

Implementing National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in Croatia



Key lessons learned

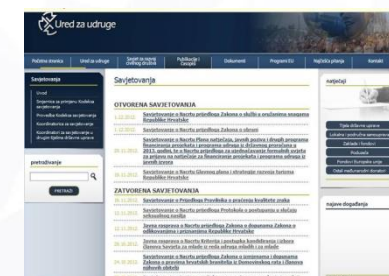
- Strong local ownership of the process both within the government and civil society
- Leadership (both within government and CSOs) and effective policy coordination
- Clear mechanisms of monitoring and reporting
- Continuous investment in building capacities of government officials/civil servants
- Harmonizing domestic and international public funding schemes with Strategy priorities



Ownership through participatory process of developing the Strategy

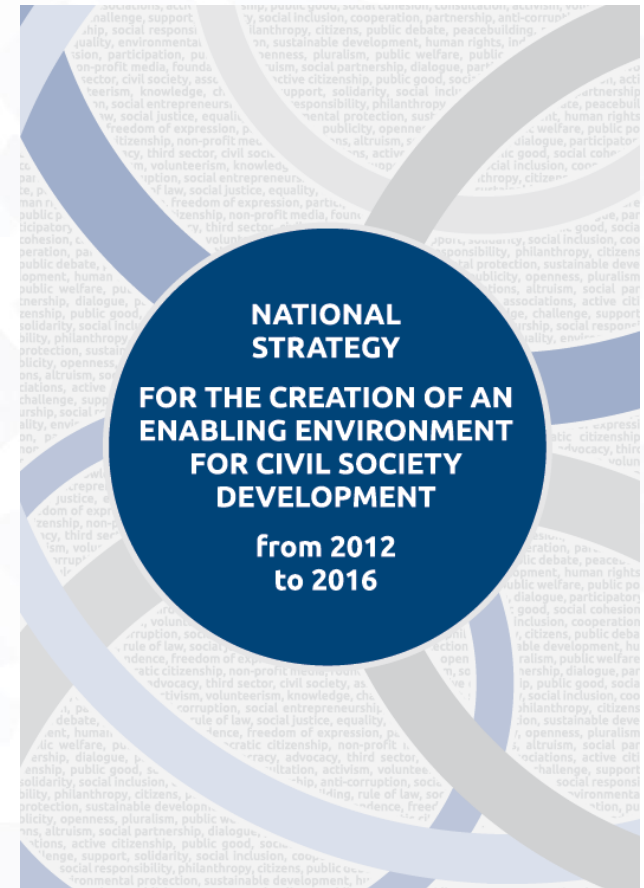
Combining various methods of engaging civil society

- „Open space” method
- Public debates/hearings
- Working groups/sub-groups
- Internet consultations
- Social networks



Broad consensus on key strategic priorities until 2016

- **common platform** that brings together key stakeholders vital for creating conditions for sustainability of an independent and vibrant civil society
- Importance of **ownership of Strategy** measures among responsible government bodies



Need for leadership and effective policy coordination

- complex area with many interrelated policy issues - 27 priority measures / 91 implementation activities / 251 implementation indicators
- Wide variety of stakeholders involved in implementation: 30 state bodies, local and regional government bodies associations, CSOs
- Need for leadership and effective coordination – both *vertical* (hierarchical – towards state bodies) and *horizontal* (with CSOs, other stakeholders)



Mechanisms of policy coordination

Vertical

- Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
- 3 departments – 20 staff
- Special Department dealing with National Strategy implementation
- Organizing meetings with ministries and other state bodies to encourage implementation of Strategy

Horizontal

- Council for Civil Society Development
- Enabling dialogue with various actors on challenges in implementing the Strategy measures
- Government Office provides expert support in preparing materials for all Council sessions



Council for Civil Society Development

**12 elected
representatives of
NGOs**

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

**1 Trade Unions
1 Employers
Association
1 Foundations**

1. Trade Unions
2. Employers Association
3. Foundation

**14 appointees
from state
administrative
bodies**

- 1 Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
2. Ministry of Health
3. Ministry of Culture
4. Ministry of Social Policy and Youth
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Environmental Protection
7. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
8. Ministry of Administration
9. Ministry of War veterans
10. Ministry of Labour and Pension System
11. Ministry of Regional Development and EU funding
12. Office of Prime Minister of Croatia
13. Government Office for Human Rights
14. Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
15. National Foundation for Civil Society



Mechanisms of monitoring and reporting

3 levels of monitoring:

- Reports on Strategy implementation adopted by the Government
- Regular monitoring on Strategy implementation by the Council for Civil Society Development
- Public web platform dedicated to National Strategy
 - with latest information on status of implementation of all measures (monitoring by wider public)



WEB PLATFORM

INSTITUCIONALNI OKVIR ZA
POTPORU RAZVOJU CIVILNOGA
DRUŠTVA

CIVILNO DRUŠTVO I SUDIONIČKA
DEMOKRACIJA

OSNAŽIVANJE ULOGE
ORGANIZACIJA CIVILNOG DRUŠTVA
ZA DRUŠTVENO-EKONOMSKI
RAZVOJ

DJELOVANJE I DALJNI RAZVOJ
CIVILNOGA DRUŠTVA U
MEĐUNARODNOM KONTEKSTU

Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy through the support provided by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs – web platform

<http://strategija.uzuvrh.hr/>

Implementation status of all measures continuously updated based on latest reports from ministries



Permanent investment in building capacities of civil servants/government officials



- Training seminars
- Workshops
- Individual meetings
- Public hearings

Multiplying opportunities for dialogue of civil servants and CSOs – promoting the culture of dialogue



Alignment and harmonization of donors in supporting the Strategy

- Strategy goals aligned with EU accession requirements
- EU actively supported implementation of Strategy – basis for PHARE 2006, IPA 2008-2012 grant schemes, TACSO, European Social Fund 2014-2020
- DECIM – (donor exchange, coordination and information mechanism) in Croatia – EC/World Bank initiative - efforts in 2007-2008
- Importance of coordination of national public funding for CSOs



Through effective Strategy implementation to sustainability of EU accession reforms

Creating enabling environment for development
of active, vibrant, independent civil society



guarantee of
sustainability of reforms undertaken in the
European Union accession process



Further information

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