



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

22 December 2019

ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

29-31 October 2019



Warsaw  
28 November 2019

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with its mandate and in anticipation of an official invitation to observe the 22 December 2019 presidential election in the Republic of Croatia, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 29 to 31 October 2019. The NAM included Ana Rusu, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, and Radivoje Grujić, ODIHR Election Adviser.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the presidential election. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming election, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions as well as with representatives of political parties, media and civil society. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs for its assistance and co-operation in organizing the visit. ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for having taken the time to meet with the mission and sharing their views.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Republic of Croatia is a parliamentary republic with a directly elected president serving as the head of state. On 14 November 2019, the government announced that presidential election will be held on 22 December. The president is elected by an absolute majority of valid votes cast. If no candidate is elected in the first round, a run-off between the top two candidates is held within 14 days, with the one receiving more votes deemed elected. There is a limit of two consecutive terms in office.

The electoral legal framework comprises numerous laws and regulatory acts, with a new law on campaign finance introduced in 2019. The majority of prior ODIHR recommendations, including those related to harmonization and consolidation of election legislation, remain unaddressed. The State Election Commission (SEC) informed ODIHR NAM that it prepared a draft Election Code and submitted it to the Ministry of Public Administration in June 2018. However, no follow-up to this initiative took place so far.

The responsibility for organizing the election is shared between three levels of election commissions, headed by the SEC. Several ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the impartiality of the election administration due to the recent appointment of one SEC member as well as the fact that presidential candidates cannot appoint members to lower-level election commissions, in contrast to parliamentary elections.

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<sup>1</sup> On 20 November 2019, following the announcement of the election, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia invited ODIHR to observe the 22 December presidential election.

Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, including those permanently residing abroad. There are no restrictions based on mental disability or criminal conviction. Voter registration is passive, with a central computerized registry of voters maintained by the Ministry of Administration. Some 4.4 million voters are registered. No concerns were raised by ODIHR NAM stakeholders related to the accuracy of the voter register.

Eligible voters may stand as presidential candidates. Candidates are nominated by registered political parties, individual voters or groups of voters, supported by at least 10,000 voters' signatures, with all nominations approved by the SEC. ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express concern regarding the candidate registration process.

Campaign starts once the SEC publishes the list of candidates and lasts until 24 hours before election day. Campaign topics are expected to include civil rights for every citizen, national identity and inter-ethnic relations as well the role of president. While ODIHR NAM interlocutors confirmed the ability to campaign freely, many raised concerns about potential inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech during the campaign, including from high-level state officials, targeting certain national minority groups and immigrants.

Campaign finance is regulated by the new Law on Financing of Political Activities, Election Campaigns and Referendums. The legislation limits campaign expenditures, and makes the publication of campaign finance reports mandatory, in line with a previous ODIHR recommendation. Candidates are required to open dedicated bank accounts for campaign activities and to report directly to the SEC through an electronic system. Overall, ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that while the campaign finance framework has improved, it still contains gaps that could potentially be misused. The SEC oversight under the new reporting system has yet to be tested in the upcoming election.

The media landscape is pluralistic with a wide variety of commercial and public broadcasters as well as print media. While the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, defamation, insult and shaming remain criminal offences. The law requires all broadcast media to abide by the principles of pluralism, objectivity and impartiality and allows paid political advertising during the campaign. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed doubts in the impartiality of the public broadcaster in covering the election campaign. They also stressed that the Council for Electronic media could have more active and substantive role in overseeing media coverage of the election campaign, including sanctioning mechanisms.

The law provides for specific mechanisms for the resolution of election-related disputes, with the SEC serving as the first instance and the Constitutional Court as an appellate body. Expedited deadlines for adjudication of complaints and appeals are in place. The Constitutional Court also exercises general jurisdiction over the legality of the entire electoral process and can be addressed directly in cases when electoral activities are in breach of the Constitution or the law.

Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed a potential ODIHR activity for the upcoming election, noting the value of previous ODIHR assessments, but also highlighting that many previous ODIHR recommendations have not been addressed. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns related to the impartiality of the election administration. In addition, new campaign finance reporting rules will be in place for the first time in this election. The administration of the election and oversight of campaign finance as well as the conduct of the campaign and the media environment could benefit from external review. On this basis, the ODIHR NAM recommends,

subject to the availability of resources, the deployment of an Election Assessment Mission for the 2019 presidential election.

### III. FINDINGS

#### A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The Republic of Croatia is a parliamentary republic with a directly elected president serving as the head of state. The president is the commander-in-chief and appoints the prime minister and cabinet members with the consent of the parliament. The parliament is composed of 151 deputies with more than 20 parties currently represented in different coalitions and parliamentary factions.<sup>2</sup> While Croatia elected its first woman president in January 2015, women are generally under-represented in public office, holding 30 seats in the current parliament and 4 of 16 ministerial posts.<sup>3</sup>

By law, the presidential election should be announced by the government no later than 30 days prior to election day, and should be held at least 30 and not earlier than 60 days prior to expiration of mandate of the incumbent president. On 14 November 2019, the government announced that presidential election will be held on 22 December, with a potential second round on 5 January 2020. The current president stated that she would seek re-election.

ODIHR has observed ten elections in Croatia since 1997, including presidential, parliamentary and local elections. The ODIHR Election Assessment Mission for the 2015 parliamentary elections concluded that “the electoral legal framework generally provides a sound basis for the conduct of democratic elections. Voters had an opportunity to choose among 166 candidate lists representing a wide political spectrum and registered by the State Election Commission (SEC) in an open and inclusive process in 12 electoral constituencies. The campaign was largely lacklustre and lacked visibility, and this was reflected in the media. [...]. The law provides for timely and effective adjudication of electoral disputes but lacks a mechanism to enforce campaign and media rules.”<sup>4</sup>

#### B. ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The president is directly elected for a five-year term and may hold office for up to two consecutive terms. A candidate is elected by an absolute majority of valid votes. If no candidate is elected in the first round, a run-off between the top two candidates is held within 14 days with the one receiving more votes elected.

The legal framework for the presidential election primarily comprises the 1990 Constitution (amended in 2010) and the 1992 Law on Election of the President of the Republic of Croatia (PEL, last amended in 2014). Other applicable legislation includes the 2012 Law on the Register of Voters (amended in 2015), the 2019 Law on Political Activity and Election Campaign Financing (Campaign Finance Law), the 2006 Law on the State Election Commission (SEC, amended in 2007), relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, as well as judicial decisions of the Constitutional

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<sup>2</sup> The 2016 elections resulted in the following seat distribution: Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and its allies 61, People's Coalition (SDP-HNS-HSS-HSU) 54, Independent Lists (MOST) 13, Human Shield (*Zivi zid*) and its allies 8, Istrian Democratic Assembly (IDS) 3, Bandic Milan 365 and its allies 2, Croatian Democratic Party of Slavonia and Baranja (HDSSB) 1, and Independent list 1. In line with the constitution, eight reserved seats are held by national minority parties.

<sup>3</sup> See also paragraph 14 of the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Discrimination against Women “[Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Croatia](#)” (30 April 2015).

<sup>4</sup> See [previous ODIHR election reports on the Republic of Croatia](#).

Court and regulatory decisions of the SEC. The majority of prior ODIHR recommendations, including those related to harmonization and consolidation of election legislation, remain unaddressed. The SEC informed the ODIHR NAM that it prepared a draft Election Code and submitted it to the Ministry of Public Administration in June 2018. However, no follow-up to this initiative took place so far. This will be the first presidential election conducted under the new campaign finance law (*See Campaign Finance Section*).

While presence of citizen and international observers is foreseen in the legislation related to parliamentary elections, for presidential elections such provision does not exist. The SEC informed ODIHR NAM that it will issue a binding regulation related to this matter. They also assured that ODIHR will be invited to observe the upcoming election, and that any interested citizen observer group will also be granted such opportunity.

### C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The responsibility for organizing the election is shared between three levels of election commissions, headed by the SEC, along with 556 Municipal and City Election Commissions (MEC/CiEC) and some 6,500 Voting Committees (VC).

The SEC is a permanent and independent body that oversees the management of elections. It is composed of nine members, currently five men and four women. The SEC president is also president of the Supreme Court, and two out of four vice-presidents are also Supreme Court judges. Other two vice-presidents and four members of the SEC must be lawyers with 10 years of relevant professional experience and are appointed by the parliament, individually after eight-year mandate expires, upon equal nominations from the ruling and opposition parties. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about the impartiality of the SEC, claiming that the legally prescribed balance between representation of the ruling party and the opposition in the SEC membership was violated with the recent appointment of one SEC member.<sup>5</sup>

The SEC's responsibilities include regulation of legal provisions, voter information, training lower-level commission members, oversight of campaign finance, review of electoral complaints, accreditation of election observers, and the formulation of recommendations on improvement to election-related legislation. The SEC directly oversees out-of-country voting and co-ordinates technical aspects with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA).<sup>6</sup> The SEC informed the ODIHR NAM that it has started preparations for the upcoming election, including the development of a manual for voting committee members.

The MECs/CiECs and VCs are temporary bodies, appointed by the SEC and MECs/CiECs respectively, for each specific election.<sup>7</sup> These commissions are composed of a president, two members and three deputies. By law, all these members are not permitted to be members of political parties. All MECs/CiECs members are chosen from among judges and lawyers. The main responsibilities of MECs/CiECs include designation of polling stations, appointment and

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<sup>5</sup> Article 7 of the Law on SEC prescribes that both majority political party or coalition and opposition political parties or coalitions should nominate one vice-chairperson and two members, in accordance with the party structure of the parliament at the time of the election.

<sup>6</sup> Voting abroad takes place over a one-day period. Based on the recommendation of the MFEA, the SEC will establish polling stations abroad.

<sup>7</sup> The SEC informed ODIHR NAM that to date it has formed 21 CiECs, including for City of Zagreb, and that remaining 535 CiECs and MECs are planned to be formed in the week of 18 November. VCs are appointed by the MECs/CiECs no later than five days before election day.

supervision of VCs, making all material and logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election and checking results protocols and tabulate the results.

VCs should be determined by the MECs/CiECs after election is announced, but no later than five days prior to election.<sup>8</sup> They can also be opened in specialised social institutions, including prisons and detention centres. Members of ships crews and military can vote in polling stations determined by respective ministries. While polling stations should be accessible for all voters, ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that the practice varies and that in cases with limited access, a voter may request to vote using a mobile ballot outside of the polling station.

Several ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns over the impartiality of the election administration, criticizing the fact that presidential candidates cannot appoint members to MECs/CiECs and VCs, in contrast to parliamentary elections, where political parties can nominate members to all levels of the election commissions. The Social Democratic Party informed ODIHR NAM that it submitted amendments to the PEL, proposing to allow candidates and parties to have membership in the MECs/CiECs and VCs.<sup>9</sup> Candidates can appoint observers at VCs.

#### **D. VOTER REGISTRATION**

Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, including those permanently residing abroad. There are no restrictions based on mental disability or criminal conviction. Voter registration is passive, with a central computerized registry of voters maintained by the Ministry of Administration (MoA). Registration is based on citizenship data, as well as records of residence and travel documents, provided by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and MFEA respectively. Citizens residing abroad have to actively register, except those possessing electronic ID, who are automatically added to the out-of-country voter register. The MoI informed the ODIHR NAM that to date there are a total of 3,733,085 voters registered by the MoA.<sup>10</sup>

Since 2015, citizens without valid ID are excluded from the voter register. In addition, citizens who do not have a registered residence are moved into the register of voters residing abroad, without stating the country of their residence.<sup>11</sup> The authorities noted that eligible voters without a valid ID would be able to vote on election day by obtaining a voting certificate at the local office of the Ministry of Administration or from the embassy or consulate. In addition, voters who know that they will be away from their place of residence on election day, have the possibility to register for absentee vote certificate, allowing them to vote at an alternative polling station in country or abroad. No concerns were raised by ODIHR NAM stakeholders regarding the accuracy of the voter register.

#### **E. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION**

Eligible voters may stand as presidential candidates. Registered political parties, individual voters or groups of voters can nominate candidates. Each candidacy must be supported by at least 10,000

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<sup>8</sup> Polling stations abroad are determined by the SEC, who also informed ODIHR NAM that, while the PEL determines for all PSs to be established no later than 5 days prior to election day, the PSs will be established after candidate list is published.

<sup>9</sup> While the Government suggested not to accept the amendments, claiming that the law should not be changed less than a year before elections, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors still advocate for this amendment to be adopted, claiming that it would not change the substance of the election administration.

<sup>10</sup> In addition, to date some 737,088 citizens have registered residence abroad. From this number, some 165,424 possess valid electronic ID.

<sup>11</sup> Citizens without registered residence lose their right to hold a national ID.

voters' signatures, and voters can sign in support for only one candidate. All nominations should be submitted to the SEC within 12 days from the announcement of the election that should approve them within 48 hours from the nomination deadline.

While ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express concerns regarding the candidate registration process, some parties were of the opinion that the restriction to sign in support of only one candidate in presidential election should be removed as in parliamentary elections. A number of parliamentary parties that the ODIHR NAM met with expressed their intention to either nominate or support candidates, and many have publicly declared it.

## **F. ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

Campaign starts once the SEC publishes the list of candidates and lasts until 24 hours before election day. According to ODIHR NAM interlocutors, prospective candidates have already begun to post campaign materials. Overall, ODIHR NAM interlocutors confirmed the ability to campaign freely. While traditional campaign methods will be used, the campaign is expected to rely heavily on online and social media. Interlocutors noted that the legislation does not contain specific provisions regulating online campaigning and raised concern about lack of transparency of online advertisements. Campaign topics are expected to include civil rights for every citizen, national identity and inter-ethnic relations as well the role of president. Some prospective candidates pledged to seek for an increase in presidential powers, if elected.

Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about potential inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech during the campaign, including from high-level state officials, targeting certain national minority groups and immigrants. In 2016, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights expressed serious concerns about the level of hate speech and its negative impact on social cohesion.<sup>12</sup>

## **G. CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

Campaign finance is regulated by the new Campaign Finance Law, adopted on 23 March 2019. The law introduced a number new provisions, including obligation of SEC to publish candidates' reports, new electronic system for reporting, as well as obligation for signing contracts on donations over 5,000 Croatian Kuna (HRK).<sup>13</sup> Several ODIHR NAM interlocutors indicated that the process of adoption of the law would have benefitted from a more inclusive process with proper public and parliamentary debate. In addition, the timing of the enforcement of the law is currently challenged in front of the Constitutional Court by one political party, claiming it is against good electoral practice, as it came in force two days prior to the announcement of elections to the European Parliament.<sup>14</sup>

Candidates can finance their campaigns from their own funds, donations, and funds from political parties that nominate them. While there are limits on donations from individuals and legal entities, the Campaign Finance Law does not foresee limits on transfers to candidates from political parties, nor does it seek to establish from where the party received such funds, except for by reviewing

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<sup>12</sup> See paragraph 68 of the [2016 Report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe Following his Visit to Croatia](#). See also the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) report from 15 May 2018.

<sup>13</sup> EUR 1 is approximately HRK 7,44.

<sup>14</sup> See also [Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters](#) of the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe, Guideline II. 2 b.



parties' annual financial reports.<sup>15</sup> Donations from state, foreign and anonymous sources are prohibited, as well as from labor unions, religious and humanitarian organizations. Spending limit of HRK 8 million (around EUR 1 million) applies to candidates' expenses. For candidates who qualify for second round, this amount can be increased by 20 per cent.

Candidates who receive at least ten per cent of valid votes cast are entitled for reimbursement of campaign expenditures from the state budget, proportional to the number of votes they received, but not higher than the amount that is actually spent during the campaign. The government determines the total amount to be allocated from the budget for this purpose, within seven days after the announcement of the election.<sup>16</sup>

All candidates are required to open dedicated bank accounts for all campaign incomes and expenditures. The accounts can be opened starting from six months prior to election, until the day the nominations are submitted, at the latest. Within three days from the opening of the account, the candidate should provide account details to the SEC.

The SEC oversees campaign finance reporting. As a novelty, the SEC issues credentials to the candidate for accessing an online system for reporting of campaign finances. The SEC informed ODIHR NAM that to date 11 prospective candidates opened accounts and were provided with the credentials. All candidates are obliged to submit two financial reports to the SEC: once – seven days prior to the election, and second time – 30 days after the election. The SEC should publish these reports on its webpage as soon as it receives them (on the next working day), in line with a previous ODIHR recommendation. For violating the campaign finance rules, the law provides a range of sanctions, including fines and revocation of campaign finance reimbursement from the state budget.

Overall, ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that while the campaign finance framework has improved, it still contains gaps that could be misused. In addition, the SEC oversight under the new reporting system has yet to be tested in the upcoming election. Furthermore, several interlocutors stated that transparency of campaign finance decreased due to new provisions that do not set limits on donations to candidates from political parties.

## H. MEDIA

The media landscape is pluralistic with a wide variety of commercial and public broadcasters as well as print media. While television is still considered the main source of information, there is an increase in Internet news portals, and in political debate taking place on social media. Public broadcaster *Hrvatska Radiotelevizija* (HRT) operates four channels, two of which offer information programmes. Two private channels broadcast information programmes nationwide.

While the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, defamation, insult and shaming remain criminal offences. OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) noted that legal definitions of “shaming” and “insult” are “vague, open to individual interpretation and, thus, prone to arbitrary application”, and called on the government to “remove offences against reputation from the criminal code and to fully decriminalise defamation.”<sup>17</sup> According to the Croatian Journalists' Association there are more than 1,100 ongoing lawsuits against journalists and news outlets in the country. Many cases were filed by politicians and public figures, including also HRT that alone

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<sup>15</sup> Individuals can donate maximum of HRK 30,000 (about EUR 4,000) and legal entities maximum of HRK 200,000 (about EUR 27,000) per candidate.

<sup>16</sup> In 2014 presidential election, the government allocated HRK 1 million for this purpose.

<sup>17</sup> See the OSCE RFoM statements from [8 April 2014](#) and [17 September 2019](#).

filed 36 lawsuits against its own and other journalists. The OSCE RFoM urged HRT to engage in a “constructive out-of-court dialogue with journalists and resolve the current disputes.”<sup>18</sup> Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed their concerns about the environment in which journalists operate and about limitations on freedom of expression.

During elections, the rules applying to media are outlined in the PEL and supplemented by detailed regulations adopted by the parliament. The law requires all broadcast media to abide by the principles of pluralism, objectivity and impartiality and allows paid political advertising during the campaign. The HRT is obliged to cover campaign and enable all candidates to present and explain their election programmes under the same conditions. In addition, the HRT is obliged to provide each candidate with a same amount of free airtime on television and radio. The ODIHR NAM was informed that the HRT would decide on the amount of free airtime once the candidate list is final. It also plans to organize debates with candidates, during the campaign period. Private media does not have similar obligations, and can decide to what extent election campaign is covered.

The SEC is obliged by the law to supervise the conduct of the media during the campaign, but it has no power to impose sanctions if media fail to abide by the regulations. The Council for Electronic Media (CEM) oversees broadcasters’ activities for their adherence to the provisions of the law and can impose sanctions when violations are detected, mainly related to hate speech.<sup>19</sup> Although the CEM employs a full-time staff of media monitors, it does not have the role of monitoring the election campaign coverage of the HRT or any other broadcaster. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed doubts in impartiality of the HRT in covering election campaign, stressing that CEM could be given more active and substantive role in overseeing media coverage of the election campaign, including sanctioning mechanisms.

## I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The right to complain is limited to political parties or voters who have nominated candidates, and to independent candidates. In addition, appeals can be made by no less than 100 voters. The SEC is the first instance body for complaints with regard to candidate nomination as well as election procedures, while the Constitutional Court serves as the appellate court in these cases. The PEL provides for expedited timelines for the resolution of these complaints, stipulating a 48-hour timeline for each step of the complaint and appeal process, including the decisions of the first and the last instance bodies. The Constitutional Court also exercises general jurisdiction over the legality of the entire electoral process and can be addressed directly in cases when electoral activities are in breach of the Constitution or the law. While there are no specified deadlines for decisions related to elections, the Court informed the ODIHR NAM that in practice it would rule in a reasonable timeframe. The SEC receives and rules on complaints regarding the “correctness of the electoral campaign”, and decisions in these cases are final and cannot be appealed.

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<sup>18</sup> See the statement of the European Federation of Journalists from [22 January 2019](#) and OSCE RFoM statement from [6 March 2019](#).

<sup>19</sup> The agency can impose sanctions ranging from fines of up to one million HRK (some 130,000 EUR) to termination of a broadcast licence.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed a potential ODIHR activity for the upcoming election, noting the value of previous ODIHR assessments, but also highlighting that many previous ODIHR recommendations have not been addressed. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns related to the impartiality of the election administration. In addition, new campaign finance reporting rules will be in place for the first time in this election. The administration of the election and oversight of campaign finance as well as the conduct of the campaign and the media environment could benefit from external review. On this basis, the ODIHR NAM recommends, subject to the availability of resources, the deployment of an Election Assessment Mission for the 2019 presidential election.

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs**

Vinko Ljubičić, Assistant Minister for Consular Affairs

Marko Perić, Minister Counsellor, Department for Visas

Ivana Lončar Pavlinić, OSCE Desk Officer, Directorate General for Multilateral and Global Affairs

### **Ministry of Administration**

Krešimir Orešković, Head, Sector for Political System and State Administration

Jadranka Jurinjak, Head, Service for Political System and Electoral System

Gordana Vidaković, Head, Service for the Electoral Register

Robert Mišić, Senior Adviser, Service for Political System and Electoral System

### **Ministry of Interior**

Stjepan Cavrić, Head, Section for Ensuring Public Gatherings

Miroslav Maretić, Head, Service for Administrative Affairs

Anita Glavić, Police Officer, Section for Ensuring Public Gatherings

Valentina Čunčić, Programmer, Department of Informational Technologies

### **Parliamentary Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System**

Peđa Grbin, Deputy Chairperson, Member of Parliament

Ana Biluš, Secretary of the Committee

### **State Election Commission**

Đuro Sessa, Chairperson

Vesna Fabijančić-Križanić, Deputy Chairperson

Ana Lovrin, Deputy Chairperson

Albina Rosandić, Secretary

### **Constitutional Court**

Snježana Bagić, Justice

Teodor Antić, Secretary General

Ksenija Podgornik, Head of the Office of the President

### **State Audit Office**

Nediljka Rogošić, Deputy Auditor General

Lidija Pernar, Assistant Auditor General

### **Council for Electronic Media**

Vanja Gavran, Member

Katija Kušec, Member

Anita Malenica, Member

Davor Marić, Member

Miro Križan, Head, Legal Department

### **Political Parties**

Branka Juričev-Martinčev, Member of Parliament, Croatian Democratic Union, Deputy Faction Chairperson

Marija Jelkovic, Member of Parliament, Croatian Democratic Union

Robert Podolnjak, Member of Parliament, Independent Lists MOST, Head of the Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Boris Milošević, Member of Parliament, Independent Democratic Serbian Party  
Arsen Bauk, Member of Parliament, Head of Faction, Social Democratic Party  
Orsat Miljenić, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party

**Public Broadcaster Radio and Television (HRT)**

Kazimir Bačić, Director General  
Renato Kunić, Head of Programming  
Bruno Kovačević, Editor-In-Chief, Television Programming  
Eliana Čandrić Glibota, Editor-In-Chief, Radio Programming  
Andreja Arežina Grgičević, Editor-In-Chief, Web and Multimedia  
Katarina Periša Čakarun, Editor of the Information Media Services, Croatian Television  
Ivan Žaknić, Assistant Editor, Information Media Services, Croatian Radio

**Media**

Sanja Mikleušević Pavić, Central Committee Chairwoman, Croatian Journalist's Association  
Iva Borković, Secretary, Croatian Journalist's Association

**Civil Society**

Jelena Berković, Executive Director, Gong  
Oriana Ivković Novokmet, Senior Anti-Corruption Expert, Gong  
Jelena Tešija, Public Communications and Social Media Expert, Gong  
Josipa Dika, Election Observation Project Associate, Gong