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*Project is implemented by the Environment Agency Austria (lead MS partner), The Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution (France) and Federal Environment Agency Germany (junior MS partners) as well as the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (BC partner).*

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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.

In order to face this challenge, the EU has devised Twinning as an instrument of administrative cooperation between public administrations of beneficiary countries and institutions of the EU member states with the aim of assisting and transferring knowledge related to application and implementation of the Acquis of the European Union.

The Republic of Croatia also uses the Transition Facility as 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 EU legislation.



Find more on project on [www.azo.hr](http://www.azo.hr)

## The European Union's Programme for Croatia

# Transition Facility

## Twinning Project

# “Improvement of Croatian Environment Pollutant Register (Croatian EPR) and its Integration into Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)” (CRO EPR)

HR 14 IB EN 01

A project implemented by

Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature



Austria



France



Germany

## **“Improvement of Croatian Environment Pollutant Register (Croatian EPR) and its Integration into Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)” (CRO EPR)**

This project uses the expertise of a consortium of three Member States – Austria, Germany and France, working with the beneficiary organisation, to ensure the continued development of important public services in line with EU standards. The project is implemented by the Environment Agency Austria (lead MS partner), The Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution (France) and Federal Environment Agency Germany (junior MS partners) as well as the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (BC partner). The project, worth in total € 900,000, commenced in January 2016 and will last for 18 months.

### **The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)**

E-PRTR is the Europe-wide register that provides easily accessible key environmental data from industrial facilities in European Union Member States and in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The register contains data reported annually by some 24,000 industrial facilities covering 65 economic activities across Europe.

The register contributes to transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making. It implements for the European Union the UNECE (United Nations Economic Union for Europe) PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

### **Croatian Environment Pollutant Register (CRO EPR) and Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)**

Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) is the central national information authority for national and international reporting. The CAEN coordinates the national reports to the European Commission, European Environment Agency (according to the requirements of EIONET) and reporting to other global organizations (i.e. UN and its bodies) on national environmental issues.

As the central national information authority in the field of environment, the CAEN is responsible for collection and integration of environmental data and information, monitoring and reporting of the environment and providing public access to environmental information.

The Croatian EPR is an important tool for continuous monitoring of trends and progress in reducing environmental pollution and for monitoring compliance with specific international agreements, identifying priorities and assessing the progress achieved through implementation of environmental protection policy and programs. The system is indispensable to the public, various state and county bodies, the industry, scientists, non-governmental organizations and other decision-makers as a unique system that ensures insight into the state of the environment and environmental trends and provides the background for environmental decision-making. The EPR system does not only provide for the national needs, but through establishment and implementation of the EPR system, Croatia's international obligations concerning PRTR are also fulfilled.

Attainment of the above mentioned tasks depends on a unified information system which integrates all environmental data. The Environmental Protection Act demands that an Environmental Information System (EIS) shall be established for the purpose of integrated environmental management and/or management of individual environmental components or burdens and for the purpose of preparing and monitoring the implementation of sustainable development and environmental protection documents. The CAEN is responsible for the development, management and coordination of the Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS).

CEIS serves for collecting, verifying, integrating, analysing and sharing data and information, and as such represents one of the most important instruments for implementation of environmental policy. CEIS creates conditions for a faster, easier and better management of data as well as transparent and continuous information to the public in the field of environment.

### **Beneficiary organisation(s) in Croatia**

The main Beneficiary is the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN).

Close cooperation, communication and coordination will be required with the following project stakeholders:

- Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection;
- Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund;
- Hrvatske vode (legal entity for water management)
- Competent administrative bodies in the counties and the City of Zagreb
- Croatian Chamber of Economy
- Ministry of Agriculture - Directorate of Water Management.

### **Expected results of the Twinning Project**

This Twinning project will further develop the Croatian Environment Pollutant Register, including improvement of collecting, validating and reporting process of Croatian EPR, and consistency with other reporting systems in Croatia, especially in the field of Geographic Information System (GIS) and the National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory system.

Expected results:

- Croatian EPR system improved in order to fulfil reporting requirements primarily towards EU (E-PRTR, IED, ETS Directive, GHG Monitoring Mechanism Decision) and UN (LRTAP, UNFCCC, PRTR);
- Croatian National Portal of Environmental Pollution Register (CNPEPR) improved, including GIS component, through development of the web portal for Croatian EPR system in order to meet the requirements of PRTR in the field of data quality and availability of data to the public;
- Recommendations on E-PRTR reporting produced based on results of the pilot testing of data;
- Manual for air emissions calculation for the national E-PRTR operators prepared;
- Capacities of CAEN experts and other national authorities strengthened with the purpose of improvement of collecting, validating and reporting Croatian EPR data.

After the implementation of this Twinning project, reporting capabilities of the Republic of Croatia in the field of environmental reporting towards both European Commission (EC) and United Nations (UN) will be improved by enhancement of Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) capacities.

**The Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt GmbH)** is the Lead Member State institution responsible for general co-ordination and monitoring of project implementation. The Environment Agency Austria provides advice on administrative capacity building and national environmental legislation to institutions of the European Union, new and upcoming EU Member States, and the EU Neighbourhood Policy partner countries in the East and Mediterranean region. Since 1998 the Environment Agency Austria has participated in 100 country partnerships, so-called Twinning projects, in 25 countries, providing assistance to authorities in administrative capacity building and in the implementation of EU law.