

1. Organizational background:

Name of the organization:	
GONG	
Address: Trg bana Josipa Jelacica 15/4 10 000 Zagreb Croatia	Phone: +385 1 4825-444
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	E - mail: gong@gong.hr
	URL or web page: www.gong.hr
Name of the legal representative of the organization: Sandra Pernar, Executive Director	Address: Trg bana Josipa Jelacica 15/4 10 000 Zagreb Croatia
	Phone: +385 1 4825-444
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	E – mail: sandra@gong.hr
Date of foundation of the organization:	August 26, 1998
Date of last registration (if applicable):	Registration code:
Mission (objective) of the organization:	
<p>GONG is a non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to actively participate in political processes. GONG conducts non-partisan monitoring of the election process, educates citizens about their rights and duties, encourages mutual communication between citizens and their elected representatives, promotes transparency of work within public services, and manages public advocacy campaigns and encourages and helps citizens in self-organizing initiatives.</p>	
Legal status of the organization:	
Non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization	

2. Fields of interests:

Decentralization	x	Advocacy	x
Interethnic relations		Transparency and accountability	x
Participative democracy	x	Rights of minorities	x
Good governance	x	Gender balance	
Citizens' education	x	Other (please specify)	

3. Information on projects:

Please specify the projects implemented by your organization in the last year
<p>1. Name of the project: <u>Monitoring of local elections (two rounds)</u></p> <p><i>Primary objective of the project:</i> Local election 2009 were implemented for the first time based on new Act on the Election of Municipality Heads, Mayors, County Prefects and the Mayor of the City of Zagreb which regulates direct election of municipality heads, mayors, county prefects and the mayor of the City of Zagreb. Main goal of the project: further establish legal standards for free and fair election conduct in the Republic of Croatia, to increase citizens', voters' and candidates' legal security and to promote pluralist democracy and the rule of law in Croatia. The project included systematic supervision of the State Election Commission (SEC) and as well as all other pre-election activities done by institutions and election implementation bodies, implementation of the legislation related to election process, information campaign for citizens and candidates, a small-scale monitoring campaign of the election process on Election Day, and finally, detailed reporting on the entire election process.</p> <p><i>Financed by:</i> Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of the United States</p> <p><i>Achieved results:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election campaigning was monitored in 3 important aspects (campaign expenditures, access to the media and works of relevant national and local institutions/bodies. - Croatian citizens educated about changes in election procedures, election contestants informed about candidacy and election procedures, and observers informed and educated on rules of election monitoring through user-friendly guides/manuals distributed electronically and available for download on GONG website and provision of answers/assistance by GONG offices via e-mail and telephone. - 500 recruited and trained volunteers have observed two rounds elections in a neutral, non-partisan manner: 50 mobile observers' teams and a sample of polling stations in Croatia full time observed in cooperation with local non-government organizations and their staff/volunteers. - GONG report on election process and election campaign was produced and distributed to all interested parties. <p>2. Name of the project: <u>Monitoring of presidential election</u></p> <p><i>Primary objective of the project:</i> Main goal of the project: further establish legal standards for free and fair election conduct in the Republic of Croatia, to increase citizens', voters' and candidates' legal security and to promote pluralist democracy and the rule of law in Croatia. The project included systematic supervision of the State Election Commission (SEC) and as well as all other pre-election activities done by institutions and election implementation bodies, implementation of the legislation related to election process, information campaign for citizens and candidates, a small-scale</p>

monitoring campaign of the election process on Election Day, and finally, detailed reporting on the entire election process.

Financed by:

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of the United States

Achieved results:

- Election campaigning was monitored in 3 important aspects (campaign expenditures, access to the media and works of relevant national and local institutions/bodies) in order to provide distinctive information to the media, general public, institutions and election contestants.
- Croatian citizens were educated about election procedures, election contestants informed about candidacy and election procedures, and observers informed and educated on rules of election monitoring through user-friendly guides/manuals distributed electronically and available for download on GONG website and provision of answers/assistance by GONG offices via e-mail and telephone.
- 500 recruited and trained volunteers have observed elections in a neutral, non-partisan manner: 50 mobile observers' teams. Special attention was given to cover polling stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina – 11 mobile teams.
- GONG report on election process and election campaign was produced and distributed to all interested parties (media, election commission, candidates, political parties, international community) and available on the organization's web site for further use as data resource.

3. Name of the project: Combat corruption

Primary objective of the project:

- Securing accountability and transparency in national and local decision-making process.
- Requesting fiscal transparency in political parties financing and election process.
- Informing citizens on their rights when dealing with authorities/administration - access to information right (FOIA).
- Monitoring implementation of the FOIA and shadow reports.
- Monitoring and awareness rising about conflict of interest.
- Monitoring the work of state institutions and reacting if democratic values are threatened.

Financed by:

OSI Budapest

Achieved results:

- more than 50% of public bodies did not respond to the FOIA requests within the legally prescribed deadline;
- parties and candidates have submitted the financial reports;
- conflict of interest issues are in public focus.

4. Name of the project: LOTUS

Primary objective of the project:

GONG was implementing, in partnership with the Association of Towns, a project LOTUS - accountable and transparent local government, with financial support from the European Union through the PHARE program.

For the purposes of the project, in February the project partners began a research of all cities and municipalities in Croatia (556) with the goal to analyze procedures and good practice in the areas of transparency, cooperation with civil society and the functioning of neighboring councils. These three areas

were identified as crucial for the further development of democracy and citizen participation in the political life of their communities.

Financed by:
EU

Achieved results:

The extensive data was collected for the purposes of the project - most of the information was collected through questionnaires sent to all cities and municipalities as well as through insight into the statutes of the cities/municipalities and Rules of the Councils.

The results based on the research were publicly presented before the local elections of 2009. And the online database was published on the GONG web site. The purpose of the database is to provide simple but detailed insight into the functioning of local government.

5. Name of the project: Advocacy Network

Primary objective of the project:

In the beginning of 2009, GONG formed a virtual "Advocacy Network", gathering the most important advocacy CSOs in Croatia. This mailing list GONG uses for sharing all information regarding legislation process for the legislation of common interest in order to encourage CSOs to be more active in advocating. Furthermore, information regarding Government agenda, draft laws, articles, and parliamentary committee sessions are shared as well.

Network facilitates creating advocacy coalitions and sharing experience. Cooperation among CSOs should increase influence of civil society in decision making process and influence on Parliament's work to be more transparent.

Financed by:
National Foundation for Civil Society Development

Achieved results:

To this point there are 20 CSOs and civil society activists using information from the network. Moreover, many CSOs are interested in attending the committee sessions and advocating for their interests in the Parliament.

6. Name of the project: "European class" workshops

Primary objective of the project:

GONG has developed in cooperation with Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, a new project based on the methodology of the "I vote for the first time" project, which consists of interactive workshops about the European Union for the high school seniors in Croatia during the second semester of the school year.

The goal of the new project was to give the students proper information about the European Union and the assessment process. Through the project, we aim to bring EU and its values closer to Croatian youth in order to overcome current prejudices and lack of understanding about what the EU membership brings and how it will affect Croatian citizens, specifically Croatian youth. Indirectly, the project contributes to higher awareness among Croatian citizens about the EU, resulting in development of rational views on Croatian membership in the European Union.

Financed by:
EU and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Achieved results:

At the beginning of 2009, we launched the third season of the project. By the end of the third season of project, 282 workshops were conducted for more than 7,000 high school seniors in 57 high schools.

7. Name of the project: Think Globally, Act Locally!

Primary objective of the project:

The aim of the project 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 Politied (IPP – Dutch Center 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.

Financed by:

Local government units – City of Rijeka, City of Zabok and City of Pazin

Achieved results:

During 2009. the project was conducted in City of Rijeka, City of Zabok and City of Pazin during which about 200 high school seniors, working in groups, have developed local projects of small capacity. The best projects were implemented by the support of the cities.

4. Capacity of the organization: personnel and management bodies of the organization

Please specify the executive structure of the organization and the decision making process within the organization.

The highest GONG body is the Assembly composed of all GONG members. It convenes once a year when it adopts the Annual report and chooses Council and Supervisory Board members. Executive Board members are appointed by the Council.

Published materials in the last year:

Yes **No**

If “yes” please describe it:.

- User-friendly guides/manuals for the elections.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) leaflets and T-shirts
- Annual Report on FOIA Implementation in 2009,
- Local Election 2009 Report,
- GONG Annual Report for 2008.
- LOTUS Research Report
- Manual for accountable and transparent local government
- Report on Transparency of Government’s Work for 2008.

5. Equipment and other resources

Office?	Yes	No
IT equipment: 1. PC - 15 2. Overhead projector - 1 3. Copy machines - 1 4. Phones - 15 5. Scanners - 1 6. Printers - 1		

Financing of the organization

Source of financing	Amount 2009
1. Income from State and local budgets	\$55.849,06
2. Income earnings	\$17.130,00
3. Income from citizens' donations	\$1.766,04
4. Grants and donations	\$324.473,58
5. Other income	\$711,32