



Seminar

"Sharing Knowledge on Particular Cross-Border Issues: Regional Level of Governance and Euroregions"

SEMINAR

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Seminar Topic 2

**" Regional Territorial Units and
Institutions Support in Croatia "**



Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- Within scientific and public officers circles in Croatia is not sufficiently developed understanding of the role of participation of territorial units of states and their representatives in international traffic, in the extent that is necessary optimally to respond to challenges of the process of accession to the European Union.
- Origination of the problem could be found in the fact that this state, as well as states to which it belonged in past were traditionally centralized.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- Europe of regions opens wide opportunities for international cooperation on these levels, in the first line on levels of NUTS II and NUTS III territorial units. Moreover, the most of assets that support the transition process flows on these levels of cooperation.
- In Croatia these levels are not adequately developed and this represents one of problems that impacts the time and quality of integration process.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- As far as the legal framework for integration to the European Union is concerned, the Croatian parliament on December 4, 2001, adopted the Law on confirmation of the Agreement on Stabilization and Association between the Republic of Croatia and European Union and their Member States.
- After Croatia became a candidate country, formal negotiations on accession started in October 2005.
- The basis of local and regional self governance are set up in the Croatian Constitution from 1990. and in the Law on Local Self Government and Administration adopted in 1992, superceded by an adeqate Law in 2001.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- In 2001 a new Law on Local and Regional Self-Government was adopted in Croatia, where counties were clearly defined as units of regional self-governance, while cities and municipalities remained units of local self-governance.
- As far as NUTS II level of territorial organization is concerned, Croatia is divided into three administrative regions: Northwest, Pannonian Croatia and Adriatic Croatia.
- Counties (Županije) exist on the level of NUTS III regions. These are traditional regional territorial units in Croatia, which have their political, economic, cultural and other grounds for formation.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- As far as NUTS IV level is concerned, there are cities, while municipalities as local self governance units represent NUTS V level.
- At the moment, the entire territory of Croatia is divided into counties (20), cities (124) and municipalities (426)/
- At the moment, the entire territory of Croatia is divided into counties (20), cities (124) and municipalities (426).
- In that way Croatia fulfils requirements of territorial organization set up in order to be able to efficiently cooperate with adequate EU member state regions, as well as for transfer of assets assigned to support the development and integration into EU.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions

Support in Croatia

- In Croatia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration is the ministry that leads political part of the role related to European integration of the country.
- The Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development - later transformed into Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management - has the responsibility for international cooperation and EU integration in the field of development on the national level, based on the Law on organization and competencies of state government bodies. Through this Ministry most of the EU projects in Croatia are implemented.
- Local and regional self-governments are commonly viewed as promoters and supporters of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) on their territory.

Regional Territorial Units and Institutions Support in Croatia

- There is a network of Regional development agencies, organized on NUTS III Counties level, which are active with various developmental matters. They are all public agencies, where some of them are formed within regional government bodies (as departments) and other as separate entities (mostly in form of LLC) formed by regional government.
- It can be stated that both national and regional levels are covered by institutions for cooperation in EU integration process. The other question is how well are human resources in these institutions educated, prepared and experienced in order efficiently to fulfil their assignments, implement needed activities and achieve expected outcomes, results and impacts.

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