



CROATIA

“ A step closer to meet aid commitments ”

By CROSOL

Main trends

Croatia has one of the smallest economies in the EU and is one of the most recent states to graduate from ODA recipient to ODA donor. The country has made significant progress this year, increasing its ODA by over 40% in terms of volume and by 0.02% in terms of ODA/GNI compared to last year. This brings it closer to meeting the European target of 0.33% of GNI by 2030 if the current trend continues, yet still far from the 0.7% commitment. Croatia's bilateral ODA remains largely focused on its neighbours, with a view to supporting the socio-economic stability of the region, with only a very small share going to support development in the LDCs (3.1% in 2021).

Overall, since Croatia became an ODA donor in 2012, its ODA has increased from EUR 17 million in 2012 to EUR 104 million in 2022, representing a quadrupling in volume over a decade. Preliminary data suggest that in 2022, Croatia increased its ODA by 41% in absolute numbers, and up to 0.17% of GNI. If Croatia continues to increase its ODA at the pace of the last two years (increasing by approximately 0.02% of GNI per year), it can meet the European-level target of 0.33% of ODA/GNI (for EU member countries which joined after 2004) by 2030. However, at this pace it is far from reaching the collective commitment of 0.7% ODA-GNI ratio by 2030.

Government's relationship with civil society

While a relationship does not yet exist between government departments (primarily the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) involved in ODA and civil society in Croatia, the new Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid adopted in 2023 states that it: “will enable more dynamic cooperation with development stakeholders that were not included in the implementation of the current Act, in particular civil society organisations and the private sector.” It also

Reported ODA: EUR 105 million
0.17% GNI (↑ from 0.13% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 105 million
0.17% GNI (↑ from 0.13% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA:
not reported



specifically lists CSOs as both actors who undertake development cooperation and through whom development projects can be financed.

The Croatian government should:

- **Continue to increase its ODA as a share of GNI by 0.02% annually, therefore meeting the target of 0.33% of GNI by 2030;**
- **Significantly increase the share of ODA for LDCs;**
- **Remove the focus on ethnic Croats and Christians from its international development programming and disburse aid in recipient countries without discriminating against non-Croats or non-Christians;**
- **Exclude in-donor refugee costs and funds for security or migration from its ODA figures.**