



“It is crucial to strengthen partnerships with countries of origin, transit and destination, and to encourage their stronger engagement in addressing the challenges of migration. For Croatia, the key is to focus on EU neighbourhood countries in the Western Balkans, Middle East and Africa, but also on countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.”

– Gordan Grlić Radman, 15 March 2021, informal video conference of EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs, on migration

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

Croatia increased its ODA as a percentage of GNI from 0.12% to 0.15% during 2020 – a step forward in reaching the 0.33% target by 2030. Croatia is aiming to diversify its development cooperation toolbox, moving away from inter-institutional ODA towards technical assistance and other non-financial forms of support that encourage knowledge sharing. In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Croatia has supported its neighbouring countries in strengthening their health systems by providing medical supplies and financial contributions. Croatia has also contributed to the UN system, in particular the WHO, to accelerate the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

In 2020, the Croatian MFA announced a grant programme for funding CSO projects in development cooperation, which is a positive step in its partnership with civil society and a reflection of CROSOL's recommendations in the AidWatch 2020 Report. This new tool aims to strengthen the cooperation between government and civil society, as well as improving Croatian CSOs' capacity for participation in development cooperation projects. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the launch of the grant scheme was postponed until 2021.

The Croatian MFA's report on ODA in 2019 was adopted by parliament in December 2020.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

The key document for development cooperation policy, the National Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Republic of Croatia, expires in 2021, so presumably most of the government's efforts will be aimed at creating a new strategy – which provides an opportunity to reassess its policy priorities and expand the scope of its activities. The new strategy should strive to focus more on previously neglected issues, such as gender equality, sustainable development, stronger cooperation with civil society and building partnerships with LDCs.

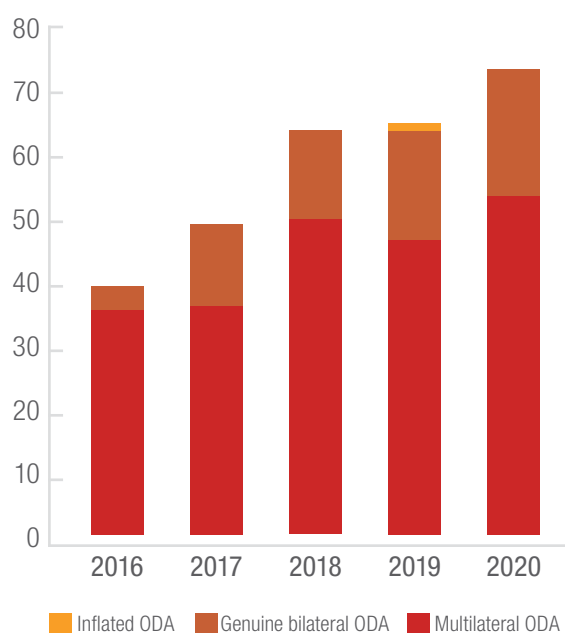
The CSO grant programme is due to start being implemented during 2021, and should be a help with building stronger cooperation between the government and civil society.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT

- Step up efforts to increase aid, honour Croatia's commitments to ODA financing and develop and adopt a concrete timetable for reaching ODA targets.
- Improve reporting and increase transparency on Croatia's ODA spending.
- Continue improving its partnerships with CSOs.
- Expand the policy priorities in its upcoming National Strategy for Development Cooperation from 2021 and beyond, focusing more on gender equality, sustainable development and partnerships with LDCs.

CROATIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA

(€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDCs	ODA to LDCS (% GNI)	ODA to LDCS (% total ODA)
2016	10.63	0.02	26.86
2017	9.99	0.02	20.30
2018	14.41	0.03	22.39
2019	5.40	0.01	8.33

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	0.00	0.00	0.00

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	3.38	3.38	0.00	0.00
2017	12.94	12.94	0.00	0.00
2018	13.60	13.60	0.00	0.00
2019	18.19	18.19	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	3.10	0.00	3.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	12.94	0.00	12.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	13.44	0.00	13.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	14.24	0.00	14.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	3.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	0.89	0.00	0.00
2018	13.14	0.00	0.10	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	0.70	0.00	0.00
2019	17.98	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.33	0.00	0.00