

TWINNING PROJECT FACT SHEET

The European Union's Twinning Project «Establishment of Air Quality Monitoring and Management System»

BACKGROUND:

The Twinning Project builds on the existing infrastructure and institutional framework. Organizational setup at Meteorological and Hydrological Service (MHSC) enables establishment and further development of air quality monitoring and management system. Up to now MHSC has been responsible for the monitoring and the analysis of precipitation quality around the country for more than 28 years.

Besides precipitation quality, MHSC has established measurements of ozone concentrations at two rural sites (since 2005), as well as the calibration unit for ozone analyzers. Therefore, the background knowledge and basic understanding of the complexity of air quality monitoring system and what it entails exist. Major gaps that are recognized refer to lack of comprehensive management system and its elements, QA/QC in general and lack of qualified personnel. Therefore, project activities are concentrated around areas of work that need substantial enhancement and development, in particular:

- Establishment of methodologies for operating the chemical laboratory and the calibration laboratory;
- Introduction of new analytical instruments and methods, including QA/QC procedures and data validation;
- Recommendations for structuring and processing the accreditation of both laboratories and for preparing relevant documents and instruction, ensuring their accordance with the EU QA/QC requirements;
- Operation of the calibration laboratory;
- Maintenance and repair of monitoring equipment;
- Routine-calibration of monitoring equipment, usage of transportable standards and check of span gases;
- Data validation and management system development as well as the system development for public access to the air quality data.

OBJECTIVES:

- Developed capacity of Croatia to implement the environmental *acquis* related to air quality;
- Developed air quality monitoring and management system;
- Supported exchange of air quality data;
- Raised public awareness on air quality issues;
- Contribution to the establishment of a national air quality monitoring and management system.

AT A GLANCE

PROJECT TITLE: Establishment of Air Quality Monitoring and Management System

PROJECT NUMBER: HR-06-IB-EN-01

FUNDING INSTRUMENT: European Union's Phare 2006 Pre-Accession Assistance

TIMEFRAME: January 2009 to May 2010

BUDGET: 700,000 € (Twinning)
1,000,000 € (Equipt. Supply)

PARTNERS

MEMBER STATE PARTNER:

Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)

MAIN BENEFICIARY:

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction of the Republic of Croatia (MEPPPC)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia (MHSC)
and
Croatian Environment Agency (CEA)

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:

Central Finance and Contracting Agency of Croatia (CFCA)

EU MONITORING AUTHORITY:

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia (EUD)

MANAGEMENT PROFILE

MEMBER STATE PROJECT LEADER:

Mr. Harri Pietarila, Finnish Meteorological Institute

BENEFICIARY COUNTRY PROJECT LEADER:

Ms. Vesna Đuričić, Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia

RESIDENT TWINNING ADVISOR:

Ms. Vuokko Karlsson, Finnish Meteorological Institute

RESIDENT TWINNING ADVISOR'S COUNTERPART:

Mr. Lukša Kraljević, Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia



This project is funded by the European Union

METHOD:

The Project builds up the necessary institutional and technical capacity by transferring the know-how from the Member State (Finland). Approximately 20 Finnish short-term experts from different fields of expertise provide technical support in taking into use the new equipment by means of professional hands-on training on measurement methods, quality assurance and EU reporting.

PROJECT COMPONENTS:

- Component 1: Institutional Capacity Building
- Component 2: Enhancement of chemical laboratory
- Component 3: Enhancement of calibration laboratory
- Component 4: Maintenance and field operations
- Component 5: Data Management System
- Component 6: IT support and software development
- Component 7: Quality management system

SNAPSHOT



Photo caption: MHSC staff at the background monitoring station in Virolahti, Finland

14 BC staff (MHSC, MEPPPC, CEA, Local Networks) in August 2009 participated in a study visit to Finland. During a five-day hands-on training program, Croatian guests had the opportunity to visit the chemical and calibration laboratories of the Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council (YTV), EMEP background monitoring station in Virolahti, Kumpula Super Site, Vaisala factory, Centre for Metrology and Accreditation (MIKES), and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

(Photo credit: Domagoj Mihajlović, MHSC)

EU CONCEPT IN A NUTSHELL

What is Phare?



The Phare programme, as a pre-accession instrument, is the main channel for the European Community's financial and technical cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs). The Phare programme, with a budget of over EUR 10 billion for the period 2000-2006 (about 1.5 billion per year), has two main priorities.

1. helping the national administrations of the candidate countries to acquire the capacity to implement the Community *acquis*;
2. helping the candidate countries to bring their industries and basic infrastructure up to Community standards by mobilising the investment required, particularly in areas where Community rules are increasingly demanding: environment, transport, industry, product quality, working conditions etc.

What is Twinning and how is it organized?



Launched in May 1998, the Twinning programme is one of the principal tools of Institution Building accession assistance. Twinning aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations, with the structures, human resources and management skills needed to implement the *acquis communautaire* to the same standards as Member States.

The main feature of a Twinning project is that it sets out to deliver specific and guaranteed results. Twinning not only provides technical and administrative assistance, but also helps to build long-term relationships between existing and future MS countries.

Each Twinning project has at least one Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) and a Project Leader. The RTA is seconded from a Member State administration or from another approved body in a Member State to work full time for a minimum of 12 months in the beneficiary country to implement the project. The Project Leader is responsible for the overall thrust and coordination of the project. They are supplemented by carefully planned and timed missions of other specialists, training events, awareness raising visits, etc. to accompany the reform process towards the targeted result.

