

Meeting Summary | **OECD Holds Collective Action Meeting in Support of Fair Market Conditions for Competitiveness in Croatia**

16/11/2022 – The OECD South East Europe Regional Programme held a high-level meeting in Zagreb to convene the Collective Action Community of Croatia and acknowledge policy makers’ commitment to further reforms in support of [Fair Market Conditions for Competitiveness](#).

The event was an opportunity to share and endorse the key recommendations developed by the Collective Action Community in support of a level playing field and to plan for further action.

The meeting was inaugurated by four high-level speakers. State Secretary Josip Salapić from the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration conveyed Croatia’s commitment to advancing reforms in support of fair market conditions along reforms already underway – both will be key on Croatia’s OECD accession path. Karim Dahou, Deputy Director of Global Relations and Cooperation at the OECD, greeted the growing collaboration between the OECD and Croatia in this context and praised project stakeholders for their commitment. He also highlighted the main avenues for reform in the policy areas of *anti-corruption* and *competition policy* and the *framework for state-owned enterprises*. The whole-of-government support of a level playing field was reconfirmed by Žarko Tušek, President of the Committee on the Economy of the Croatian Parliament. The opening ended with the address from Uroš Nedeljković, Compliance Officer at Siemens, the project funder, who underscored the crucial importance of fair competition for attracting investments and hailed the work of the Collective Action Community.



OECD experts Hendrik Bosshammer, Shana Krishnan and Sara Sultan presented the key project findings and recommendations along good practices for implementation. Key suggested reforms included (1) setting up additional safeguards and codes of conduct for the independence of the oversight institutions for conflicts of interest, (2) better enforcement of competition law supported by the necessary resources and competencies, and (3) improving the framework for SOEs through strengthening SOE independence.

After the presentation of key results and good practices for effective reform implementation, a multi-stakeholder panel on *Anchoring a Culture of Integrity* took center stage. During the panel discussion, the audience heard from four project stakeholders. Mirta Kapural from the Competition Agency of Croatia gave an overview of the development of competition standards and advocacy in Croatia. Andreja Pavlović from Oikon, a leading environmental consultancy, emphasised the importance of an active and engaged citizenship and free media landscape for anchoring integrity, while GONG's Oriana Ivković Novokmet



underlined the need for institutions to become stronger and for parties to be more rigidly scrutinised. Associate Professor Ana Andabaka from the Economics and Business Faculty of the University of Zagreb reflected on the importance of including the leaders of tomorrow in awareness raising initiatives.

The morning session was jointly closed by Mario Čupić, Senior Advisor from the Ministry of Justice and Public

Administration, and OECD Deputy Director Mr Dahou. Mr Čupić endorsed the proposed recommendations and underlined the Ministry's commitment to advancing reforms, while Mr Dahou reiterated the OECD's readiness to accompany Croatia on this journey.

During the afternoon, the meeting was dedicated to taking stock of the Collective Action achievements and next steps, featuring a roundtable during which expert members discussed the way forward in aligning initiatives. Coming from Transparency International Croatia, Davorka Budimir shared key research efforts and toolkits in the civil society space, while regional expert Silvija Vig from CODUPO Compliance shared her experience in the private and public sectors, identifying the potential for private sector representatives to serve as a role model for integrity. Mirko Klarić, Associate Professor at the University of Split, gave an overview of how Collective Action reshapes society and endorsed the introduction of anticorruption legal clinics to expose students to real corruption cases. The final speaker, Nataša Đurović from the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime, focused on the consequences of corruption and the reforms needed to ensure cases are resolved early on.

The afternoon session was closed by Mirela Fučkar, Director at the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, and by Siemens' Compliance Officer Uroš Nedeljković. The speakers congratulated the Collective Action Community for its engagement and looked forward to the further collaboration.

For key findings, please consult: [Country Profile for Croatia](#)

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