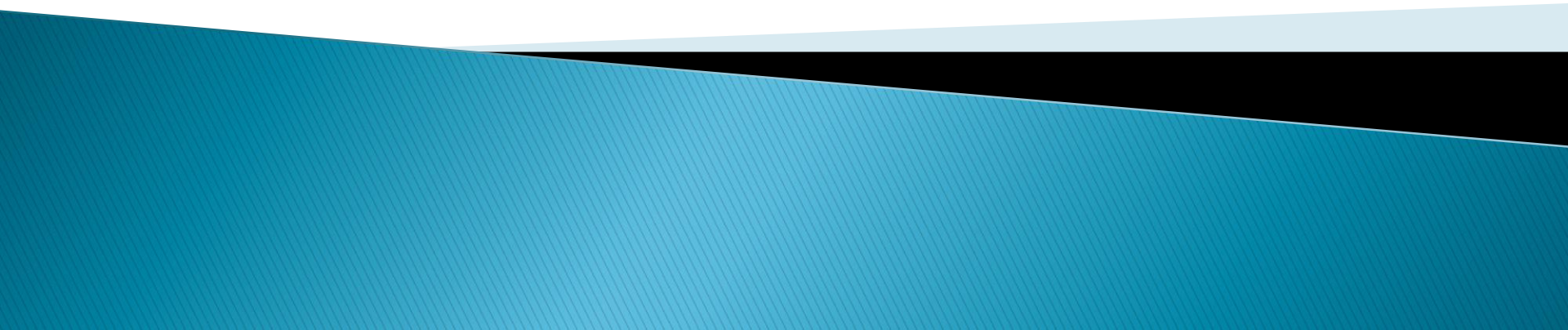
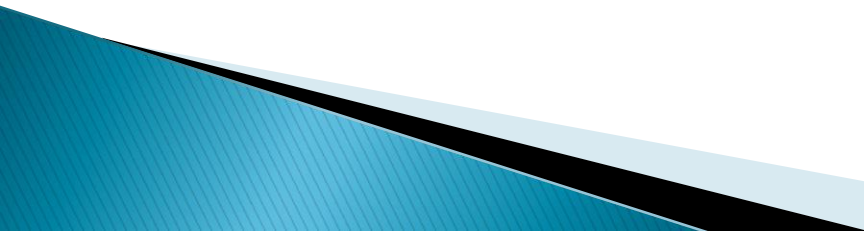


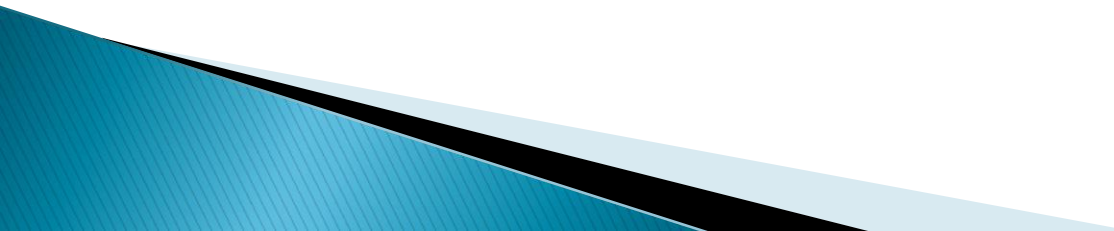
Building Strategic Framework for Government – Civil Society Cooperation in Policy Making Process in Croatia



Creating enabling environment for civil society development in democratic transition processes

- ▶ Need for longer-term strategies on capacity-building of both governments and CSOs
 - ▶ Need for balanced approach of combining
 - investing in human resources and
 - establishing enabling structures and procedures for cooperation
- 

Croatia – four pillars of effective Government–civil society cooperation

1. Strategic documents & legal framework
 2. Structures for State–CSOs cooperation
 3. Sustainable funding of CSOs' programmes
 4. Standards of consultation in policy making
- 

Croatian National Strategy for Creating Enabling Environment for CSOs 2012–2016



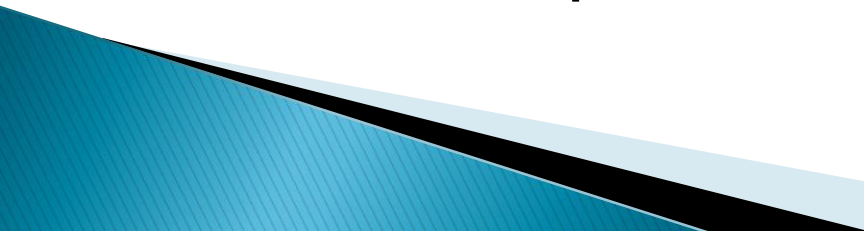
- ▶ **broad consensus** among civil society, government and business representatives about the strategic priorities until 2016

Croatian National Strategy for Creating Enabling Environment for CSOs 2012–2016

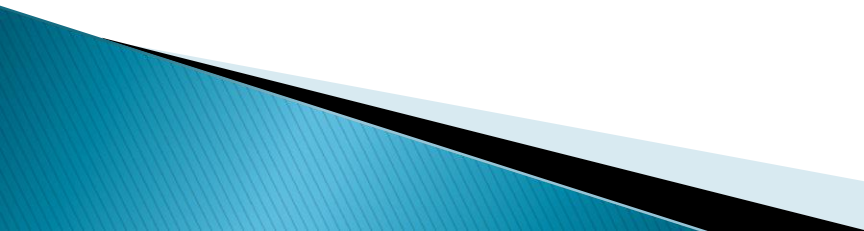


- ▶ **common platform** that brings together key stakeholders vital for creating conditions for sustainability of an independent and vibrant civil society

Monitoring the Progress in Implementing the National Strategy


- ▶ More than 30 institutions involved in the implementation of measures (precise indicators)
 - ▶ Complex area – need for effective vertical and horizontal coordination and solid mechanisms for monitoring the progress
 - ▶ Annual reports on Strategy implementation – continuous involvement of CSOs and interested public
- 

Structures for supporting State – CSOs cooperation – 15 years of efforts

- ▶ Government Office for Cooperation with CSOs (1998)
 - ▶ Council for Civil Society Development (2002)
 - ▶ National Foundation for Civil Society Development (2003)
 - ▶ Regional support networks of CSOs (since 2006)
 - ▶ Regional foundations (since 2006)
- 

Government Office for Cooperation with CSOs

Coordinating Government Policy on Creating Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development:

- ▶ implementation of National Strategy
 - ▶ public funding policy coordination
 - ▶ improving standards of public consultation
 - ▶ training of civil servants on CSO cooperation
- 

Council for Civil Society Development

13 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
1 Foundations

1. Union
2. Employers Association
3. Foundation

15 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 Labour and Pensions
10. Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds
11. Ministry of War Veterans
11. Office of Prime Minister of Croatia
12. Government Office for Human Rights and national minorities
13. Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
14. National Foundation for Civil Society Development

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT



Regional Support Centres

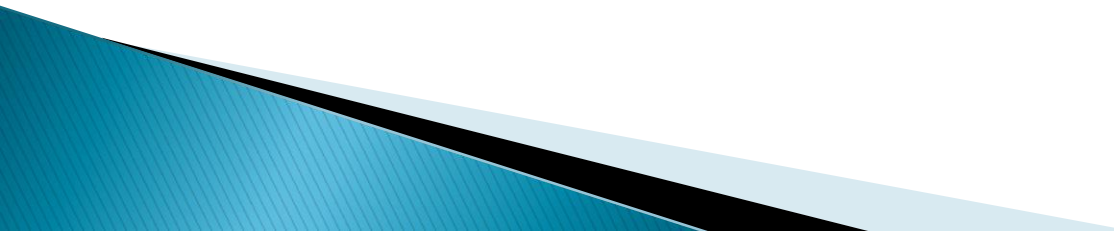
- NGOs networks on local level providing capacity building for smaller and newly formed NGOs




Regional /Local Community Foundations

- Decentralization of public funding - "Bringing money where needs already exist"

Sustainable funding of CSOs programmes and projects

- ▶ transparency of funding procedures
 - ▶ diversification of funding mechanisms
 - ▶ ensuring operating grants for CSOs
 - ▶ supporting small grass-roots initiatives
- 

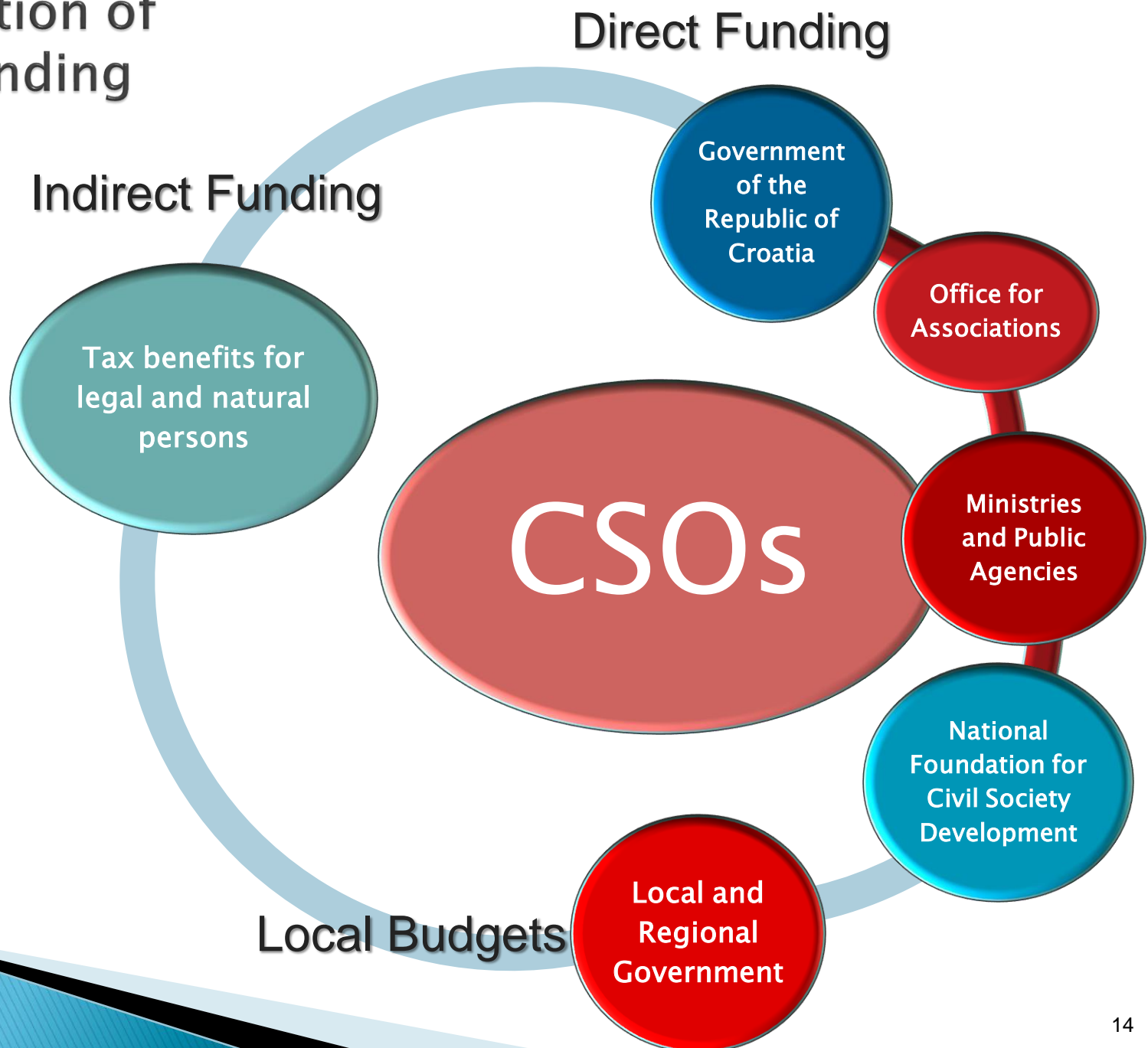
Transparency of procedures of funding of CSOs programmes and projects

- Code of Good Practice of Public Funding of CSOs (adopted by Parliament in 2007)
 - Data on all grants accessible on internet
 - Coordination meetings (and training seminars) for public officials at all levels
 - Annual Info days – debates on forthcoming calls for funding CSOs programmes
- 

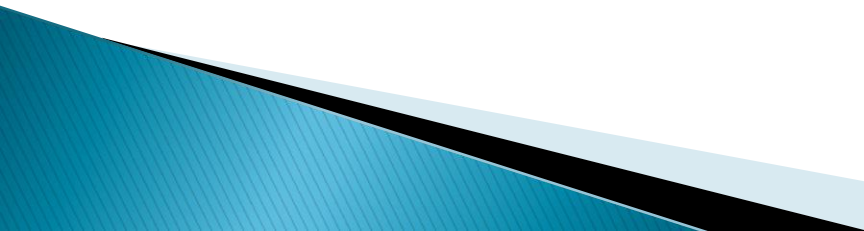
Diversification of funding

- decentralized system of public funding (20 gov. bodies funding CSOs: 70–90 calls annually)
- 50% of lottery revenues – to civil society
- regional and local government funding (21 counties, 129 cities, 429 municipalities)
- National Foundation– operating grants
- regional networks and foundations – promoting philanthropy at local level

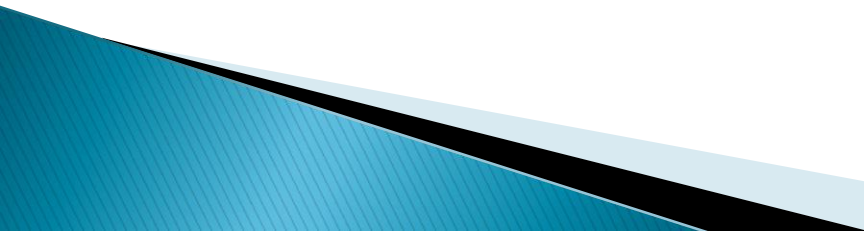
Coordination of Public Funding



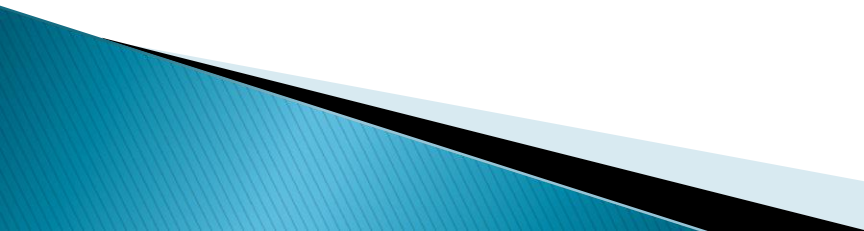
Public consultations – key for effective policy formulation and implementation

- OECD – Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy-making (2001)
 - European Commission – General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission (2002)
 - Council of Europe – Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process (2009)
- 


Challenges of policy formulation in Croatia's EU accession process

- 86,5% acts adopted in Parliament through urgent procedure
 - restricted access of interest groups to policy formulation
 - no relevant EU acquis on public consultations (short mention in Progress reports) – *low adaptation pressure*
 - focus on output (efficiency) rather than input (participation) legitimacy
- 


Changing policy framework for institutionalizing public consultations

- National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2006–2011 (*July 2006*)
 - Strategy of Reform of State Administration 2008–2011 (*March 2008*)
 - Action plan of the Strategy of Combating Corruption (*June 2008*)
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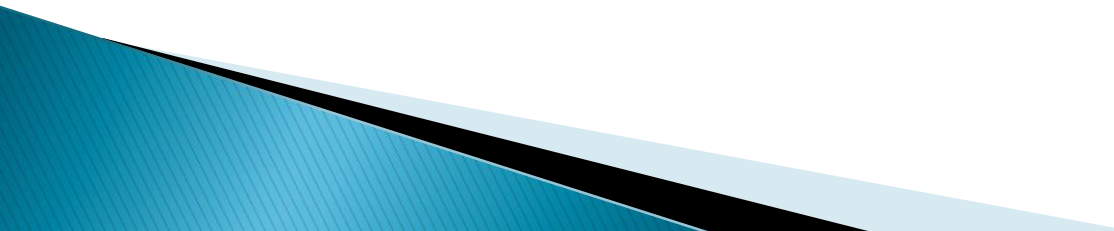
Introducing new standards of public consultations in policy making

- Code of Practice on Consultation with the Interested Public in Procedures of Adopting Laws, Other Regulations and Acts (November 2009)
 - Government Rules of Procedures – amended to institutionalize practice of feedback on consultation results in accordance with the Code (October 2012)
 - Law on Access to information – proactive transparency and publishing consultation documents (February 2013)
- 

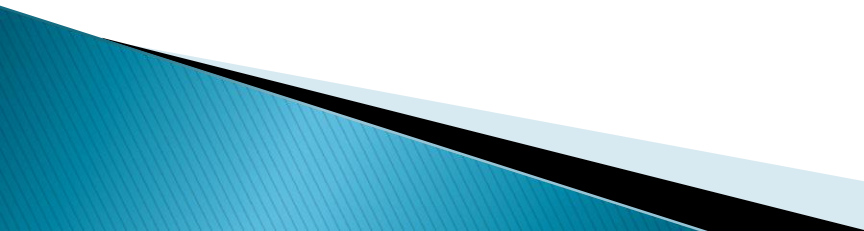
Open Government Partnership

- Croatia joined OGP in September 2011
 - National Open Government Action plan (April 2012)
 - new initiative promoting proactive openness and transparency
 - enabling intensive global networking and expert assistance among civil servants, business and CSOs
 - rising expectations among key stakeholders on open and inclusive policy making
- 

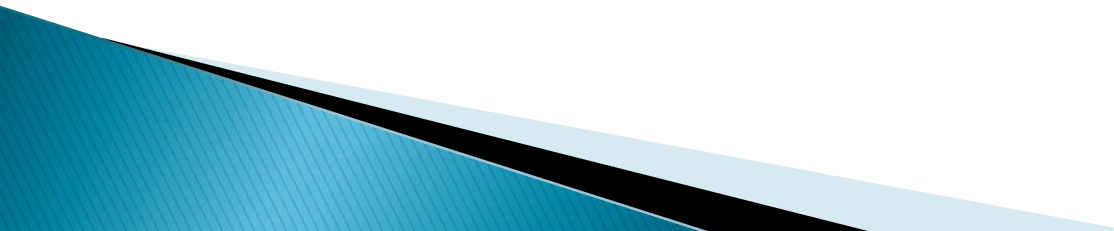
National Strategy for Creating Enabling Environment for CSOs 2012–2016

- Adopted in July 2012
 - Measures for strengthening capacities of civil servants for effective involvement of CSOs and interested public in policy formulation and implementation
- 

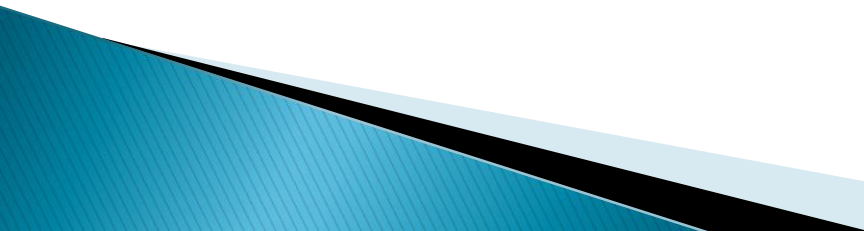
RIA – promoting public consultations at early stages of policy cycle

- Regulation Impact Assessment Act (2011)
 - Decree on Implementation of the Regulation Impact Assessment Procedure (2012)
 - Regulation Impact Assessment Strategy with an Action Plan (2012)
 - IPA Twinning project for efficient implementing RIA in Croatia (2010–12)
- 


Putting in practice new public consultation standards

- Detailed Guidelines for implementing the Code of practice on consultation
 - Consultation coordinators appointed in ministries and government offices
 - Training programmes and peer-to-peer support for consultation coordinators
 - Annual reports – Monitoring the implementation of the Code
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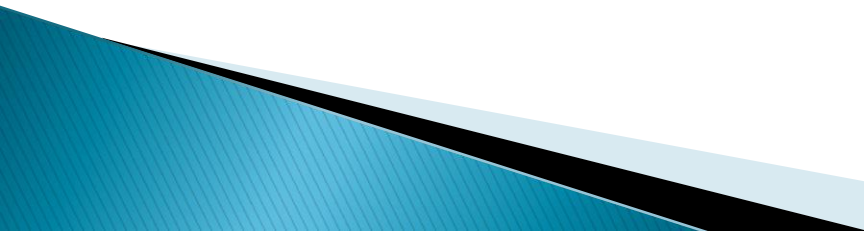
Detailed step-by-step Guidelines on implementing the Code

- the question is not why but rather how to conduct meaningful public consultation
 - all ministries – standardized public consultation web page
 - standardized forms for gathering contributions from the interested public
 - standardized forms for reporting on the results of public consultation
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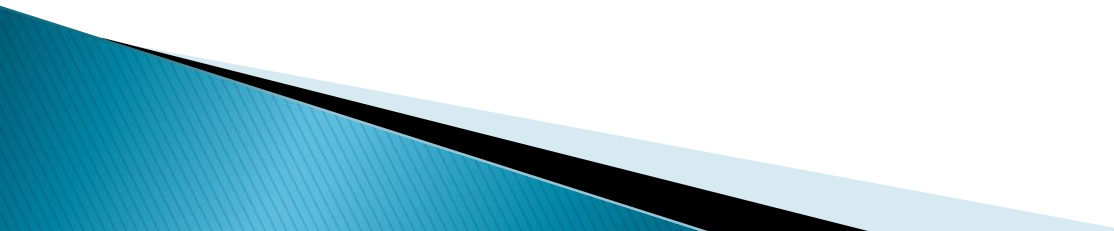
Training and peer-to-peer support for consultation coordinators

- IPA project – strengthening capacities of public consultation coordinators (3 modules training)
 - State School for Public Administration – training programme for policy and PR officers
 - Coordination meetings of consultation coordinators – peer to peer support and exchange of best practices
 - Coordination meetings of PR officers
- 

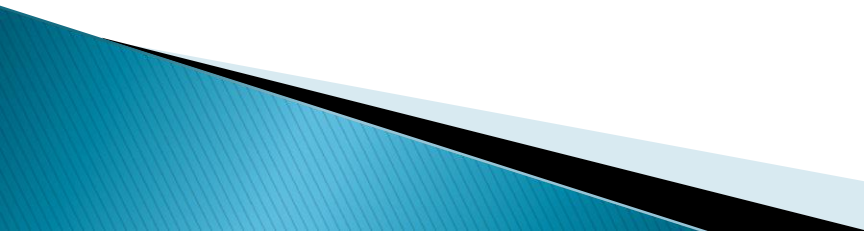
Annual reports – Monitoring the implementation of the Code

- Substantial progress in 2012 – consultations conducted for 144 acts (compared to 48 in 2011, and 30 in 2010)
 - For 27 acts (out of 144) public consultations lasted less than 15 days
 - 4773 written contributions from interested public (compared to 173 in 2011)
 - reports on consultation results published for 76 acts
- 

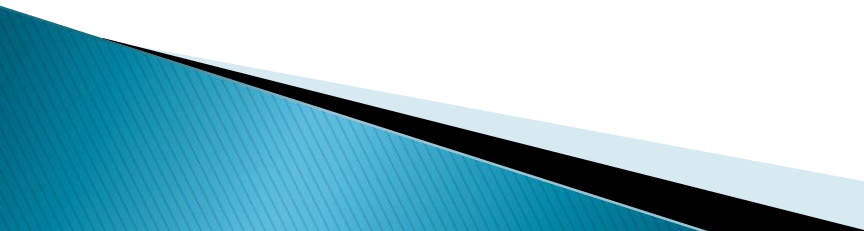
Lessons learned

- Importance of political will and policy coordination capacities in structural and functional terms
 - Diversification of consultation methods (social networks, open internet consultations, public meetings, open space, etc)
 - Feedback to the public – essential for confidence building
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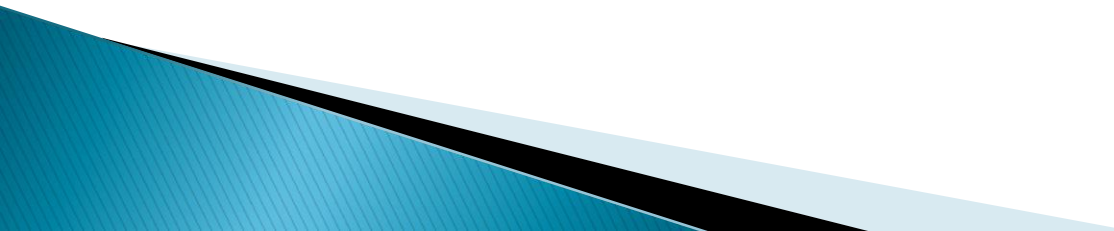
Post-accession policy formulation prospects

- Expected brain drain to EU institutions – potentially limited resources in public administration do deal with EU affairs
 - Expertise – becoming access good of high demand
 - Expected increased dependency on outside sources of expertise
 - Importance of creating functional policy networks for EU affairs
- 


Opportunities for sharing Croatian experience with SEE, Euromed countries

- ▶ Developing long-term strategies on capacity-building of **both governments and CSOs**
 - ▶ **Creating mechanisms of peer-to-peer support** in development of policies and practices of Government- CSOs cooperation
 - ▶ **Enabling regular monitoring of progress** in the area of enabling environment for civil society on the basis of precise indicators
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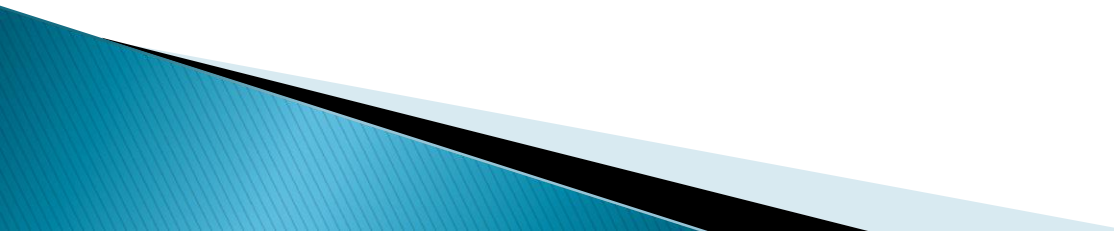
Long-term strategies on capacity-building of governments

- ▶ development of a tailor-made training programmes on establishing institutional, legal and financial framework for cooperation between governmental institutions and civil society
 - ▶ organizing study visits for government officials for the purpose of introducing good practices in developing cooperation with civil society in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policies
- 

Peer-to-peer support for governments on developing cooperation with CSOs

- ▶ establishing networking mechanism for connecting (SEE, Euromed, ..) governments with providers of expertise on cooperation with CSOs
 - ▶ introduce governments to peer governments, CSOs and independent experts with experience, skill sets and technology that can assist governments with conceptualizing and implementing ambitious reforms in the area of cooperation with CSOs
- 

Monitoring of progress in the area of enabling environment for civil society

- ▶ Establishing precise set of indicators for monitoring of progress in the area of enabling environment for civil society, that could be useful tool for:
 - ▶ 1) self-assessment by governments
 - ▶ 2) independent external assessment by think-tanks, policy analysts
 - ▶ 3) regular dialogue between EU, CSOs and governments
- 

Further information

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