



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

Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, 15 March 2021, informal videocall of EU MFAs on migration.

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

Croatia increased its total ODA as a percentage of GNI from 0.13% to 0.15% during 2021, which presents a step forward in reaching the 0.33% target by 2030. Croatia has contributed to combating the COVID-19 pandemic through bilateral and multilateral vaccine donations, primarily through the COVAX initiative.

The Croatian MFA launched a grant programme in 2021 aimed at funding CSO projects in development cooperation, which is a positive step forward in its partnership with civil society. This new programme aims to strengthen cooperation between government and civil society, as well as Croatian CSOs' capacity to participate in development cooperation projects. However, the current budget of only EUR 400 000 is insufficient for the needs of the organisations in the sector, and there is significant potential for its improvement.

Croatia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' report on ODA in 2021 is currently under parliamentary consideration, but is not yet adopted. Consequently, all the data used in this AidWatch report for Croatia are preliminary.

The Croatian government partially addressed our recommendations from last year's AidWatch report by starting its civil society granting programme, and by slightly increasing its ODA both in absolute terms and as a percentage of GNI. However, it failed to improve in other important aspects, such as transparency and openness towards more meaningful cooperation with civil society in its policy making.

There are some shortcomings in its ODA reporting, specifically concerning refugee and in-donor refugee costs, student costs, vaccine donations, as well as a somewhat discriminatory practice of making donations based on ethnic background and religious affiliation.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2022 AND BEYOND

The key government document for development cooperation policy, the National Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Republic of Croatia, expired in 2021, and currently there is a policy vacuum pending the completion of the upcoming strategy. The new strategy should strive to place more focus on previously neglected issues such as gender equality, sustainable development, better cooperation with civil society and building partnerships with LDCs. Currently civil society is not included in the strategy formulation process, although there are assurances from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs that CSOs will be included.

Croatia reacted positively to the war in Ukraine by accepting all incoming Ukrainian refugees and providing them with necessary aid. However, it is very likely that these in-donor refugee costs will be counted towards ODA, thus causing aid inflation. It is currently unclear whether this will impact on total ODA commitments by decreasing real, non-IDRC aid in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT

- Step up efforts to increase aid, honour Croatia's commitments to ODA financing and develop and adopt a specific timetable to reach ODA targets.
- Improve reporting and increase transparency on Croatia's ODA spending.
- Continue improving partnerships with CSOs.
- Expand the policy priorities in its upcoming national strategy for development cooperation from 2022 and beyond with more focus on gender equality, sustainable development and partnerships with LDCs.

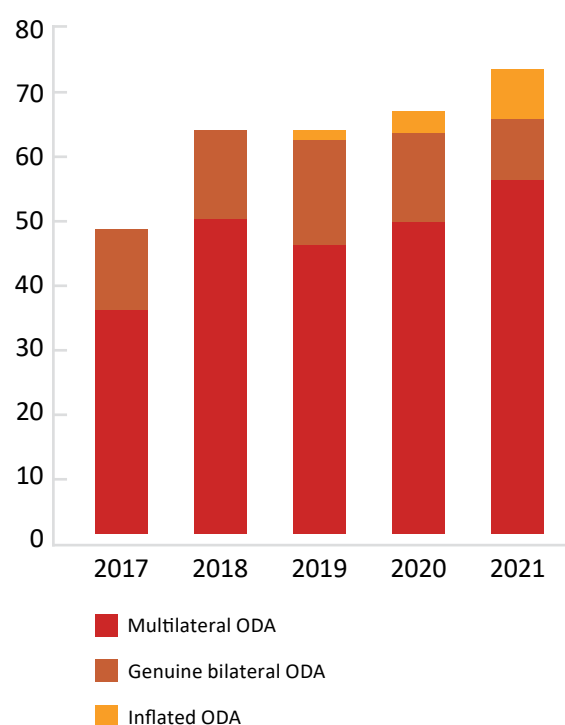
ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA to LDCs	%GNI	% ODA
2017	10.0	0.0	20.3
2018	14.5	0.0	22.4
2019	5.4	0.0	8.3
2020	9.2	0.0	13.6

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral (gross)	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2017	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.0
2018	13.7	13.7	0.0	0.0
2019	18.2	18.2	0.0	0.0
2020	17.0	17.0	0.0	0.0

CROATIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA (€ million, constant 2020)



ODA TO CLIMATE FINANCE (€ million, constant 2020)

Bulgaria has not screened any of its ODA to climate finance.

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral allocable	Total screened	Not screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2017	13.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2018	13.5	0.0	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2019	14.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	14.7	0.0	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2020)

	Non-CSO	CSO Earmarked	CSO Core funding	Total bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Total bilateral CSO support (% ODA)	Core bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Core bilateral CSO support (% ODA)
2017	12.6	0.4	0.0	3.4	0.9	0.0	0.0
2018	13.2	0.5	0.0	3.3	0.7	0.0	0.0
2019	18.0	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
2020	16.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0