



Stability Pact Anti-  
Corruption Initiative

## **Cavtat Recommendations and Action Plan**

**CROATIA**

## Recommendations for reform under Pillar 5

### **Public Attitudes Toward Corruption**

1. Further publicize steps taken in the Anti-Corruption Initiative, especially examples of concrete measures that have brought good results.
2. Co-operate with NGOs active in the fight against corruption to hold discussion forums and public awareness campaigns.

### **Civil Liberties**

3. Revise the election law to increase transparency in campaign finance and financing of political parties in general.

### **Legal Environment for Civil Society**

4. Amend the current Law on Associations to decrease the broad supervisory powers of government, to allow associations to engage in economic activities, and to speed up the registration process for NGOs.
5. Provide incentives for charitable contributions to NGOs.
6. Draft and enact a new Law on Foundations and Associations.

### **Civil Society Capacity**

7. Promote partnerships between local governments and NGOs by publicizing examples from larger cities such as Rijeka and Split and providing advisory services through the Office for Cooperation with NGOs.
8. Provide financial support to NGO training organizations and support centers, including capacity-building training and implementation support to NGOs in coalition building, advocacy, public awareness campaigns, legal support for victims of corruption, and government monitoring and oversight. Sharing of information between NGOs and establishing coalitions should be encouraged.
9. Promote the establishment of anti-corruption coalitions of NGOs and business associations at the central and local levels.

### **State of the Media**

10. Encourage investigative journalism of corruption cases and consider an amnesty for libel cases still pending from the Tudjman era. Encourage the media to promote awareness of citizen rights.

### **Governmental Transparency and Cooperation with Civil Society**

11. Increase government capacity to inform, consult and engage civil society in policy-making (including opportunities to comment on draft legislation).
12. Improve the legislative framework for access to information.

## Croatia's action plan under Pillar 5

Representatives of the Government of Croatia and civil society note that the situation is improving in Croatia with regard to government-civil society relations. There have been several concrete results of partnership to date, foremost among which is the joint drafting of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan.

The main challenge for the future is the implementation of actions identified under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy adopted in February 2001 – in which all partners will have an important role to play. The Action Plan identifies key tasks, indicates responsibilities and timing and represents a framework of reference for anti-corruption activities undertaken by government and civil society actors (business and professional associations, NGOs, trade unions, media).

The existence of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan, taken together with the considerable 'resource' that existing government-civil society networks represent, provides good prospects for future implementation. It is here that donor support under the SPAI Pillar V may play a crucial role, in providing additional resources to the national reform process that is supported by a wide anti-corruption coalition.

The Government and civil society representatives agree to support the following actions:

### **National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan**

- Raise public awareness with regard to the Strategy (e.g. establish a co-ordination body of government and civil society actors, run TV and radio information campaigns, print and distribute the Strategy together with explanatory materials)
- Implement the Strategy

### **Conflict of interest**

- Review of the draft law (e.g. expertise and technical assistance on the draft currently in Parliament)
- Raise awareness among MPs, government officials on the issue (e.g. prepare explanatory materials and organise a workshop)

### **Judiciary**

- Training and education of judges on new Code of Ethics
- Court monitoring
- Media information on role of judiciary

### **Public Administration Reform/Local Government Reform**

- Decentralisation

**Access to information**

- Draft a freedom of information law (e.g. expert input to drafting and identification of key issues for implementation)
- Case law on freedom of expression

**Ethics**

- Private sector: implementation of the existing Code of Ethics for business
- Public sector: drafting of a new Code of Ethics for public officials

Note: for each of the above actions a strong role for partnership between government and civil society actors is envisaged.

For further information – refer to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan adopted by the Government of Croatia in February 2001.

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