



# CROATIA - October 2018

---

**LIPA TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF CROATIA NAMED FINALIST FOR ATLAS NETWORK’S 2018 TEMPLETON FREEDOM AWARD FOR ROLE IN REPEALING PROPERTY TAX ..... 1**

---

**Lipa Taxpayers Association Of Croatia Named Finalist For Atlas Network’s 2018 Templeton Freedom Award For Role In Repealing Property Tax**

*Zagreb, Croatia-based Lipa Taxpayers Association has been named one of six finalists for this year's prestigious \$100,000 Templeton Freedom Award for its successful campaign to repeal Croatia’s private property tax.*

Nearly 90 percent of Croatians own their own homes, so when the Croatian government passed a property tax for the first time in 2017, Lipa Taxpayers Association refused to stand by and allow this property tax to hit an already troubled economy. Its efforts led to the tax’s full repeal.

"Stopping the real estate tax in Croatia was a huge success for civil society," said Davor Huić, president of Lipa. "It was the first time ever that citizens prevented the government from raising the overall tax burden in the country. But perhaps even more importantly, we have created a popular climate in which it is politically very difficult, if not outright impossible, to increase the level of taxation in Croatia."

Lipa launched an award-winning campaign against the tax, emphasizing Croatia’s already crippling tax burden. Its efforts turned public opinion sharply against the tax in a matter of months, resulting in over 146,000 petition signatures, media coverage in more than 100 news outlets, and a full repeal of the property tax. Following the repeal, public opposition to taxes has remained high, with the government unable to introduce any new taxes since. And while Croatians may still be overtaxed, they are grateful that Lipa’s success means they won’t be sending payments to the government just to live in their own homes.

"Lipa has shown how a small civil society organization can have an outsized impact on a public debate and achieve an important tax repeal," said Brad Lips, CEO of Atlas Network. "There's lasting impact here: Croatians who may not have felt that they had a voice in the past suddenly are empowered to stand up for their rights."

**International Property Tax Institute**

IPTI Xtracts- The items included in IPTI Xtracts have been extracted from published information. IPTI accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or anyh opinions expressed in the articles.