



VICE PRESIDENT

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: March 2018

To: March 2020

Part I. Statement of Continued Support

Zagreb, January 18, 2021

To our members, partners and stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Croatian Chamber of Economy supports the United Nations Global Compact. Croatian Chamber of Economy will continue to support all initiatives of our members, partners and stakeholders to foster sustainable development goals.

Business community has significant role in actions recognized for achieving 17 Sustainable Development Agenda goals. Thus, for more than 10 years we actively promote values of social responsibility and sustainability through our business network. We are organizing series of events on SDGs and CSR such as *We sustain sustainability* Conference, the CSR Index Award ceremony and we are co-organiser of the CSR Conference.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles, our commitment to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Tomislav Radoš
Vice-president

About Croatian Chamber of Economy

The Croatian Chamber of Economy (CCE) is an independent, professional business organisation for all legal entities engaging in business within the Republic of Croatia. It was established in 1852, organised along European tradition as an institution which represents Croatian economic interests and on the so-called the continental Chamber system, with compulsory membership.

The Chamber consists of the Headquarters in Zagreb and the Zagreb Chamber and nineteen county chambers in Bjelovar, Čakovec, Dubrovnik, Karlovac, Koprivnica, Krapina, Osijek, Otočac, Požega, Pula, Rijeka, Sisak, Slavonski Brod, Split, Šibenik, Varaždin, Virovitica, Zadar and the Office for Areas of Special State Concern in Knin.

For representation of Croatian companies on international market, CCE has representative offices in Belgium – Brussels, Russian Federation-Moscow, Republic of China- Shanghai, in neighbouring countries: Serbia – Belgrade and representative office in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mostar.

Croatian national committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Croatia) operates within the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

All the information about the CCE activities is available on the web page and social media.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Affiliation

CCE gathers numerous business entities in various affiliations and associations. CSR Affiliation, as a business entity of CCE, brings together companies that are national frontrunners of corporate social responsibility. The activity of the Affiliation is focused on awareness rising and promotion of companies that imbedded corporate social responsibility into their everyday practices. As of 2018, the work of the Affiliation is focused on promotion and implementation of SDGs in Croatia. The goals of the CSR Affiliation are:

- Creating guidelines on successful SDG implementation for Croatian business community through various publications
- Speeding up of SDGs understanding and implementation among Croatian business sector
- Establishing dialogue and partnership with all sectors shaping up a sustainable business community

CSR affiliation offers and organizes various educations and trainings regarding non-financial reporting while fostering sustainable practices.

CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR (HGK_COR AKCELERATOR)

HGK_COR AKCELERATOR (*The platform*, in the following text) is an interactive online platform that promotes partnership between the business sector, state institutions and the civil sector in achieving the goals of sustainable development in Croatia. It acts as a national SDG news bar that offers education, workshops and conferences on SGD implementation in Croatia.

The platform gathers companies that understand, follow and implement SDG principles in their business activities and promotes them on a national level. The platform aims to strengthen the understanding and importance of sustainable development goals in building an economically prosperous, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable society. Main users of the platform are the business companies and the business community in general. The major benefits that the companies gain are:

- promotion of their good practice in SDG implementation through the platform
- information on non-financial reporting and upcoming legislation on sustainable development policies
- growing national and international business network access

HGK_COR AKCELERATOR activities

- **Voluntary National Review:** The platform gathered various successful case studies on SDG implementation in Croatian business sector that CSR Affiliation used to prepare a chapter in the Voluntary National Review on business sector contribution to SDGs implementation in Croatia
- ***We sustain sustainability* conferences:** The platform organizes conferences that focus on communication and implementation of SDGs within Croatian business sector. The goal of the conferences is to gather key stakeholders on a national and international level to discuss on sustainable development.
- **Business Leadership Program in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals:** The platform is promoting publication on successful case studies on SDG implementation in Croatian business community.

Part II. Description of Actions

During the period of this report, Croatian Chamber of Economy organized numerous events for its members, issued a variety of publications, initiated projects with partners focused on the sustainability issues, established new databases fostering development and digitalization. Special focus was on the organization of trainings and seminars and on promotion of sustainable development.

Education

Croatian Chamber of Economy (CCE) and the CSR Affiliation organized number of trainings, conferences and education on UN sustainable development goals for its members. Public discussions on strategical documents related to the climate change and climate adaptation, environmental issues, sustainable energy development and socially responsible and sustainable business were also conducted, contributing to the fulfilment of SDG 17- *Partnership for the Goals*, but also other 16 SDS intertwined and connected with SDG 17.

CCE supported partner institutions in organisation of conferences on environmental issues, round tables related the climate change and climate adaptation, workshops on corporate social responsibility and nonfinancial reporting. In all those activities, Croatian Chamber of Economy supported its members on active participation. The number of seminars, trainings, conferences, round tables, meetings and other means of education through the period of this report is significant. As a part of educational process, Croatian Chamber of Economy organized study tours to specialized fairs related to the environmental topics and sustainable building, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for members.

ICC Croatia organized number of conferences, seminars and workshops on anti-corruption, CSR and SDGs. ICC Croatia Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption organized a number of seminars on the subject of anti-corruption.

Promoting best practices

Contribution to SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals



CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR (HGK_COR AKCELERATOR)

CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR is an interactive platform that promotes partnership between the business sector, state institutions and the civil sector in achieving the goals of sustainable development in Croatia.

The idea for the platform came from the CSR Affiliation with the support from the Sector for energy and environmental protection and the Marketing association at the Croatian Chamber of Economy. It is a cooperative social incubator focused on sharing ideas and good practice, knowledge and skills needed to find solutions for achieving the 17 goals of sustainable development.

The platform is interactive and acts as the national SDG news bar that offers education, workshops and conferences on SGD implementation in Croatia. The platform gathers companies that understand, follow and implements SDG principles in their business activities and promotes them on a national level. Through various workshops, lectures and conferences, the platform aims to strengthen the understanding and importance of sustainable development goals in building an economically prosperous, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable society. The main user of the CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR platform are the business companies and the business community in general. The major benefits that the companies have, are:

- promotion of their good practice in SDG implementation through the platform
- information on non-financial reporting and upcoming legislation on sustainable development policies
- growing national and international business network access

CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR activities are:

- **Voluntary National Review:** CCE is a partner to national competent authorities when preparing Voluntary National Review. The platform was a focal point to gathered successful case studies on SDG implementation in Croatian business sector, collected through questionnaire prepared by CSR Affiliation and used to prepare a chapter in the Voluntary National Review on business sector contribution to SDGs implementation in Croatia
- **We sustain sustainability conferences:** with the aim to foster the communication and implementation of among key stakeholders on a national and international level and to promote Croatian business sector activities
- **Business Leadership Program in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals:** The platform is promoting publications on successful case studies on SDG implementation in Croatian business sector

We sustain sustainability 2020: Better solutions, better habits, better world

March 2020.

We sustain sustainability_2020 (*Podržimo održivo_2020*) should have been the second conference organised by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and co-organized by ICC Croatia.

The focus of the conference is on initiation of discussion on how to save the planet and scrutinize some of the most prominent problems of the world today; of discussion on needed changes in management approach in the next ten years; of the tools needed and steps towards the fulfilment of 17 goals of sustainable development will be the topics of the conference.

More information on the conference is available [here](#).

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic situation with the COVID-19 viruses and prevention of the spread of the viruses, the event was postponed and will be held in June 2021.

CSR Index Award and Conference

During the reporting period Croatian Chamber of Economy together with its partner organisation Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development (HR BCSD), ran the CSR Index competition. CSR Index is a methodology for self-evaluation of CSR practices of companies in Croatia that is organised on yearly basis. The CSR evaluation is based on nationally developed methodology, transformed into an on-line questionnaire. Participation in the competition is on voluntary basis and companies are evaluated in the following areas; economic sustainability, CSR incorporation into the business strategy, working environment, environmental protection, market relations, community relations and responsible policies for diversity and protection of human rights. Based on this competition CCE and HR BCSD organised CSR Award ceremony in 2018 and 2019.

CSR Index Award is given in four main categories: large, medium, small and publicly owned companies. A special award is given for the greatest improvement in comparison to the previous year. There are four categories for specific area of business performance: Responsible policies and practices in the working environment, Responsible policies and environmental management practices, Socially responsible relations with the community and Socially Responsible Policies of Diversity and Human Rights Protection.



Reports from the conducted competition for 2018 is available [here](#), and for 2019 [here](#).

Initiatives and Partnerships



Strengthening Business Integrity and Compliance – Conflicts of Interest (“Jačanje integriteta i usklađenosti u poslovanju – Sukob interesa”)

November 26th, 2018

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

The conference co-organized by CCE, ICC Croatia and the Royal Norwegian Embassy took place on in Zagreb and gathered participants from private and public sector.

The main objective was raising awareness of all layers of public and private sector on necessity to combat corruption, foster the culture of integrity, transparency and ethics as the core of corporate responsibility. Central theme of the conference was Conflicts of Interest. On this occasion the “ICC Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in Enterprises” were presented as a useful practical tool for business. Simultaneously the Croatian translation of the “ICC Rules on Combating Corruption” were posted on CCE and ICC Croatia websites.



Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

January 24th, 2019

Representatives of the Croatian Chamber of Economy Marija Šćulac Domac and Josipa Martulaš, President of the Association for Socially Responsible Business of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce Andreja Pavlović and ICC Hrvatska Sunčanica Skupnjak Kapić met with Assistant Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mario Horvatić on January 24, 2019.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss possibilities for cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Croatian Chamber of Economy in sensitizing the public about the importance of sustainable development goals and to offer full support of the Croatian Chamber of Economy in drafting the first Voluntary National Review. 2019 in New York at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - HLPF under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC. Following the meeting, the Croatian Chamber of Commerce was recognized as a partner in the development of the DNP and sensitizing the public to the importance of sustainable development goals.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Meeting with the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds

February, 2019

Director of the Industry and Sustainable Development Sector Marija Šćulac Domac and the President of the Association for Corporate Social Responsibility, Andreja Pavlović, met in early February 2019 with Assistant Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds Ana Odak regarding the preparation of the Voluntary National Review.

The meeting discussed the short deadlines for the preparation of the VNR and the need for urgent action, the initiative of the Croatian Chamber of Economy to organize a conference to raise public awareness of the importance of drafting the VNR and accelerate activities to implement sustainable development goals. After the Ministry took over the coordination of the development of the VNR, the Croatian Chamber of Economy participated in the activities of the Working Group for the Preparation of the Voluntary National Review and the preparation of the report dedicated to the contribution of the economic community to the implementation of sustainable development goals in Croatia.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



We sustain sustainability Accelerate changes 2019

March 25th, 2019

The first national conference on the Sustainable Development Goals and opportunities for a better Croatia was organized by Croatian Chamber of Economy and ICC Croatia, as co-organizer.

The conference was highly sponsored by the Croatian government with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds as main sponsors. Swedish and Austrian Embassy and Ericsson Nikola Tesla company were the main partners of the conference.

The conference was held as a part of a CCE_SDG ACCELERATOR platform and the goal of the conference was to collect valuable information and content as a contribution to the Voluntary National Review presented in UN at a high political forum event in July the same year. A publication on the results of the conference is available [here](#).



„Climate change in Croatia: What do businesses need? “

May 25th, 2019

Croatian Chamber of Economy organized a conference on climate action mitigation among Croatian business sector, together with Podravka Ltd.

The keynote speakers were Sasja Beslik, Director of Sustainable Investments in the Nordea Group, prof.dr.sc. Branko Grisogono, full professor at the Faculty of Science and Matija Hlebar, head of Sustainable Development at Podravka.

During the meeting, a panel discussion was organized where the speakers were joined by Marija Šćulac Domac, Director of the Industry and Sustainable Development Sector of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, Ivan Güttler, climatologist from the State Hydrometeorological Institute, Tanja Rudež, journalist of Jutarnji list and Franka Logarić, co-organizer of student climate protests. With the questions from the audience and with the help of moderator Amar Čaušević from the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, it was shown more in detail how climate change is already affecting Croatia and what we can and must do to deal with it in a timely manner.

Almost everyone present, 98% of them, assessed that climate change is one of the three biggest problems we are currently facing. Furthermore, 98% of them assessed that agriculture is most exposed to the effects of global warming, and 63% believe that the problem of global warming in Croatia is an extremely big problem.

Events history is available on [web](#).



“How to master the knowledge and contact in today's world of social networks?”

(“Kako ovladati znanjem i kontaktima u današnjem umreženom svijetu?”)

May 28th, 2019

CCE organized a workshop on how to master the knowledge and contact in today's world of social networks. It was held by Harold Jarche whose work is known as the Personal Knowledge Mastery (PKM), which could be translated as “mastering lifelong learning”. PKM is a set of skills aimed at making the best use of the abundance of information offered by our contacts and personal networks - and professional associations and the so-called. communities of practice, not only in Croatia but also abroad.

Companies and organizations gained the benefit of learning about important practical skill of every modern professional that could be adapted in our work environment and

modern work dynamics. PKM is a particularly useful skill for professionals dealing with human resources, informatics, digital transformation, organizational learning, and organizational change.

Other initiatives

CCE in partnership with Croatian Business Council for sustainable Development organized a workshop on the CSR Index questionnaire for members. The aim of the workshop was to improve the CSR Index methodology and to further develop the project itself.

Croatian Chamber of Economy supported the initiative of UNICEF, Conference *"Children are our most important business"*, held on September 27th, 2019.

Activities of the CSR Affiliation Working Groups

Working group - cooperation with the academic community in Croatia

The head of the Working Group is Mrs. Angelika Brnada from INA d.d.

Brief summary of activities performed within the working group for six months:

- Most representatives are interested in study visits to companies, as well as the possibility of doing an internship;
- Studentski.hr offers the possibility of publishing articles on their portal;
- BEST, AIESEC and studentski.hr - there is a possibility to participate in conferences;
- BEST organizes professional seminars that also carry ECTS credits - the possibility of cooperation in within that
- Organizing a case study competition is also an option for most

Publication

In the period of the report, Croatian Chamber of Economy issued a number of publications.

To inform all members on latest SDG and CSR events, CCE's prepared the newsletter distributed via email to all members. You can read the Newsletter No. 3 [here](#). The newsletter contains information on events, seminars, training and round table organized for our members on corporate – social responsibility topics, information on events organized and conducted by our members examples of best practices.

In the period of the report, a special publication on Case studies on good practices of Croatian enterprise on achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals was prepared. The publication is available [here](#).

In the period of the report ICC Croatia translated the "ICC Rules on Combatting Corruption" and posted it on CCE and ICC Croatia websites. The Croatian translation is available [here](#). These Rules are intended as a method of self-regulation by business against the background of applicable national law and key international legal instruments. Their voluntary acceptance by Enterprises will promote high standards of integrity in business transactions, whether between Enterprises and public bodies or between Enterprises themselves.

Memberships

Croatian Chamber of Economy is an active member of a number of expert committees through which we promote sustainable development. We are members of the Committee for Eco – labels and of Committee for green public procurement.

CCE is a member within a Think – tank on children's rights and CSR within UNICEF Croatia.

On the international level, CCE is member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and co-founder of ICC Croatia – the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in Croatia which operates within the Croatian Chamber of Economy and which representatives actively participate in the work of its commissions, among which the Commission on Environment and Energy as well as the Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Croatian Chamber of Economy uses indicators to measure the impact and effect of all workshops, conferences and trainings related to UN Global Compact Ten Principles and sustainable development. Those are:

- Number of participants at our events (at the SDG Conference more than 170 participants)
- Number of events (in the reporting period 7 events organized)
- Number of companies
- Number of partners per event
- Number of speakers
- Number of companies participating at CSR Index (over 100 per year)

Additionally, we conduct qualitative feedback from each event through evaluation questioners for participants. On yearly bases all evaluation results are a part of report prepared for our Management Board.