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One of the greatest challenges for new EU member states, accession countries, candidate countries or potential candidates for the EU membership is implementation of reforms, as well as adjustment and strengthening of public institutions for adoption of the Acquis of the European Union.

Transition Facility is a temporary instrument foreseen for new member states in their first years of membership – assistance in financing of development measures and strengthening of national, administrative and judicial capacities for implementation and enforcement of European Union legislation.

The coordinator of the Transition Facility Instrument is the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds. The implementing Agency is the Central Finance and Contracting Agency.

“Strengthening the role of Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature in informing and raising public awareness in the field of environment, climate change, nature and biodiversity protection”

TF/HR/P2-M2-06-0301

The project is implemented by Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature
Project Concept:
Considering the principles of education for sustainable development and the fact that the application of modern interactive techniques in the educational system and communication in the Republic of Croatia is still in its beginning, the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) has initiated this project as the first step in establishing a modern and innovative Information - Educational Centre (IEC) in the field of environmental protection, climate change, nature protection and biodiversity. This project is the first step in establishing the IEC. The expected results and outcomes of this project shall be the basis for future development and the extension of the IEC based on the multimedia interactive presentation system, together with the application of the advanced ICTs such as holograms, virtual and augmented reality, 360° videos and multisensory attractions. By applying these technologies, the future IEC shall be a breakthrough from the current practice of interpreting these topics. Although the main target groups are preschool and school children, the content of the IEC shall be available to the wider public, with special attention given to didactically appropriate presentation methodologies and the achievement of educational goals.

Even though the IEC will be set up in Zagreb, one of the project results will be an independent application ('virtual museum') as a mobile component of the presentational programme, used by educators to present the programmes of the IEC all around the Republic of Croatia.

Results:
During the implementation period, the consortium together with field experts shall develop a presentational and educational programme of the future IEC, appropriate educational application packages for the established themes, define the manner of presentation and state-of-the-art presentation tools, equipment and technology, by achieving 5 results:
1. Study and Report recommending space required for the mobile and stationary component of the Information-Educational Centre (IEC), created.
2. Reports with proposed screenplays, activities, scope of work, articulated objectives of interpretative plan and designed vision for environment/climate change/nature and biodiversity protection topics, created.
3. Study and Report on stationary as well as mobile ICT system and equipment (hardware and software), required for implementation of proposed screenplay for Centre activities, created. Software for specified part of presentation developed.
4. Proposal of Promotional plan (including public relations campaign), promotional products (including drafts of promotional products), and virtual presentation of the Centre for PR purposes, created.
5. Education and training for the CAEN’s staff, in order to strengthen its capacities to inform/educate about environment/climate change/nature and biodiversity protection topics, conducted. Working with and maintaining new software demonstrated.

Project Objectives:
The main objective of the project is raising of public education and awareness level and disseminating information to the target groups (society in general, mainly preschool and school children) as well as making contribution to lifelong education based on gathered knowledge, competencies and values needed for the improvement of the life quality and building society with knowledge about various aspects of the environment and nature, and their protection.

Project Purpose:
Strengthening CAEN’s capacity in conducting and promoting public environmental awareness and education in the field of environment, climate change, nature and biodiversity protection and sustainable development for preschool and school children and general public. Besides, purpose of the project is also encouraging the public to change the pattern of behavior and participation in process of decision making and integration of concept of sustainable development in everyday life.

Duration:
The project worth 270.000,00 € (90% of contracted amount is financed from Transition Facility Programme and 10% is national co-financing), is implemented on the basis of the Public Services Contract within the EU’s Transition Facility Instrument for Croatia, with the duration of 12 months, from January 2017 until January 2018.

Stakeholders:
The main beneficiary of the project is the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature. Meteorological and Hydrological Service experts shall also participate in the implementation of the project. Apart for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energetics, Ministry of Science and Education and Education and Teacher Training Agency, the objective and purpose of the project shall involve a number of stakeholders (kindergarten teachers, school teachers, professors, relevant national administrative bodies, public institutions, universities, agencies and nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations participating in the field of environmental and nature protection, democracy and human rights, associations for the youth and youth associations, adult education institutions, cultural institutions, etc.)

Beneficiary:
Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) is the central national agency in charge of collecting and harmonizing data and information on the environment and nature to ensure and monitor the enforcement of environmental and nature protection legislation, sustainable development, performing other professional activities in the field of environmental and nature protection, as well as enabling access to information regarding environment and nature to the public.

Contracting Agency:
Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA)

Consortium:
The consortium is consisted of:
SPAN d.o.o.
Novena d.o.o.
EKONERG - Institute for Energy and Environmental d.o.o
MANIGURA d.o.o.
IMAGINATION:FIRST GmbH

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the consortium represented by SPAN d.o.o. and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.