



# ***GONG ANNUAL REPORT***

**2008.**

## REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

The program domain of representative democracy includes GONG election related activities aiming to contribute to reaching higher democratic standards of electoral system, enabling higher transparency and civic participation.

### 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 order to prevent and/or to identify violations of electoral laws and regulations as well as to inform the public and to strengthen its confidence in the electoral process.

In the year 2008, GONG successfully cooperated with bodies competent for organizing elections in Croatia.

- **Re-run and snap elections**

We monitored re-run and snap elections in The City of Osijek (Osijek – Baranja County). The elections were monitored by 3 mobile teams and 20 permanent observers. Also, in March 2008, GONG distributed educational material regarding the extraordinary elections for Municipality Council in Velika.

- **Local self – government elections**

In 2008, several elections for local councils were held that GONG noted: Ilok, Požega, Kutina, Plaški and Kloštar Ivanić. In said municipalities and towns GONG educated citizens on the importance of local self-government and local elections by distributing dozens of educational posters and hundreds of educational leaflets.

- **Elections abroad**

- **Georgia:** at the end of 2007, the ENEMO mission started an observation mission of early presidential elections in Georgia which were held January 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. Three GONG observers were sent out to this mission: Paško Ninić, Anita Podvorec and Dragana Stojić.

- **Armenia:** GONG's member, Anton Finderle, in the OSCE/ODIHR's mission to Armenia as an observer of the presidential elections held in February 19<sup>th</sup> 2008.

- **Macedonia:** GONG's representative Aleksandra Kuratko-Pani participated in the OSCE/ODIHR's mission as an observer of the parliamentary elections in Macedonia, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

- **Azerbaijan:** Dragan Zelić participated at OSCE/ODIHR's mission as an observer of the presidential elections in Azerbaijan, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2008.

- **Other activities**

♦ February – Sandra Pernar participated at a panel “Analysis of the 2007 Presidential Elections”, lead by dr. Goran Čular at the Upper Town Panel.

### 2. Initiatives for changing and for the improvement of electoral legislative

*GONG creates comparative analysis of electoral legislative, encourages public debates and actively advocates changes and improvement of the electoral legislative of The Republic of Croatia with the goal of achieving Western European standards. In 2008 we were engaged in the following initiatives:*

#### **Cooperation with the State Election Commission (SEC)**

GONG is one of initiators of evaluation of the electoral process for parliamentary elections which was carried out by organization of the UNDP (as a part of its project of strengthening the SEC's capacity) and The State Election Commission, at the end of January 2008. The evaluation contained an overview of the parliamentary

elections held in 2007 which assembled representatives of all public bodies involved in preparation and implementation of elections, with the goal to get a critical review of the last parliamentary elections and to debate key questions in their preparation and implementation and, ultimately, to set priorities and recommendations for their improvement. **Recommendations** were created and were officially published as a part of The Evaluation Seminar Report on SEC's and GONG's internet pages.

During March, April and May of 2008, with the expert help of MAP Consulting Ltd., and as a part of the UNDP's project "Strengthening the Capacity of the State Election Commission in The Republic of Croatia", GONG compiled an expertise **Study of Electoral Administration and Managing Elections in the Republic of Croatia**. This study is the only written document that fully and in detail analyses the administration and management of elections by all relevant institutions involved in the electoral process, and also gives recommendations for a more effective administration and management. The study was presented on UNDP's conference held when the project ended in June, in Zagreb.

GONG tried to include SEC in a project "Electoral Law and Conflict of Interest" that GONG had been implementing in 2008 together with the Association of Election Official in BiH and with the Center for Free Election and Democracy from Serbia, but SEC got involved just as a participant of a round table that GONG organized in Zagreb and as guests on a meeting with representatives of said organizations in Zagreb. SEC did not answer any calls for participation in expertise panels in Sarajevo and Belgrade.

In 2008 GONG continued to monitor SEC's work in order to make a shadow report of SEC's work in 2008 which will be published in early 2009.

## **Voters' lists**

GONG has been actively advocating, through many years, amendments to the 1992 Law on Voters' Lists, as well as updating those lists and the cooperation with the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration (SDUU) in resolving these issues.

Through United Nations Development Program in Croatia and through the project Building SEC's Capacity, the aforementioned three-day evaluation was held which resulted in recommendations for improvement of the electoral process and election legislation. It was stated how to approach the complete updating of the voters' lists in Croatia with the specific emphasis on the so-called Diaspora; how to consistently use legal authorities of state bodies in order to check the facts concerning voters' lists and, in that sense, to create a mechanism that would allow to effectively check places of residence; to sanction civil disobedience and to insist on a consistent implementation of the Place of Residence Law and to make addendums and amendments of the Place of Residence Law; and, ultimately, to encourage citizens and organize technical support so that the citizens may take up a more active role in updating information from the voters' lists as simpler as possible (free telephone, e-mail, fax, compensation of travel expenses etc.)

During the evaluation seminar, GONG had several meetings with SDUU's and MVPEI's representatives and with representatives of the diplomatic – consular representations, at which time assortment of voters' list in the so-called Diaspora was discussed as well as voting outside the place of residence.

The Study of Electoral Administration, which was made by GONG with the expertise help of MAP Consulting Ltd., and was ordered by the UNDP for SEC's needs, brings an overview of the current state of administrating and managing the voters' lists in Croatia including the informatics support in managing the voters' lists. Besides an overview and a legal frame of voters' lists, recommendations were also provided for improvement of the voters' lists. Information that were presented in The Study, including the ones regarding voters' lists, were collected by method of semi-structured interviews with participants of the electoral procedure as well as with institutions and companies directly involved in administrating and managing voters' lists: SEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Interior, City of Zagreb - Office for General Administration, MCS Informatics, Information Systems and Information Technologies Support Agency Ltd. and, belated and with incomplete answers, Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration.

Recommendations from the evaluation seminar in Opatija and the Study of Electoral Administration can be found on GONG's website: [www.gong.hr](http://www.gong.hr).

In 2008, GONG had prominent media appearances concerning voters' lists in all daily newspapers as well as on leading television stations and portals.

## **Election campaigns and political parties financing**

GONG continued with advocacy activities for improvement of the Act on Financing Political Parties, Independent Lists and Candidates.

In February and July 2008, round tables were organized in the Croatian Parliament on the subject of the results of findings of party costs monitoring that was being implemented by GONG and Transparency International Croatia during the 2007 Parliamentary Elections and on the subject of experience and practice in election legislation and conflict of interest in the region. The goals of these round tables were to conduct an analysis of financial reporting of political parties and to discuss the necessary amendments to regulations on preventing conflict of interest as a foundation for battling political corruption.

During the year, GONG **monitored the publishing of yearly financial reports of political parties**, and after the Croatian Parliament publicly announced the results of the conducted revision of yearly reports, it made a **short analysis of the most commonly assessed offenses in political parties' dealings** as well as **offenses made according to the Act on Financing Political Parties, Independent Lists and Candidates**. Only one party gained a positive say by the revision, while others gained a conditional opinion. GONG initiated a referral of an appeal for protection of the constitutional principle of equality of all Croatian citizens under law to the Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System. The appeal was supported by the following organizations: B.a.B.e.; Center for Peace Studies; Censorship Plus; DIM; GONG; Kontra; Transparency International Croatia; Green Action and ZaMirNET. The organizations called the competent bodies to initiate procedures for the infringements set out in the revision's findings.

In 2008, GONG had prominent media appearances concerning political parties financing and electoral campaigns in all daily newspapers as well as on leading television stations and portals.

## **Law on elections to the European Parliament**

The Republic of Croatia, once it joins the European Union, will for the first time take part in the elections to the European Parliament and it is therefore necessary to enact the **Law on elections to the European Parliament**.

The Bill on this law that the Croatian Government referred to the parliament procedure in August 2008, did not pass the public expert panel, and competent bodies like SEC and NGOs like GONG didn't have the opportunity to participate in the writing of the Bill. The law was referred by urgent procedure into the parliament procedure, but Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System removed the urgent marker and returned the Bill to the government for further processing.

Namely, the Bill was lacking the principal regulation that all electoral laws have, but the most important thing is that the Bill was not in compliance with the Constitution because it gives a right to vote to persons that are not Croatian citizens. In that effect, it is necessary to amend the Constitution first, and then pass a law which will be in compliance with the Constitution.

GONG made a **comparative analysis of laws on elections to the European Parliament** in other countries and made **comments on the Bill**. The comments and the analysis of the Law on elections to the European Parliament Bill were sent to the Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System. A new bill still hasn't been proposed.

## **International project "Electoral Laws and Conflict of Interest – experiences and practice in region"**

In 2008, an international project "Electoral Laws and Conflict of Interest – experiences and practice in region" was implemented in which GONG participated in cooperation with partners, Center for Free Election and Democracy (CeSID) and Association of Election Officials in BiH (UIZBIH). Three conferences were held (in **Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb**) at which experts, representatives of state institutions, non-government organizations and the media, discussed recommendations for improvement of the electoral legislation, political parties financing and campaigns as well as rules for preventing conflict of interest.

### 3. I Vote for the First Time – Educating high school students

The project “I Vote for the First Time“, created in 2001, was extended and enhanced with the aim of encouraging youth to take a more active role in 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 2008, began the eighth season of project implementation, the project which was awarded in 2006 by the Council of Europe. By the end of 2008, **206** workshops were held for about **5000** senior students in approximately **70 high schools** throughout Croatia. The project is continued in 2009, and it is being implemented by **10 educated GONG’s trainers/lecturers**. Besides the information that students get on these workshops, they can further educated and inform themselves through educational brochures on elections and electoral law and on advocacy, because each student receives these brochures during workshops.

In view of the upcoming local elections and new election rules, education of the youngest voters in this period is even more important. For this exact reason, in a situation when we couldn’t acquire sufficient funds for project implementation, we addressed the local and regional self-governments with an appeal for financing this project. We received a positive response from 18 cities/towns and 10 counties and so, the total number of workshops that will be held will be approximately 400.

*! In the seven years of project implementation 150,000 high school seniors took part in 5,304 workshops. 288 high schools took part in the project, which comes to 80% of the total number of high schools in Croatia. With the results accomplished in 2008, a total of 155,000 seniors participated in 5,510 workshops since the start of project implementation.*

## PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

The program area of Participatory Democracy includes GONG activities which aim at increasing the quality and quantity of participatory democracy in Croatia. More specifically, they aim to raise the level of citizens’ participation in political processes by introducing citizens to the work of national and local representative bodies and state institutions, encouraging communication between citizens and their elected representatives and promoting accountability and transparency as necessary elements in the work of state institutions as to contribute to higher citizens’ confidence in democratic institutions and their representatives.

### 1. Freedom of Information Act

Access to information that is in possession of public bodies is one of the fundamental citizens’ rights, and the principle of openness is one of the fundamental principles of a democratic authority.

For the third time, GONG conducted an **annual research on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act**, in a period from May till September 2008. The research showed that more than 50% of requests referred to public bodies were not answered according to procedure. This information was announced at a conference “We have a right to know” on the occasion of Freedom of Information Day in September 2008, organized by the Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration, GONG, Transparency International Croatia (TIH) and the Croatian Journalists’ Association (HND).

Additionally, Transparency International Croatia and GONG jointly carried out an action “We have a right to know!”. As a part of this action, GONG and TIH were conducting a media campaign by means of TV videos; they also went to 14 different cities/towns in Croatia and held media conferences as well as distributing material and brochures on stands and appearing as guests in the media. The aim of this action and campaign was to clarify how the citizens can use Freedom of Information Act to make their lives better and to help all interested public bodies to implement the Act as efficiently as possible.

For action’s purposes, **brochures, posters and T-shirts** were printed.

In February, **the Constitutional Court rejected GONG’s proposal for an assessment of the constitutionality of public bodies’ list**, which GONG requested two years prior. It was then that GONG requested the assessment of the constitutionality of the 2005 list to be made because it felt that HRT

(Croatian Radio-Television) was a legal person with public competence and that it has to be represented on the said list. Also, GONG disputed the 2006 list which no longer represented (unlike the 2005 list) Hina (Croatian News Agency), HAZU (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts) and HTZ (Croatian National Tourist Board), although neither their legal status nor their jurisdiction have been altered since 2005. However, the judges unanimously decided that there were no grounds for GONG's proposal because the aforementioned lists no longer apply. Namely, according to the Freedom of Information Act, the list of public bodies has to be published every year by the Government in the Official Gazette by the end of January and it is effective for the year.

GONG continued its **cooperation with the SDUU** on the making of a beginner and advanced educational module on Freedom of Information Act for state officials and employees and on holding workshops for them. Also, cooperation was offered for trainings on the Freedom of Information Act for state officials, which should be realized in 2009.

On an expertise counseling "Right to access information and the protection of personal data in units of local and regional self-governments", organized by the Academy of Local Democracy in December 2008, in Ilok for representatives of Slavonia's local and regional self-governments, GONG's representatives presented results of a research on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act for the year 2008, and also gave recommendations for implementation improvement and for amendments of the Act.

Throughout the entire year, GONG appeared in the media regarding right to access information issues and answered numerous inquiries made by journalists, citizens and various organizations.

## 2. Other initiatives for transparency in public bodies' work

*Activities of state institutions must be public and serve the citizens since the citizens are the ones who create the need for the existence of said institutions and finance them by paying their taxes. Having in mind that state institutions wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the citizens, GONG is engaged in advocacy initiatives which aim to make publicity and transparency a rule in the Republic of Croatia.*

### Transparency of the Croatian Parliament's work

GONG continued to **monitor the implementation of Rules on Public Access to Proceedings in the Croatian Parliament and its Working Bodies**.

After the assembly of the Croatian Parliament was constituted, GONG requested a **meeting with Luka Bebić**, President of the Croatian Parliament, which was held in January, 2008. The President of the Parliament gave GONG's work his support and promised an improvement of regulations that regulate the transparency of Parliament's work and especially the transparency of election of outside members to Parliament committees.

In February 2008, GONG, together with B.a.B.e., Center for Peace Studies, Transparency International Croatia, Green Action, Green Forum and ZaMirNET, **called upon the Government and the Parliament to work transparently in the new mandate** with a special claim for a clear and transparent procedure for appointing outside members to Parliament committees, for reduction in the number of laws that are being proposed and passed by emergency procedure, for a greater transparency in the Government's work, especially during assignment of budget funds.

In the end of February 2008, GONG expressed disappointment concerning announced amendments to Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament in regard to PMs' questions by which the rights of PMs in asking questions to members of the Government are being underrated which is opposite to democratic countries' practice. It was GONG's opinion that it was attempted to devaluate the role of PMs, i.e. the Parliament and thus, indirectly, to jeopardize the tripartition of power by which every parliament has three important roles: to pass laws, to supervise executive power and to represent the citizens. The Government initiative was withdrawn after the reactions of organizations of civil society and the media.

**GONG's standpoints** on transparency of public bodies' work were even **quoted in the Annual Human Rights Report** issued by the United States of America.

## Transparency of the Croatian Government's work

A part of GONG's work is to monitor the transparency of public bodies' work, especially that of the Croatian Parliament and the Croatian Government.

Since the beginning of the mandate of the current government, GONG has been monitoring the transparency of its work with the aim of reporting to the public the manner of its work and the transparency of decision making with the emphasis on timely announcements of agendas and open and closed Government's sessions material as well as access to, and publishing of other rulings.

With this purpose, GONG monitored open, closed and telephone sessions of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Government's web pages were reviewed on a regular basis, as well as governmental communiqués, news and laws. Also, on several occasions, the Government was asked for a session ruling and for explanations concerning the publishing of documents on internet pages.

With the frequency of holding sessions that were closed for public and not reasoning them, with incomplete communiqués and not announcing agendas for closed sessions, as well as refusing to deliver these agendas to the interested public, the Government has been braking principles of good governance, transparency and responsibility to the citizens, all of which GONG published in its **report on the first half year of the Government's work**. The report was noted in public and the Government started releasing more detailed communiqués from closed sessions.

## External members of Parliament Committees

According to Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, and without specific explanation, only 11 out of 24 parliament committees had outside members – experts that consult committee members during sessions. Additionally, there wasn't a clear criterion for appointing outside members in committees that do have them.

In the last several years, GONG tried to initiate amendments to Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, asking for outside members in all committees as well as clear criteria and a transparent procedure of their appointment. With the support of other organizations, we repeated these claims in the beginning of 2008.

After meeting with the President of the Parliament and civil society organizations making a public claim, the Croatian Parliament did amend Standing Orders and prescribed that committees can have outside members as well as the manner in which they are appointed.

Although two GONG representatives that were candidates for outside members for the Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System, and Local and Regional Self-government Committee did not get appointed, this represents a major progress and a step ahead since candidates from other civil society organizations have been appointed to many committees. GONG supported he candidate, Igor Tabak, which was appointed to the Defence Committee.

## Election of Constitutional Court judges

In 2008, GONG actively monitored the procedure for electing three judges and public debates with the candidates. Since the procedure was speedy and there was not enough time left for the public to know the candidates and discuss them, GONG **objected to such a non-transparent manner of electing judges for the Constitutional Court**.

## Law on Preventing Conflict of Interest in Performing Public Duties

Law on Preventing Conflict of Interest in Performing Public Duties is one of the fundamental tools in battling corruption.

In March 2008, the Government referred its Bill with amendments to the Law on Preventing Conflict of Interest in Performing Public Duties to the Parliament. On this occasion, GONG **warned about the flaws of this Bill** and objected to some of the solutions proposed. Also, the way the Bill was referred to Parliament proceedings was problematic as it was referred to emergency procedure without previously going trough public debate that may have resulted in more quality solutions.

In May 2008, the Bill was adopted despite the remarks that organizations and the opposition made. After that, GONG pointed out to these problematic stipulations, through the media on several occasions.

In the beginning of July 2008, as a part of a joint project with the Association of Election Officials in BiH and the Center for Free Election and Democracy from Serbia, GONG organized a round table in the Croatian Parliament, on the subject of "Financing Election Campaigns and Conflict of Interest", at which remarks on the Law in force were made.

### **The secrecy of negotiating positions**

Due to discontent with the fact that negotiating positions of the Croatian Government in the process of Croatia's accession to the European Union are a secret and initiated by an article published in a weekly newspaper which lead to think that the Government will support interests of certain interest groups in certain questions regarding tax politics, GONG **gathered 15 civil society organizations in a joint initiative** (ACT, B.a.B.e., Cenzura Plus, Center for Peace Studies, DIM, Fade In, Forum for Freedom in Education, GONG, Coordination of Organizations for Children, Protagora, Transparency International Croatia, ZamirNet, Green Action, Green Istria, Women's Room).

An open letter was referred to the Government in which a meeting with the Government was demanded regarding the secrecy of negotiating positions and other questions that flowed out of this initiative and are closely described in a part of the Report in which the program Civil Society is debated.

The claim for publicity of negotiating positions is based on experiences from Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania in which the positions were published before the end of negotiations and where the civil society was included in negotiations in different ways, all the time calling upon the basic principle of transparency in Government's work.

In June, a **meeting was held at the Office for Cooperation with NGOs (UZVURH) at which representatives of the Office, the Office of the Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Finance, Council for Civil Society Development were present as well as representatives of all of the organizations that signed the open letter.** Unsatisfied with the answers, organizations repeated their claims to the Government on the occasion of NGO Day being held in June in Zagreb. In July, a meeting between representatives of organizations-signatories of the open letter and the chief negotiator, Vladimir Drobnyak, was held, at which Head of Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Igor Vidačak, was also present. A principle agreement was reached at the meeting in a sense of representing the negotiating positions to the interested public, i.e. to the representatives of CSOs on congresses arranged specifically for this purpose. The Office for Cooperation with NGOs agreed to cover the logistical part of the organization of congresses. By the end of the year, nothing was realized, i.e. the start in organizing such events couldn't be arranged with the Chief Negotiator's Office. At the same meeting there was talk that the Government could soon publish the content of temporary closed chapters, but there were no moves in that direction either.

Other than with the chief negotiator, representatives of organizations-carriers of initiative also talked about this problem with the President of the National Committee for Monitoring of the Accession Negotiations, Vesna Pusić, as well as about the problem of lack of communication on the subject of EU and approaching Croatian citizens.

### **Golf Courses Law**

Activists of Green Action, GONG and Transparency International Croatia jointly **warned about the harm of the newly adopted Golf Courses Law.** Green Action, GONG and Transparency International Croatia appealed that the Law be abrogated because it is unconstitutional, unjust and a future source of non-transparency, favoritism, corruption and ravin.

In December, activists of Green Action, GONG and Transparency International Croatia practiced playing golf in front of the Ministry of Tourism and, with this action, an additional attention was turned to the public and a warning was sent out about the harm of the newly adopted Golf Courses Law. Also, further struggle against this law was announced by all legal means and by mobilizing the public.

### 3. European Class

During the implementation of the “I vote for the first time” project, the teachers that participated in it proposed a similar workshop on the subject of the European Union in order to additionally educate the youngest of voters in Croatia. Proposals like these could be heard from the students themselves who also participated in the project for they were not satisfied with the quantity and quality of information they were being given on the EU which was primarily coming from the media.

Being aware of the complexity of the subject of EU, the effects of Croatia’s membership in the EU and the existing curriculum which covers this subject only partially, we have developed a workshop in cooperation with the Informative Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The workshop is tailored for high school seniors and it explains, in an interesting and interactive way, concrete effects of Croatia’s membership in the EU, particularly what it means for the young people, their mobility, education and future employment. One of the basic messages that this workshop sends out is to **stimulate young people to objective thought and to reduce negative opinions on the Union as a result of lack of information on the effects of Croatia’s membership in the EU.**

Out of the 350 contacted schools in 2008, the “European Class” workshop was held in **79 schools** all over Croatia. During the second school semester, **from 17 March 2008 till 12 May 2008, 309 workshops** were held. **22 educated trainers** conducted the workshops and **more than 8,000 high school seniors** participated.

*! After two school years of project implementation throughout Croatia, **24,000 seniors** participated in **910 workshops**. Out of 350 high schools in Croatia, 157 schools got involved in the project during two school years.*

### 4. Think Globally, Act Locally! Project

The aim of the project “Think Globally, Act Locally!” is 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), and GONG was the first organization implementing the project in SEE in the end of 2006. In 2007 the project was implemented again in The City of Rijeka, at which time The City fully financed the project and cooperation was agreed for years to come as well.

Therefore, on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2008, in The **City of Rijeka**, “**Action Day**” was organized for the third time during which **about 80 high school students, working in groups, developed local projects of small capacity on the subject “Creative leisure time”**. The students were granted with a limited fund for implementing one project on which they agree upon (in the same manner as local officials who debate local projects I vote for the best one). The students decided that the best project proposal was “Art Attack”, and its goal was to promote young, undiscovered artists. The realization of the winning project is expected sometime in January 2009, after the meeting with Rijeka’s mayor.

Besides the Rijeka one, in 2008 Action Day was also organized in Pazin, on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. On that day, 49 students of “Juraj Dobrila” high school from Pazin, were divided into 5 groups that developed project proposals on the subject of “Creative leisure time”. The result of negotiation and advocacy among the students was the forming of a coalition which supported, i.e. elected a project named “Fixing up the Bus Station” as a winning project of Action Day. The winning group of students implemented the project in weeks that followed Action Day in cooperation with GONG and The City, but also with the help of their Action Day coalition partners and other students of the “Juraj Dobrila” high school from Pazin. The bus station was fixed up with the help of The City of Pazin and donations from Pazin businesses. According to the words of Pazin’s mayor, the project was excellently put into action and a continuation of cooperation is expected as well as reimplementation of this project, next year in Pazin.

In April, Suzana Jašić and Igor Bajok were present at a conference of the Association of Cities’ Presidency, where they presented the Think Globally, Act Locally project to the gathered mayors and called upon cooperation with them. Some of the mayors present got interested in the project and as a result, project

implementation in The City of Zabok, in January 2009, was agreed. With that, the propagation of this project to Croatian cities continues.

! The City of Rijeka nominated the “Think Globally, Act Locally” project as Best Action for Children and Youth, and the project was awarded with the Charter for a Model Implementation of Children and Youth Actions, 2006. This Charter is awarded to chosen cities among the ones that are a part of the Croatian Towns and Districts Friends of Children Initiative, which was initiated by UNICEF in 1996.

## 5. Internship Program

“Internship Program” was created in 2000 as a volunteer program for students and young professionals in order for them to get additional education and practical experience for they do not have this possibility inside the existing curriculum in Croatia.

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.

After it was agreed in 2007 that with the beginning of the new Parliament assembly mandate, the Parliament itself will take over the program from GONG, in accordance to GONG’s Program exit strategy, significant steps were taken in that direction in 2008. In the beginning of the year, an agreement has been reached between GONG, the Secretary and the Parliament’s Public Relations Department that GONG will provide expert support for the first generation in the implementation of a project now called “I Volunteer I the Parliament”. In this period, the program will be managed by the head of the Public Relations Department and GONG’s representative. Program content was agreed upon, Volunteers’ Manual was made and a Contract on volunteering by which obligations and rights of the Parliament volunteers have been established. Afterwards, a tender was invited in March, for the first generation of students to volunteer in the Parliament volunteers’ program. At the same time, an inquiry was sent to all PMs of the new assembly whether or not they want to be mentors to students, i.e. whether or not they want to include volunteers in their work, and if they do, to register themselves.

Given the PMs interest, 50 students were accepted to the Program and, during the year, they got to meet their mentors and started their volunteer work in the Parliament. Previous to this, a one-day educational seminar was organized for all of them as preparation for their work in the Parliament and they acquainted themselves with the Parliament expert departments’ work.

Students are volunteering for SDP PMs (22 of them), HDZ PMs (17), HSS PMs (4), HNS (3) and HSU, SDA, HDSSB and the independent PM Lesar, each have one volunteer.

*! From the start of the program, **78 students and young professionals volunteered for 34 MPs and several deputy clubs and in 9 government offices and in local government bodies** in which the project was being implemented since May 2005. If we count in the generation that started to volunteer in the Program in 2008, we can safely say that GONG participated in introducing **128 students** into the Parliament Volunteers’ Program.*

**!! Having in mind that after this program was initiated it was the first internship program in the Croatian state institutions, and then facing serious obstacles in its implementation, we find the fact that the Parliament is took over the Program for future students a huge success.**

## 6. “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 was being implemented until April 15<sup>th</sup> all over Croatia within the EU funded CARDS 2003 and 2004 programs.

The main goal of the project was 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

targeted citizens, local civil society organizations, neighborhood councils, national minorities' councils and local officials, in order to improve communication among them.

By the end of the project, instead of the 216 scheduled "Citizens' Hours", 229 were organized, as well as a media campaign on right to access information, media campaign on elections and voters' rights, 16 cycles of workshops on public advocacy for a series of organizations, and a DVD was made on the same subject.

Material presented on the DVD (two short films and some brochures) can also be downloaded on GONG's internet pages. 50,000 copies of an educational "Let the Citizens' Voice be heard in the Local Community" brochures were made, which explains local and regional self-government and it can also be downloaded on GONG's internet pages.

During project implementation, an electronic version of the "Lost and Found - Guide to achieving citizens' rights and interests with public institutions" was regularly updated and 33 new articles were added as well as some amendments to the existing ones. The Booklet is available at: <http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=38>.

## 7. Network for Regional Capacity Development (MRRAK) Project

GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka in partnership with the SMART Association (Rijeka) and Initiator (Pokretač, Korenica) have been implementing, for a second year in a row, MRRAK – Network for Regional Capacity Development of CSOs in the County of Istria, Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Lika-Senj.

In 2008, GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka conducted regular activities within this program, out of which was **a large number of technical advice and advice to citizens**, citizens' initiatives and CSOs ranging from help to implement rights to access information to constituting organizations and different statutory citizens' and citizens' organizations questions. Also, **meeting were held with representatives of cities and counties in Pula, Umag, Korenica and Gospić in order to stimulate the process of strengthening cooperation between units of local and regional self-government and CSOs.**

GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka also held **two conferences on cooperation between units of local and regional self-government and CSOs with an emphasis on cooperation between the two sectors and (co)financing activities, projects and CSO programs.** Conclusions and recommendations from the said two conferences and from a conference held in the end of December 2007 on the subject of citizens' and CSO's participation in decision-making and consulting processes on a local and national level, will help the Network to develop regional capacity, as it will to all other interested CSOs, in the process of strengthening cooperation between the two sectors.

## 8. Adaptation and competitiveness of farmers to the European Market Project

GONG's Regional Offices in Slavonski Brod, Zadar and Zagreb, organized 5 Citizens' Hours from October till December 2008 and its goal was to inform and educate the agricultural and fishing population on European processes, the course of negotiations between Croatia and the EU in the Agricultural and Rural Development chapter, pre-accession funds and other effects of Croatia's accession to the European Union which are related to this subject. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

## 9. Lost and Found – A Guide to Achieving Citizens' Rights and Interests with Public Institutions

The second edition of the booklet "Lost and Found - Guide to achieving citizens' rights and interests with public institutions" is 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, was printed in 2006 in 12,700 copies and distributed in 2007 and 2008. However, the electronic issues of the Guide is available at <http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=38> and it is being regularly updated. On the same web page, citizens can also find the *pdf* version of the Guide.

In 23 thematic chapters are some of the most frequent questions and problems that citizens encounter in everyday life – containing instructions on whom and how to contact as well as laws where they can find more detailed information.

## 10. Other Activities

- Igor Bajok and Vanja Škorić were accepted to the Policy Fellowship Program of the Institute Open Society and within this program they will be working on the subject of "Citizen Participation in Public Decision-Making: How Sub-national Governments Can Support Citizen Engagement and Institutionalize Participatory Practices".
- In May, Suzana Jašić participated at a round table "With Cooperation to Efficient Action Plan for Combating Corruption Strategy", organized by Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Croatian Government in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.
- In June, GONG addressed the media on the occasion of a journalist protest on Marc's Square considering this is a place otherwise forbidden for public assembly. On this occasion, GONG called the Croatian Parliament to amend the Law on Public Assembly and to make it possible once again for all citizens to assemble on Marc's Square.
- In July, Vanja Škorić participated at a round table on the occasion of the Croatian edition of the book "Corrupted Cities" being published and presentation of a project "Understanding and implementing the approach of healing and preventing corruption on a local administration level", organized by CHRONOS.
- In July, Maja Kočiš participated at a presentation of the Questionnaire on Safety Checks, organized by the National Security Chamber's Office.
- In October, Vanja Škorić participated in a conference "Importance of Legal Regulation of Lobbying in the Republic of Croatia", organized by Croatian Society of Lobbyists.
- GONG's Central Office employees, participated at Local Self-government Info Day, in October in Zagreb, organized by Association of Cities, Association of Municipalities and Association of Business Consultants. Also, GONG participated with its own info-stand at which those interested in GONG's work were being informed by our young volunteers.
- In November, in Zagreb Vanja Škorić nad Dragan Zelić participated in a conference "E-administration: Administration Tailored for Citizens", organized by Central State Administrative Office for E- Croatia, Central State Administrative Office and Central Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU Funds.
- In November, Robert Maračić participated at the opening of the Info Center for European Law – "EU i", at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb.
- Sandra Pernar participated in a conference "Yesterday, Today.... EU!" organized by youth association for education and culture Start, in December, in Zagreb.
- In December, Dragan Zelić participated in marking International Anti-Corruption Day and presentation of "Index of Corruption Exporters for 2008", organized by Transparency International Croatia.

## CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The program domain Civil Society includes GONG's activities aimed at stimulating a systematic cooperation between the CSOs in Croatia and developing the mechanisms of support for these organizations, with promoting activism and citizens' participation on a local and regional level. In regard to lack of legal framework CSOs work, GONG has been active in the domain of advocacy for adopting a more quality legal framework for sustainable development of civil society in Croatia and different initiatives which we implement with this in mind, make the larger part of this program domain.

### 1. Development of Volunteerism

GONG's representative, Vanja Škorić, was appointed to the National Committee for Volunteer Development, an advisory body of the Croatian Government that implements measures and activities with the goal of promoting and further developing volunteering, suggests measures for improving volunteers' position, in cooperation with competent bodies suggest regulations on volunteers' privileges, decides on awarding the state prize for volunteering and establishes Volunteers' Ethic Code. National Committee for Volunteer Development includes public sector representatives as well as CSOs representatives that deal with volunteering.

National Committee for Volunteer Development adopted the Volunteers' Ethic Code after a public panel was held in May 2008. GONG regularly participates in debates, round tables, seminars and trainings that closely deal with issues regarding volunteer development and promotion.

Vanja Škorić gave a presentation on an expert forum "Volunteerism's Contribution to Improving Health and Social Care Services and Institutions", in June.

In June, Maja Kočiš participated at a presentation of Law on Volunteerism organized by the Ministry of the Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity and Volunteers' Center Zagreb.

### 2. Proposal of the Law on Pro Bono Legal Aid

In September 2007, the Government adopted the Final Proposal of the Law which did not contain amendments recommended by organizations and it was referred to Parliament proceedings. A coalition of organizations, a part of which was GONG too, got the support of Ombudsman, Parliament Committee on Human Rights and the Gender Equality Committee, Faculty of Law in Zagreb professors, the media, citizens etc.

A thematic session of the Committee on Human Rights and the Gender Equality Committee on the occasion of the Proposal of the Law being referred to Parliament proceedings was successfully held and numerous public warnings were sent concerning problems that this Law will cause the citizens of poor assets. After the Coalition's pressure, the **Proposal of the Law was withdrawn from proceedings** and the Government formed a new **work group with the Coalition's representatives** who were **able to partially improve the Bill**. The Law on Pro Bono Legal Aid was adopted in spring 2008.

### 3. Organizations for a Common Good

In the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008, **GONG's representative** participated in the **work of the Council for Civil Society Development work group** that was preparing a **Proposal for a solution of fundamental questions on statuses of organizations in the Republic of Croatia that act for a common good**.

In accordance with the Operative Plan of the National Strategy for Creating a Stimulating Environment for Civil Society Development, the work group on statuses of common good organizations made a Solution Proposal. The goal of this document is to define criteria for gaining a status of common good organizations and having in mind the fact that civil society in Croatia has reached a point in development at which it is needed to distinguish the difference between CSOs that are being established in order to act for common good, and organizations that are being established in order to fulfill the needs of its members.

Considering the wideness and numerous fields this document will include, as well as its purpose and continuity in implementing this document, Office for Cooperation with NGOs organized a public panel in 2008. After the public panel, in fall 2008, GONG's representative, **Vanja Škorić, again entered the Office's work group, this time with the goal of making the final Proposal of the Law on Common Good Organizations.**

In June, Vanja Škorić gave a presentation on the subject of common good within NGO Day in Zagreb, 2008, organized by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Council for Civil Society Development and National Foundation for Civil Society Development.

#### **4. Codex of positive practice of Government and CSOs consultation in a procedure of passing laws and other general acts**

GONG's representative participated in making the draft for the Codex of positive practice of Government and CSOs consultation in a procedure of passing laws and other general acts, during 2007 and 2008, organized by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Croatian Government.

The making of the Codex is among priority measures of the Operative Plan of the National Strategy for Creating a Stimulating Environment for Civil Society Development. The Codex will provide basic guidelines for including relevant civil society stakeholders in all segments regarding procedures of passing new laws and other regulations. Therefore, the Codex will serve as a starting point in creating favorable conditions for developing a culture of citizen participation, based on a systematic civil dialogue of all relevant partners.

Several GONG representatives participated in a few public panels which were organized in all major cities, via internet and debates, by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the Council for Civil Society Development.

By the end of 2008, the Government still hasn't adopted the Codex.

#### **5. Use of EU Funds**

In January, a Coalition of CSOs – Center for Peace Studies, CESI, GONG, Iskorak, Croatian Youth Network, ZamirNet, Green Action, Green Forum and Women's Room, reacted in relation to EU funds management and called upon the Government to immediately increase the work quality of the Central Unit of Financing and Contracting in the Ministry of Finance (the said unit is now an independent Central Finance and Contracting Agency) and to introduce a control of work quality of this unit in order for Croatia's better usage of funds that are in its disposal. It is pointed out in CSO's reaction that the poor use of EU funds is solely the responsibility of the Croatian Government for not organizing a quality system of its management, but the ones that are directly damaged are users of these funds: state institutions (ministries, agencies, institutes etc.), units of regional and local self-government, economy subjects, CSOs and, ultimately, all Croatian citizens. It was also emphasized that the problem that occurred of freezing funds by the EU, did not occur due to pre-election and post-election period, because administrative problems are something that was being warned about for a longer period of time, and of these problems points out the fact that most funds out of Phare 2005 programs were contracted in the last month before the contracting period expired (November 2007), furthermore, in the last week.

In relation to this, in January, GONG, Green Action and the Center for Peace Studies **referred a letter to the Council for Civil Society Development with concrete proposals on how to improve finance mechanisms for strengthening CSOs that deal with constitutional values from article 3.** It was proposed in the letter to define tasks and relations between the Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Council for Civil Society Development and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development in order to ensure a quality attraction and use of EU funds intended for civil society development through a national system of managing EU financial supports. Therefore, concrete measures were presented as well as proposals for changing the Office for Cooperation with NGOs' and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency's work.

## 6. Treatment Equalization for all Non-Profit Organizations in accordance to the National Strategy for Creating a Stimulating Environment for Civil Society Development

Parallel with the claim regarding secrecy of negotiation positions, the Coalition also referred to the Government a **claim for Treatment Equalization for all Non-Profit Organizations**, as it is foreseen in the National Strategy. Namely, stipulations that are in force in Croatia proscribe that only certain CSOs are excluded from paying value added tax on foreign donations, and, according to information that leaked in public, in negotiations with the EU, the Government asked that religious organizations be excluded from paying VAT. With this, the Government acted opposite to what it bound itself with the National Strategy by which equalization of tax regulations for all non-profit organizations is stipulated.

**Office for Cooperation with NGOs gave support** to organizations that referred the said claim in a sense that it organized a meeting at which representatives of the Ministry of Finance explained how in tax domain negotiations, nothing is being asked for outside existent regulations. Since the current condition doesn't reflect the one proclaimed by the Strategy, organizations associated in a coalition regarding this issue, also presented the problem in the Council for Civil Society Development's session, and on that occasion, **the Council gave its support** to their claims.

After meetings that were held, Office for Cooperation with NGOs delivered a statement with which it reminded that solving the issue of common good organizations' statuses is in process and that, related to this, it will try to redefine the current, and very fragmented system of benefits for particular non-profit organizations. Additionally, the **National Foundation for Civil Society Development** reached a **decision on financing the making of an expert study on the possibilities of making a simulating tax system for philanthropy development and for CSO's work**, which would be implemented in cooperation with the Office for Cooperation with NGOs. Having in mind that according to the EU Directive that regulates VAT, there is a possibility for an exception for CSOs, this initiative will be continued in a sense of advocating for tax regulations that will be stimulating for sustainability and development of civil society in Croatia.

## 7. Civil Society and the State – Cooperation in Implementing Measures for Combating Corruption

Since one of the principles and goals of the Strategy for Combating Corruption in the Republic of Croatia is to improve cooperation between civil society and competent public bodies, the Office for Cooperation with NGOs wanted to examine how much are CSOs really included in practice and whether or not they cooperate with public bodies in combating corruption.

Office for Cooperation with NGOs entrusted GONG with the making of the said **analysis by which the current state would be determined and recommendations for a future period of the Strategy's implementation would be given**.

In December 2008, GONG made the analysis and presented it at a **round table "Civil Society and the State – Cooperation in Implementing Measures for Combating Corruption"**, jointly organized by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Ministry of Justice, Transparency International Croatia, Croatian Journalists' Society and GONG, with the goal of stimulating a more quality cooperation between civil society and competent public bodies in implementing measure for combating corruption, which is one of the fundamental principles and goals of the Strategy for Combating Corruption in Croatia.

The analysis that GONG made showed, among other things, that the initiators of cooperation in this area are mostly CSOs which, as an example of good practice, point out the cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, i.e. with the Office of Public Procurement, while it couldn't establish an appropriate cooperation with The City of Zagreb.

## 8. Collaborative Activist Actions

- In February, a group of Croatian citizens united in an impartial body – Committee for a Referendum on NATO, and its goal was for the citizens to decide, by referendum, on Croatia's possible accession to NATO. The only interest of the established Committee was to have a referendum and so, a signing of a petition was organized on a national level. GONG took part in collecting petition signatures on a national level through its Regional Offices that organized collection of signatures on stands in 26

different cities (Bakar, Crikvenica, Čavle, Delnice, Donji Miholjac, Gunja, Jastrebarsko, Koprivnica, Kutina, Lovran, Matulji, Našice, Opatija, Osijek, Požega, Rijeka, Sisak, Slatina, Šibenik, Slavonski brod, Vukovar, Vinkovci, Viškovo, Zadar, Zagreb i Zaprešić). 46 GONG volunteers were involved in activities and they volunteered 640 hours during the two weeks of action's duration. GONG's employees reported to media on the action's course, on a daily basis and had, in relation to that, more than 35 media appearances. In June, Dragan Zelić, on Committee's invitation, participated in a meeting with SDP representatives. In this meeting voters' lists were discussed and the may-be need for amendments to the Constitution, i.e. the Law on Referendum.

- During the year, GONG was involved "Right to The City" and Green Action activities regarding the Flower Square, by means of support given through legal advice and responding to preparatory meeting and volunteering in public actions. Also, GONG's president joined the "Committee for the Flower Square" that gathered numerous public figures.

## 9. Other Activities

- In February, Vanja Škorić participated at the 4<sup>th</sup> advisory meeting on strategic goals of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development from 2008 till 2011.
- Ariana Vela participated at a public panel on the Draft of the Anti-Discrimination Law, held at the Human Rights Center, in March.
- In April, Sanja Bešlić and Mihael Rukavina participated at a presentation of the Volunteers' Center Osijek.
- As a part of their "Open Class Days", GONG organized a one-week program for students of the Private Classic Gymnasium in May, during which the students got acquainted with GONG's work and the subjects that GONG deals with and they also had the opportunity to participate in some of GONG's projects as well as to visit Green Action and the Parliament where they met with PMs. The students' program was lead by Maja Kočiš, with the help of other GONG employees. In May, several Faculty of Economy students volunteered in GONG as a part of their obligations in one of their classes.
- GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual organizations' fair of the Lika-Senj County, in Vrhovine, in May.
- GONG's Regional Office in Slavonski Brod participated in an organizations' fair on the occasion of The City of Slavonski Brod Day, organized by the Administrative Department for Social Activity, in May.
- GONG's Regional Office in Zadar participated in an organizations' fair in May, which was organized by the organization "Us" as a part of 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Volunteer Work.
- In May, Sandra Pernar participated at a round table "Are the new amendments to media laws necessary?" organized by Croatian Communication Society in cooperation with Croatian Political Science Association.
- In June, GONG's representatives participated on the two days of NGO Days 2008 in Zagreb, organized by Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of Croatia in cooperation with the Council for Civil Society Development and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development
- Igor Bajok participated in a meeting in relation to the making of a document on cooperation between Lika – Senj County and CSOs, held in June, in the County's facilities.
- In June, Suzana Jašić gave a presentation on GONG's activities and results at Peace Studies that are organized every year by the Center for Peace Studies. She also reflected on how GONG combines activism with its work on public politics.

- In July, Sandra Pernar participated at the Third Forum for Including CSOs in decision making processes with the goal of making a final agreement on contributions for “Guide for Legislative Advocacy Actions” and a document “White Areas of Law and Practice” organized by B.a.B.e. – Group for Women’s Human Rights.
- In July, Maja Kočiš participated at a round table on the subject of “Perspectives on Human Safety during Croatia’s Membership in UN Security Council”, organized by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and the Council for Civil Society Development.
- During August, Sandra Pernar wrote a text on GONG’s experiences in legislative advocacy on the example of advocating for introducing a regulative on political parties financing, for a publication “Ways and sideways in Legislative Advocacy: How to Influence on Passing Quality Laws and their Consistent Implementation” prepared by the organization B.a.B.e. The publication was presented to the public in December.
- GONG’s Regional Office in Slavonski Brod participated in an organizations’ fair of Virovitica-Podravina County in Virovitica.
- In October, Hrvoje Rančić participated on a regional discussion on a proposal of the National Youth Program, organized in Split by Info Zone.
- In November, Sandra Pernar participated in a conference “Civil Society – Croatia – EU” in Pula, organized by the Foundation for Civil Society Partnership and Development, in cooperation with Istria County.
- In November, Sandra Pernar participated in a conference “Civil Society’s Role in the process of accession to the EU”, in Zagreb, organized by Social Platform (European’s biggest alliance of organizations that act in the social politics area) in cooperation with the Office for Cooperation with NGOs.
- In November, Sandra Pernar participated in a meeting with the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship representatives, Administration for International Cooperation in the field of work and social security, in relation to cooperation of supervisory body of the IVth component of the IPA program – Human Potential Development and the Council for Civil Society Development, which was organized for CSO representatives, by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs.
- In November, Suzana Jašić participated in a conference “Process of accession to the EU’s impact on Human Rights” organized by Human Rights Center, in Donja Stubica.
- In December, Hrvoje Rančić participated at a round table on the subject of “Corruption – What is it?” in Zadar, organized by County Coordination for Human Rights of the Zadar County, on the occasion of marking International Human Rights Day.
- GONG’s Regional Office in Zagreb’s volunteers participated at GONG’s info-stand within a program which was organized on the occasion of marking International Human Rights Day in Zagreb, by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs, in December.
- In December, Suzana Jašić participated in marking the International Human Rights Day organized by GOLJP (Citizens’ Committee on Human Rights) in Zagreb.
- In December, two Faculty of Political Science students visited GONG in order to prepare a presentation on GONG for a seminar within a class on which they deal with the subject of citizens’ activism.
- Vanja Škorić participated in a conference “Active Youth in Society Participation – Development of information Recourses for Youth” organized by the Croatian Youth Network, in December. Vanja gave a presentation on legal framework of volunteering in Croatia.
- In December, Maja Kočiš held a lecture in a class “Non-Profit Organizations’ Marketing” at the Faculty of Economy. In the lecture GONG’s work was presented with a special emphasis on fundraising and sustainability of a non-profit organization.

- Damir Azenić and Vanja Škorić participated in the work of work groups for assessing projects that were applied to the Human Rights Office of the Government of Croatia.
- Igor Bajok was re-elected in April on the position of President of the Committee for Coordinating Cooperation between The City of Rijeka and The City of Rijeka's Non-Government, Non-Profit Sector.
- During the year, Vanja Škorić performed a function of a member of The National Committee for Volunteer Development and as such gave three presentations on the Law on Volunteering in Split, Crikvenica and Zagreb.
- Suzana Jašić continued to perform the function of HRT's Council member and in 2008.

## 10. Legal Aid and Advice

Citizens can get legal aid from GONG whether they visit the office in person or contact us by telephone, e-mail or by sending a fax. We answer directly on citizens' inquiries and if their questions extend to beyond our field of work, we refer them to state institutions (for example, Human Rights Office of the Government of Croatia, Ombudsman etc.) or to CSOs that could help them.

In 2008, we gave advice on implementing the Freedom of Information Act to numerous institutions and organizations as well as to citizens and journalists. Numerous questions were also in relation to citizens' participation in the decision making process.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The program domain International Relations includes GONG's activities aimed at promoting the standard of representative and participatory democracy in transitional European states as well as cooperation with developed western states' organizations.

### 1. Training Courses, Consultations and Study Visits

#### **Martin Visser of the Het Financieele Dagblad – consultation – Zagreb**

In June, Suzana Jašić gave audience to Martin Visser, a correspondent of the Dutch financial daily newspaper Het Financieele Dagblad, who was preparing a series of articles on Croatia's accession to the EU and for this purpose he talked with various politicians, entrepreneurs and political analysts in Croatia.

#### **Participants of the "Trust in Public Services" program – presentation – Zagreb/Rijeka**

In May, Sandra Pernar presented GONG's experiences in cooperating with local and national authorities to the participants of the "Trust in Public Services" program, i.e. representatives of the civil sector and local authorities from 7 countries. The visit of the participants of the "Trust in Public Services" program to Croatia was organized by the British Council in Zagreb. Igor Bajok presented GONG's work and talked about civil sector's cooperation with The City of Rijeka within to the same participants within their study visit to Rijeka.

#### **Andy Konitzer of The Samford University – consultation – Zagreb**

In June, Vanja Škorić and Dragan Zelić gave audience to Andy Konitzer, a professor at The Political Sciences Department of The Samford University, who prepared a comparative analysis of parliamentary elections in Croatia and Serbia.

### 2. Cooperation with International Organizations

#### **"Politeia" Organization**

Politeia – Network for Citizenship and Democracy in Europe is active in the field of (European) citizenship and gathers organizations that work together and exchange experiences regarding issues of active (European) citizenship, civil society and education for democracy.

After the representatives of nine European organizations, GONG among them, participated in a meeting in 2005, in Amsterdam, revitalization of the Politeia Network was agreed. A year after, an annual conference of members was held its registration was agreed in a sense of an organization on a European level. Future organization's statute was debated and agreed upon at the same conference. The organization was finally registered in Amsterdam in March, 2008. The founders are IPP (Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek - Amsterdam) and GONG.

In October 2008, GONG hosted the annual Politeia assembly which gathered CSO representatives of several European countries (The Netherlands, Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovenia). At the Zagreb conference, organizations-Politeia Members discussed further Network development and possibilities of cooperation on joint projects. The organizations also participated in interesting lectures on the subjects of: citizen participation, European funds and fundraising in EU. During their stay in Zagreb, the participants visited The Croatian Parliament in order to browse through the building and learn some things about history and how the highest Croatia legislative body functions; they also visited The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration to find out more on Croatia's accession to the EU.

Some of the member-organizations have jointly implemented several projects since Network's initialization, and GONG undertook "I Think Globally, Act Locally" project methodology from the Dutch IPP. In the upcoming period, more joint project realizations of Politeia members are expected.

### 3. International Conferences, Seminars, Visits, Presenting GONG

#### **"Election Monitoring and Advocacy" conference – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

In March, Dragan Zelić participated in an international conference "Election Monitoring and Advocacy", organized by Open Society Mongolia. Dragan gave a presentation on the subject of "GONG's Advocacy for Improving Electoral Legislation and Cooperation with Institutions".

#### **"Process of Accession to the EU's Impact on Human Rights" seminar – Experiences of Croatia and Macedonia" – Ohrid, Macedonia.**

In March, Ariana Vela participated on a seminar "Process of Accession to the EU's Impact on Human Rights" seminar – Experiences of Croatia and Macedonia", organized by Human Rights Center and Open Society Macedonia within the East-East program of beyond-border IOD cooperation. Ariana gave a presentation on GONG's experiences within the NGO Coalition that provides legal aid, and in relation to the making of the Law on Pro Bono Legal Aid.

#### **"Giving a stronger voice to civil society in the European neighbourhood" conference – Brno, Slovenia**

In April, Robert Maračić participated in an international conference „Giving a stronger voice to civil society in the European neighbourhood" – Development of civil dialogue and partnership relations between civil society, national governments and EU institutions, organized by ECAS (Bruxelles CSO). The conference result is the Ljubljana Declaration which GONG also signed. The Declaration itself represents recommendations to EU institutions and national governments on how to support civil dialogue.

#### **"NGO Financing" conference – Sofia, Bulgaria**

Vanja Škorić participated in an international conference "NGO Financing", in April, organized by BCNL (Bulgarian Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, local ECNL's partner.) At the conference, Vanja spoke about Croatian experiences in the area of CSO financing.

#### **"Democracy that Delivers – Unlocking the Potential of Transition" conference – Sofia, Bulgaria**

In May, Suzana Jašić participated in an international conference "Democracy that Delivers – Unlocking the Potential of Transition" in Bulgaria, by invitation of USAID Croatia.

#### **Public Launch Event of the European Fund for the Balkans – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Suzana Jašić participated on the presentation of the European Fund for Balkans, which was held in the Bosnian Parliamentary Assembly, in June.

#### **Agora on Climate Change – Bruxelles, Belgium**

In June, Sandra Pernar participated on the second Agora, organized by The European Parliament, i.e. a forum that gathers CSO representatives once a year in order for them to give their suggestions and comments on a certain subject, in direct contact with PMs. This year's Agora subject was climate change and it was conducted in 4 work groups. Sandra participated in a work group that dealt with good governance and citizens' education issue.

**Peace Academy 2008 – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In July, Mihael Rukavina participated in the 2008 Peace Academy, organized by 4 peace organizations from Sarajevo: Center for Non-Violent Action, Sarajevo, Mennonite Central Committee, South-East Europe, Nansen Dialogue Center, Sarajevo, Terca, Mostar/Sarajevo. Mihael participated in the work of a group that dealt with the subject of “Understanding Social and Political Elements of Collective Violence and Mass Crimes and their Consequences (with a special reflection on former Yugoslavia and Ruanda cases).

**CiO Seminar on Election Related Issues – Vienna, Austria**

In July, Suzana Jašić held a lecture on GONG’s and OESCE/ODIHR cooperation, at CiO election seminar, organized by OESCE/ODIHR.

**“Civil Society as a Link between the EU and Neighboring Countries” conference – Zadar, Croatia**

In September, Sandra Pernar participated in an international conference, organized by ECAS (Bruxelles CSO) in cooperation with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, at which conclusions from the April conference in Slovenia were closely elaborated and instructions on national action plans of implementing the Ljubljana Declaration were established.

**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting OESS/ODIHR, Warsaw, Poland**

At this year’s meeting of OSCE participating countries, at which all aspects of human and political rights are being discussed during two weeks, GONG’s representative Suzana Jašić participated in the election part, again by invitation of OESCE/ODIHR.

**“Serving the Citizen: Promoting NGO-Public Sector Partnership” – Nicosia, Cyprus**

In November, Vanja Škorić participated in an international conference, organized by ECNL and UNDP Cyprus. Vanja gave a presentation on Croatian experiences on state financing and support to civil society development.

**International expert congress “Croatia in Transformation – Political Management – achievements and challenges” – Zagreb**

In December, Suzana Jašić participated in an international expert congress “Croatia in Transformation – Political Management – achievements and challenges” in Zagreb, organized by the Institute for International Relations (IMO) from Zagreb and Bertelsmann Foundation.

**“Successful fundraising and advocacy techniques for survival” conference – Budapest, Hungary**

In December, Dragan Zelić participated in a conference “Successful fundraising and advocacy techniques for survival” organized by the Hungarian Foundation for Civil Society Development. Dragan gave a presentation on the subject of “How can the non-profit sectors, i.e. CSOs, advocate the betterment of its position?”

**“Civil Dialogue - How can we shape the Europe we want?” conference, Bruxelles, Belgium**

In December, Sandra Pernar participated in a conference “Civil Dialogue - How can we shape the Europe we want?” organized by Social Platform) a union of European organizations that deal with social politics). She also participated in CEDAG’s meeting (CEDAG is one of the European platforms that make the Social Platform). At this meeting GONG received an invitation to membership in CEDAG.

#### **4. Other Activities**

- February – Suzana Jašić participated in a meeting that a reporter for the European Parliament for Croatia, Hannes Swoboda, and members of the European Parliament held with representatives of Croatian CSOs.
- March – Ariana Vela participated in a conference on civil dialogue organized by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs, at which Croatian and Slovenian experiences in this fields were presented and exchanged.
- April – Dragan Zelić was present at a meeting with The President of Germany, Kohler, held The Regent Esplanade Hotel, organized by The German Embassy in Zagreb for representatives of several CSOs.

- May – Sandra Pernar participated in a panel discussion organized by The Academy for Political Development and The British Council, at which "The Everyday Democracy Index" project was presented, implemented by Demos UK; Polish experiences regarding social entrepreneurship was also presented.
- June – Sandra Pernar and Vanja Škorić participated on a counseling (round table) with organization in relation to the Report on The Republic of Croatia's Progress, organized by the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Croatia, in Zagreb.
- July – Sandra Pernar participated on a working dinner organized for CSO's representatives in Zagreb, in the Delegation of the European Commission's residency, on the occasion of Jan Truszczyński's visit - Deputy Chief Director of General Administration for European's Commission in Bruxelles expansion.

## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Organization's Work

#### A. Managing the Organization

In 2008, the organization was managed by the Managing Board constituted of: Suzana Jašić (President of Managing Board and of organization), Dragan Zelić (Deputy President) and Vanja Škorić (member).

Supervision was conducted by the Supervisory Board constituted of: Gordan Bosanac, Albina Dlačić, Marijana Grbeša, Boško Picula and Jagoda Munić.

In May, a strategic planning for organization's development and work in the period of next three years, was held. Also, it was agreed on the strategic planning that the Statute in force will be amended, which it was in the end of the year.

Also, it was agreed on the strategic planning that GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka will become independent, which was achieved in the end of 2008 when the Regional Office in Rijeka registered a local organization – Delta that continues to act as GONG's regional partner, but also as an independent organization on a local level. Namely, the fact that they were acting as GONG's Regional Office, partially limited the Rijeka office to act on a local level (for example, fundraising from local budgets), and with their work and results in the last few years, they proved many times that they can accomplish worthy local projects and that they are recognized as a respectable partner, even more, a model for other local organizations in their region. Therefore, the registration of a new organization represents a truly positive result and is an indicator of a successful growth of this regional office.

#### B. Staff

In 2008 GONG had 19 employed persons, but by the end of the year, that number was reduced and GONG enter New Year with 14 employed persons. 10 persons were employed during the year in the Head Office and per two in three and per three in one regional office. Besides the permanently employed, GONG occasionally cooperated with a series of outside experts on different project (trainers, expert groups members etc.). The Hiring Commission reached 13 decisions: 8 on employment and 5 on terminating employment.

#### C. Education

- In the beginning of the year, Sandra Pernar was accepted in a one-year educational cycle of The Academy for Political Development and, during the year, participated on weekend seminars in Crikvenica ("The Citizen, Society and Politics in Modern Democracy"), Brač (#Communication Skills in Public Work", May) and Zadar (Accession to the EU – Perspectives of Croatia and SE Europe") and on a one-week summer academy for democracy in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

- In March, SEEYN held a free two-day training for GONG's employees, on strategic planning. GONG responded to the SEEYN's call to CSOs in the region to apply for training depending on the fields of interest, and implementing of the said training was chosen.
- In March, Suzana Jašić and Sandra Pernar participated in a workshop for preparing CSOs' project applications on tenders within the Phare 2006 program, organized by The Office for Cooperation with NGOs and The Council for Civil Society Development.
- In March, Albert Jedrejčić and Sandra Pernar participated in a workshop for preparing CSOs' project applications on tenders within the Phare 2006 program, organized by ADD.
- In March, Sandra Pernar participated in a workshop for CARDS' project coordinators, organized by The Office for Cooperation with NGOs and Central Finance and Contracting Agency.
- In March, Ariana Vela participated on the third Country Training Program, organized by INTRAC (international NGO center for training and research) which took part from 9<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> March in Great Britain, under the name: NGO – "Government Consultation Process, Public Benefit and Charity Status un UK".
- In May, Maja Kočiš and Albert Jedrejčić participated in on a conference "Preparing Croatian Regions for Structural Funds: possibilities and challenges", organized by The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Croatia and The Ministry of Agriculture.
- In May, Ivana Marinkovska and Hrvoje Rančić participated in a workshop for writing project proposals, held in Zadar By the organization "Us", Split, within the "STEP" program.
- In June, maja Kočiš and Robert Maračić participated in a conference "Right to Access Information and Personal Data Protection" organized by the Croatian State Archives.
- Suzana Jašić was accepted in an educational program for experts in assessing state bodies' tenders as well as CSO's projects and programs funded from the state budget; it was organized by The Office for Cooperation with NGOs and within this program, Suzana participated in an education, in October 2008.
- In June, Mihael Rukavina participated in a three-day training for short-term observers, organized by the OSCE/ODIHR Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).
- Mirela Travar participated in a three-day training for short-term observers, organized by the OSCE/ODIHR Academy in Tirana (Albania) in November.
- Maja Kočiš participated in two seminars "Education for Tomorrow" organized by DIM. The seminars were held in Tuheljske Toplice and Čatež, in October.
- Igor Bajok and Aleksandra Vinkerlić participated on the regional Info Day on Europe for Citizens program which were organized in Rijeka by The Office for Cooperation with NGOs and The National Foundation for Civil Society Development, in October.
- Mihael Rukavina participated in a workshop "What to do with papers and how to manage them?" organized by the organization Baranja from Bilje; it was held in Slavonski Brod, in November.
- In December, Suzana Jašić, Sandra Pernar and Albert Jedrejčić participated in a workshop for project implementers in the grand scheme "PHARE 2006 - Enabling the Civil Society Sector in the Pre-accession Process in the Area of Democratization and Human Rights" organized by The Central Finance and Contracting Agency.
- In December, Sandra Pernar participated on Info Day on the subject of the program Culture (2007 – 2013) and the program Europe for Citizens ( 2007 – 2013), organized in Zagreb by The Office for Cooperation with NGOs and The Ministry of Culture.

#### **D. Volunteers**

A large number of volunteers and members actively participated in GONG's numerous activities, like distributing material; help with organizing GONG's representations on NGO fairs and election observation.

In 2008:

- 8 volunteers fulfilled conditions for membership
- 4540 citizens are in the volunteers' base
- Approximately 2000 citizens' volunteer hours have been registered.

#### **E. Technical Development**

In August, a transfer of responsibility for control and management of the IT system has been agreed and conducted on to DOBBIN Ltd. Company which will also handle user support.

In the starting phase, a recording of the current state was conducted and, with joint analysis and agreement, recommendations for short-term and long-term system monitoring and development were adopted in order for the system to monitor development and the needs of organization's work. Also, solutions that were optimal for budget discharge were given advantage while complying with the high standards.

System documentation was conducted, with which an insight of all system parts is significantly alleviated – and to all authorized within the organization.

User support was established for the Head Office and all regional offices in a way of incidental support during working hours, as well as proactive measures of surveillance and early detection of disturbance in order to have the availability of particular system parts on a high level; eventual incidental breakdowns of particular system parts would in this way be localized and cause small work shutdowns.

Measures for optimization of particular recourses were agreed and conducted in accordance to available capacities, with the goal of avoiding additional, too large financial investments, while at the same time achieving a far greater level of protection than the current one. This is primarily in relation to the e-mail system – a tool that, as it was assessed, has a critical role in the organization's work. A partial decentralization of particular system functions was conducted in order to disburden the current server recourses and thus, the support was made more reliable and the system less sensitive.

#### **F. Fundraising**

In 2008, GONG's financial framework included several short-term projects (up to 6 months) and several long-term projects.

Short-term projects mostly include activities implemented on a local level, but also, several projects implemented on a national level such as "I Vote for the First Time" and "Europe in Class" projects. Financial aid for the said projects came from The Norwegian Embassy, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Families, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, EU Info Center and The City of Zagreb, while the additional implementation of the "I Vote for the First Time" project was realized with funds from local units' budgets, i.e. 18 cities and 10 counties. GONG will continue to implement short-term project and in the next period with the emphasis on seeking funding from local authorities, since most of the foreign donors left Croatia in 2007. As an example of this sort of funding in 2008, is financing of the "I Think Globally, Act Locally" – its implementation in Rijeka this year was fully financed by The City of Rijeka. The same goes for The City of Pazin. Also, the implementation of the said project is already arranged for January 2009, with The City of Zabok and it will also be financed by The City itself.

Projects that were implemented in a period longer than 12 months (advocacy activities, CARDS funded programs etc.) were funded by The European Commission, National Foundation for Civil Society Development, MOTT Foundation from the USA and the Budapest Open Society. A significant project that was implemented through a longer period of time is "Promotion of the Principles of Good Governance and Increased Citizens' Participation in the Decision-Making Process in the Republic of Croatia" which ended in the first half of 2008. Besides this, GONG's Regional Office in Rijeka is implementing a three-year project of civil society development in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Lika-Senj and the Istrian County, supported by the

National Foundation for Civil Society Development. 2008 was the third year of a three-year institutional support to GONG from the National Foundation and the third year of a three-year support for advocacy activities by The Open Society Institute; also, by the end of the year, the 50,000 dollar MOTT Foundation institutional support ended. With this in mind, 2009 represents a great challenge in a sense of securing financial funds for organization's work and so, a special attention was devoted to this issue in then second half of 2008. For this purpose, GONG wrote a larger number of project proposals and applied to different tenders for awarding financial funds to CSOs. Out of success in this field, we would like to point out to receiving funds for implementation of a one-year program within the European Commission Phare 2006 program and a new three-year support for advocacy activities from the Budapest Open Society. Also, funds were approved to us for implementation of three projects from the National Foundation.

Additionally, The City of Zadar approved free use of city's facility for GONG's Regional Office in Zadar activities, with which expenses for future office's work are reduced. In October, Rijeka Regional Office, founded the Delta organization which continues to act as GONG's regional partner, but also as an independent on a local level. Namely, the fact that they were acting as GONG's Regional Office, partially limited the Rijeka office to act on a local level (for example, fundraising from local budgets), and with their work and results in the last few years, they proved many times that they can accomplish worthy local projects and that they are recognized as a respectable partner, even more, a model for other local organizations in their region.

We find that great success has been made in the last few years regarding diversification of funds for GONG's activities. We were implementing activities with financial aid from at least 8 different local and foreign donors, and with this, reducing the dependency on solely one of them. However, a great challenge in the future will be the departing of major foreign donors from Croatia and thus relying solely on local financing sources and EU funds. Also, a new challenge will be to turn to other means of fundraising.

A step toward the organization's self-sustainability is the founding of a Ltd. society for providing financial and related services to CSOs – GRIF Services Ltd. that GONG founded jointly with Dubravka Obad.

### **G. Meetings**

All GONG's offices held numerous meetings with representatives of the Government, Parliament, various ministries, state and other election commissions, local authorities, international community, political parties, media, CSO's and other institutions.

Also, numerous meetings were held with Croatian state officials, PMs, presidents of parliament committees, state secretary, representatives of the General Administration Office, SEC's members, USKOK representatives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration representatives and the Minister of Justice.

Also, GONG was visited by numerous international organizations. Among others, GONG representatives met with representatives of USAID, American State Department, European Commission representatives; German president, Dutch ambassador in Croatia, American ambassador in Croatia, representative of Swedish Embassy and other international and local institutions' representatives.

## **2. Cooperation with the Media**

In 2008, we continued to develop partner relations with the media and journalists in Croatia.

GONG's activities and projects in 2008 were registered in **over 700 appearances in national and local media** – TV and radio stations, newspaper and internet portals. Besides, GONG's audio and video clips on the right to access information (campaign was implemented in September) were transmitted on approximately 10 national and local TV programs and in programs of national and local radio stations, free of cost.

**\*\*\***

**In the end!**

Within the “Good Governance” project in April 2008, PLUS agency conducted a research for GONG on citizens’ awareness of GONG’s work and especially on the said project and right to access information.

**Research results showed that more than four fifths of examinees are familiar with GONG’s work, and that citizens are mostly have a positive impression on GONG and rate GONG’s work as useful to Croatian society.** A large number of citizens are also acquainted with particular GONG’s activities. Also, the results showed that citizens are fairly familiar with the right to access information, but very few of them used this right in the last year.

## FINANCIAL REPORT – 2008

GONG is an organisation which is fully financed by support and donors (inland and foreign). The duration of one fiscal year is from 1 January till 31 December. The financial report includes balance, income, expenditure and expenditure by budget lines. Amounts are in HRK.

<u><b>Balance sheet</b></u>		<u><b>Consolidated Statement of Income</b></u>	
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Financial assets	91.633	Income surplus transferred from 2007	575.101
Non-financial assets	71.430	Income from State and local budgets	466.200
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>163.063</b>	Income from membership fees	730
		Income earnings	84.200
		Income from citizens' donations	4.810
		Grants and donations	1.616.197
		Other income	31.000
		<b>Total income</b>	<b>2.778.238</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Duties	27.698	Costs for employees	1.551.697
Own sources	135.365	Material expenses	1.025.759
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>163.063</b>	Financial expenses	25.711
		Transfers to partners	110.622
		Other costs	514
		<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2.714.303</b>
		<b>Income surplus</b>	<b>63.935</b>
<b>Expenditure by Budget Lines</b>			
Salaries	903.932	<b>Other costs</b>	
Taxes from salaries	647.765	Honorarium	55.882
<b>Total personal expenses</b>	<b>1.551.697</b>	Accountant services	48.000
		Office supplies	39.435
		Equipment purchase and maintenance	41.200
		Rent	46.357
		Utilities	52.505
		Communications (Internet, telephone, post)	231.091
		Audio, video and printed material	182.422
		Travel and accommodation costs	169.892
		Refreshments (conferences, etc.)	46.400
		Transfers to the project partners	110.622
		Bank charges	24.795
		Evaluation and consulting	28.400
		Other costs	85.605
		<b>Total other costs</b>	<b>1.162.606</b>
		<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>2.714.303</b>

## SPECIAL THANKS

GONG is a non - profit organization which depends on the support and donations from organizations, foundations and embassies. Without donor support, GONG wouldn't be able to accomplish its goals. Amount are in HRK.

### Financial support

#### **Up to 3.000**

City of Čazma  
 City of Karlovac  
 City of Kastav  
 City of Kutina  
 City of Našice  
 City of Opatija  
 City of Požega  
 City of Prelog  
 City of Samobor  
 City of Sisak  
 City of Vukovar  
 County of Krapina - Zagorje  
 County of Međimurje  
 County of Sisak - Moslavina  
 County of Virovitica-Podravina

#### **Up to 5.000**

City of Bjelovar  
 City of Koprivnica  
 City of Zadar  
 County of Koprivnica - Križevci  
 County of Zadar  
 City of Varaždin  
 County of Varaždin

#### **Up to 10.000**

County of Primorje - Gorski Kotar  
 County of Zagreb  
 County of Istria

### Donations in goods and services

#### **Up to 3.000** (per legal person)

Facilities and info-desks were provided to us, without compensation, by many local self-governments, city institutions and others. Radio airing was provided to us, also without compensation, by many radio-stations. We would like to express our gratitude for the generous support and cooperation.

#### **Up to 25.000**

SSL International Croatia

#### **Up to 100.000**

Microsoft Croatia

#### **Up to 2.000.000**

Media campaign "We have a right to know" (Estimated total value.)

Our campaign videos and jingles were broadcasted free of charge by the following TV and radio-stations:

Croatian Television	Radio Centar (Zadar)
RTL Television	Radio Drava
Independent Istrian Television	Radio Drniš
Kanal Ri	Radio Mrežnica
BBR radio	Radio Nova Gradiška
Hrvatski radio	Radio Ragusa
Novi radio, Đakovo	Radio Samobor
Petrinjski radio	Radio Sisak
Radio Banovina	Radio Šibenik
Radio BnM	Radio Zlatar

#### **Up to 15.000**

City of Pazin

#### **Up to 50.000**

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration  
 Open Society Institute, Sarajevo  
 Royal Netherlands Embassy, Zagreb

#### **Up to 80.000**

Charles Stewart MOTT Foundation

#### **Up to 100.000**

City of Rijeka  
 City of Zagreb  
 Ministry of Family, War Veterans and Intergeneration  
 Solidarity

#### **Up to 150.000**

Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade  
 Embassy of the United States, Zagreb

#### **Up to 300.000**

National Foundation for Civil Society development, Zagreb

#### **Up to 550.000**

Open Society Institute Budapest  
 European Commission