

PROJECT INFORMATION

Improving Access to Environmental Information in Croatia



Round table in Karlovac
(Croatia)

Source: Zelena Akcija

Background

In Croatia, technical, legal and institutional barriers challenge access to environmental information. The Croatian Information Commissioner's Reports suggest that practical implementation of requests within administrative structures and private bodies lacks effective implementation measures. Many requests remain unanswered, others are delayed or refused on illegitimate basis. Even in Croatia as a member of the Aarhus Convention, civil society actors and other stakeholders encounter important barriers in accessing environmental information. This prevents them from taking part in decision-making procedures relevant for the environment.

Project details

The aim of the project was to identify the barriers to access environmental information in Croatia and to propose concrete solutions to overcome the identified obstacles. Representatives of the competent authorities, civil society actors and journalists entered into dialogue on measures and their possible implementation. The competent authorities in three Croatian regions and at the national level were the project's target group. In a first step, the project carried out an empirical study on the barriers of access to environmental information via online questionnaires. In this way, both parties of the information demand, the enquirer and the authorities, were addressed. Based on these findings, the different actors discussed possible immediate and long-term solutions. The proposed measures focus on cooperative and trust-building solutions, and they differ according to their urgency. A final Civil Society Roadmap, which connects the proposed solutions and visualizes them was handed over to representatives of authorities for further implementation.

Updated: April 2019

Beneficiary country: Croatia

Duration: 07/2018 – 01/2019

Beneficiaries: Competent authorities at the regional level (Zagreb, Karlovac and Krapina-Zagorje) and national environmental authorities (Ministry of Environmental Affairs and HAOP as environment agency)

Implementing organisations: Independent Institute for Environmental Issues, Zelena Akcija

Project number: 109665

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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