: improvement of working conditions for MPs (setting parliamentary agenda at least 15 days prior to the session, all working materials delivered at least 8 days prior to the session, investing in MPs' offices), improving communication between MPs and voters by giving them financial means to travel to their constituencies; introducing public justification notes when MPs are unable to be present in the session room and imposing fines for those who are never present and creating MPs' Code of conduct.

Also, GONG suggested introducing a civic initiative which would, depending on the number of registered voters make an opportunity for citizens to be directly involved in proposing bills to the Parliament. In spite of huge support from MPs and the media, not one "Orange amendment" was incorporated in Rules and Procedures, but nevertheless, poor working conditions in the Parliament became an issue. As new changes to Rules and Procedures have been announced by the Parliament, GONG intends to continue proposing "Orange amendments".

- **Initiative on Croatian Parliament being open to the public** – Danica Orcic, secretary general of Croatian Parliament offered GONG cooperation on creation of "Rules of publicity of work of Croatian Parliament" which would regulate questions like citizens attending sessions, presence of the media in the Parliament, audio and video recordings of sessions etc. GONG has so far suggested several standards to that future Rules, which will pass procedure next year.

### **b) We conducted following initiatives as part of our public advocacy activities:**

- **Transparent Constitutional Court judges' election** – GONG succeed in its intention to make candidate judges' interviews public in Parliament's Committee for Constitution and political system. It is important to mention that such procedure was not regulated after changes of Croatian Constitution. Our

initiative was supported by 9 out of 24 candidates, alongside many expert legal organizations such as Women Lawyers and Judges' syndicate, all in order to make elections more transparent.

- **«Open questions»** - After reviewing draft bill on Elections for local government and self-government and noticing many poor regulations it contained, GONG submitted "Open questions" to Ministry of justice and local government, Governmental Office for legislature and all parliamentary caucuses. These "Open questions" were pointing out poor regulations of representation of national minorities in local bodies, election campaigns financing and its transparency, structure of electoral commissions, observing election, publishing election results, making election complaints, regulation of fines and time limits. "Open questions" were used on several occasions in parliamentary debate, as MPs were posing questions to members of the Government on issues that were not properly regulated by this bill. Unfortunately, only amendment on observing entire election process (not only election day as it was stated in the bill) has passed procedure.

- **Gathering local elections minutes for all polling stations** – GONG is the only institution in Croatia that gathered all polling places results and put it in an electronic version.

- **Observing referendum** – Unfortunately, our amendment about domestic, non-partisan observing of referendum didn't pass in the Parliament while voting for new Law on referendum.

- **Law on elections for Constitutional Court judges** – as the Parliament is preparing new Law on Constitutional Court, GONG submitted a proposal of introducing a transparency criteria of judges' elections to Parliamentary Committee for Constitution and political system: public insight to candidates' biographies, public hearing of all candidates, public being present in all stages of elections and public explanation of Committees decision to accept/refuse candidates.

- **Civil military service** – GONG wished to be an organization where individuals could serve on civic basis, as a part of Croatian military. The bill is still in procedure.

- **«Newspapers to the people»** - After "Narodne novine" (*People's Newspapers*, Croatian Official Gazette), a publicly owned company, decided to charge access to their web page, GONG started an Internet petition in order to make all laws in Croatian free of charge for all citizens. As there was no response from "Narodne novine" GONG decided to publish all Croatian laws on its web page, dating from 1991 under the name «Newspapers to the people». After a couple of days, "Narodne novine" changed their initial decision and allowed free access to their web pages again. As their search engine is still not free of charge, GONG decided to keep its search engine on our web page. Doing a free search on [www.gong.hr/Novine\\_narodu](http://www.gong.hr/Novine_narodu), citizens can find any law on "Narodne novine" web page.

## **F. Free legal aid**

GONG started a free legal aid service that is open for citizens every day during working hours. Citizens can ask for help by coming personally to office, by telephone, email or fax. GONG answers their questions directly, but also advises citizens to go to state institutions that are competent for different issues (Governmental Office for Human Rights, Ombudsman Office etc.), or other NGOs acting in their area of concern.

During campaign, most questions were linked by elections and election procedure and were raised by both citizens and candidates. Nearly all questions were connected with voters' lists, election procedure, detailed legal opinion on some articles in Local elections Law etc. Other queries usually are dealing with looking for certain laws, searching legal data-base on the Internet, different civic initiatives, citizens communicating with state institutions, labor and union rights etc.

# **3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

## **A. Trainings and consultations**

We conducted several trainings and consultations, as well as educative programs for numerous organizations from South and East parts of Europe. Apart from education and sharing experience on observing elections, most organizations were interested in Parliament Program training, organizational development and office management.

### **► Non-governmental organizations in Belarus**

- Vladimir Pran took part in an international NGO delegation that visited Belarus in January 2001 to help their NGOs to prepare for forthcoming presidential elections.
- A Belarus three-member delegation also visited GONG during local elections and participated in an educational program that consisted of visiting other Croatian NGOs, State Election Committee and workshops in the field of election observing and activities on election day.

▶ **KACI – Kosovo-Albanian Civil Initiative and their partner organizations, Kosovo**

- At beginning of March, GONG welcomed 4 KACI representatives, alongside their partner organizations, giving them one-week educational program about public advocacy campaigns, building media relations, cooperating with state institutions, working with volunteers and Parliament Program.

▶ **CDHRF - Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms, Kosovo**

- In July, Vladimir Pran made one-week visit to Kosovo election monitoring organizations (KACI and CDHRF), where he had trainings about forthcoming elections.
- Under contract and in cooperation with NDI, Vladimir Pran was in Kosovo for two months where he coordinated a group of international NGO activists (*counterpart program*) who helped CDHRF organizing parallel vote tabulation and conducting election campaign.
- Selena Sainovic was a GONG representative in the abovementioned *counterpart* program and coordinated Prizren Region.
- In November, three GONG representatives (Suzana Jasic, Masa Kovacevic and Vanja Skoric) traveled to Kosovo during their elections week and conducted 5 trainings for observers in Pristine and Drenas.

▶ **NDI - National Democratic Institute, Pristina Office, Kosovo**

- While GONG delegation was visiting Pristine in November, NDI local office showed interest for introducing Internship to the new Kosovo Parliament. Program coordinator Ermal Dida used the opportunity to participate in our seminar for interns that was held in December. Apart from Mr. Dida's participation in this seminar, GONG also provided him with all the necessary materials (Internship Program Handbook, reports, questionnaires, different types of forms and budget lines) that we created and have been using in our Internship program.

▶ **CDT- Center for Democratic Transition-Montenegro**

- In April 2001 Vladimir Pran visited Montenegro as Parallel vote tabulation consultant.
- CDT delegation visited GONG in September where they participated in Parliament Program education, visited Croatian Parliament and met several MPs. After visiting us, they started Parliament Program in Montenegro.

▶ **ASCPDP – Albanian Study Center on Parliamentary and Democratic Practices – Albania**

- GONG organized educational program for ASCPDP representative Ms. Elira Zaka. She had the opportunity to learn about all our programs and organizational structure. She participated in "Citizens' Hour", interns' meeting and she visited Croatian Parliament where she met a group of 4 MPs. After visiting GONG ASCPDP decided to introduce Internship program to Albanian Parliament.

▶ **C4C - Citizens for Citizens Coalition, Macedonia**

- GONG was one of the organizers of a conference that gathered different election monitoring organizations in Macedonia (May 2001). The main objective of this meeting was experience sharing and preparing Macedonian colleagues for forthcoming elections.
- At the end of the year, by C4C request, we have sent them all our materials that GONG used in our election observing campaigns (Observers' Handbook, Report/Handbook on campaign conduct, reporting forms etc.), as well as our amendment to Election Law (Article 107.).

▶ **NGOs in Ukraine**

- In May 2001, Ivna Bajsic participated in a conference "Civil society self-organizing in transitional period" where she held a presentation of GONG election activities and campaigns to numerous Ukrainian NGO activists.

▶ **Young activists in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- Ana Zunic held a workshop dealing with civic initiatives at NDI Summer School in Sarajevo that gathered Bosnian political party youth and NGO activists.

### ▶ **Asociatia Pro Democratia, Romania**

- Internship program coordinator Masa Kovacevic took part in a seminar «Internship program in public institutions», organized by Romanian organization Asociatia Pro Democratia, that has several years of experience in conducting this program.

## **B. ENEMO**

On a meeting of organizations for election observation in Macedonia (May 2001) all participants recognized a need for closer cooperation between organizations in order to exchange information, experience and materials, as well as to have better coordination of campaigns and projects. Organizations also agreed to cooperate on joint projects of election observation and on other activities. GONG was elected to be acting Secretary of ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) and was in charge to organize Constitutional Assembly of the Network in the fall 2001.

GONG organized Constitutional Assembly in September 2001 in Opatija, Croatia, under high patronage of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Tonino Picula officially opened Assembly and on that event he greeted the initiative and all eleven organizations from Central and Eastern Europe that were present in Opatija. On the Assembly all organizations signed Constitutional Protocol and elected CESID to be Secretary General of ENEMO.

Freedom House Budapest and Open Society Institute financially supported Constitutional Assembly.

## **C. International conferences and seminars**

▶ *February 2001* – Suzana Jasic was invited, together with 20 other representatives of media and NGO's from Southeast Europe, to a conference in Opatija about cooperation between states of former Yugoslavia.

▶ *May 2001* – Aleksandra Kuratko participated conference for election monitoring organizations in Trencin, Slovakia, and latter on also on *follow up* conference in Warsaw. She was also present on a seminar on election process, held also in Warsaw. These conferences were organized by ODIHR.

▶ *May 2001* – Ivna Bajsic presented Parliamentary Program on international conference «A Regional Workshop on Civic Participation in Governance and Community Empowerment» which was organized by World Bank in Szentendre, Hungary.

▶ *June 2001* – Suzana Jasic was invited as a lecturer to international seminar “ NGO's and Public Administration: Perspectives of Partnership in a Process of Integration to EU” in Croatian Journalist House in Zagreb. This seminar was organized by Institute for International Relations, Friedrich Neumann Stiftung, Embassy of Netherlands, and Netherlands Management Cooperation Program (NMCP).

▶ *October 2001* – Suzana Jasic participated in a TV show “Noise” on ATV Banja Luka. The topic was international community and NGO's.

▶ *October 2001* – Vanja Skoric represented GONG on 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference of Association of Central and Eastern Europe Election Officials that was held in Brijuni, Croatia. GONG was invited by Croatian State Election Commission. President of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, officially opened conference.

▶ *October 2001* – Ivna Bajsic attended international conference on NGO's and marketing in Warsaw. Stefan Batory Institute, Open Society Institute, Polish Telecom and American Embassy organized the conference.

▶ *December 2001* – Association of Election Officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina invited representative of GONG, Vanja Skoric, to a conference that gathered many of their members, representatives of international community and guests from neighboring countries. Various presentations and workshops were organized during conference.

## 4. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPEMENT

### A. Cooperation with institutions in Croatia and GONG's presentations

#### **a) Conferences, seminars and public events**

- ▶ *January 2001* – Suzana Jasic was invited to a round table “ Croatia – One Year After Elections” where there were 25 representatives of unions, political parties, Government and Parliament, University and NGO's. Round table was organized and broadcasted by Croatian Radio.
- ▶ *February 2001* – Ivna Bajsic and Masa Kovacevic participated NDI's workshop “Strengthening Comities: Legislative, Supervision and Public Participation” together with Croatian MPs.
- ▶ *February 2001* – GONG supported NGO protest “One Hour for Rule of Law” that took place on Main Zagreb Square.
- ▶ *February 2001* – Suzana Jasic and Masa Kovacevic were quests on a panel “Youth and Politics” in Petrinja which was organized by CCI Zagreb.
- ▶ *March 2001* – Masa Kovacevic participated panels “Youth and Politics” in Glina and Dvor, also organized by CCI Zagreb.
- ▶ *July 2001* – Masa Kovacevic participated CERANEO workshop “ Index of Civil Society in Croatia” in Stubicke Toplice.
- ▶ *September 2001* – Igor Pavlekovic participated Microsoft's regional conference in Slovenia on software development.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Representative of GONG, Ivan Bajsic, participated public debate organized by Governmental Office for NGOs on production of recommendations for new law on lottery regarding funding of NGOs.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Vanja Skoric was present on round table of Ministry of Finance on financing of local self-government.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Suzana Jasic and Igor Bajok participated seminar on public administration management organized by Croatian Association of Psychologists.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Masa Kovacevic, Biljana Jelinic and Hrvoje Turkalj presented GONG on British Days in Osijek that were organized by Department for International Development of British Embassy.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Suzana Jasic participated first, out of four, workshops “Croatia 2010 Scenario” in Split, organized by 2020 Foundation, as a representative of civil sector.
- ▶ *November 2001* – Ana Zunic presented GONG on NDI's workshops for local representatives in Zadar and Biograd.
- ▶ *November 2001* – Biljana Jelinic presented GONG on NDI's workshops for local representatives in Lipik and Zupanja.
- ▶ *December 2001* – Dragan Zelic presented GONG on NDI's workshops for local representatives in Zagreb.
- ▶ *December 2001* – Selena Sainovic presented GONG on NDI's workshops for local representatives in Plaski and Karlovac.
- ▶ *December 2001* – Violeta Liovic presented GONG on NDI's workshops for local representatives in Bjelovar and Koprivnica.
- ▶ *December 2001* – Masa Kovacevic participated in Working Group for Creation of National Program for Youth in Varazdinske Toplice.
- ▶ *December 2001* – GONG participated three daylong NGO fair in Zagreb that was organized by Governmental Office for NGO's.

#### **b) Meetings**

All GONG's offices held numerous meetings with representatives of Government, Parliament, local self-government, international community, political parties, media, companies, NOG's and others. During campaign for local elections there were over 400 meetings on which we were building relations and presented our work.

During whole year, GONG was visited by many international delegations (Director of USAID mission in Serbia Mr. Spike Stevenson, delegation of Office for European Integration of Slovenia, delegation of

OSCE and ODIHR, delegation of Office for European Analysis of State Department, Head of UN mission in Croatia Mr. Amin Medani, delegation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Regional Director of NDI for Central and Eastern Europe Mr. Rob Benjamin, delegation of House of Lords, etc.) Representatives of GONG also had meetings with: Vice Chairman of Croatian Government Ms. Zeljka Antunovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Tonino Picula, Secretary General of the Parliament Ms. Danica Orcic, Director of Croatian Television Mr. Mirko Galic, Executive Editor of Croatian Television Ms. Neda Ritz, State Election Commission, Office of Minister of Education and Sports etc.

### **c) Cooperation on projects**

- ▶ GONG finished application system for NGO management called “**NGOffice**”, in cooperation with Microsoft Croatia and Governmental Office for NGOs.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Professor Smiljana Leinert-Novosel from Faculty of Political Science asked GONG for help with international project that is researching women representation in the parliament. GONG’s interns polled MPs in the Parliament.

### **d) Other**

- ▶ *April 2001* – GONG organized welcome party for new US ambassador in Croatia Mr. Rossin, where he met GONG’s activists and volunteers.
- ▶ At the end of the year we produced materials for presentation of GONG: **brochure** about GONG in Croatian and English, **folders, note pads and calendars**

## **B. Work of the Organization**

### **a) Organization’s bodies**

**Board of Directors** held 7 sessions – one constitutional and 6 regular. On all sessions of Board of Directors, Executive Director informed and reported about GONG’s work, future plans and problems. Board of Directors made four decisions: on opening and closing of temporary regional offices in Karlovac, Daruvar and Varazdin during local election campaign; on Statute’s article which is regulating membership in GONG and taking into account existing base of volunteers upon whom they reserve power of control and monitoring; on break of taking new members from 5<sup>th</sup> till 22<sup>nd</sup> September because of informing members of Assembly on time and on decision on calling the Assembly.

On the Assembly in September 2001, Suzana Jasic was elected as Executive Director in her third mandate. Damir Sabol from Iskon Internet was elected as new member of Board of Directors.

**Employment Commission** met 14 times and made 13 decisions on employment, 4 decisions of breaking the contract (two of these on personal request), 2 decisions on changing of job position and decision on temporary employment of 27 people during GONG’s campaign.

### **b) Staff**

#### **GONG’s staff met on several occasions:**

- ▶ *February 2001* - mini-evaluation of Parliamentary Program and a discussion about future plans connected to campaign for local elections.
- ▶ *End of March 2001* – educational seminar in Opatija for all staff members (permanent and temporary) about all aspects of election campaign and work in GONG.
- ▶ *End of April 2001* – meeting of all Regional Offices Coordinators regarding of evaluation of things done so far and detailed planning of campaign till Election Day.
- ▶ *June 2001* – Campaign evaluation seminar on Rab.
- ▶ *End of June* – Staff meeting on which we discussed plan of work for the summer and Parliamentary Program activities for the autumn.
- ▶ *September 2001* – meeting in order to evaluate summer activities and to plan activities till the end of the year.
- ▶ *December 2001* – Evaluation and planning of a future period.

**Self – education:**

- ▶ *January 2001* – all GONG's Regional Offices participated workshop on working with volunteers, held by organization MI from Split and financed by AED.
- ▶ *January 2001* - Head Office and regional Office Zagreb participated workshop on working with Board of Directors. This workshop was held by EOS and financed by AED.
- ▶ *February 2001* – Executive and Financial Director passed training and consultations on financial management held by Vijaya Charpandal from NDI-a Washington.
- ▶ *October 2001* – Biljana Jelinic participated workshop “Media Information Network” in Ilok organized by Women InfoTech.
- ▶ *December 2001* – two Regional Office (Rijeka and Zagreb) assistants participated seminar “Youth and Public Advocacy” organized by CARE International.

**c) Volunteers**

During year 2001 we started ground changes in GONG's care for volunteers and members. We produced new database of volunteers and members, we organized workshops on how to work with volunteers and defined rules of organization how to work with volunteers.

In July 2001 Head Office equipped on room in which active volunteers and members can use Internet, read newspapers or use books from GONG's library which contains many literature on elections, parliaments, civil society, human rights, etc.

GONG's volunteers from Pozega decided to establish Center for Youth and we decided to donate them 1000 kn, package of office supplies and some technical equipment in order to support them.

In year 2001, 38 members signed in since they satisfied all membership conditions. Volunteers database is numbering 2 487 citizens who collected 99 537 volunteer's hours in one year.

**d) Technical development**

We connected all computers into one computer network and produced database for office and staff administration. Most regional Offices got faster connection to the Internet and we implemented MS Back Office 2000 server into Head Office system.

We developed new application “Personnel Management” which is taking care about working hours, holidays, etc.

We improved anti virus server, changed way of communication inside the organization (internal and external e-mail) and we implemented several solutions in internal network, which help employees in everyday work (fax server, document sharing, network printing, etc.)

**At the end...**

We published narrative and financial annual report for year 2000.

We organized Christmas party for our colleagues and business partners and on that occasion we collected 1 250 kn which we paid in humanitarian found for helping deaf children.

**! On formal occasion for Year of Volunteers on NGO's Fair, GONG got a reward for promotion of volunteerism in Croatia. Prime minister Mr. Ivica Racan presented the award to GONG Executive Director.**

## 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.

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		<b>Consolidated Statement of Income</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Tangible Assets	45.757	Grants and donations	4.488.783
Cash & Cash equivalents	760.776	Revenues	164.260
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>806.533</b>	Income from membership fee	1.610
		Income earnings	4.043
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4.658.696</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Fund Balance	806.533	Services	2.429.689
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>806.533</b>	Depreciation	56.010
		Tangible costs	204.125
		Other costs	782.947
		Costs for employees	403.034
		<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3.875.805</b>
		<b>Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>782.891</b>

<b>Expenditure by Budget Lines</b>			
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		<b>Other Costs</b>	
Salaries	236.456	Accountant Services	23.390
Taxes from Salaries	166.578	Office Supply	204.125
Honorarium	832.867	Rent	62.558
Taxes	113.872	Utilities	21.551
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>1.349.773</b>	Communication	307.642
		Photocopying	19.220
		Advertising	659.745
		Printing Costs	717.978
		Travel Costs	113.597
		Accommodation	
		- seminars and workshops	265.627
		Refreshment	35.053
		Other Costs	39.536
		<b>Total Other Costs</b>	<b>2.470.022</b>
		<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>3.819.795</b>

## 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

#### **up to 5.000**

Zadarska County  
City of Zadar  
City of Slavonski Brod

#### **up to 15.000**

Open Society Institute Croatia

#### **up to 50.000**

United States Embassy

#### **up to 80.000**

Canadian Embassy  
Dutch Embassy  
Freedom House  
Norwegian Embassy  
OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia  
Governmental office for Human Rights

#### **up to 100.000**

Governmental Office for NGOs

#### **up to 250.000**

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

#### **up to 700.000**

British Embassy  
NED - National Endowment for Democracy

#### **over 1,500.000**

NDI - National Democratic Institute for  
International Affairs

### In - kind supporters

#### **up to 1.000**

Lexis d.o.o.  
Klara d.d.  
Cedevita d.o.o.  
Istravino  
Vindija d.o.o.  
Koestlin d.o.o.

#### **up to 2.000**

Kamen-Ingrad d.d.  
Jamnica d.d.  
Podravka d.o.o.  
Atlantic trade d.o.o.

#### **up to 5.000**

City of Rijeka  
Iskon Internet d.d.

#### **up to 6.000**

Law firm *Vedris and partners*

#### **up to 30.000**

NGOs, local governments etc.

#### **from 30.000 to 40.000**

AED - Academy for  
Educational Development

#### **up to 70.000**

Microsoft Croatia d.o.o.  
Open Society Institute Croatia

#### **up to 150.000**

OTV d.d.

#### **up to 300.000**

Local media

#### **up to 3,000.000**

Croatian Radio Television