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TRANSPARENCY AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL IN CROATIA AND HUNGARY

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STRUCTURE

I. Transparency as a principle:

- a) **Good governance**
- b) **Principle of transparency**
- c) **Transparency at local and regional level**

II. Croatia

III. Hungary

- a) **Regulations on 'local' transparency**
- b) **Transparency of representative and executive bodies**
- c) **Implementation of the act on the right of access to information**
- d) **Cooperation with civil society organizations**
- e) **Citizen public participation in decision making process**

IV. LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY?

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- o European Commission, *European Governance: A White Paper, 2001:*

1. **OPENESS/TRANSPARENCY**
2. **PARTICIPATION**
3. **ACCOUNTABILITY**
4. **EFFICIENCY**
5. **COHERENCE**

PROPORTIONALITY, SUBSIDIARITY

PRINCIPLE OF TRANSPARENCY

- 1) the **process** through which public authorities make decision should be **understandable and open**;
- 2) the **decisions** themselves should be **reasoned**, and
- 3) as far as possible, the **information** on which the decisions are based should be **available to public**

Jacob Söderman

TRANSPARENCY AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

- Regulations of 'local' transparency;
- Transparency of representative and executive bodies;
- Implementation of the act on the right of access to information;
 - Cooperation with civil society organizations;
- Citizens direct participation in decision making process

REGULATIONS

- **Constitutions**
- **Acts on the freedom of information**
- **Some kind of authority monitoring realization of this right: **agency (HUN)** or **information commissioner (CRO)****
- **Rules on consultation**

CROATIA

- **GONG – project LOTUS (2009, 2011/12)**
 1. **70% of local and regional self-government units - not transparent;**
 2. **6% of units - exceptionally transparent;**
 3. **The highest transparency level – in cities;**
 4. **The lowest level – in municipalities;**
 5. **The transparency level is primarily the matter of political williness;**
 6. **The majority of units – almost no effort to include citizens into decision making;**
 7. **The criteria which are most satisfied - formal**

HUNGARY

- **Fragmented research (Corruption Research Centre of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy of the Corvenius University of Budapest)**
 1. **Local governments of larger territorial units are more transparent;**
 2. **Problematic realization of rules on consultation;**
 3. **Regulation could be more coherent and clear;**
 4. **The criteria which are most satisfied - formal**

SUMMARY

- **Formal criteria are realized in both states;**
 - **Practical implementation?**
- **Local governments of larger territorial units are more transparent;**
- **Efforts to make a better involvement of citizens into decision-making processes?**
 - **Cooperation with civil society?**
 - **Importance of training and education**