

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Croatia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Citizen Participation & Improved Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	160-0210
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$9,605,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$637,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,935,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's citizen participation and improved governance program supports a broad range of efforts to develop Croatia's democratic institutions essential for Croatia to move toward consolidated democratic freedoms. Democracy activities include training and technical assistance to: local government capacity; strengthen non-governmental organizations (NGOs); enable civic participation; increase political party and legislative capacity; strengthen the judiciary; and, target transnational issues such as combating trafficking in persons.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Increase the capacity of local governments to manage the new administrative and fiscal demands brought on by decentralization (\$5,432,000 AEEB, \$171,000 AEEB carryover). USAID's Local Government Reform Program (LGRP) strengthens local government skills in financial and asset management, local economic development and citizen participation in local affairs. The recent expansion and dissemination of this program to over 500 local governments will effectively introduce reforms to most of the local government sector in Croatia. The project will help foster and expand fiscally responsible and accountable local governments, citizen participation, and transparency. Contractor: Urban Institute (prime)

Improve the capacity of local civil society organizations and the overall NGO sector in Croatia (\$3,000,000 AEEB, \$171,000 AEEB carryover). USAID/Croatia's NGO program (CroNGO) is strengthening networks of national and community-based organizations throughout Croatia to effectively represent citizens' interests/concerns to local, regional and national level policy makers. CroNGO will expand its reach to a broader range of NGOs and will provide 12 leading NGOs with the management, fundraising, and outreach skills needed to become sustainable. Activities will reinforce NGOs in targeted sectors and reach out to grass-roots organizations with small grants. Target NGO sectors include: environmental protection, human rights, community development, disabled persons, health (including HIV/AIDS), the judiciary, youth, and women. Activities will strengthen public-private partnerships, promote corporate social responsibility, and develop the legal framework for the non-profit sector. USAID will work toward improving the legal framework for NGOs, including the law on foundations, and assist the National Foundation for Development of Civil Society. Contractor: Academy for Educational Development (prime)

Improve Croatia's political processes (\$1,047,000 AEEB, \$296,000 AEEB carryover). The recently elected Croatian Government will be led by the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), the same political party that prior to the 2000 elections obstructed reform efforts and isolated Croatia from the rest of the international community. USAID assistance in political processes will continue to be essential to consolidate democratic reforms. Focus will shift from work in political parties to work with institutions, particularly with the new parliament. U.S. assistance will also be directed toward encouraging an improved legislative framework for elections. Access to voting for refugees and increased transparency of campaign spending are issues that must be resolved to ensure the sustainability of current electoral reforms. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined

Increase public awareness to combat trafficking in persons (\$126,000 AEEB). USAID's support to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) focuses on raising awareness among the public, media, law enforcement officials and policy-makers through targeted public education campaigns. Principal contractor/grantee to be determined.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Increase capacity of local governments to manage the new administrative and fiscal demands brought on by decentralization (\$5,882,000 AEEB). USAID will expand the Local Government Reform Program, extending best practices and reforms to more local governments. Contractor: same as above.

Improve capacity of local civil society organizations and Croatian NGOs (\$1,411,000 AEEB). USAID will continue this activity to expand CroNGO to encompass a broader variety of NGOs. Contractor: same as above.

Improve Croatia's political processes (\$518,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to support activities that strengthen the political process. Implementer: to be determined.

Increase public awareness to combat trafficking in persons (\$124,000 AEEB). USAID activities will expand the awareness activities to combat trafficking in persons. Implementer: to be determined.

**Performance and Results:** The LGRP has been instrumental in strengthening the capacity of over 400 of Croatia's 567 local governments that were left ill-prepared to take on the new and increased responsibilities devolved from the central government in 2001. Technical assistance modules in financial and asset management, local economic development, and citizen participation in local affairs have provided local governments with valuable tools as they begin to manage their own affairs.

USAID Croatia's NGO support program assisted three major grant-giving organizations in supporting 135 community projects that emphasized citizen participation and inter-NGO cooperation. Through this program, USAID activities assisted 10 sectoral organizations to diversify their funding base and improve their financial sustainability. The provision of 41 small grants resulted in improved quality of life in 50 communities, specifically in the areas of social care for children, the disabled, and the elderly. USAID's NGO Legislative Strengthening project assisted in drafting new NGO-related laws, which in turn led to enactment of the new Law on Humanitarian Assistance and the Law on Establishment of the National Foundation for Development of Civil Society. Both are recognized as crucial to Croatia's developing civil society and social contract practices. Under the recently-concluded Rule of Law/Judicial Reform program, the World Bank, European Commission and the Ministry of Justice have recognized that the USAID court case management model forms a solid platform for the development of the national automated case management system in Croatia. In turn, the Ministry of Justice suspended the Court Book of Rules. This then allowed for innovative court improvements at pilot courts.

By the end of this program, USAID's emphasis on local governance and NGO sector development, with its continuing efforts in political party/legislative strengthening, will bring Croatia close to Northern Tier standards in political processes, civil society, and local governance. USAID's electoral support will have strengthened the democratic operations and capacity of parliamentarians to reach out to constituents, at national and local levels. Croatia's indicators for development of multi-party systems and popular participation in political processes will also have improved. USAID's NGO sector initiatives will have improved their organizational and financial capacity, and USAID's support to the decentralization processes will have significantly improved Croatia's relative position in governance.