



## IN THIS ISSUE



2011.

Zajedno za europsko danas i sutra  
Together for the European Today and Tomorrow



PROJEKTI FINANCIRANI SREDSTVIMA EUROSKE UNJE U HRVATSKOJ  
PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN CROATIA

→ Front page of the Delegation of the European Union Calendar for 2011

### »»» DID YOU KNOW?

- That Delegation's desk calendar is available for the visitors of the EU Information Center in January?
- That Croatia has used 92.22% of the total funds earmarked through the Component I (Transition Assistance and Institution Building) of the IPA 2007 programme?
- That Greece has the lowest car accident death toll in the whole European Union, as a result of large investment in road infrastructure supported by the EU?

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# CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



→ Commissioner Füle and Prime Minister Kosor

## EU Commissioner Štefan Füle Visits Croatia

On 24-25 November, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle paid an official visit to Croatia. The visit took place at an important moment in the relationship between the EU and Croatia, following the publication of the European Commission's 2010 Progress Report on Croatia. During his visit, Commissioner Füle met the President of the Republic, Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the President and members of the National Committee for Monitoring the Accession Negotiations of the Croatian Parliament as well as the President of the Social Democratic Party and other senior state officials. The Commissioner met with representatives from Croatian civil society and visited the project "Zagreb Main Railway Signalling and Interlocking," (read more about this in the *EU projects in Croatia* section). The Commissioner conveyed a message to the Croatian authorities that **Croatia is in the final stage of its negotiations** but that it still must **overcome several more obstacles, before crossing the finish line.**



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



## Conclusions of European Council on Enlargement

At a meeting held on 14 December in Brussels, the European Council adopted conclusions on the EU's enlargement policy and on the Stabilisation and Association Process for the Western Balkans. The Council welcomed Croatia's good overall progress towards meeting the membership criteria and stated that accession negotiations have reached their final stage while preparations for the drafting of the Accession Treaty have progressed steadily. **"Conclusion of the negotiations is within reach. Encouraging progress has been made in many areas, including in the field of rule of law and the fight against high-level corruption.** At the same time, further efforts are required, inter alia as regards judicial independence and efficiency, the fight against corruption at all levels, as well as in the fields of public administration reform, the rights of persons belonging to minorities, refugee return and war crimes trials", state the Council's Conclusions.



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



→ Participants of the meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Committee

## 6th Meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Committee

The sixth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Committee was held in Zagreb on 8 December. The meeting was co-chaired by **Alexandra Cas Granje**, Director in the DG Enlargement of the Commission, and **Andrej Plenković**, State Secretary for European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The Committee's sixth meeting provided a comprehensive overview of current relations between the Republic of Croatia and EU in the area of implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The representative of the EC, Ms Cas Granje, said that the meeting was taking place at an important time for Croatia. She **confirmed that Croatia had entered the final phase of negotiations** after the EC had published its Progress Report in November this year. Ms Cas Granje concluded her visit to Croatia with participation in the conference 'Learning Europe – Challenges of Training on EU Funds' held on 10 December and organised by the MFAEI and Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



→ President Josipović and Ambassador Vandoren

## EU Ambassadors Meet President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović

Head of the EU Delegation to Croatia, Ambassador Paul Vandoren, hosted on 7 December a meeting with the President of the Republic of Croatia Ivo Josipović and EU Member States' Ambassadors accredited in Croatia. The meeting was aimed at exchanging views on **Croatia's progress in the EU accession process** and on regional co-operation of Croatia with neighbouring countries. The **issue of communication to Croatian citizens on the EU membership** was also addressed. Ambassador Vandoren informed President Josipović that the EU is very pleased with the numerous achievements in the first nine months of his mandate and has appreciated his constructive co-operation with the Government on the path towards EU accession. He added that 'Croatia made good progress on the path to membership, the finish line is in sight, although there are a few major obstacles to overcome'.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



# CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



→ Members of Croatian Parliament in Brussels

## Meeting of the EU – Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU – Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee was held on 29-30 November in Brussels. The members of the Committee discussed the status of the accession negotiations and relations between the EU and Croatia, focusing on the progress achieved in judiciary reform, fight against corruption and organised crime, cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, regional cooperation, return of the refugees and minority issues. The meeting was concluded with the **adoption of a joint Declaration** and recommendations specifying that the **accession negotiations can be completed in the first half of 2011**, provided that Croatia fulfils all the benchmarks in the remaining chapters. Croatian Minister of Justice Dražen Bošnjaković, State Secretary for European Integration Andrej Plenković and Chief Negotiator Vladimir Drobnjak attended the meeting together with the members of the delegation of the Croatian Parliament and European Parliament. Belgian EU Presidency was represented by Xavier Demoulin, Director General for Coordination and European Affairs at Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



More information and the Declaration and recommendations can be found at the [Delegation](#) web pages.



→ Ambassador Vandoren visiting Karlovac County

## Ambassador Vandoren Visits All Croatian Counties in 2010

In December, Ambassador Vandoren completed his visits to all Croatian counties and county capitals started in 2010 after taking the office of Head of Delegation in November 2009. On Friday, 19 November, Ambassador Vandoren visited the city of **Karlovac**, where he met Prefect Ivan Vučić and Deputy Mayor Marina Kolaković. He held a lecture on Croatia's path to the EU on the Karlovac Polytechnic. The same day, he also visited **Lika-Senj County**, where he met Prefect Milan Jurković and **Gospić** Mayor, Milan Kolić. Ambassador Vandoren used the opportunity to visit the Trout and Tourists Project in Otočac, financed by the European Union through its PHARE 2005 programme. On 14-15 December, the Head of Delegation paid a visit to **Šibenik-Knin** and **Split-Dalmatia Counties**. During the meeting with the Šibenik-Knin Prefect Goran Pauk, Ambassador Vandoren welcomed the efforts in the utilization of available pre-accession EU funds. He also emphasised the importance of informing citizens about the effects of EU membership. The best way to get people familiar with the impact of joining the EU are the realized projects itself, said Ambassador Vandoren. At the meeting with the Split-Dalmatia Prefect Ante Sanader, both the Croatian accession process and shipbuilding were discussed. The Ambassador stressed that the restructuring of the traditional sectors such as shipbuilding was a difficult task even in the EU member states. He added that citizens' fears stem from a lack of information. On Friday, 17 December, Ambassador Vandoren completed his tour of Croatian counties by meeting with the Prefect of **Zagreb County**, Stjepan Kožić.



→ Ambassador Vandoren with the representatives of Split-Dalmatia County



Find out more on the [Delegation](#), [Karlovac](#), [Šibenik-Knin](#), [Split-Dalmatia](#) and [Zagreb County](#) web pages.

## Adoption of the IPA 2010 Component I Programme for Croatia

On 7 December, the European Commission approved **€38.6 million of funding to support Croatia in its EU membership preparations**. The programme was adopted under the Component I "Transition Assistance and Institution Building" of the 2010 IPA programme. EU-funded projects will contribute to the **reform of the judiciary** in Croatia, especially efficiency of courts, case backlog reduction and the courts rationalisation process. As well as supporting alignment of EU legislation with the *acquis*, funding will also **go to civil society organisations active in the areas of the fight against corruption, the prevention of violence among young people and children, youth volunteering, equal opportunities, the environment, and in clearing of land mines in war affected areas**.



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



IPA Instrument za prepristupnu pomoć

# CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



## Danube Strategy Presented in Zagreb

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region – the Danube Strategy – and the corresponding action plan were presented in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on 10 December. The conference was organised after the European Commission had adopted the said documents in Brussels on 8 December. At the joint conference of the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission, Johann Sollgruber from the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policies presented the process of development of the Danube Strategy while State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and National Coordinator for Danube Strategy, Andrej Plenković, conveyed the Croatian government's full political support to this process and pointed out that Croatia had actively been involved in the process from the start. The Strategy represents a framework that will **create conditions for better coordination and cooperation of the Danube Region countries on common issues such as environmental protection, traffic connections, energy and security cooperation**. The Danube strategy encompasses 115 million citizens in eight EU member states and six partner countries, including Croatia. The Strategy is expected to be adopted on the EU level at the European Council in June 2011.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



→ Minister Fuchs with Commissioner Vassiliou

## Croatia Becomes a Full Member of the European Space for Lifelong Learning

During the informal meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education of the EU Countries, held on 7 December in Belgian city of Bruges, the European Commissioner for Education, Androulla Vassiliou, and the Croatian Minister of Science, Education and Sports, Dr. Radovan Fuchs, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Croatia's **Full-fledged Membership of the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action**. Croatia has thus officially joined the most comprehensive European programme of mobility in education and has become a full-fledged participant of the European Space for Lifelong Learning. Thanks to the participation in these programmes several thousand Croatian citizens will be given an opportunity to study and take advance training in the EU countries in 2011.



More can be found on the web pages of the [Ministry of Science, Education and Sports](#).



→ Minister Pankretić and Commissioner Hahn

## Minister Pankretić Meets Regional Policy Commissioner Hahn

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, Božidar Pankretić met the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn on 2 December. They discussed **Croatia's preparations for participation in cohesion policy and, in general, using of European funds** that will become available to Croatia after accession. The preparations for Croatia's participation in cohesion policy – one of the most important and useful European policies – started way back in 2005 with the use of pre-accession programs. Since 2008, efforts have been made on establishing the strategic goals and priorities and the organisational structure through which the cohesion policy funds will be used. Commissioner Hahn gave his positive opinion about the ongoing preparations and commended Croatian institutions' efforts in timely preparations for using of European funds.



More can be found on the web pages of the [Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management](#).

## EU Countries Begin to Recover, Recession in Croatia Stopped

According to the Economic Projection for 2010-2012, published by the European Commission in late November, **recession in Croatia was stopped in the mid-2010**. The economic recovery has started; **the economic growth is expected to be 1.5% in 2011** and 2.1% in 2012. This year, however, will end with a drop of 1.8%. On the EU level, the projection anticipates continued economic recovery. A GDP growth of around 1.75% is expected in 2010-2011 and around 2% in 2012. European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn said on the occasion he was encouraged by the fact that the employment rate in the EU is expected to grow and that continuation of fiscal consolidation and growth increase policy are essential for building a sound basis for achieving sustainable growth and jobs.



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) web pages.





# CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



→ Clip from the multimedial presentation of the first awarded project

## 'People for People' Contest Winners Selected

The European Union Delegation has selected winners of the "People for People" contest for high-school students. The winners of the first prize – a trip to Brussels – are the students of the 4th grade of the **Jesuit Classic-program Secondary School in Osijek**: Filip Đerke, Karla Popić and Ana Marija Omejec. The winners of the second prize – a language course at their own choice – are the students of the 2nd grade of the **Antun Horvat Craft School in Đakovo**: Stjepan Gašparović, Tomislava Brlošić and Ivan Slobodanac. To honour their exceptional contribution to fight against poverty and social exclusion, the Delegation has also selected a number of winners of the third prize. These are the students of the **Multimedia Centre "Creative Ideas Studio" in Gunja**, **Fran Galović Secondary School in Koprivnica**, **Building, Craft and Graphic Art School in Split**, **Ivan Seljanec High School in Križevci** and **Hungarian Minority Educational and Cultural Centre in Osijek**. Around 50 teams across Croatia submitted their works.



Find out more on the [Delegation web pages](#).



→ Citizens on the Delegation's Info-stand

## Marking of 10 December – Human Rights Day

On 11 December, Croatian Government's office for Human Rights organised in Zagreb the marking of the International Day of Human Rights – 10 December. A dozen of civil society organisations, the European Union Delegation and EU Information Centre participated in the event on Zagreb's main square and presented their activities in promotion of human rights. Attending the program, Deputy Prime Minister Slobodan Uzelac said that, year after year, **Croatia had been making progress in ensuring of human rights**. In his opinion, a major progress has been achieved on the legislative level but enforcement of the laws requires more improvement.



Find out more on the [Croatian Government's Office for Human Rights](#) web pages.



## From the Lisbon Strategy to Europe 2020 – Round Table and Book Presentation

A round table and presentation of the book "From the Lisbon Strategy to Europe 2020" took place at the EU Information Centre on 9 December. The event was organised by the Institute for International Relations (IRO) and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia. The book, published by the Institute for International Relations with the support from the Delegation, was presented by **Paul Vandoren**, Head of the EU Delegation to Croatia, Dr. **Mladen Andrić**, Director of the Diplomatic Academy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Prof. **Mladen Vedriš** from the Zagreb Law School and Dr. **Višnja Samardžija** from the Institute for International Relations. On the occasion, Ambassador Vandoren set out the main elements of the Europe 2020 strategy. 'It is primarily a strategy of growth in a world in which the EU wants to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy,' Vandoren concluded.



More information can be found on the [Delegation](#) and [IRO](#) web pages.



Education and Culture DG

## 'Europe for Citizens' Programme

## Marking the Third Anniversary of the Implementation of the "Europe for Citizens" Programme in Croatia

Organised by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, the international conference "**Europe for Citizens: The First Three Years of Implementation in Croatia**" was held in Opatija on 7-8 December. It formally marked the third year of Croatia's successful participation in Europe for Citizens Programme, as the first non-EU member state taking part in it. The Programme has financed 30 projects so far. The projects were submitted or co-submitted by Croatian cities, municipalities or civil society organisations. The poster exhibition informed the public about the very successful absorption of funds from this EU Programme. The exhibition also promoted the results and achievements of the projects aimed to bring together the citizens of EU member states and accession states by strengthening citizens' participation, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and sustainable development.



Find out more on the [Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs](#) web pages.

# CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



→ Info-stands at National and University Library

## Info Day on Possibilities and Results of Croatia's Participation in EU Programmes

On 29 November, Central Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU Funds (CODEF) organised the Info Day "Republic of Croatia in EU Programmes: Possibilities and Results". The event took place in National and University Library in Zagreb. The conference was opened by Hrvoje Dolenc, State Secretary in CODEF, and Jean-Marie Moreau, Advisor in the EU Delegation. Representatives of the state administration bodies in charge of coordinating individual EU programmes in Croatia presented the results of the programmes implemented so far and the possibilities for potential Croatian applicants. At the moment, **Croatia is a full participant in 13 EU programmes and will join three more in the early 2011**. Since Croatia is still not a member of the EU it must pay the annual membership fee for participation in the programmes. However, participation in the EU programmes for Croatia was worth it, as the amounts pulled from individual EU programmes exceed the membership fee, in some programmes even several times over.



Find out more on the web pages of [CODEF](#).

## NEWS FROM THE EU



## European Union Welcomes Cancún Agreement as Important Step towards Global Framework for Climate Action

The European Union welcomed the positive results of the Cancún climate conference. The balanced and substantive package of decisions adopted on 11 December, known as the Cancún Agreement, represents an important further step on the road to building a comprehensive and legally binding framework for climate action for the period after 2012. The Agreement acknowledges, for the first time in a UN document, **that global warming must be kept below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial temperature**. Other key elements include an agreement to launch a process to strengthen the transparency of actions to reduce or limit emissions so that overall progress can be tracked more effectively, to establish a process to define a date for global emissions to peak and a global emissions reduction goal for 2050 and confirmation of the goal that developed countries will mobilise US\$ 100 billion in climate funding for developing countries annually by 2020, and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund through which much of the funding will be channelled.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) and European Commission web pages dedicated to [Cancún climate conference](#).

## 'Volunteer! Make a Difference': European Commission Launches the European Year of Volunteering 2011

On 2 December, the European Commission presented the objectives and activities of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering as well as the year's slogan: 'Volunteer! Make a difference'. The main objective of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering is to **highlight volunteers' work, encourage other citizens to join in and contribute to the their community and the goals of the European Year**. The 2011 European Year of Volunteering has four main objectives: lowering obstacles to volunteering in the EU; empowering volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering; rewarding and recognise volunteering activities and raising awareness of the value and importance of volunteering. To meet these goals, the Commission will encourage the exchange of good practices between Member States' authorities and volunteering organisations such as training volunteers, accreditation and quality assurance, and efficient and effective match-making between potential volunteers and volunteering opportunities.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) and [2011 European Year of Volunteering](#) web pages.





## NEWS FROM THE EU



→ Presidents Van Rompuy, Obama and Barroso on EU-USA Summit



→ Presidents Medvedev, Van Rompuy and Barroso on EU-Russia Summit



### News in EU External Relations

Last month saw an exceptional level of activity in the EU's external relations: besides the **official start of the European Union External Action Service (EEAS)**, the meetings with some of EU's strategic partners were continued. In Lisbon the **EU – US summit** took place on 20 November. European Council President Herman van Rompuy, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and U.S. President Barack Obama discussed **the transatlantic cooperation, particularly its economy, security and foreign policy aspects**. The **EU – Africa summit** that was held in Tripoli, Libya on 29-30 November brought together around 80 heads of states and governments. They agreed it was necessary to **increase economic cooperation, cooperation in peace and security and realisation of Millennium Development Goals**. The summit was concluded with the adoption of a Declaration that draws attention to the importance of the private sector for stimulating growth, creating jobs and delivering prosperity in Africa. The main topics of the **EU – Russia summit** held on 7 December included: the world economy, climate change, international and regional issues and bilateral relations of the EU and Russia. The two sides used the opportunity to officially conclude negotiations on the conditions of **Russia's admission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**. The **EU – India summit** that took place in Brussels on 10 December gave an impetus for completion of the negotiations on the **Free Trade Agreement** which is expected to be signed in spring 2011.



Find out more on the [European Council](#) web pages.

### Financial Support for Ireland

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) on 7 December formally approved financial assistance to Ireland. Finance ministers also fixed the conditions for granting that assistance. The package includes **€35 billion** to support Irish banks and **€50 billion** to cover the financing needs of the Irish government's budget. The loans are provided on the basis of a programme negotiated with the Irish authorities by the Commission and the IMF, in liaison with the European Central Bank. The programme includes reorganisation of the country's banking system, **growth-enhancing reforms and the correction of the excessive deficit by 2015**. It aims to restore financial-market confidence in the Irish banking sector and the state, enabling the economy to return to sustainable growth.



Find out more on the [European Council](#) web pages.

### 10 million Use Europass CV for Job-search

According to the information of the European Commission published on 3 December, more than ten million people are using the European CV Form, Europass. The standardised CV form, **available in 26 languages including Croatian**, enables its users to present their skills and qualifications in a uniform way throughout Europe; it also enables better mobility. Almost half of Europass users are younger than 25. 'The Europass CV is practical, popular and effective. I doubt it will be too long before we see 20 million Europass users', said European Commissioner for Education, Androulla Vassiliou. Europass was launched in 2005. Originally, it was intended for young people looking for a job abroad.



More info on the [European Union](#) web pages and the [Europass Portal](#).

### Cities Improve Access for People with Disabilities

**The City of Avila (Spain) received the first - ever European award for disabled-friendly cities – the Access City Award 2011**. The award was presented in Brussels on the occasion of the European Day of People with Disabilities, marked on 3 December. The award is part of the EU's strategy to improve access for the disabled and ensure their rights across the EU. It was launched to increase awareness of the difficulties disabled people encounter in urban areas and celebrate cities that have removed some of the barriers to their mobility. Avila won the award for its work on improving accessibility to public buildings, responsible urban planning since 2002 and its collaboration with disabled and elderly people's organisations as well as the private sector.



Find out more on the [European Commission](#) web pages.

## NEWS FROM THE EU



### Getting More People into Better Jobs

'An agenda for new skills and jobs', one of the flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, aims to make labour markets more flexible, give workers the skills they need, improve working conditions and create jobs. The plan, presented on 23 November, sets out action to **achieve a 75% employment rate for the EU by 2020 for all people aged 20 -64**. The agenda has four priorities: modernising labour markets, matching skills to jobs, improving job quality and working conditions and creating jobs. The Commission is set to apply the Agenda's action points between now and 2014.



Find out more on the [European Commission](#) web pages.



### European Parliament Prize Goes to Film *Die Fremde*

The 2010 European Parliament's LUX Cinema Prize was awarded to the film *Die Fremde* (When We Leave) by German director Feo Aladağ. The film is a drama about a young Turkish woman in Germany who is fighting against conservative views of her family. The LUX prize awards films illustrating or questioning the fundamental values of European identity, explore Europe's cultural diversity or contribute to the debate on European integration. The director of this film is the first woman ever to compete for the prize. She won €90,000 for subtitling the film in all official EU languages, adapting it for the people with impaired vision and hearing, as well as for DVD release.



Find out more on the web pages of the [European Parliament](#).



EUROPEAN UNION  
PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

### Winners of EU Literature Award

The EU literature awards for 2010 were presented in Brussels on 18 November. The winners had been selected by national juries in Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. The awards went to **Peter Terrin from Belgium, Myrto Azina Chronides from Cyprus, Adda Djoerup from Denmark, Tiit Aleksejev from Estonia, Riku Korhonen from Finland, Iris Hanika from Germany, Jean Back from Luxembourg, Goce Smilevski from Macedonia, Razvan Radulescu from Romania, Nataša Kramberger from Slovenia and Raquel Martinez-Gomez from Spain**. The award is financed by the EU's Programme Culture, European Bookstores Association, European Writers Council and Federation of European Publishers.



Find out more on the [European Commission](#) web pages.

## EU DICTIONARY

### Closing Negotiation Chapters

In the EU Negotiation process the negotiation chapters are provisionally closed if the candidate country's adoption of the *acquis* and its degree of implementation are seen as sufficient. Often the closure is conditional upon fulfilment of a number of closing benchmarks. Chapters are provisionally closed so that in case the need occurs during the negotiation process, the negotiations could be reopened in this area. There are two reasons for this procedure. Firstly, as the negotiations

usually take a number of years, significant changes might occur in the *acquis* during the negotiations and the candidate country is expected to adjust to these changes. Secondly, the candidate country's degree of harmonisation in the provisionally closed chapter might have deteriorated. Later, at the end of the negotiation process, all chapters are subject to reassessment and after the reassessment, they can ultimately be closed.



# CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## Procurement of IT to the Directorate of Fisheries

In October 2010, the Central Financing and Contracting Agency invited tenders for the procurement of equipment for providing support to the implementation of the national programme for gathering, managing and using of data in fisheries. The purpose of this project is to procure IT equipment which is to be used for electronic transmission of the information stored in the official register (e.g. information on fishing fleet, fishing, collecting of relevant data: type and quantity of fish caught, information on unloading) in the central data base in the Directorate of Fisheries – Fishing Monitoring Centre. The said equipment will be installed on fishing vessels.



The deadline for submissions is **3 January, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

## Upgrading and Developing Rural Infrastructure

The object of this call for proposals is the allocation of funds from the IPARD programme (Component V of Instrument for Pre-accession – Rural Development) under the conditions laid out in the Rules on Implementation of Measure 301 – “Upgrading and Development of Rural Infrastructure”. The funds allocated for implementation of IPARD programme are earmarked and non-repayable. They are insured by the budgets of the European Union and Republic of Croatia. Local self-government units (municipalities and towns) with populations of up to 10,000 are eligible to apply, as specified in Annex V of the Rules.



The deadline for submissions is **31 January, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

## Procurement of IT Equipment for Directorate of Fisheries

In November 2010, the Central Financing and Contracting Agency invited tenders for procurement of IT equipment for the Directorate of Fisheries. The goal of this project is to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development – Directorate of Fisheries in strengthening of technical capacities in the market component of the fisheries sector. The equipment will improve IT standards on the locations of unloading and first sale of fishing products, which, in turn, will improve the gathering of statistical data on fisheries and ensure better control of unloading of fish and carrying out of marketing activities.



The deadline for submissions is **7 February, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

## Support to TV Broadcast of European Audiovisual Works

As part of the MEDIA 2007-2013 Programme, a call for proposals has been published for promoting trans-national broadcasts of independent European audiovisual works. The objective is to stimulate cooperation between independent producers and distributors on the one side and those who broadcast programmes on the other. Audiovisual companies, especially independent TV production companies, are eligible to submit proposals.



The deadline for submissions is **28 February, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

## Diversification and Development of Rural Economic Activities

Calls for proposals have been published for allocating funds from the IPARD Programme (Component V of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance – Rural Development) under the conditions laid out in the Rules on Implementation of Measure 302 – “Diversification and Development of Rural Economic Activities”. The funds allocated for the implementation of IPARD are earmarked and non-repayable. They are insured by the budgets of the European Union and the Republic of Croatia. Eligible to apply are physical and legal persons in the category of microbusinesses who are VAT payers under Annex III of the Rules, in 100% private ownership or up to 25% state ownership, or ownership of local and/or regional self-government units or the City of Zagreb that meet the requirements specified by the Rules.



The deadline for submissions is **31 March, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

## Call for Proposals for Audiovisual Festivals

As part of the MEDIA 2007-2013 Programme, a call for proposals for audiovisual festivals has been published. The proposals from the following areas are applicable: organising audiovisual festivals that enable and encourage promotion and screening of European audiovisual and cinematic works on fairs, festivals and similar events in Europe and in the world and that improve access of European audiovisual works, provided that such festivals have an important role in promoting European works and in facilitating professional networking. A minimum of 70% of films from at least 10 countries participating in the MEDIA Programme must be shown at a festival.



The deadline for submissions is **30 April, 2011**. Details can be found [here](#).

# EU PROJECTS IN CROATIA

## Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Education for Employment



Numerous people with disabilities lack the support needed to fully exercise their rights, including the right to an independent living and access education. According to statistics, while people with disabilities account for one sixth of the overall working age population in the European Union, the rate of their employment is comparatively low. People with disabilities seek employment for the same reason as people without disabilities. They want to work for a living, live independently, establish social contacts and do not want to be discriminated against. In order to help them achieve that, it is crucial to design mechanisms to support their inclusion in the labour market, including strengthening of their skills and facilitating their access to education system. This is the goal of the project we are presenting to you this month.

The project "Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Education for Employment", led



by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and co-implemented by the Agency for Vocational and Adult Education, is being carried out as part of Component IV of the IPA (Development of Human Resources). The goal of the project is to improve educational achievement among students with disabilities in keeping with their needs, their potential in the labour market and their overall social integration. The purpose of the project is to develop crucial elements of innovative mechanisms that will enable students with disabilities to access vocational education and the labour market, both on national and regional levels. **The total value of the project, which also includes a grant scheme, is more than € 2.3 million.**

The project started in February 2010. Although it is expected to be completed in autumn 2011, its results can already be seen. During its implementation, **selected programs for vocational education of students with disabilities have been modernized** in two sectors: a) tourism and catering and b) agriculture, food production and veterinary sector. Also, a high-quality and sustainable system of advanced training has been established for vocational school teachers who work with students with

disabilities and workshops have been organised for improving employers' capacities for training at work.

As part of the grant scheme, seven grant award contracts worth a total of €1.3 million (99.87% of the overall available amount allocated for this grant scheme) were signed in August 2010. After a public call for proposals, funds were awarded to:

- Secondary Vocational School in Varaždin (€286,528.80 for the project "INVET – Innovative Teaching Methodology"),
- Šubičevac Secondary Education Centre in Šibenik (€162,064.07 for the project "Improved Vocational Education and Socio-economic Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Sibenško-kninska County"),
- Dubrava Secondary Education Centre in Zagreb (€330,190.17 for the project "Education of Students with Impaired Vision and Students with Physical Disabilities for Integration in Labour Market"),
- Slava Raškaj Secondary Education Centre in Zagreb (€180,349.44 for the project "Ears Wide Open"),
- IDEM – a Zagreb-based association for professional help for children with special needs (€111,328.69 for the project "Lifelong Education towards Education for All"),
- Sto Koluri – a Split-based association for psychosocial health (€207,612.43 for the project "I Want to Be Your Friend"), and
- Put u Život – a Zagreb-based association of parents of children with special needs (€290,740.51 for the project "Snail's Speed").

This project and the award of grants will substantially increase opportunities of children with disabilities for inclusion in the education system and improve social inclusion of disadvantaged young people and young people with special educational needs in labour market.



More information can be found on the web pages of the [Ministry of Science, Education and Sports](#).



## EU PROJECTS IN CROATIA



### Chemical Safety Project Presentation

On 2 December, the project entitled “Chemical Safety – Strengthening the Legal Framework and Institutional Infrastructure for Protection from Dangerous Chemicals” was presented in the EU Information Centre. This €900,000 worth twinning project is being carried out by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Ministry of Environmental Protection, Urban Planning and Construction, with help from a team of experts from EU member states (Slovenia, Greece and UK). The purpose of the project is to **improve the system of protection of human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals in Croatia under the EU regulations**. The focus will be on the industry and producers’ increased responsibility for the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of chemicals. Through this project, Croatia will increase its capacity for safely managing hazardous chemicals and Croatian citizens will benefit from improved health and environmental protection.



Find out more on the web pages of the [Delegation](#) and the project itself [www.sigurni.eu](http://www.sigurni.eu).

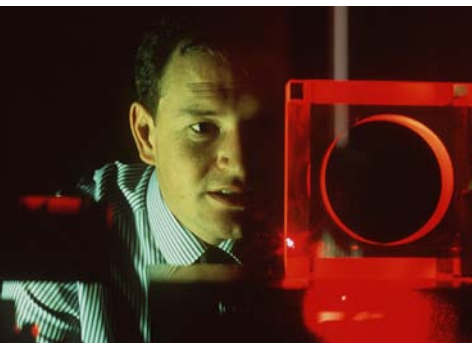


### Support for the Implementation of the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Market

The opening ceremony of the *twinning light* project “Support for the Implementation of the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Market” took place on 1 December. The general goal of the project is to strengthen institutional and operational capacities of the Agency for Payments in Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (APAFR) in order to ensure the implementation of the Common Organisation of the EU Market for several agricultural products when the Republic of Croatia joins the EU. The project will **prepare the APAFR to administer the measures of the EU internal market in the sectors**: sugar, milk and dairy products outside quotas for milk, beef, fruits and vegetables, as well as export refunds for processed agricultural products. The value of the project is €230,000, of which €207,000 has been provided through the IPA programme. The implementation of the project activities will take six months. France is Croatia’s *twinning partner* in this project and a large number of French, Hungarian, Polish and German experts will be involved in it.



Find out more on the web pages of the [Agency for Payments in Agriculture](#).



### Presentation of IPA Project ‘Science and Innovation Investment Fund – SIIF’

Project “Science and Innovation Investment Fund – SIIF” was presented on 29 November in the EU Information Centre. The project is managed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports within the Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), Component IIIC (Regional Development – Regional Competitiveness). The goal of this grant programme is to **build institutional capacity among higher education and public research organisations in the area of technology transfer and the commercialisation of research results**, in order to contribute to a sustainable regional development and competitiveness of industrial departments of higher added value. The total value of the SIIF project is €6 million, €5 million of which is earmarked for grants, while €1 million for the technical assistance project.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) web pages.



### System eSpis Implemented in 60 Courts Across Croatia

The Croatian Ministry of Justice has successfully completed the implementation of the EU funded project related to the implementation of the case management system *eSpis* in 60 courts across Croatia. The results of the project funded under PHARE 2006 with €2,9 million were presented on 28 November in Zagreb. The new court case management system **provides immediate insight into the cases at all stages of the judicial procedure**. It also shortens the time for the legal process, enables faster exchange of data between courts and optimises costs. The project contributes to the reform of the Croatian judiciary, greater protection of the rights of Croatian citizens and the fulfilment of the requirements for closing Chapter 23 through increasing efficiency and transparency in the judicial system.



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) web pages.

# EU PROJECTS IN CROATIA



→ Project presentation in the EU Information Centre

## 'Preparation of the Croatian Employment Service for joining the EURES network' Project Presented

The project 'Preparation of the Croatian Employment Service for joining the EURES network' was presented at the EU Information Centre on 26 November. The project is implemented under IPA Component I (Assistance in transition and institution building). The project was launched in September 2010 and will last until March 2011. The value of this twinning light project with the Croatian Employment Service and the German Federal Employment Agency as twinning partners is €230,000. Through this project the EU is **assisting the Croatian Employment Service to be able, in the moment of accession, to completely implement the *acquis* and also to participate in the EURES (European Employment Services) network** - with the objective to foster mobility and the free movement of workers within the European Economic Area (EEA).



Find out more on the [Delegation](#) web pages.

## PHOTO NEWS

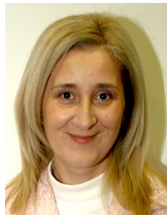


**500 mladih ljudi je promijenilo svoje mišljenje**

The project **Refugees in the World and in Croatia** is the winner of the Delegation's Contest 'People for People'. The project is aimed at helping to reduce violence and discrimination against students with refugee or displaced person status and educate young people on the history and problems of refugees. A multimedia presentation and a documentary film are developed and used in primary and secondary schools of Osijek-Baranja County in fall 2010.



# IMPACT OF EU ACCESSION ON CITIZENS' LIVES – Workers' rights



**Aleksandra Strgar**  
(38), Duga Resa:

## Does the European Union Protect Workers' Rights and How?

The European Union has minimum requirements in the area of labour rights and the work organisation. Specifically, the EU legislation determines and protects workers' rights in cases of collective redundancies, insolvency and transfer of undertakings, workers' rights to be informed and consulted about issues of their concern and rules about working time, safety at work and health. Furthermore, the European legislation is also aimed at ensuring equal opportunities, protecting the **"equal pay for equal work"** principle, reducing discrimination and strengthening social dialogue.

The last Croatia Progress Report established that Croatia has achieved a good level of alignment with the EU *acquis*. This way, the EU has ensured that the minimum workers' rights in the Republic of Croatia are identical to the ones in other EU member states. Furthermore, due to the EU's requirements concerning judicial reform and law enforcement, the observance of workers' rights should be better and possible violations should be processed swiftly.



## Will the Unemployment Rate Drop after Croatia Joins EU or Will Croatian Workers Have a Harder Time Finding Jobs?

The unemployment problem is a complex one and dealing with it requires an interdisciplinary approach. Although economic growth is one of the factors connected with unemployment, an increase in the employment rate also highly depends on education policies, which must ensure that workers have the knowledge and skills that correspond with the demands of labour market, as well as on taxation policy which regulates the taxation of income, labour legislation etc. Although the role of member states is crucial in that regard and, consequently, increasing or decreasing the unemployment rate is not directly connected with accession to the EU, all EU policies and strategies are directed towards the same goal: ensuring better standards of living for all European citizens by, among other things, creating conditions for the highest possible employment rate.

As regards candidate states like Croatia, the EU has the same goal and supports in various ways the activities intended for increasing of employment. Specifically, these are the projects financed with EU funds in the area of employment (one of the projects is presented in the section "EU Projects in Croatia"), education and mobility programs (in the last and this issue of the EUbulletin we write about Croatia's full participation in the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action), laws and strategies intended for strengthening the economy, stimulating active employment measures and so on.

It is therefore hard to forecast future trends in unemployment. However, based on the experience of new member states, Croatia can expect to see an increase in the employment rate following accession to the Union: as a **result of the reforms carried out as part of accession to the EU, the new member states have experienced a higher inflow of foreign investment and strengthening of their respective economies**. This has created new jobs and improved living conditions of their citizens. Also, after transition periods agreed upon in

the negotiating process expired, the nationals of these countries acquired the right to compete on equal footing for the jobs in other EU member states. Croatia and its workers will have the same opportunity.

And finally, the question arises as to whether Croatia's admission to the EU and opening of Croatian market to the citizens of other EU member states will result in reduction of jobs for Croatian citizens. Also, will there be growing pressure from the workers from so-called third countries (the countries which are not members of the Union)? The study by the Zagreb Institute of Economy called "Accession to the Union: Expected Economic Effects" shows that, while increased mobility of labour in both directions (from Croatia to the EU and vice versa) can be expected, the so-called migration balance will not account for a large share of the Croatian population. Croatian workers will therefore face stronger competition in labour market, but will also have an **opportunity to compete with their knowledge and skills in the markets of other member states**.

As for the workers from third countries, the work permit system will remain in force, thus allowing Croatia to keep regulating the inflow of labour from the countries which are not EU members.

## Will Croatian Workers' Wages Be Reduced?

The amount of remuneration for work is not connected with Croatia's admission to the European Union and is not part of the country's accession negotiations. Wages primarily depend on economic growth and production growth in the EU member states and candidate states. However, in the last wave of enlargement, average wages recorded an increase due to development of economy and reforms that had been carried out. In Poland, for example, the average monthly wage in 2003 was €537, while in 2010 it grew to €850. During the same period, the unemployment rate there fell from 20% to enviable 11%; moreover, before the global crisis, it was as low as 9%.



More information on workers' rights in the EU can be found on:

[http://europa.eu/pol/socio/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/pol/socio/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/index_en.htm)

## VISIT THE EU: GREECE

Rich in history and tradition, the country is one of the cradles of Western culture, whose city-states served as a prototype of democratic government. It joined the European Union in 1981.



Greek history extends back as far as the Stone Age, and it includes the Minoan and Mycenaean as well as antic, Hellenic culture, which was a key factor in the development of Europe and the Middle East. After the Roman conquest in 146 BC, Greece became part of the Byzantine Empire until 1460, when the Ottoman Empire seized power. After the war for independence in 1829, Greece became a kingdom and focused its efforts on cooperation and coexistence with European countries – a course on which it remained to the present-day. Modern Greece is a parliamentary republic based on the 1975 Constitution. The National Day is celebrated on 25 March, when the war for independence from the Ottoman Empire began.

Greece's economy is mostly based on the services sector, most notably tourism which accounts for 15% of the country's GDP. A relatively large part of the population makes its living from agriculture, although the agricultural sector's contribution to GDP does not exceed 3.8%. Greece is the largest



cotton producer in Europe and one of the largest tobacco producers in the world. The mild Mediterranean climate ensures favourable conditions for growing cereal crops, olives, vine and rice. Although its indented coastline enabled the development of fisheries and the fish-processing industry, Greece also imports fish due to the high demand from the tourism industry. After a series of successful years when growth rates amounted to 4% or more, in 2009 Greece was badly hit by the global financial crisis. The country's financial problems stemmed mostly from a growing budget deficit and the large share of public sector in the GDP. However, at a meeting held on 25-26 March 2010, EU member states' leaders agreed on a plan for financial assistance to Greece. The plan includes coordinated bilateral loans of the member states and, to a lesser extent, contributions from the IMF. Under its conditions, Greece received an assistance package worth €110 billion but the government in Athens had to cut its budget deficit by 0.5 percentage points, which in 2011 amounts to 7.6% of GDP.

Greece became a member of the European Union in 1981. This proves **that accession of a single country to the EU is possible and has already happened in the history of EU enlargement.** Greece introduced the Euro

in 2001 and is a major beneficiary of EU aid. Between 2000 and 2006, the cohesion policy funds provided an inflow of 2.8% of the country's GDP. Through the structural funds, the EU has supported numerous projects at national level as well as local initiatives in areas such as regional and local development, improvements to transport infrastructure, cultural heritage, environmental protection, developing tourism infrastructure. As many as **7,000 new businesses, business incubators and more than 50 Investor Reception Centres have been funded by the EU** in order to improve the investment climate and facilitate business start-ups. Infrastructure development and research activities have also been supported. In transport, funds have been allocated for investments in improvement of roads leading to Central Europe and the Balkan area, as well as for improving road networks between Greek cities, particularly the Patras – Athens – Thessalonica – Evzonoï road. The interconnections between some islands – Crete and Rhodes in particular – have also been improved.

Greece attracts tourist from all over the world thanks to almost unlimited possibilities to explore its archaeological sites, the availability of high quality cruises, clear seawaters and popular cuisine. Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which only slightly more than 200 are inhabited. They account for one fifth of Greece's territory. Some of the best known islands are Crete, Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, Corfu, Naxos and Paros. Besides by its natural beauties, Greece attracts tourist due to its rich cultural heritage, particularly architecture and art. The country has numerous archaeological sites, monuments, museums, as well as rich mythology and folklore.



[www.visitgreece.gr](http://www.visitgreece.gr)

<http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/European+Policy/Greece+in+the+EU/>

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/atlas2007/greece/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/greece/index_en.htm)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 7 JANUARY 2011

European Commission meets Hungarian Presidency  
Budapest, Hungary

## 26- 28 JANUARY 2011

2nd International Conference on Risk Assessment  
Brussels

## 2 FEBRUARY 2011

Kick-off meeting for TW project 'Development of Regulatory  
Impact Assessment (RIA) system'  
EU Information Centre (9.00h)

## 18 FEBRUARY 2011

Guardianship and palliative care - Legal and social aspects – Forum  
EU Information Centre (13.00h)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS AT THE EU INFORMATION CENTRE

- **Participating in customs and fiscals cooperation programmes 2013**  
Publications Office, 2010
- **European court of auditors - special report no 2; 2010**  
Publications Office, 2010
- **Statistics related to greenhouse gas emissions**  
Publications Office, 2010
- **Erasmus: I am one of the two million who did it!**  
Publications Office, 2010
- **Focus on higher education in Europe 2010**  
Publications Office, 2010
- **From the Lisbon Strategy to Europe 2020**  
IMO, 2010.
- **EU Careers - The selection procedure**  
EPSO, 2010.
- **Program „Europa za građane“ u Hrvatskoj: Prve tri godine**  
Ured za udruge Vlade Republike Hrvatske, 2010.
- **Kultura/Culture 2007 - 2013 in Braille**  
Ministarstvo kulture, 2010.
- **IPA 2008 Twinning light - Priprema hrvatskog zavoda za zapošljavanje za EURESS**  
HZZ, 2010.
- **PROGRESS - Program EU za zapošljavanje i socijalnu solidarnost**  
MINGORP, 2007.



An overview of other titles available in the EU Information Centre can be found in the [electronic catalogue](#).

### PRIZE DRAW

The question in the last issue was: *“Which are the two European Union education programs that Croatia will be participating in as a full member as of 2011?”* The correct answer is: the Lifelong Learning Programme and the Youth in Action Programme. The winner, drawn from among those who sent correct answers, is Zdenko Grahovac from Osijek.

THE NEW PRIZE QUESTION IS: *What is the name of the network of employment offices for facilitating the free movement of workers within the member states of the European Economic Area (EEA)?*

Send your answer to [info@euic.hr](mailto:info@euic.hr) by 25 January 2011, specifying “EU bulletin prize question” in the Subject field of your e-mail. All the correct answers will enter the random number generator and the winner will be drawn. The prize is a special EU package containing a EU calendar, linen eco-sack, umbrella, organiser, T-shirt, mouse pad, pen, cell-phone string and USB disc.

## Notice

The electronic EU-bulletin was sent on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia. It is published on a monthly basis. Editor: Avis Beneš, EU Information Centre Manager. The bulletin is available in English and in Croatian. This information is of a general nature only and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity.

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