



GONG ANNUAL REPORT

2006

STRATEGIC OUTLINE

In July 2006, having in mind new developments in Croatian society followed by new GONG projects and activities implemented during 2006, we adopted a new Strategic Plan of Activities for the next period. All existing programs and projects, complemented with newly developed activities, were lined up according to the following strategic guidelines and programmatic areas:

1. **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY** - includes GONG election related activities aiming to contribute to reaching higher democratic standards of electoral system, enabling higher transparency and civic participation
2. **PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY** – includes GONG activities aiming to contribute to increased quality and scale of participatory democracy in Croatia as well as higher citizens' engagement in political processes
3. **CIVIL SOCIETY** – includes GONG activities aiming to encourage systematic cooperation of CSOs in Croatia and development of support mechanisms for CSOs, and promotion of civic activism and civic participation on the local and regional levels
4. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** – includes GONG activities aimed at promotion of standards of representative and participatory democracy in transition countries in Europe and cooperation with organizations from developed western countries.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

1. Election Monitoring

GONG regularly monitors activities of the bodies responsible for conducting and organizing elections and election campaigns, but also encourages, organizes and educates citizens to monitor elections as non-partisan observers. In the course of 2006, several re-run and repeated local election, as well as a number of elections for neighborhood councils were held. These elections were monitored by 88 observers in total.

- **Re-run and Early Local Elections (14)**

Re-run and early local elections were monitored in Dubrovnik-Neretva County and Pozega-Slavonija County in April, and in the following cities and municipalities throughout the year: Cerna (Vukovar-Srijem County), Hrvatska Kostajnica (Sisak-Moslavina County), Velika Gorica (Zagreb County), Drenovci (Vukovar-Srijem County), Velika (Pozega-Slavonija County), Podravske Sesvete (Koprivnica-Krizevci County), and in newly founded municipalities of Funtana and Tar-Vabriga (Istria County), Lopar (Primorje-Gorski Kotar County), Stitar (Vukovar-Srijem County), Vrsi (Zadar County) and Tribunj (Sibenik-Knin County).

- **Elections for Neighborhood Councils (13)**

Election for neighborhood councils were monitored in Vodice (Sibenik-Knin County), Knezevi Vinogradi (Osijek-Baranya County), Sveti Filip i Jakov (Zadar County), Split (Split-Dalmatia County), Medulin (Istria County), Djakovo (Osijek-Baranya County), Kastela (Split-Dalmatia County), Zadar (Zadar County), Trogir (Split-Dalmatia County), Slavonski Brod (Brod-Posavina County), Orebic (Dubrovnik-Neretva County), Osijek (Osijek-Baranya County), and Bjelovar (Bjelovar-Bilogora County).

- **Elections Abroad (4)**

- **West Bank and Gaza Strip:** GONG President Suzana Jasic took part in the international observation mission organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and The Carter Center for Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for the elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 25 January 2006.

- **Ukraine:** ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) mission distributed 390 observers within the international election monitoring mission for the Ukrainian Parliamentary election on 26 March 2006. GONG was one of the 17 nongovernmental organizations from CEE within the ENEMO network, and participated in the mission with 20 observers who monitored the election process in the City of Odessa and Odessa region.

- **Montenegro:** Suzana Jasic participated in OSCE/ODIHR monitoring mission for Montenegrin referendum on independency of the Republic of Montenegro held on 21 May 2006.

- **Ukraine:** GONG representatives Maja Tomljanovic and Mirjana Grbac monitored Ukrainian Local Election that took place in Poltava, Kirovograd and Chernigiv on 26 November 2006. The monitoring mission, organized by ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations), consisted of 3 long term observers and 16 short term observers.

2. Election Initiatives

We carry out comparative analyses of election legislation, encourage public debates, and actively advocate amendments and improvements of election legislation in Croatia in order to reach the standards of western democratic countries. During 2006, we have been working on following initiatives:

- **State Election Commission**

Croatia was one of the few countries in Europe that had not established the State Election Commission as a permanent body up to April 2006. The Venice Commission / Council of Europe recommendations stated in the Code of Good Practice in the Electoral Process also recommend that the State Election Commission be established as a permanent body. Over the last few years, we actively advocated establishment of State Election Commission as a permanent body by giving recommendations through the project Election Package and through the work of the working group formed for that purpose.

In March 2006, after the law proposal was successfully put on the parliamentary agenda, GONG collected former and present recommendations and made a comparative analysis of issues concerning the duties and scope of work of the State Election Commission as a permanent body and delivered the recommendations to the submitter and to the MPs as a basis for a debate. Also, amendment proposals for three provisions of the law were submitted.

The Law on State Election Commission was finally passed in April 2006, establishing the Commission as a permanent body. Despite the fact that the Law was passed, there are still some provisions that require further improvement in order to provide a good legal framework for transparent process of electing members of the State Election Commission and thus ensure that they enjoy public confidence. In July 2006, GONG protested against detracting of the State Election Commission and called for election of competent candidates. The president of the State Election Commission was not elected and the whole election procedure was stopped.

Even though the Law was passed in April, the State Election Commission was not founded till the end of 2006.

- **Voters' Lists**

The situation with voters' lists in Croatia has considerably improved over the last couple of years. Basic problems with voters' lists concerned the fact that they were not centralized or updated, that is, registry offices, police administrations and municipal courts did not timely forward the data on persons of legal age, persons who registered or removed their permanent residence from the register and data on persons stripped of business capacity to the administration offices. However, voters' lists for the so-called Diaspora remain a matter of concern. Due to the inability to obtain data from Bosnia and Herzegovina death records, there are still a huge number of deceased persons registered in voters' lists.

During the 2005 presidential elections, GONG found deceased persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina voters' lists, who were marked as having voted, which was also the case with several voters who were alive, but did not vote. Similarly, a large number of voters who were later added to the voters' lists in Bosnia and Herzegovina were precisely those voters with permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia who were deleted from Diaspora voters' lists.

Voters' lists were discussed at a round table debate held in the Croatian Parliament on 11 December 2006 organized by OSCE Mission to Croatia, Central State Office for Administration and GONG. The discussion opened with speeches by the Parliament Speaker Vladimir Seks, the Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and the Ambassador Jorge Fuentes. A new draft law on voters' lists was discussed at the debate. Most of GONG's recommendations were accepted in the final draft law such as the one regarding the necessity of voters'

education and the one regarding the clarification of the procedure for voting away from one's place of the residence.

- **Election Campaign and Political Parties Financing**

Croatia is one of the rare countries where the issue of financing election campaigns has not been regulated yet. There is only a deficient Law on Financing Election Campaign for presidential elections. Recommendations given by GONG, the OSCE and the Council of Europe over the last years indicate the need for regulating this issue, as one of the fundamental determinants of transparent elections.

In February 2006, we set up a working group of experts to create recommendations that would regulate financing of election campaigns by taking into consideration Croatian circumstances. The recommendations (time-frame of campaigns, opening of special accounts for donations received in campaigns, limitations on donations, donors and campaign expenditures, sanctions, detailed reporting and supervising bodies) were written and presented to the public, MPs, the Government, the media, and international organizations

In 2006, we made a detailed screening of existing legislation and practice by analyzing their short-comings compared to international legislation. In December 2006, we held a meeting with Mrs. Ana Lovrin, the Minister of Justice, Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, and Mr. Antun Palaric, the Head of Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration (CSAOPA), regarding political parties and election campaign financing upon their request.

The public still does not have any information on individual candidates' donors, as well as the donated amounts. That information has to be made public and that exactly is the purpose of such acts. Without regulating the issue of financing campaigns, elections will remain non-transparent, and the speculations, feeling of doubt and distrust will continue to exist both, in the media and in the public. In the long-run, candidates and parties are the ones who benefit the most from transparent elections as it raises citizens' confidence in political processes, elections and candidates and parties themselves.

Under the old Law on Political Parties, parliamentary parties that received funds from the state budget have the obligation to submit annual financial reports for the previous financial year to the Parliament Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System.

During this reporting period, GONG obtained all annual financial reports from parliamentary political parties for the year 2005. In May 2006, the reports were analyzed and published on GONG's web site. Analyzed reports showed that the work of the political parties was not transparent - almost 50% of donations came from unknown sources. Legal framework does not prescribe the deadlines for submitting report and there are no sanctions for breaching the deadlines.

On 11 September 2006, GONG, in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Croatia, the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration and Transparency International Croatia, organized a roundtable debate on "Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns in Croatia". The discussion opened with speeches by the Parliament Speaker Vladimir Seks, the Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and the OSCE Ambassador to Croatia Jorge Fuentes. A draft law on the financing of political parties was discussed at the round table debate and participants agreed that more work was needed on the draft.

We prepared analysis and comments which were sent to MP's, journalists, Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration, OSCE Mission to Croatia and distributed to the guests of the round table debate on political parties' financing. In very close cooperation with Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration, some of GONG's suggestions were accepted in the final Draft Law on Financing of Political Parties such as sanctions of misuse of public resources, ban on donations by "third persons", regulation of independent candidates and volunteers' work.

The new, final Draft Law on Financing of Political Parties and Independent Candidates and Lists which was drafted by the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration was passed in December 2006. However, the Law does not specifically regulate the financing of election campaigns and the maximum amount of election campaign funds. Therefore, we intend to monitor implementation of the Law in the 2007 Parliamentary Election.

▪ **Law on Election of County, City and Municipality Mayors**

In early 2006, the final Draft Law on Election of Municipal Mayors, City Mayors, Mayor of City of Zagreb and County Prefects was completed, thus providing a good framework for strengthening citizens' confidence in elected county prefects, city and municipal mayors.

In March and May 2006, GONG's commentaries and recommendations on the Law proposal were sent to the parliamentary Committee for Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System as well as to the Committee for Local and Regional Self-government, and to the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration, the media and the OSCE. Using the majority of GONG's recommendations, individual MPs proposed amendments to the Draft Law. The amendments mostly concerned the issue of financing election campaigns. The issues of elected officers' competences, relationship between the representative and executive body, decision-making process and the procedure of recalling of county, city and municipal mayors, however, remained undefined. Since these issues have not been addressed by this Law, they need to be resolved within other laws which have to be passed parallel to Law on Election of Municipal Mayors, City Mayors, Mayor of City of Zagreb and County Prefects. Also, the most important aspect of the Law - financing election campaign on the regional and local level - has to be defined in more detail.

Changes of the Law on Local and Regional Self-Governments were pending parliamentary procedure till the end of 2006.

3. I Vote for the First Time

The project "I Vote for the First Time", created in 2001, was extended and enhanced with the aim of encouraging Croatian youth to take a more active role in Croatia's political life. Having in mind that high school seniors acquire their right to vote when they turn 18, GONG was determined to help them understand their election rights and duties and get involved in democratization processes.

In 2006, the sixth season of the project was held. During the first semester of the school year 2006/2007, 24 trained lecturers/ trainers conducted 771 "I Vote for the First Time" workshops in 195 high schools all over Croatia in which 23,000 high school students participated. Two workshops were organized for the inmates of the "Turopolje" juvenile correctional institution. More than 50,000 educational brochures about elections and the right to vote, advocacy initiatives and citizens' participation in local decision-making process were distributed to students.

! In October 2005, GONG applied to Council of Europe's "Young Active Citizens" Award Contest with "I Vote for the First Time" project. The meeting of the international jury of the Council of Europe Award took place in Strasbourg and five winners were selected – GONG's "I Vote for the First Time" project won the award as the second-best project of all applications received! Sandra Pernar, the GONG Deputy President, received an award from Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General, on January 31, 2006 in Strasbourg. This award presents a recognition of the longstanding work of GONG and an encouragement to continue implementing the "I Vote for the First Time" project.

! In the six years of project implementation in all parts of Croatia 128,000 high school seniors took part in 4,503 workshops. Out of 350 high schools in Croatia, 284 high schools took part in the project, which comes to 80% of the total number of high schools in Croatia.

! Based on the success and methodology of the "I vote for the first time" project, a new project was created during 2006 under the title "European Class". The aim of the new project, that is to be held in spring 2007, is to organize 600 interactive workshops for Croatian high school seniors on the topic of the EU, discussing the possible consequences of Croatian membership in the Union, and what it would bring to Croatian youth.

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Activities within Participatory Democracy program area aim at increasing participatory culture in political processes in Croatia. More specifically, they aim to contribute to higher citizens' confidence in democratic institutions and their representatives by introducing citizens to the work of national and local representative bodies and state institutions, encouraging communication between citizens and their elected representatives, increasing citizens' participation in decision-making, and promoting accountability and transparency in the work of state institutions.

1. Citizens' Hours

"Citizens' Hour" is an event where citizens and their elected representatives on the local and national level meet. These meetings enable citizens to ask different questions and criticize, but also suggest possible solutions to actual problems. GONG organizes Citizens' Hours with the understanding that communication between voters and their present or future representatives should be an ongoing and continuous process and not something that only occurs during the pre-election period.

Since the autumn of 2000, "Citizen's Hours" have been organized throughout Croatia in the form of public meetings and radio shows. Depending on the interest and the topic, besides the elected representatives (parliamentary representatives, councilors, etc.), we also invite representatives of the government, local executive authorities, independent experts and all those who can answer the countless questions our citizens may ask.

During 2006, **90 Citizens' Hours** were organized – 21 in the form of radio talk show and 69 in the form of a public meeting. **270 guests** (members of Parliament, town council members, ministers, town and municipality mayors, county prefects, experts, activists, etc) participated in Citizens' Hours. **2,032 citizens** attended public meetings and 23 citizens asked questions during radio talk shows. Many of the Citizens' hours were organized within specific projects, implemented locally or nationally, and were supported by various donors and covered specific topics within the projects.

! From the start of the project, total of 877 Citizens' Hours were organized all over Croatia hosting 2,440 guests. All together, 16,493 citizens participated in public meetings and 2,001 citizens asked questions in radio talk shows.

2. Visiting the Parliament

In association with the Parliamentary Office for Public Affairs, GONG organized tours of the Parliament since March 2001. These tours were initially conducted by representatives of the Parliamentary Office for Public Affairs. However, since 2003, GONG interns have taken over the responsibility of guiding citizens and students who visit the Parliament. High schools have shown the greatest interest in visiting the Parliament and GONG has accordingly organized visits tailored for students. Student groups from outside of Zagreb were given the opportunity to meet with their home constituency's MP for a discussion and a question-and-answer session.

In June 2006 GONG stopped organizing tours for high schools in the extent it did before, gradually closing the project and enabling citizens to apply for tours directly to the Parliament. From that time on, tours are organized only for particular groups of citizens and high schools within certain GONG local and regional projects in Croatia.

In 2006, **48 citizens attended Parliament's sessions** and **3,212 citizens visited Parliament** within the "Parliament Tours" project. Most of them were students from high schools all over Croatia. Meetings with 59 members of Parliament (many of them accepted our invitation several times) were organized for high school students who do not come from Zagreb.

*! From the start of the project in spring 2000, **998 citizens attended Parliamentary sessions** and **18,328 citizens and students visited Parliament** in Parliament Tours.*

! From the start of the project, a total of 348 groups of students and citizens visited the Croatian Parliament on one or more occasions. Since 2000, 170 high schools from all over Croatia took part, at least once, in Parliament Tours.

3. Internship program

"Internship program" provides an opportunity to students and young professionals to volunteer in the Croatian Parliament in order to get additional education and practical experience.

We introduced Internship program to the Croatian Parliament at the beginning of 2001 when the first 10 law and political science students started doing volunteer work for MPs. Apart from the experience young people

get through this program, it is important to mention that this kind of support to the work of Croatian MPs in more than welcome in the everyday work of MPs.

In 2006, **27 students** volunteered for MPs and parliamentary caucuses in Croatian Parliament. Ten of them completed their internship in December.

On 5 December 2006, the International Volunteer Day, a promotion of the third generation of volunteers in the Croatian Parliament was organized in Parliament. Students who successfully finished the program in 2005 and 2006 were given the official Certificate of participation in the program, signed by the Secretary of the Parliament and the GONG President. They also received small models of the Parliament building, presented to them by "their" MPs, in memory of the time they spent working there.

During 2006 steps were taken in order for the Parliament to take over the activities of the Internship Program, fulfilling the closing strategy of the Program. The decision was reached by the Parliamentary Presidency for the Secretariat to agree with GONG the framework of the future implementation of the Program. It was agreed that in the meantime GONG will still operate as the intermediary until the end of this Parliamentary assembly (November 2007). Also, starting from January 2007, the Parliament is taking over the responsibility for paying the interns symbolic monthly fee to cover their expenses.

! From the start of the Program until the end of 2006, 78 students and young professionals volunteered for 34 MPs and parliamentary caucuses, in 9 government offices and in local government bodies.

! After the initiation of the Program in 2001, being the first internship program in the Croatian state institutions, than facing serious obstacles in its implementation, we find the fact that Parliament is taking over the Program for future students a huge success.

4. Initiatives

Since the activities of state institutions should be public and serve to all citizens as the citizens are the ones keeping those institutions in existence (by paying the taxes) and since they actually exist because of the citizens (without citizens, there would be no state institutions), we carry out advocacy initiatives, we react and advocate in an effort to make this a practice in Croatia.

- **Freedom of Information Act**

Croatia adopted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in late 2003, which was a great step forward in making state institutions work more transparently. However, the Act implementation was questionable due to poor experience and capacity of administrative staff.

In autumn 2005, we developed methodology and an action plan for a research in order to explore the enforcement of the right to access information. In the research, twenty two citizen applicants were chosen as well as 102 public institutions to which requests for information were sent. The final results of the research, made public in May 2006, showed that 55.82% of public bodies did not respond to the requests within the legally prescribed deadline. The final results were presented to the public, the media, MPs, the Government, and international organizations. We have prepared recommendations for improving the implementation of the Act as well.

Additionally, we have produced a motion for review of constitutionality before the Constitutional Court of Government's decision on the removal of Croatian Radio Television (HRT) from the list of public bodies without any explanation. Another motion for review of constitutionality regarded the legal status of Croatian News Agency, Croatian National Tourist Board and Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art. The decisions of the Constitutional Court are still expected to be passed. Moreover, we prepared and sent a request to the Parliament for an authentic interpretation of the FOIA regarding the nature of the list of public bodies. In February 2006, we publically warned the Croatian Government that it had breached the FOIA when it failed to publish the list of bodies of public authority in *Narodne novine* (the Official Gazette) according to the timeline set by the FOIA. Four days after our request, the Government published a list of bodies of public authority in 2006.

We assisted many institutions and organizations in exercising their right to access information such as Council of Roma national minority, civil initiative "Gradska fronta", Labor Union "Preporod", many radio and

TV stations (especially on the local level) as well as members of representative bodies in local and regional self-governments.

In order to reach general population, we launched a "Right to Access Information" media campaign on 28 September 2006 - the International Right to Information Day. The goal of the campaign was to raise the awareness of citizens and educate them about their right to access information and right to participate in decision-making process. In cooperation with experts, we produced a video and radio clip which were aired app. 2000 times on 10 TV and more than 30 radio stations throughout Croatia, including HTV (the national television) free of charge. In November, in order to educate citizens about the FOIA, we produced an educational user-friendly leaflet for citizens and more than 10 000 leaflets were distributed through GONG's Regional office and NGO's. Moreover, Q&A information relevant for citizens about the FOIA was published on GONG's web site.

In September 2006, a new action plan for researching implementation of FOIA in Croatia was developed, including 100 institutions and 20 researchers that were selected for inquiries. The research was more detailed requesting not only simple information but also documents and agreements. The research is expected to end in February 2007.

- **Law on Data Secrecy and Law on Informational Security**

Law on Data Secrecy and Law on Informational Security are directly connected to the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. At the end of March and during April 2006, we protested against the Proposal of the Law on Data Secrecy, which had been sent into parliamentary procedure by the Government, because the Law was unclear about many aspects and its content made the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act practically impossible. In addition, we made a comparative analysis of this topic and researched international standards.

In April and May 2006, we informed the public, MPs and the OSCE about the law proposals. After that, the Government was heavily criticized and the law proposal was withdrawn to be amended. The Office of the National Security Council initiated a public discussion on the need for the new law proposal and invited GONG to give inputs to a new draft.

- **Transparency of Parliament's work**

Regulations on transparency of Parliament's work, which were adopted in 2005, were a result of GONG's initiative in cooperation with MPs and Croatian Parliament's Public Relations Office as well as the Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System. The regulations were a huge step forward in opening Parliament to the citizens.

However, there are, though, two questionable articles in the proposed Regulations. According to the two articles, the Secretariat and the Parliament Speaker can prevent citizens, CSOs and media representatives from attending sessions of Parliament for security reasons. Since this decision was adopted ad hoc and without a time limit, we have been monitoring the enforcement of the Regulations, reacting in cases of permanent bans, informing the public about such situations and advocating amendments to those articles in order to clarify the terms which could lead to a decision which prevents citizens from attending sessions.

- **External members of Parliamentary Committees**

According to the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament and without any particular explanation, only 11 out of the 24 Parliament Committees have external members with the role to provide expert advice to Committee members during sessions. Furthermore, there are no explicit criteria for appointment of external members. We requested an amendment to the Regulations in order to solve the problem of external members and provide experts' and civil society's contribution to the work of committees. This would also mean that Parliament would work more transparently.

In April 2006, the Committee for Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System rejected the proposal made by two opposition parties to discuss possible amendments of the Standing Orders. On this occasion, we produced and sent the analysis of the method of nominating external members of committees to MP's and Committees and reminded them on the fact that a clear criterion in the selection of members is of great

importance. We will continue to advocate a clear criterion for the selection of external members of the Committees.

- **Fiscal decentralization**

During 2006, in cooperation with the Urban Institute, we worked intensely on the local and regional self-government's reform projects in order to support decentralization. GONG staff participated in all sessions of the Local and Regional Self-Government Committee in the Croatian Parliament providing them with various analysis, reports and recommendations. We were also invited to participate in the Info-day on local self-governments, where we presented GONG's projects and activities relating to local and regional issues. Furthermore, we organized two roundtables in Koprivnica (hosted by city mayor) and Osijek on this subject and provided the Croatian Government with conclusions on how the fiscal decentralization process is to be implemented in Croatia.

- **Other initiatives**

In February 2006, criticized the Croatian Government for the delay in calling extraordinary local election in Drenovci municipality, which presented a breach of the Law on Local Elections.

In March 2006, we sent a reaction on MP Kajin's negative statement made during the Parliament plenary session about the "dubious" financing of CSOs that observe election. Protest e-mails were sent to the media, MPs, and donors in Croatia.

In May 2006, a press release was distributed about non transparent work of the Croatian Government – Documents and law proposals for Government's meeting were not published on time on Government's web site.

In June, we sent a request to Narodne Novine (stateowned company issuing the Official Gazette) asking them to allow us to link information from the Narodne novine web site (www.nn.hr) to GONG web site. However, we did not receive any response.

In July 2006, we protested against restrictions on the public gathering of one citizen seeking her rights in front of the Croatian Government and the Parliament.

In November 2006, we received an answer from the State Attorney's Office Department in Split on GONG's criminal charges from Presidential elections 2005 related to deceased persons voting in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Attorney's Office in Split stated there were no grounds for criminal prosecution. We held a press conference after which we received a letter from Mr. Bajic, Chief State Attorney, stating that the Department in Split made a mistake, that there were grounds for criminal charges and that the investigation will continue.

5. Good Governance Project

In May 2006, we started implementing the project „Promotion of the Principles of Good Governance and Increased Citizens' Participation in the Decision-Making Process in the Republic of Croatia“. The project will be implemented all over Croatia by the end of 2007 within the EU funded CARDS 2003 and 2004 programs. It is also supported by the Balkan Trust for Democracy, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and OSCE Mission to Republic of Croatia.

The main goal of the project is to promote and protect the principles of good governance, as well as strengthen civic participation in decision-making process at the local level in Croatia. The project primarily targets citizens, local civil society organizations, neighborhood councils, national minorities' councils and local officials, in order to improve communication among them. Project activities include organization of 216 "Citizens' hours", 16 series of public advocacy workshops with animated DVD covering all aspects of workshops on public advocacy, production of 50.000 copies of educative guidebooks explaining local and regional self-government, and 2 national educational campaigns broadcasted on national and regional TV and radio stations about the right to access information and civil participation in decision-making process.

6. Strengthening CSOs and Development of Cross-sectoral Cooperation in the County of Sisak-Moslavina Project

In May 2006, our Regional office Zagreb in partnership with SMART Association began implementing "Strengthening Civil Society Organizations and Development of Cross-sectoral Cooperation in the County of Sisak-Moslavina" project within Regional Operative Program of Sisak-Moslavina County. The project is implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union through CARDS 2003 Program.

Project activities will be implemented until December 2007 in 7 target towns/municipalities of Sisak-Moslavina County: Hrvatska Kostajnica, Kutina, Novska, Petrinja, Sisak, Sunja and Topusko. The aim of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of CSOs in the County, to encourage citizens' participation in the development of local policy, especially participation of CSOs and youth, and to enhance communication and strategic relations between various stakeholders in the County. Project activities include GONG "Citizens' hours", "I vote for the First Time" workshops, Parliament tours, internships for beneficiary CSOs' representatives and a study visit to Rijeka for CSOs' representatives and local Sisak-Moslavina County local officials.

7. Activities in War Affected Areas

Supported by the OSCE Mission to Croatia, we implemented civic political/economic education and civic participation encouragement projects in **4 counties of western Slavonia** and in **Lika-Senj County**.

From April to December, GONG Regional office Rijeka organized 14 "Citizens' Hours" in 7 target towns and municipalities in Lika-Senj County. In total, 214 citizens with 19 guests participated in 12 open panel discussions and in 2 radio talk shows. 3 Open Parliament visits to the Croatian Parliament for citizens of the County of Lika-Senj were organized, and all interested individuals were invited to 1 Public Advocacy and 2 Media Workshops held by GONG trainers.

Parallel to that, GONG Regional office Slavonski Brod in September 2006 started implementing activities in 4 western Slavonia counties within the project "Civic political and democratic education, local self-organizing and participation encouragement in target counties of Western Slavonia". During the 7 month period, 28 "Citizens hours", 4 EU info desks, 6 visits to the Parliament, 2 public advocacy workshops and 5 media workshops will be organized.

8. Find Your Way in Decision Making Process Project

Supported by the United States Embassy, in September 2006 we began implemented "Find Your Way in Decision-Making Process" project in 9 target towns/municipalities all over Croatia. Project's main goal was to include citizens and civil society representatives in decision making-process on the local level, to open communication channels between local officials and citizens and to strengthen local CSOs / citizens' groups to actively participate in local community development.

The project activities include organization of open panel discussions and radio talk shows in target towns/municipalities in cooperation with beneficiary CSOs and a training seminar for beneficiary CSOs' representatives on public advocacy, work with the media and examples of best practices in communication between local officials, local CSOs and citizens. The project will be implemented until February 2007 in Donji Miholjac, Drnis, Dvor, Imotski, Lipik, Korenica, Senj, Sinj, and Zupanja, with the final goal to strengthen local CSOs to continue with organizing similar activities in the future.

9. Think Globally, Act Locally Project

The aim of the project "Think Globally, Act Locally", implemented in Rijeka from September to December 2006 was to give the opportunity to young people between the age of 14 and 19 to develop the skills necessary to actively participate in decision-making processes on the local level and to change the negative attitude youth generally have regarding politics by giving them an opportunity to assume responsibility for budgeting and implementing agreed measures locally. The original idea was developed by the Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (IPP - Dutch Centre for Political Participation) from the Netherlands, and GONG was the first organization implementing the project in SEE.

The project was implemented in the City of Rijeka, with the "Action Day" as the central event taking place on October 12 in local government facilities, where 100 high school students worked in groups to develop small-scale local community projects and were given limited funds to implement the project they all agree upon (exactly in the way local government officials discuss local projects and vote for the best proposal). City Mayor Mr. Vojko Obersnel and the winning group held a joint press conference announcing implementation of the winning project on December 5 in the centre of Rijeka – students with GONG support organized the biggest celebration of the Volunteers' Day in Rijeka ever.

In November, IPP representatives Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk and Amir Nazar visited GONG and discussed implementation of the project in Rijeka, achievements of other CSOs in the region implementing similar projects and future joint activities.

! The City of Rijeka nominated the project "Think Globally, Act Locally!" as the Best Action for Children and Youth and as a result the project was given a Charter for the admirably conducted action for children and youth. This Charter is given to selected towns among those who are participating in the Children Friendly Cities Action, an initiative started by UNICEF in 1996.

10. Lost and Found – Booklet about State Institutions and Public Administration

During 2006, we published the second issue of the booklet "Lost and Found - Guide to achieving citizens' rights and interests with public institutions", intended for all citizens who want to become familiar with their rights and find their way within public institutions more easily in order to efficiently assert their rights and interests. The second edition was printed in 12,700 copies.

In 23 thematic chapters some of the most frequent questions and problems that citizens encounter in everyday life were collected and addressed – containing instructions on whom and how to contact as well as laws where they can find more detailed information. The web site of the booklet is available at www.gong.hr/izgubljen-nadjen and is being updated on a regular basis.

During 2006, a number of new articles were added such as rights of consumers, secret services and citizens' rights, articles regarding corruption. Due to frequent changes in legislation, names of institutions and public administration in Croatia, we made several changes and adjusted the entries regarding legal regulation.

11. Local Government Reform Project

In order to obtain a broader input into policy statements of the Union of Association of Cities and Association of Municipalities, to raise awareness among local governments and public in general regarding certain issues and instruct representatives of local governments to advocate local government issues with a unified voice across the party lines, after being approached by USAID Croatia, we agreed to prepare a series of Parliament reports on local and regional self-government.

In November 2005, we began working on preparing news alerts and overviews of Parliament activities related to local and regional self-government for beneficiaries of the Local government reform project. We monitored Parliament's plenary sessions, Parliamentary committees' work, the Official Gazette and the media with the purpose of issuing comprehensive reports and summaries on legislative activities relevant to the local/regional government.

During 2006, 6 Parliament alerts and 6 updates were prepared both in Croatian and English and sent to project beneficiaries and other interested individuals and organizations.

CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Initiatives

Since the legal framework that regulates operation and financing of CSOs as well as civil society in general is fairly vague, we have been active in advocating legal prerequisites for high-quality and sustainable development of civil society in Croatia since 2000.

- **Draft Law on Voluntarism**

Together with other CSOs' representatives, we continued our participation in the work group on the draft proposal of Law on Voluntarism. The work group was reactivated by the Ministry of Family Affairs, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity after more than a year.

The Draft was completed in September 2006 and a public discussion with representatives from CSOs and members of the working group was held on the International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2006. The Draft Law was sent to parliamentary procedure, and as a result of our efforts in advocating the issue, the Law Proposal was adopted by the Croatian Parliament in the first reading. We expect the final law proposal to be adopted during 2007 and after that we will continue to monitor its implementation.

- **New Law on Foundations**

Croatian Law on Foundations needs to be changed in order to make the legal procedure for funding various foundations simpler. According to the current legislation, procedure of foundations' founding is unnecessarily complex. Therefore, in co-operation with the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration, National Foundation for Civil Society Development, USAID, European Centre for Not-For-Profit Law and Academy for Educational Development, we organized a round-table debate "Legal system for foundations in Croatia: Do we need a new Law on Foundations?" in May 2006.

The round table debate served as a basis for a public debate on Law on Foundations and passing of a new and better Law on Foundations for which the proposal already existed. We participated in completion of this proposal together with experts from Croatia and foreign experts and will continue to advocate the adoption of the amended law in 2007.

- **New Civil Society Development Strategy**

After the Government appointed a Working group for drafting the Proposal of National Strategy For Civil Society Development on 12 January 2006, and in which GONG's representative was Igor Bajok, drafting of the Strategy begun. In March 2006 an expert group was appointed with the task of participating in drafting individual chapters of the Strategy. GONG's representatives in the expert group were Suzana Jasic, Vanja Skoric and Marina Lipovscak and they were responsible for participative democracy and civil society development.

The work on the Strategy draft was completed by the end of April 2006 and four public debates on the Draft followed in Rijeka, Split, Osijek and Zagreb.

The Strategy draft had the working title "The draft of the national strategy for making a seminal environment for civil society development" and was sent to the Government for its approval, after the public debates had been held. The Government adopted the Strategy before summer 2006 and created an operation plan of its implementation in which GONG's inputs and recommendations were included.

- **Civil Society Forums**

Civil Society Forum was formed as an initiative of NGOs that operate in Zagreb and which started communicating informally through various mailing lists in the beginning of 2005. At that time, several things occurred that required an organized reaction. The idea was to form an informal network of NGOs which would meet at least once a month to exchange information, discuss the strategy of civil society development, publicly react when the civil society principles are endangered, etc.

After a few months, in March 2006, the Charter of the Forum was drawn up, i.e. the document which sets out duties for Forum's members and defines its goals. Forum currently has 15 member organizations that signed the Charter. The rules of communication and conduct have also been agreed upon. Every organization that enters Forum is obligated to participate in its meetings regularly (once a month), and be actively involved in Forum's activities. Every three months a different organization coordinates the work of the Forum.

A letter was sent to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Forum in January asking a meeting to be held on the topic of civil society in Croatia. Also, an open letter to the public was published in the media, stating opinions on the Head of the Government's Office for CSOs, Council for civil society development and Strategy for civil

society. The open letter focused on the negative statements of the Head of the Government's Office for CSOs about civil society in Croatia.

In January 2006, the Forum presented its work and goals to the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Croatia, Mr. Vincent Degert. Mr. Degert gave his support to the Forum representatives. In April 2006, the Forum publicly condemned and protested against proposals of the Law on Protection of Personal Data and Law on Informational Security.

In 2006 GONG Regional office Slavonski Brod continued developing partnerships within an initiative of CSOs from Slavonia. Sanja Beslic participated in several meetings of the CSO Forum of Slavonia where the Statute of Forum was passed and on the constitutive session in June 2006 where Sanja was elected Management Board member from Brod-Posavina County.

During 2006, Hrvoje Rancic from GONG regional office Zadar continued the activities advocating the adoption of the Charter of Cooperation between the City of Zadar and Zadar CSOs. In October, the constitutive session of the Zadar CSO Forum was held and 14 organizations joined the Forum.

GONG regional office Rijeka established partnership with the Coordination of CSOs of the County of Lika-Senj. Since its formation, GONG Rijeka staff supported their activities aiming to share information relevant to CSOs activities and to plan future activities. The coordination held monthly meetings, invited local experts to support its activities and organized "CSO Fair of the County of Lika-Senj".

2. Promoting Voluntarism

International Volunteer Day, December 5, was established by the UN in 1985 and, since then, all over the world governments, the UN and civil society organizations organize activities celebrating the International Volunteer Day and promoting voluntarism on the local, national and international level.

Croatian network of CSOs consisting of GONG, Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights Osijek, PRONI Center, Osijek Greens, MI Split, SMART, Volunteer Center Osijek and MoSt, organized a series of activities celebrating December 5 in Croatia aiming to inform and motivate Croatian citizens to volunteer. They were supported by the Academy for Educational Development.

Having in mind that majority of the Croatian population is not familiar with the concept of voluntarism and are not encouraged to volunteer, GONG organized a two-week media campaign with video and audio clips about voluntarism ("Goodman") that were aired free of charge on the Croatian Radio-Television (HRT) and commercial TV and radio stations, and were made available for downloading from GONG web site. Media campaign was supported by numerous promotional activities, conferences and events all over Croatia.

3. Cooperation with Institutions, Organizations and CSOs in Croatia

► Damir Azenic participated in a working group set up by the AED as a follow up to the "10th Central and Eastern European Fundraising workshop" held in November 2005 in Budapest. The goal of the working group was to help plan AED's future interventions in the field of fundraising and philanthropy. The initial meeting of the working group took place in Zagreb on 17 January 2006. Damir Azenic and other CSOs' representatives participating in the conference were asked by the Academy for Educational Development to help planning and organizing a similar conference in Zagreb for Croatian CSOs. The Conference was held from 29 November to 1 December 2006 in Zagreb.

► Regional office Rijeka participated in work groups within the "Strengthening local capacities in the City of Rijeka and in the County of Primorje - Gorski Kotar" project implemented by SMART NGO.

► Regional office Zagreb representatives participated in the 5th meeting of the City of Zagreb Youth Committee on 6 February 2006. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the development of civil society in Zagreb and to put its development on the agenda of the City government.

► Hrvoje Rancic, the Regional office Zadar Coordinator, continued his engagement in Regional Partnership within the Regional Operative Plan initiative for County of Zadar under EC support. During this reporting period, a meeting was organized where ROP priorities for the County of Zadar were discussed.

▶ Invited by the Ministry of Family Affairs, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity, the ministry responsible for developing the Civil Society Development Strategy (after failure of the Strategy of Governmental Office for NGOs in late 2005), GONG representative Igor Bajok was nominated vice president of the working group for delivering the Strategy. Besides Igor, Vanja Skoric, Suzana Jasic and Marina Lipovscak gave their contributions to several work packages of the Strategy.

▶ At the beginning of March, Sandra Pernar joined the work group evaluating project applications received following a call for applications of the Government Office for Human Rights. The projects aimed to work on promotion and protection of human rights in Croatia.

▶ Invited by Velika Gorica High school teacher, professor Moskviljov, Dragan Zelic held a presentation for students of the school on election, local and regional self-government, direct election mayors, political campaign financing, etc. on 29 March 2006. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

▶ We participated in the survey for the research "Contribution of the CSOs to development of democratic processes and protection of human rights in Croatia from 2002 to 2006" organized by B.a.B.e. and work group for management and supervision of non-profits in Croatia (AED/TREF). The key issue was the principle of good governance (management) in CSOs.

▶ Invited by ZUM CSO and the City of Pazin, GONG representatives Suzana Jasic, Aleksandra Vinkerlic and Igor Bajok organized three interconnected workshops for Pazin Youth Council members. The workshops covered topics such as needs assessment, civil society, Croatian political system, youth participation in political processes, action plans, etc. The first workshop was held in June, the second in November and the final in December 2006.

▶ In May, Sanja Beslic was invited to participate in the workshops organized by the Croatian Employment Service Slavonski Brod within the project "Local partnerships for employment – human potential development strategy". In August, additional meetings took place on which the received project proposals were assessed.

▶ In July, GONG Regional office Rijeka in partnership with CGI CSO from Porec, SMART CSO from Rijeka and Pokretac CSO from Korenica applied to National foundation for civil society development's call for regional cooperation projects. After several meetings, in December 2006 partners received support for project aimed at providing support to CSO in the Istria, Primorje, Gorski Kotar and Lika area, mostly in needs assessment, education, promotion of voluntarism, consultations and cooperation among CSOs and with local authorities.

▶ Hrvoje Rancic, Regional office Zadar Coordinator, joined several other CSOs from Zadar in activities aiming to create City Action Program for Youth that would include local youth organizations and enable wider participation of all interested individuals.

▶ In September, Regional office Slavonski Brod participated in the "CSO Days" of the Virovitica-Podravina County and in the roundtable discussion "Best practice in cooperation between CSOs and governmental institutions" organized by S.O.S. Phone Virovitica.

▶ In November, Aleksandra Vinkerlic joined the work group for drawing up the Local Youth Action Plan of the County of Istria.

▶ GONG representative Dragan Zelic presented GONG's experiences in election monitoring and media outreach from previous elections in Croatia to participants (newspaper journalists from Croatia) of the seminar "Election Reporting for Newspaper Journalists" organized by the International Center for Education of Journalists in Opatija on 23 November 2006. Other presentations were held by professors from the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, professors from Dubrovnik University and other experts.

▶ GONG participated in debates on defining and harmonizing Freedom to Access Information Act and Law on Informational Security organized by the coalition of CSOs "Public has the right to know" on the occasion of 28 September – the International Right to Information Day.

▶ Invited by the WYG International, Council for National Minorities and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European integration, GONG took part in the work of Project Managing board of the CARDS 2003 "Support to the Councils of National Minorities in Areas of Special State Concern" project. Dragan Zelic represented

GONG in the Managing board. The project will include GAP analysis of the work of national minorities' councils, creation of educative manuals and public awareness campaigns.

▶ GONG Regional offices Slavonski Brod, Rijeka and Zagreb the Croatian Union of Blind Persons in petitioning to advocate the Law on Increments for Disabled Persons. Petition desks and volunteers were organized in Rijeka, Pazi, Buzet, Pleternica, Pozega, Sisak, and Zagreb.

▶ GONG Regional office Zadar, invited by the Heinrich Boll Stiftung, assisted in organizing the open panel discussion for students on the interest of the youth for the EU. GONG staff contacted Zadar high schools, invited guests and organized open panel logistics.

▶ On 28 October, Mihael Rukavina held an advocacy workshop for high school students, volunteers of KRIK CSO from Slatina on their invitation. Since KRIK had no funds for the workshop, Mihael organized the workshop voluntarily and without any remuneration.

▶ In 2006, GONG continued participating in Good Governance Coordination Meetings initiated by the OSCE Field office Sisak where the meetings also took place on a regular basis. Jasmina Vukas and Vlasta Prohaska participated in several meetings that took place during 2006.

▶ Asked by the President of the Bosniak National Minority Council of Sisak-Moslavina County, we sent all GONG educational material to the Council in order to present the layout and the types of information in our election-related material so the Council could more easily prepare their own material for members of the Bosniak minority in the county.

▶ In 2006, GONG regional office Rijeka continued their involvement in the development of civil society in the Rijeka region. Aleksandra Vinkerlic was a member of the Council for promotion of voluntarism of the County of Rijeka – Gorski Kotar, and Igor Bajok was a member of the Committee for coordinating cooperation between CSOs and the City of Rijeka.

▶ GONG regional office representatives participated in three sessions of Slavonski Brod City Council and one session of the County of Brod-Posavina Assembly in 2006.

▶ In late 2006, Coordination of several CSOs "The Right to a City" from Zagreb approached GONG with a request to support their activities aimed at increasing the transparency of decision-making in the Zagreb City government. To be more precise, the problem begun when it was decided that a shopping centre with underground garages would be built in the protected urban area of the centre of the city, and this without any public discussion. Moreover, the right to access information (according to FOIA) was denied to the Coordination. GONG supported the Coordination in organizing a press conference and decided to participate in FOIA activities related to the Coordination actions planned for 2007.

4. Legal Help and Advising

Citizens can make use of legal aid services by visiting GONG office in person, or via phone, email or fax. We answer their questions directly, and if their questions refer to issues outside our competence, we encourage them to turn to state institutions (e.g. Government Office for Human Rights, Office of the Ombudsman, etc.) or nongovernmental organizations that should be able to help them.

In the period covered by this report, GONG dealt with more than **400 various inquiries for legal help** regarding the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and procedures, constitutional procedures, administrative procedures as well as numerous inquiries on citizens' participation in the decision-making process.

In 2006, we provided advice and inputs on the initiative of citizens from Zagreb city neighborhood "Travno" in obtaining information and documentation from Zagreb City Office regarding General Urban Plan (GUP). Together with the citizens' initiative, we produced a motion for review of constitutionality before the Constitutional Court of Government's decision regarding freedom of information.

In December 2006, we participated in a civil initiative "Gradska fronta" (City Front) providing legal aid regarding FOIA and participating in a press conference. Civil initiative "Gradska fronta" was focused on transparency of decision-making process in the City of Zagreb related to urban planning and protection of cultural heritage in Zagreb City centre.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Training Courses, Consultations and Visits

“Research, then advocate” Internship – Zagreb, Croatia

Recommended by the Freedom House Budapest, GONG was contacted by Alena Ob'ezdchikova from Youth Human Rights Network (YHRM) Russia in May 2005, with the aim to initiate cooperation within YHRM's project “Research, then advocate”. Final phase of the project implementation was to organize internships for Russian NGO representatives in their counterpart organizations in CEE. As agreed during the expert meeting in Zagreb, a representative from GOLOS from Yaroslavl, Alexander Sokolov started his 10 day internship in GONG from 15-25 January 2006. Alexander was introduced to all GONG activities and participated in several meetings, visited the Parliament, took part in one of the “I Vote for the First Time” workshops, etc.

„Macedonian Civic Education Center” Study Visit – Zagreb, Croatia

With the support of the Balkan Trust for Democracy, representatives of Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC) took part in a study visit to GONG. The were highly interested in GONG election education activities, especially “I Vote for the First Time” project. MCEC is a spin-off of USAID-supported nation-wide project of encouragement of participative democracy in Macedonia. Besides exchanging best practices and lessons learned, grounds for future regional cooperation were discussed.

„I Vote for the First Time training for ISFED” – Tbilisi, Georgia

GONG representatives Ariana Vela and Damir Azenic held a two-day training on launching and implementing “I Vote for the First Time” project and GONG's experiences in the project. The training for representatives of Georgian organization ISFED took place in Tbilisi on April 4-6, 2006. On the trail of GONG's experiences, ISFED launched a similar project aiming at educating Georgian youth for local election in late 2006.

GONG Election Experience - Zimbabwe

On 29 June – 1 July 2006, Suzana Jasic facilitated Democracy Education and Domestic Monitoring Planning Meeting organized by NDI for ZESN (Zimbabwe Election Support Network) taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was attended by the ZESN voter education task force and staff from the ZESN secretariat in order to develop ZESN's upcoming voter/civic/democracy education program. In addition, Suzana conducted a half-day planning session with the ZESN leadership to discuss the upcoming municipal elections in Zimbabwe, sharing experience from previous GONG election monitoring campaigns.

Training Russian NGO “Golos” on educational election campaigns

GONG representative Dragan Zelic held an educational training on organizing civic educational campaigns for elections for Russian non-governmental organization “Golos”. The training took place on 16-19 October 2006 in Moscow, Russia, and was held within the framework of ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations).

2. Project and Program Cooperation with International Organizations

IRI Survey

In February GONG was asked to assist the IRI (International Republican Institute) representatives in preparing issues and questions for the national survey on political preferences and attitudes of Croatian citizens toward Croatian political parties. Besides that, we pointed out the need to research political preferences of particular groups, such as youth.

EUMAP - What makes advocacy effective?

In March we submitted an article “GONG: Advocating for Change” to a call for papers announced by the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program of the Open Society Institute (www.eumap.org). The article explains GONG's best practices and advice for successful advocacy, and was published in July 2006 within „Advocacy: Are civil society organizations any good at it? (And what exactly IS it anyway?)” section of the web site.

The World Vote Field Test

In May, GONG staff participated in the World Vote field test – an experiment specifically designed to map the role the Internet can play in a global direct-democratic system. The objectives were to establish a voting station in every country and territory on the planet and to hold simultaneous voting activities from these voting stations. Participants from 171 countries and territories, representing 97.63% of the world population took part in the project.

"ELECTION TIME - 2005 European Yearbook of Political Campaigning"

The presentation of the European Yearbook of Political Campaigning for 2005 „Election Time“ was held in GONG office in May 2006. Mr. José Manuel Talero García, a member of the Managing board of the European Association of Political Consultants and coordinator of the “Election Time” edition, presented the European Association of Political Consultants (EAPC) and their project “Election Time” including the third edition of the yearbook for 2005. “Election Time 2005” brings detailed analysis of 18 political campaigns in Europe in 2005. Analysis of four referendums for the EU Constitution in Spain, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are also included in the yearbook. It also brings political campaigns’ analysis of parliamentary election in Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Bulgaria and Andorra, and presidential election in Croatia and Poland. Local election campaigns that were interesting from editors’ point of view, such as local election campaigns in Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Austria, are also included. Authors of the yearbook have different backgrounds, including professional politics, political science, political consultancy, campaign management, and journalism. Suzana Jasic, Sandra Pernar and Dragan Zelic were the authors of the analysis of the 2005 Croatian presidential election .

Politeia Network

Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (IPP) from the Netherlands organized a training-seminar in Amsterdam for four partner organizations, coming from Croatia (GONG), Bosnia and Herzegovina (HCA), Kosovo (KYC) and Romania (APD) from 15-19 May 2006. GONG was represented by a three-member delegation : Sandra Pernar, Vlasta Prohaska and Aleksandra Vinkerlic. The purpose of the seminar was to prepare the mentioned organizations for implementation of „Find Your Way in Local Government” project (engaging youth in local communities’ development), which IPP has been implementing for several years in the Netherlands.

In December 2006, representatives of Politeia member organizations from Ireland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia met in Amsterdam for the annual Politeia conference. Among the most important issues discussed were draft statutes of the future association that will be legally enforced in spring 2007 that the representatives of all present organizations agreed on. A special part of the conference program was dedicated to future fund-raising activities. The conclusion was that the major aim of Politeia (to promote active European citizenship) is obviously in great congruency with the newest EU program “Europe for Citizens”. Therefore, Politeia members expressed their hope that especially after the creation of an association, the funding for joint projects in the field of citizens’ participation might become easier. Also, during the conference, the new Politeia website, that is to be launched in early 2007, was presented.

Regional Network Meeting of Olof Palme Center's Western Balkans Partners

In order to increase capacities of its partners throughout the Western Balkans, strengthen regional networks and seek cooperation opportunities between partners, Palme Center invited all of its partners to a Regional Network Meeting. The meeting took place from June 18-20 in Skopje, Macedonia. Each partner organization from Olof Palme Center’s Western Balkan Program was represented by one person. GONG was represented by Sandra Pernar, Deputy President.

ENEMO Assembly

Dragan Zelic participated in ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) Assembly taking place in Kiev, Ukraine on 23-24 June 2006. The Assembly discussed and evaluated previous ENEMO monitoring missions, internal communication, organizational structure, and fundraising and donor relations. The Assembly also accepted one new organization – Ladom from Moldova.

USAID global anti-corruption mechanism

In September 2006, upon AED’s invitation, GONG sent its profile to be included into AED’s bid for USAID’s global anti-corruption mechanism program as an example of the type of CSO AED wishes to partner with globally.

2006 NGO Sustainability Index

In September, we participated in AED/USAID’s “2006 NGO Sustainability Index” survey which measures improvement and success of CSOs in terms of improved legal framework, CSOs’ capacities, advocacy success, ability to provide services, infrastructure and the image of non-profits in the public.

Training of short-term election observers – OSCE Bishkek Academy

Suzana Jasic was the Croatian CSO representative in OSCE Academy training for short-term observers in Bishkek taking place on 23 and 24 November 2006.

3. International Conferences, Seminars and Visits

Meeting Robert Bosch Foundation Representatives

Ariana Vela took part in Robert Bosch Foundation representatives' study visit to Croatia that included the meeting with a few well-known Croatian NGOs on 11 March 2006. Robert Bosch Foundation representatives were mostly interested in activities of Croatian NGOs and their views of current situation in Croatia in respect to Foundation's future engagement in Croatia.

Meeting SIGMA Representatives

In May, Dragan Zelic and Ariana Vela met with representatives of SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management), a joint initiative of the OECD and the EU. The meeting was a follow-up on the 2005 meeting where anticorruption and related issues, such as election campaign financing, the right to access information, and transparency in the work of state institutions, were discussed.

Austrian journalists – study visit

Ariana Vela and Aleksandra Kuratko held a presentation "Transparency in the Croatian Political System: Achievements and Challenges" on 28 June 2006 to representatives of the leading Austrian media (news agencies, newspapers and TV and radio stations) participating in a study visit to Croatia. Besides GONG, they met the President, the Prime Minister and other state officials.

"Mission Europe"

On September 2, Damir Azenic presented GONG, its activities and political developments in Croatia to a group of students and artists coming from several EU countries who were engaged in the project whose aim was to research and reflect on the present and future flow back of "European missions" to the European Community. These impressions were then turned into media projects which were then made as exhibition and shown in Krakow, Marseille and Weimar in late 2006.

Democracy Monitoring and Advocacy Strategies – Yerevan, Armenia

Ariana Vela participated in a conference „Democracy Monitoring and Advocacy Strategies“ held in Armenia on 26-28 October 2006, and organized by the Open Society Institute Armenia. She also gave a presentation „Elections - From Monitoring to Advocacy“, which presented GONG's experiences in advocacy activities.

Voter Registration and Election Observation – Warsaw, Poland

GONG President Suzana Jasic participated at the Expert Meeting on Voter Registration and Election Observation organized by OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on 7-8 December 2006 in Warsaw, Poland. Suzana Jasic held a presentation about Croatian experience regarding Voters' lists. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss various practices of voter registration in the OSCE and how the process can be observed by international and domestic observer organizations.

NEEDS Observer Forum – Bratislava, Slovakia

GONG's associate Aleksandra Kuratko participated in the NEEDS Observer Forum for OSCE-Region. The Forum was held in Bratislava from 12-14 December 2006 and the topic of the Forum was: "The Use of IT in the Electoral Process and the Implications for Election Observation Methodology". The Forum was organized in co-ordination with OSCE/ODIHR.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Conferences, Seminars and Public Events, Presenting GONG

► *January 2006* – Ariana Vela and Dragan Zelic participated in a conference organized by the Croatian Government, European Commission, World Bank and USAID on decentralization.

► *February 2006* - Regional office Rijeka representatives participated in the Regional Conference On Implementation Of the National Youth Program, organized by the Ministry of Family Affairs, War Veterans

and Intergenerational Solidarity in Opatija. The goal was to analyze the current situation and propose further measures in implementing youth policy on the regional level.

▶ *February 2006* – Jasmina Vukas and Vlasta Prohaska participated in the fifth meeting of the Zagreb Youth Committee. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the development of civil society in Zagreb.

▶ *February 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in symposium organized by Heinrich Boell Stiftung on “Responsibilities and Impact of CSOs on the Croatian EU Accession Process”. The participants emphasized the lack of involvement of CSOs in the negotiation process as the main problem.

▶ *March 2006* - Vlasta Prohaska, GONG Regional office Zagreb Assistant Coordinator participated in the presentation of “Women and the Media” project organized by B.a.B.e. NGO in Zagreb.

▶ *March 2006* - Dragan Zelic, Marina Lipovscak and Robert Maracic participated in expert conference “Best Practice of Good Government: Experiences of Public Sector, Business, and Non-profit Organizations”. The conference took place in Zagreb. Within the presentation of best practices in good governance in NGOs, that is the transparency of work and accessibility of information on NGOs’ web sites, GONG’s web site www.gong.hr received the highest grades of all NGOs in Croatia!

▶ *March 2006* - GONG Regional office Rijeka representatives participated in the round table discussion “Advantages and Disadvantages of Direct Election of City and County Mayors” organized by Union of Association of Cities and Association of Municipalities and USAID in Rijeka. Aleksandra Vinkerlic presented GONG inputs to the proposed law on direct election of city and county mayors.

▶ *March 2006* - Marina Lipovscak participated in the round table debate “Violence toward Minority Groups” organized by the Serbian Democratic Forum association.

▶ *March 2006* – Dragan Zelic presented GONG activities related to election campaign financing to researchers of the Faculty of Philosophy participating in the project “Crimeinal as a Matter of Culture – Comparative Study of the EU Candidates”

▶ *March 2006* - Sandra Pernar attended the round table debate “What is Media Literacy?” and a presentation of the book “Media Literacy and Civil Society” organized by Media Research Zagreb and Media Center Sarajevo.

▶ *May 2006* - Invited by Spona – Center for education and civil society, GONG representatives presented GONG and its activities to high school students from two Zagreb high schools participating in Spona’s workshops.

▶ *April 2006* – Mihael Rukavina participated in the symposium organized by the Association of disabled persons Slavonski Brod where opportunities for improvement of the position of disabled persons were discussed.

▶ *April 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in a round table discussion on electoral systems organized by Center for Democracy and Law “Mika Tripalo”

▶ *May 2006* – Damir Azenic participated in Heinrich Böll Stiftung’s roundtable „What Kind of EU we Aspire to Join? – Searching for the Reasons of Democratic Deficit in Croatia and the EU“.

▶ *May 2006* – Suzana Jasic participated in the 4th National Forum on EU accession held in Karlovac, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations. The 4th Forum was dedicated to youth and their mobility in education and employment.

▶ *May 2006* – Regional office Slavonski Brod representatives participated in the traditional “CSO Fair” organized by the City of Slavonski Brod.

▶ *May 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in the seminar on how to cover EU-related news for journalists reporting from Parliament, organized by the OSCE Mission to Croatia and British Embassy in Zagreb. Dragan held the presentation on the Freedom to Access Information Act and its implementation.

- ▶ *May 2006* – Hrvoje Rancic took part in the “Ninth Volunteer Days” conference organized by Mi Association in Split. Hrvoje represented CSOs from Zadar and participated in round table discussions on cooperation among CSOs, visibility and effectiveness of CSOs and fundraising from EU funds.
- ▶ *May 2006* – Sanja Beslic participated in the presentation of the Youth Action Plan of the City of Slavonski Brod. The Action Plan presented concrete implementation steps of the National Youth Action Plan in Slavonski Brod.
- ▶ *May 2006* – Dragan Zelic and Marina Lipovscak participated in a round table discussion organized by Transparency International Croatia on financing political parties and election campaigns. Dragan held a presentation on election campaign financing.
- ▶ *June 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in the presentation of CARDS 2003 project “Supporting the Reform of Public Services” that will be implemented by the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration.
- ▶ *June 2006* – Approached by the Serbian news agency BETA, we have prepared an article on financing political parties and election campaigns in Croatia. The article was published in www.korupcija.org in June.
- ▶ *June 2006* – Regional office Rijeka representatives participated in the second “CSO Fair of the County of Lika-Senj” held in Otocac.
- ▶ *July 2006* – Ariana Vela and Marina Lipovscak participated in the conference “Legal, Financial and Institutional Framework for Civil Society Development” organized by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development in Opatija. The conference gathered domestic and international experts who were working on creation of Civil Society Development Strategy.
- ▶ *August 2006* – Hrvoje Rancic, together with youth CSOs’ representatives and representatives of Zadar government, participated as a guest in a round table discussion organized as a part of the campaign “Youth Centre to Youth”
- ▶ *September 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in a presentation of CARDS-based project of State Commission for Control over Public Procurement, organized in the Croatian Chamber of Commerce on 8 September 2006.
- ▶ *September 2006* – GONG regional offices’ staff participated in regional presentations and roundtables of the AED survey “Public Perception of CSOs” implemented by Ivo Pilar Institute. The results showed that GONG is the most widely known organization among “Political Organizations and Campaigns” group of organizations.
- ▶ *September 2006* – Vlasta Prohaska and Ariana Vela represented GONG in the conference “Strengthening the Role of the Ombudsmen in Croatia” organized by the Human Rights Center and the OSCE Mission to Croatia.
- ▶ *September 2006* – Suzana Jasic and Sandra Pernar participated in the conference “Contribution of CSOs to Development of Democracy in Croatia” organized by B.a.B.e (CSO) on 26 September 2006 in Westin hotel in Zagreb. President Mr. Mesic and Government vice-president Mrs. Kosor opened the conference, where, among other, GONG’s achievement as the most transparent CSO in Croatia was presented.
- ▶ *October 2006* – GONG representative Rober Maracic took part in the “Presentation of Projects Related to the National Program for Education on Human Rights and Civic Society” taking place in Zagreb on 4 October 2006 and organized by the National Agency for Education.
- ▶ *October 2006* – Invited by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration to contribute to the Report on the Croatian Development Aid to Developing Countries, we sent the list of GONG’s international activities in those countries that took place in 2005 and 2006.
- ▶ *October 2006* – GONG’s representatives Ariana Vela and Jasmina Vukas participated in a conference „Community Investment: Practical Approach for Companies” organized by AED, UNDP, USAID and IBLF in Zagreb on 19 October 2006. Jasmina also took part in AED workshop "Employee Engagement: Practical Approaches for NGOs".

- ▶ *October 2006* – GONG Regional office Zadar, invited by the Municipality Government of Gracac, took part in the „Autumn in Gracac“ fair and presented and distributed GONG educational material to all interested citizens.
- ▶ *November 2006* – Ariana Vela participated in the conference “Achievement, problems and visions of development of foundations in Croatia” organized by CERANEO. The research on achievements of Croatian foundations was presented.
- ▶ *November 2006* – Sandra Pernar participated in the presentation of the “Open Society Index – Croatia 2006” organized by iDEMO Institute for democracy.
- ▶ *November 2006* – GONG for the first time participated in the “Info Day for Local Governments and Partners” taking place in Sheraton hotel Zagreb on 15 November 2006, organized by the Association of Croatian Cities and USAID. The topic was external contracting and GONG participated in the plenary part of the conference and set up an info desk.
- ▶ *November 2006* – Aleksandra Vinkerlic participated in the round table discussion and presentation of the manual “Managing Non-Governmental Organizations” organized by TREF (Forum of Trainers and Consultants for Non-Profits) and Work Group for Management of Non-Governmental Organizations.
- ▶ *December 2006* – Suzana Jasic and Ariana Vela, invited by the Academy for Local Democracy, took part in the symposium taking place in Rijeka on 19 December 2006. Suzana and Ariana presented GONG activities related to the FOIA implementation and the problems of the Law on Data Secrecy to participants – government officials, local officials, legal experts and the media.
- ▶ *December 2006* – Ariana Vela and Maja Kocis participated in the conference “I volunteer, I choose well!” organized by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the Ministry of Family Affairs, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity, contributing to the promotion of voluntarism in Croatia. Ariana held the presentation “Voluntarism and the Media – GONG Media Campaign on Voluntarism”
- ▶ *December 2006* – Damir Azenic participated in the inauguration of the EU info centre on 11 December 2006. He presented “European Class” project and participated in the "Communicating EU to the citizens" discussion panel together with the Chairman of the Parliament's External Relations Committee, representative of the Slovenian Government's Information Office and the Head of the Delegation of the EC to Croatia.
- ▶ *December 2006* – Sandra Pernar and Damir Azenic participated in the open panel discussion “Dilemmas of European Integration – Civil Society and the EU: Disappearance or Participation?” organized by Heinrich Böll Stiftung on 12 December 2006.
- ▶ *December 2006* – Dragan Zelic participated in the conference on protection of national minorities' rights organized by the Coalition for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, taking place on 18 December 2006.

2. Media Outreach

During 2006, we continued to develop excellent relationship with the media and journalists. GONG representatives participated in popular TV shows such as “Otvoreno”, “Dobro jutro Hrvatska” and “Dnevnik” on Croatian Radio Television and in many others on commercial TV and radio stations several times. In June 2006, we presented our advocacy activities to the journalists from Austrian media (ORF, Radio, TV, Newspapers...).

Our activities and initiatives had more than 770 appearances in national and local media – TV and radio stations, Internet portals and newspapers. In addition to that, our video and audio clips on the right to access information (campaign aired in September) and on voluntarism (campaign aired in late November and early December) were each aired more than 2000 times on a dozen of TV stations, including national radio television (HRT), and on more than 30 national and local radio stations free of charge.

3. Managing the Organization

A. Assembly, Managing and Supervisory boards

On 30 September 2005, 10th GONG Annual Assembly was held where members gathered in Zagreb to discuss Managing and Advisory boards' reports on GONG activities since the last meeting. According to the GONG Statute, new members of the Managing board were elected. Suzana Jasic, Igor Pavlekovic and Dragan Zelic became members of the new Managing Board, with Suzana as President of the board (and the President of the association) and Dragan as Deputy President.

The Assembly elected two new members of the Supervisory Board: Marijana Grbesa and Bosko Picula. Albina Dlacic, Lelija Pavlicevic and Snjezana Vasiljevic entered the second year of their mandate. On the first, constitutional session of the Supervisory Board, Snjezana Vasiljevic was elected president and Lelija Pavlicevic vice-president of the Supervisory Board. Marijana Grbesa represents Supervisory Board in GONG Employment Commission.

The Supervisory board held 5 sessions - 4 regular and the constitutive session. The meetings of the Managing Board were held regularly as weekly meetings of all GONG staff.

B. Staff

During 2006, 17 full-time employees worked in GONG - 9 in the Head Office, and two in each of the 4 regional offices. Apart from full-time employees, GONG also cooperated with a number of external associates on different projects - trainers, expert group members, etc. Employment Commission reached 4 decisions - 3 about employment and 1 on the termination of employment. New employees took the positions of "I Vote for the First Time" Project coordinator, Financial manager, and Regional Office Zagreb Assistant Coordinator.

In late January, GONG Legal Advisor Vanja Skoric went to the Netherlands for a one-year postgraduate study in law. Dragan Zelic took the position of Program Coordinator, and two interns, Marina Lipovscak and Robert Maracic, were hired to part-time positions to assist Dragan in advocacy activities in February.

In 2006, we had one international intern volunteering in GONG. Benjamin Huston from the USA was an intern for 3 months mostly editing English documents and working on GONG web site.

C. Self-education

▶ Aleksandra Vinkerlic, GONG Regional office Rijeka Coordinator, invited by UMKI NGO, participated in a study visit to Italian youth organizations from 14 to 17 February 2006. The goal of the visit was to share experiences and obtain best practices of Italian organizations' work with youth.

▶ Ivana Marinkovska, the regional office Zadar Assistant Coordinator, participated in "Sixth School of Democracy" from 15 to 19 February 2006, organized by "DIM" NGO in Tuheljske Toplice. The seminar covered lectures on civil society, tolerance in politics, political system and election campaign, and workshops on public speeches and media outreach.

▶ Within the AED-supported project for GONG advocacy activities, a training development program was open for GONG staff. Following internal needs assessment, two types of training were held. The first one was on PR and media relations, and the second, on PCM, for GONG regional offices' staff. Media training took place on 20-21 January 2006 and gathered all GONG regional offices' staff, covering theory about public relations and media environment in Croatia, media forms, and workshops on press release writing and organizing press conferences, as well as radio and TV workshops. The PCM training, held from 24 to 25 February 2006 and organized by SMART, covered project cycle management in general, identification phases, and how to write a project proposal for the EC tender. Fourteen GONG employees from all offices participated in the training.

▶ Sanja Beslic, the GONG regional office Slavonski Brod Coordinator, invited by Informational Legal Center Slavonski Brod, took part in the "Preparing Project Proposals" training

▶ In March, Suzana Jasic, with the support of the British Embassy in Zagreb, participated in the "Freedom of Information: Open and Transparent Government" training seminar organized by Public Administration

International (PAI), a UK-based organization providing advice and support to public sector organisations and other bodies involved in the delivery of public services. Five-day training seminar covered the challenges in development and implementation of the Freedom to Access Information Act.

▸ Sandra Pernar participated in the seminar "Lobbying in the EU" organized by the Institute for International Relations, Croatian Chamber of Commerce and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on 31 May 2006.

▸ Sandra Vinkerlic participated in the workshop organized by SMART CSO on "Preparing Project Proposals According to EU Rules" on 4 and 5 July 2006. It covered log-frame preparation and guidelines for CARDS 2004 projects.

▸ In July 2006, Igor Pavlekovic successfully completed his Microsoft Certified Trainer Program and obtained MCT degree.

▸ Ariana Vela participated in the international program with ECNL in Budapest, Hungary from 1 to 15 August 2006. During the program she researched and created a paper on pro bono legal advising provided by NGOs in Croatia as well as created a comparative analysis on social enterprises throughout the world.

▸ Damir Azenic was admitted to the College of Europe / Transfuse Association "Leadership Development Program" gathering young professionals from the EU and SEE in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the EU. First seminar took place in Berlin in September 2006 covering mostly theoretic knowledge of the EU. The second seminar, to take place in Brussels/Bruges in early 2007, will cover practical study visits to EU institutions.

▸ Jasmina Vukas took part in the workshop "Employee Engagement: Practical Approaches for NGOs" organized by the AED on 17 and 18 October 2006.

▸ GONG President Suzana Jasic participated in a study program "Policy and the Public: Involving Civil Society in Policy-Making" from 30 October to 3 November 2006 in London. This one-week UK-based study program, arranged by the Public Administration International (PAI), was designed primarily for senior leaders in ministries, agencies and public bodies engaged in solving policy problems at the national and local level, and those responsible for civil service reform and development. It is also aimed at senior representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), interest groups and policy research institutes who wish to develop a better working relationship with the national policy-making process.

▸ Sandra Pernar and Mihael Rukavina participated in the AED Fundraising conference taking place from 29 November to 1 December 2006. The aim of the 3-day conference was to educate representatives of Croatian CSOs on additional fundraising techniques besides usual proposal writing and grant-based support.

▸ On 15 and 16 December Ariana Vela participated in a training on mechanisms of protecting the right to non-discrimination organized by the Law Faculty Zagreb.

D. Volunteers

Greater number of volunteers and members took an active part in GONG's numerous activities by distributing material, helping organize presentations of GONG at CSO fairs, and monitoring elections.

In 2006:

- 35 volunteers met the conditions for membership
- 4534 volunteers are in the GONG database
- Database recorded 6057 hours of citizens' volunteer work

E. Technical Development

In 2006, consolidation of communication technologies was done in the entire organization. Optical connection to the Internet service provider was installed in the Head office. It enabled greater Internet connection capacity at lower prices. Optical connection also provided quicker change of capacities if needed. Because of this, telephone landlines were ported to the Internet service provider by using VoIP technology that also enabled cheaper telephone calls. Higher capacities of Internet connections enabled regional offices to connect to the VPN computer network. It allowed centralized administration of the whole IT system from one location, quicker access to the resources of the Head Office from regional offices, as well as a unified

security system in the entire organization.

At the beginning of 2006, mobile VPN network was introduced. Mobile VPN network enabled, as projected, monthly savings in mobile communication of at least 30%.

At the end of the year, new server was bought and implemented. This new server balanced current load on existing servers. It also enabled implementation of the newest Microsoft technologies such as MS Exchange 2007 and MS Office SharePoint Server 2007 that were implemented into IT system.

Modifications to the certain modules of "apli @ GONG" applications were done, to enable new functionalities and enhance the existing ones.

F. Fundraising

During 2006, GONG's financial perspective included several short-term and several longer-term projects.

Short-term grants included projects that were being implemented within a 6-month period. Projects being implemented locally (with the exception of the Rijeka CSO development program), and national projects such as "I Vote for the First Time" and "European Class", are being funded by the OSCE Mission to Croatia, US Embassy, Norwegian Embassy, European Commission, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and Ministry of Family Affairs, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity. GONG will continue seeking support for short-term projects from local governments (counties' tenders and larger cities' tenders), having in mind that majority of foreign donors will by the end of 2007 stop financially supporting activities of Croatian CSOs.

Longer-term projects are supported by the European Commission, National Foundation for Civil Society Development (NFCSD), Open Society Institute and MOTT Foundation. 2007 is the second year of the three-year-long institutional grant from the National NFCSD, and second year of the three-year-long advocacy grant from the OSI as well. Institutional grant in the amount of 50.000 USD was received by the MOTT Foundation for 2007-2008.

Major success in fundraising over the last several years, even though grant-based, was the diversification of donors. At any given time, GONG had at least 8 different donors supporting different activities, making GONG less dependent on grant-making policy of a single donor. Major challenges for the next period include the absence of most of the foreign donors in coming years, reliance on domestic funds and EC funds, and success of diversification of GONG fundraising from solely grant-based to other types of fundraising.

G. Meetings

All GONG offices held a number of meetings with representatives of the Government, the Parliament, various ministries, the State and other election committees, local government and local administrative offices' representatives, international community, political parties, the media, CSOs, and other institutions.

We had numerous meetings with representatives of Croatian state institutions, MPs, presidents and members of parliamentary committees, the Head of Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration and its representatives, the State Election Commission, USKOK (Office for Prevention of Corruption and Organized Crime) representatives, the Chief State Attorney, the Minister and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Minister of Justice Mrs. Lovrin.

Many international organizations visited GONG. Among others, we met with the USAID representatives, the Director of Academy for Educational Development and AED staff, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia and other OSCE representatives from head office and field offices, the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Zagreb, the Counselor at the Canadian Embassy, International Republican Institute (IRI) representatives, representatives of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2006

Fiscal year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31. The financial report includes the statement of assets and liabilities, consolidated statement of income and expenditure by budget lines.

Average exchange rate: 1 HRK = 0,18 USD

Balance Sheet (HRK)		Consolidated Statement of Income (HRK)	
Assets		Income	
Tangible assets	146.680	Income from State and local budgets	84.000
Cash & cash equivalents	1.479.588	Income from membership fees	1.150
Prepaid expenses	8.576	Income earnings	1.822
Total assets	1.634.844	Grants and donations	5.061.947
		Total income	5.148.919
Liabilities		Expenditure	
Liabilities	46.615	Material	58.589
Other sources	146.680	Energy	46.082
Fund balance	1.441.549	Services	1.151.514
Total liabilities	1.634.844	Costs for employees	1.912.718
		Non-material expenses	467.270
		Transfers	222.892
		Investment expenditure	60.843
		Other costs	24.280
		Total expenditure	3.944.188
		Income over Expenditure	1.204.731
Expenditure by Budget Lines (HRK)			
Personnel expenses		Other costs	
Salaries	1.125.517	Accountant services	47.430
Taxes from salaries	787.201	Audit	33.066
Honorarium	51.254	Office materials	58.589
Total personnel expenses	1.963.972	Equipment purchase	60.843
		Rent	55.273
		Utilities	46.989
		Communications	217.313
		Media public information activities	329.280
		Printing costs	137.093
		Travel costs	254.172
		Transport services	37.521
		Accommodation	
		- seminars and workshops	92.860
		Refreshment costs	
		- seminars, workshops, roundtables and press conferences	67.821
		Subscription costs	16.719
		Benefit outgo - employees	31.200
		Student service	165.110
		Transfers to the project partners	222.892
		Bank charges	14.106
		Evaluation & consulting	51.138
		Other costs	40.800
		Total other costs	1.980.216
		Total expenditures	3.944.188

SPECIAL THANKS

GONG is a non-profit organization. We were able to accomplish our goals and tasks thanks to the volunteer work of Croatian citizens and to the generous support and donations received.

Financial support in 2006 (HRK)

up to 2.000

Rijeka Housing, Rijeka
Kvarner Banka, Rijeka

up to 4.000

The County of Primorje - Gorski Kotar

up to 10.000

City of Rijeka

up to 25.000

National Democratic Institute, USA

up to 30.000

Ministry of Family, War Veterans and
Intergeneration Solidarity
ISFED. Georgia

up to 40.000

Royal Norwegian Embassy, Zagreb
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

up to 85.000

Freedom House, Budapest
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Zagreb

up to 110.000

Open Society Institute, Zagreb

up to 145.000

American Embassy, Zagreb
Urban Institute (USAID), Zagreb

up to 160.000

National Endowment for Democracy, USA
Olof Palme International Center, Sweden

up to 215.000

Charles Stewart MOTT Foundation, USA

up to 280.000

World Learning, Zagreb

up to 325.000

OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb

up to 435.000

Academy for Educational Development, Zagreb

up to 575.000

National Foundation for Civil Society Development,
Zagreb

up to 595.000

Open Society Institute, Budapest

up to 1.645.000

European Commission

In - kind supporters in 2006 (HRK)

up to 10.000 (rent of premises)

Local self-government and institutions
Student Council Rijeka

up to 15.000

SBTV Slavonski Brod Television
TV Nova Pula
Rijeka Kvarner Television

up to 20.000

Split Television
GTV Zadar
NIT- Independent Istrian Television
Cakovec Television
Varazdin Television

up to 40.000

ISKON Internet d.d.
STV - Slavonija and Baranja Television

up to 65.000

RI-TV d.o.o.

up to 105.000

Channel RI, Rijeka

up to 230.000

Microsoft Croatia d.o.o.

up to 165.000

RTL Television

up to 275.000

Local radio stations

up to 535.000

Croatian Radio-Television (HRT)