 

A project implemented by LSE Enterprise / CASE / EUROPE Ltd / Euroconsultants Croatia Ltd

**For more information**

The European Union’s IPA 2008Programme

for the Republic of Croatia

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**“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedom.**

**The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.”**

**The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.**

Ex-ante evaluation of programming documents and strengthening evaluation capacity for EU funds post-accession



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Component I comprised of the ex-ante evaluation of NSRF and related Cohesion Policy OPs (Transport, Environment, Regional Competitiveness and Human Resources Development) and programming document under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, for the period 2007-2013. These provided judgements on whether development issues are diagnosed correctly; the relevance of strategy and objectives proposed; degree of coherence in relation to EU policies and guidelines, and realism of expected results. As separate outputs, interim evaluations of counterpart IPA III and IV component OPs and preliminary assessments of programming intervention logic for the 2014-2020 EU financial perspective were conducted.

Component II aimed at strengthening evaluation capacity for EU Cohesion Policy funds management. Based on the assessment of existing capacity and knowledge, it produced a “roadmap” for a national evaluation system. A training program of 24 units in 8 modules was designed and delivered. Institution building for the inter-institutional Evaluation Working Group was guided and supported, and a number of guidance and operative documents were produced, such as: Guidelines for drafting Terms of Reference for evaluation and for drafting evaluation plans for 2014-2020; 6 evaluation Plans for OPs and NSRF for 2013; revision of the national “Evaluation Strategy” and of the Evaluation Manual.

**Programme Components**

Croatia applied to become a European Union member state in 2003 and is preparing to become the 28th member in July 2013. It is currently implementing the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) funds and from July 2013 will benefit from Structural and Cohesion Funds. This project aimed to help a smooth transition from the IPA to Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Project outcomes are intended to assist the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (as a Coordinating Body in the context of EU funds management and control system) in putting into place an appropriate framework for the evaluation of development programmes funded through the EU pre-accession and Cohesion policy instruments. Setting up such a framework is considered as an important pre-requisite for sustaining and fostering efficient socio-economic development of the Republic of Croatia. A well-functioning framework for the evaluation in the Republic of Croatia will help provide a common frame of reference and support the increased use of evaluation of regional and sectoral development strategies by national government departments and agencies.

Project overall objective was to contribute to the effective implementation and management of EU Cohesion Policy funds in Croatia. Specifically, researchers carried out evaluations of EU funded programming documents and undertook additional evaluation activities to improve the overall quality of programming documents.

Secondly, the project aimed to strengthen the evaluation capacity of the key institutions involved in the management of EU Cohesion Policy in Croatia and put in place mechanisms for MRDEUF coordination of evaluation activities of the EU Cohesion Policy funding.

**Target groups**

Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF)

Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure

Ministry of Environment & Nature Protection

Ministry of Economy

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts

Ministry of Labor and Pension System

Ministry of Public Administration

Ministry of Agriculture

**Ex-ante evaluation of programming** **documents and** **strengthening evaluation capacity for** **EU funds post-accession**

**The concept**

**The objectives**