XIV CICLO DEL DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN POLITICHE TRANSFRONTALIERE PER LA VITA QUOTIDIANA

BRIDGING THE EUROPEAN BORDERS: THE IMPACT OF MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATION ON THE PERCEPTION OF THE EFFECTS OF EU POLICIES BY THE CITIZENS IN THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Settore scientifico-disciplinare SPS/10

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this research is to explore, through a multidisciplinary approach, the perception of the effects of European Union policies by the citizens during the on-going enlargement process, in order to collect useful information for the creation of a multimedia environment dedicated to the development of European projects, improving the quality of life of a wide community.

The perception of the effects of European policies are, mainly, perceived by the citizens through the involvement in European projects that have an impact on their daily life.

The European union is making available funding instruments for financing projects in almost every sectors of the society. Those funding instruments, have to be understood as opportunities by different stakeholders aiming to satisfy their needs, or the necessities of their communities. The European projects being developed at local level have to generate a wider benefit impacting on the development of Europe as a whole.

All the information about the European opportunities are available to everyone through the internet on official web pages of the institutional bodies, agencies and other organisations acting at European, national, regional and local level. To find or get the right information at the right time is very difficult, because of the wide range of funding instruments available for the different sectors and beneficiaries, managed by different subjects and published in different places.

The citizens, particularly in the countries in accession phase, are expecting from the authorities a transparent diffusion of such information but the mission seems to be impossible also because the European union is evolving very dynamically and the advancing of the negotiations of the candidate countries is a process that is requiring big efforts by the administrations. The efforts of the public authorities are not always visible and the negotiating countries are facing a big challenge achieving the objectives agreed with the European Institutions. The final beneficiaries at local level, whom the new opportunities are addressed, are not always perceiving the maximum of the potential from the actions that are being implemented to impact positively on the national and European development.

Without an active involvement of the stakeholders, at all the levels and in all the sectors of the society, the total of the benefits emerging from the European policies can’t be perceived.
The active engagement in European projects is, mostly being stimulated by the regional and local authorities using as vectors the civil society organisations, associations and networks. The information and knowledge about European opportunities and the best practices in the use of them is being gathered through international cooperation activities. The creation of good information channels and solid partnerships is appearing to be fundamental when looking to the results achieved by the best performing administrations in absorbing European funds used to develop their territory.

The technological evolution is having a big impact on the perception of the information by citizens as well as, their habitues are changing and their needs as well. The increasing of the use of information and communication technologies and the growing volume of multimedia content available online are impacting on the quality of the services provided by the administrations.

The diffusion of the social media where information and multimedia materials can be published and shared, giving to the users the ability to connect and interact is opening a completely new environment for the interaction between individuals, public and private organizations and the institutions.

The hypothesis of this research is that a virtual environment based on multimedia communication, and networking can positively impact on the perception of the effects of European policies by the citizens of countries involved in the enlargement process.

To validate this hypothesis the explorative part of the research was conduced through the daily work in the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration and European Integration of the Region of Istria (Croatia), while the applied action research and the experimentation was realized in the frame of the European Projects Association (Belgium).

The research started in 2008 and is continuing to be supported and applied thanks to the results achieved through the realization and evolution of the multimedia communication platform My Europa (www.my-europa.eu).

My Europa is aiming to be an “ideal” environment for the development of European Projects based on a set of tools and services designed to facilitate the information flow, the education and knowledge sharing, the connection of different stakeholders as well as the planning, development and implementation of European projects.

My Europa was built on the bases of the information about European policies and funding opportunities that are being overviewed in the first part of this work.
Fundamental was the importance of the research activities conducted for the Region of Istria during the crucial years of the process of integration of Croatia to the European Union described in the second part.

Starting from the involvement in the planning and realization of communication tools including the European Projects Database and the participation in the daily communication activities; going through the preparation and the implementation of European projects and the opportunity to realize a monitoring of the citizens perception, till the great challenge of the organization and management of the Regional Representation to the EU in Brussels; it was possible to explore the different aspects that are influencing the communication of the European opportunities to the citizens.

The last part of the work is dedicated to the presentation of the experimental activities needed to build an organization able to realize and promote a virtual environment were is possible to test the starting hypothesis applying the experiences achieved.
ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT

Since 1988, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission are concluding inter-institutional agreements covering the budget process and its distribution in order to improve the budgetary procedures.

The process started with Delors I, followed by Delors II and Agenda 2000. The 4th and current agreement is covering the period 2007-2013.

Until the Treaty of Lisbon, the Financial Perspectives or Multiannual Financial Frameworks (MFF) didn’t have a legal base in the previous Treaties or in other Community legislations. The Article 312 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union confers a legally binding status to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). It entered into force the 1st of December 2009 determining "the amounts of the annual ceilings on commitment appropriations by category of expenditure and of the annual ceiling on payment appropriations".


The budget allocated to the European Commission for the period 2007-2013 was oriented towards the following categories of expenditure:

1. Sustainable Growth
   1a. Competitiveness for growth and employment (research and innovation, education and training, trans-European networks, social policy, economic integration and accompanying policies)
   1b. Cohesion for growth and employment (convergence of the least developed EU countries and regions, EU strategy for sustainable development outside the least prosperous regions, inter-regional cooperation)

2. Preservation and Management of Natural Resources: Includes the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures.
3. Citizenship, Freedom, Security and Justice
3a. Freedom, security and justice (justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy)
3b. Citizenship (public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens)

4. EU as Global Player:
Covers all external action ("foreign policy") by the EU. Does not include the European Development Fund (the European Council and Parliament rejected a Commission proposal to include it in the EU budget).

5. Administration:
Covers the administrative expenditure of all the European institutions, pensions and EU-run schools for staff members' children ("European Schools").

6. Compensations:
Temporary heading, which includes compensatory payments related to the latest expansion of the EU.

The main programs funding sustainable growth, competitiveness and cohesion are:

- 7th research framework program:
Enhancing research and innovation capacity across the EU, supporting researchers and their ideas, cooperating across borders (EUR 53272 million)

- European Energy Programme for Recovery:
Financial assistance to projects in areas such as carbon capture and storage, offshore wind energy, gas and electricity infrastructure (EUR 3980 million)

- Competitiveness and Innovation Programme:
Boosting European productivity, innovation capacity and sustainable growth (EUR 3621 million)

- Nuclear decommissioning:
Closing down old nuclear power plants: EUR 1 260 million

- Trans-European Networks:
High-performing networks for sustainable mobility of citizens, goods and energy (EUR 8 168 million)

- Lifelong Learning Program:
  Greater mobility and stronger links among education and training institutions.

Furthermore, in this framework the main programs funded by structural funds are the following:

- Convergence: Harmonious development throughout the EU. Developing infrastructure and helping the regions improve their physical and human investments. New focus on research, innovation and risk prevention. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. EUR 283 853 million.

- Competitiveness and employment in the regions: Transforming local economies for global competition. Emphasising innovation and the knowledge economy, environment and risk prevention, and better connection to information and transport services. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. EUR 54 974 million

- Territorial cooperation: Growth through cross-border Cooperation. Developing cross-border activities, strengthening economic and social cooperation, and building transnational networks to share experience and resources. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund. EUR 8 723 million.
Expenditure ceilings per heading
(EUR million, current prices)(1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitment appropriations (2)</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sustainable growth</td>
<td>53,979</td>
<td>57,653</td>
<td>61,696</td>
<td>63,555</td>
<td>63,974</td>
<td>66,964</td>
<td>69,957</td>
<td>437,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a. Competitiveness for growth and employment</td>
<td>8,918</td>
<td>10,386</td>
<td>13,269</td>
<td>14,167</td>
<td>12,987</td>
<td>14,203</td>
<td>15,433</td>
<td>89,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Cohesion for growth and employment</td>
<td>45,061</td>
<td>47,267</td>
<td>48,427</td>
<td>49,388</td>
<td>50,987</td>
<td>52,761</td>
<td>54,524</td>
<td>348,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Preservation and management of natural resources</td>
<td>55,143</td>
<td>59,193</td>
<td>56,333</td>
<td>59,955</td>
<td>60,338</td>
<td>60,810</td>
<td>61,289</td>
<td>413,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Citizenship, freedom, security and justice</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>1,362</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>1,693</td>
<td>1,889</td>
<td>2,105</td>
<td>2,376</td>
<td>12,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a. Freedom, security and justice</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>1,406</td>
<td>1,661</td>
<td>7,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b. Citizenship</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>4,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The EU as a global player</td>
<td>6,578</td>
<td>7,002</td>
<td>7,440</td>
<td>7,893</td>
<td>8,430</td>
<td>8,997</td>
<td>9,595</td>
<td>55,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Administration (4)</td>
<td>7,039</td>
<td>7,380</td>
<td>7,525</td>
<td>7,882</td>
<td>8,334</td>
<td>8,670</td>
<td>9,095</td>
<td>55,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Compensations for Bulgaria and Romania</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>124,457</td>
<td>132,797</td>
<td>134,722</td>
<td>140,978</td>
<td>142,965</td>
<td>147,546</td>
<td>152,312</td>
<td>975,777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commitment appropriations (2), % of GNI (3)
1.02% 1.08% 1.16% 1.18% 1.16% 1.15% 1.14% 1.13%

Payment appropriations (2), % of GNI (3)
1.00% 1.05% 1.04% 1.12% 1.09% 1.10% 1.07% 1.07%

The Financial Framework may be modified, when necessary, by a common agreement of the institutions.

(1) All amounts in this publication are expressed in current prices. To accommodate inflationary expectations during

the 2007–2013 period, the EU countries agreed to adjust the financial framework ceilings (expressed in 2004 prices) by using a 2 % price deflator per year between 2004 and 2013.

(2) EU budgets forecast both commitments (legal pledges to provide finance) and payments (cash or bank transfers to the beneficiaries). Appropriations for commitments first year but the payment is made in several often differ because of the multiannual nature of the EU programmes and projects. The total amount is usually committed in instalments over the years as the implementation of the programme and project progresses.

(3) Estimates based on Autumn 2009 forecasts of Gross national income (GNI).

(4) Excluding staff pension contribution
Funding opportunities in Europe

For the purposes of this research it is necessary to understand what kind of activities are being financed, through the main funding opportunities in Europe and who can benefit from them.

European Funds – Direct Support – Community Programs

Civil Protection Financial Instrument

Budget: EUR 189.8 million

- Aims at supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States for the protection, primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents
- Intends to facilitate reinforced co-operation between the Member States in the field of civil protection

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/financial_instrument_en.htm

CIP - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programs

Budget: EUR 3 621.3 million

- Works to increase the competitiveness of European enterprises, in particular of SMEs.
- Facilitates access to finance, support innovative activities, including eco-innovation, provide business support services, accelerates the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society
- Promotes energy efficiency and new and renewable energy sources in all sectors, including transport

Divided into three operational programs:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/financial_instrument_en.htm
1. **EIP – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program** (Budget: EUR 2 172.78 million)
   - Facilitate access to finance for SMEs
   - Support creation of favorable environment for SME cooperation
   - Promote innovation including eco innovation
   - Promote entrepreneurship

   Eligibility: Entities established in Member States, EEA countries, Candidate and Western Balkan countries.


2. **ICT-PSP – Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Program**
   *(Budget: EUR 730 million)*
   - Encourage the uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business
   - Develop an inclusive information society
   - Reinforce the European internal ICT market

   Eligibility: entities from member states (EU 27), entities based in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, Turkey and Serbia.


3. **IEE – Intelligent Energy Europe** *(Budget: EUR 730 million)*
   - Encourage energy efficiency and rational use of energy sources
   - Promote new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification
   - Promote energy efficiency and new energy sources in transport

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Eligibility: Any private or public organization established in the European Union, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Croatia.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/5

**Consumer Program 2007 – 2013**

Budget: EUR 156.8 million

- Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests and improved information on consumer-related data)
- Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through cooperation between authorities and organizations responsible for the implementation of consumer legislation, information, education and dispute resolution)

Eligibility: Member States, EEA countries, Candidate Countries, Western Balkan countries, Third countries covered by the European Neighborhood Policy.

Open to: Public bodies, non-profit organizations, non-governmental and non-profit European consumer organizations, and consumer protection officials.

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm6

**Customs 2013**

Budget: EUR 323.8 million

- Match the needs of the internal market, including supply chain security
- Harmonize customs administrations' interaction and performance as if they were one administrative unit, ensuring equivalence of controls at every point of the Community's borders
- Ensure the protection of the financial interests of the Community
- Reinforce the security and safety of citizens

5 http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/
6 http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm
- Facilitate and prepare for enlargement, including the sharing of experiences and knowledge with the customs administrations of the countries concerned
- Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests)
- Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through enforcement, cooperation, information, redress and education)

Eligibility: Member States of the European Community, Croatia, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.


**LLP - Lifelong Learning program**

Budget: EUR 6 970 million

- Supporting education and training systems on a European level
- To stimulate transnational mobility of individuals,
- Promote bilateral and multilateral partnerships,
- Enhance the improvement of the quality in education and training systems through multilateral projects encouraging innovation.

Comprise four specific programs:

1. **Comenius** - for primary/secondary school education
   - To involve at least three million pupils in joint education activities
   - Supports mobility of individuals,
   - Development of partnerships,
   - Multilateral projects and networks.

2. **Erasmus** - for university education

- To achieve the participation of at least three million students in student mobility by the year 2012
- Supports mobility of individuals,
- Multilateral projects focusing on innovation,
- Experimentation and the exchange of best practices,
- Networks of higher education institutions.

3. **Leonardo da Vinci** - for vocational training
   - To increase placements in enterprises to 80,000 per year
   - Supports mobility of individuals,
   - Theme focused partnerships,
   - Multilateral projects that aim to improve training systems,
   - Thematic networks,
   - Study and preparatory visits for mobility.

4. **Grundtvig** - for adult education
   - To support the mobility of 7,000 individuals in adult education per year
   - Supports mobility of individuals,
   - Theme focused partnerships,
   - Multilateral projects that aim to improve adult education
   - Preparatory visits

The program incorporates a 'Transversal program' supporting crosscutting activities, and the Jean Monet program for the European integration in education and training.

Eligibility: member states (EU 27), EEA countries, Switzerland and Turkey.
The Jean Monnet Program allows participation of institutes of higher education in third countries who run programs dealing with European integration.


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**Culture 2007 Program**
Budget: EUR 400 million

- Promotes the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector
- Supports the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products
- Promotes intercultural dialogue

Three different strands are used in the pursuit of the above-mentioned objectives:

1. Support for Cultural Actions
2. Support for European Bodies active at European level in the Field of Culture
3. Support for Analyses and for the Collection and Dissemination of Information in the Field of Cultural Cooperation

Eligibility: EU Member States and EEA countries, Countries candidate to EU membership (Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) plus Serbia.

Open to: Cultural operators, including cultural enterprises, can participate in the Program as long as they are acting in a non-profit-making cultural capacity. Eligible applicants must be a public or private organization with legal status, whose principal activity is in the cultural sphere (cultural and creative sectors); and have their registered legal seat in one of the eligible countries.

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm)  

**Europe for Citizens**
Budget: EUR 215 million

- Promotes active European citizenship with the main scope of bridging the gap between citizens and the European Union
- Encourages cooperation between citizens and organizations from different countries

9 http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm
- Facilitates the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals to promote the process of European integration

The program is implemented via four types of actions:

1. Active Citizens for Europe - with actions such as Town Twinning and transnational and cross-sectorial projects directly involving citizens
2. Together for Europe - supports projects that help increase the sense of one community, finances studies, surveys and opinion polls in order to better understand active citizenship, and projects disseminating comprehensive information on European actions related to citizenship
3. Active Civil Society for Europe - providing structural support for think-tanks, for civil society organizations at European level, and support projects initiated by civil society organizations
4. Active European Remembrance - support actions in fields such as preservation, commemoration, reflection and networking in projects related to Nazism or Stalinism

Eligibility: Member States of the European Union and Croatia.

Open to: European research institutions, local authorities, civil organizations, educational institutions, which promote active European citizenship, are eligible for funding.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/index_en.htm

FP7 - Seventh Framework Program
Budget: EUR 50 521 million

- Supporting research and development activities covering almost all scientific disciplines with special emphasis on ten specific research areas
- Encouraging undertakings by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), research centers and universities in their research and technological development activities.
- Aiming to support or coordinate research, as well as building and maintaining networks

10 http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/index_en.htm
Enhancing research capacities for frontier research and for the mobility of researchers

EP7 is implemented via four major specific programs:

1. **Cooperation** - supports transnational collaborative research projects aiming to strengthen European industries’ competitiveness

2. **Ideas** - represents a novelty in FP7 by being a bottom-up approach providing funds to “investigator-driven” frontier research proposed by individual research or research teams.

3. **People** – aim to improve human resources and to attract world-leading researchers to work in Europe via Marie Curie actions financing researchers’ career development and mobility.

4. **Capacities** – supports actions aiming to enhance research capacities through Europe and beyond, via seven different areas.

Eligibility: Anyone. However, eligibility criteria and funding rates differ between different countries and calls.

Open to: Universities, public bodies, private and public research institutes, large companies, SMEs and NGOs. The Joint Research Centre (responsible for special large-scale indirect initiatives) may participate in direct activities under similar conditions to those of the Member States.


**Fundamental Rights and Justice**

Budget: EUR 542.9 million

- Supports the development of a European society respecting fundamental rights, fighting anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia, and strengthening civil society.

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- Promotes judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal justice matters

Five Community programs:

1. **Fight against Violence – Daphne** (Budget: EUR 114.4 million)
   - Contribution to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence.

2. **Drugs Prevention and Information** (Budget: EUR 21.25 million)
   - Supports the Member States in pooling their resources and working together to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs, ensuring that drug trafficking in the EU is brought to a halt.

3. **Fundamental Rights and Citizenship** (Budget: EUR 93.8 million)
   - Ensure that EU citizens are provided with the rights they are afforded under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and allow for an open dialogue regarding these rights
   - Supports actions to combat racism and thus ensure that EU citizens can live freely and openly without fear of persecution or danger.

4. **Criminal Justice** (Budget: EUR 196.2 million)
   - Strives to promote judicial cooperation and the adjustment of existing judicial systems, in order to improve the daily life and general well being of EU citizens and businesses, providing easy access to the judicial system.
   - Aims to enhance contact and the exchange of information and good practices between legal, judicial and administrative authorities.

5. **Civil Justice** (Budget: EUR 109.3 million)
   - Aims to promote judicial cooperation in civil matters and the adjustment of Member States' existing judicial systems to the EU system.
   - Improving the lives of EU citizens through easier access to justice.
   - Enhance the contact and the exchange of information and good practices between legal, judicial and administrative authorities.
Eligibility: 27 EU Member States plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Open to: NGOs, local public authorities and institutions (mainly universities and research institutes).

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm 12

**Galileo**

Budget: EUR 3 400 million in total (whereof EUR 1 100 million for the development phase)

- Establish the first satellite and positioning navigation system for civilian purposes
- Establish an independent satellite navigation system for Europe that competes as well as complements the American GPS system
- Contribute to the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)
- Spread its beneficial applications to many areas of everyday life such as transport, security, leisure, etc.
- Facilitate economic development in Europe (e.g. through creation of 100 000 new jobs)
- Generate new markets to meet all demands, Galileo will offer services at two levels:
  - A basic level free of direct charge for the end user in terms of consumer applications and general-interest services
  - Restricted-access service levels for commercial and professional applications that require superior performance

Eligibility: EU and ESA Member States. Third countries after approval by the European Council.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/satnav/index_en.htm 13

12 http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm
**Hercule II**

Budget: EUR 98 525 million

- Enhance transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between Member States’ authorities, the European Commission and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
- Build networks between law enforcement authorities

Five different strands are used in the pursuit of the above-mentioned objectives:

1. Improved transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between authorities in the Member States, the Commission and OLAF
2. Creation of networks in Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries to facilitate exchanges of information, experiences and best practices
3. Technical operations supporting national law enforcement agencies in Member States
4. Preparation of legislative and other regulatory initiatives
5. Extension of geographical coverage, without weakening operational capacity

Eligibility: National and regional authorities, research and educational institutes and non-profit bodies with legal statues.


**ISA - Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations**

Budget: EUR 164 million

- To facilitate the efficient and effective electronic cross-border and cross-sector interaction between European public administrations
- Enabling the delivery of electronic public services by ensuring the availability of common solutions
- By increasing the awareness of ICT aspects of Community legislation.

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Four different strands are used in the pursuit of the above-mentioned objectives:

1. Common frameworks in support of interoperability such as policies, strategies, specifications, methodologies, guidelines and similar approaches and documents
2. Assessment of ICT implications of Community legislation
3. Common services e.g. applications and infrastructures
4. Generic tools such as demonstrators, shared and collaborative platforms, common components and similar building blocks

Eligibility: Member States, EEA countries and Candidate countries that will contribute to the program budget.

http://ec.europa.eu/isa/index_en.htm

**LIFE+ - Financial Instrument for the Environment**

Budget: EUR 2 143 million

- Contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation
- Co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value
- Contribute to the achievement of objectives of the 6th Environmental Action Program (EAP and to the implementation of Community policies on nature and biodiversity
- Disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues

The program consists of three components:

1. **Nature and Biodiversity** - supports the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network including marine habitats and species.
2. **Environment Policy and Governance** - supports implementation of the Community environmental policy, the development of innovative policy approaches, technologies,
methods and instruments, the knowledge base as regards environment policy and legislation, monitoring of environmental pressures.

3. **Information and Communication** - communication and awareness raising environmental campaigns, nature protection and biodiversity conservation issues, as well as projects related to forest fire prevention.

Eligibility: 27 Member States of the European Union.

Open to: Public or private bodies, actors or institutions registered in the European Union. Project proposals can either be submitted by a single beneficiary or by a partnership, which includes a coordinating beneficiary and one or several associated beneficiaries.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm

**Marco Polo II**

Budget: EUR 400 million

- Reduce congestion
- Improve environmental performance of transport systems
- Enhance intermodal transport systems
- Encourage public private partnerships

Marco Polo II program is implemented through five types of actions:

1. Modal Shift Actions
2. Catalyst Actions
3. Common Learning Actions
4. Motorways of the Sea
5. Traffic Avoidance

16 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm
General conditions:

- Innovative on a European level
- Aims at a modal shift that must be actual, measurable and sustainable
- Will not lead to any distortions in the competition of the relevant markets
- Prove transparent objectives and non-discriminatory procedures for selection of the relevant services
- Involve at least two eligible countries
- Only projects concerning freight transport services may be supported

Eligibility: Both single undertakings as well as consortia, established in an EU Member State or coming from EFTA/EEA countries or Croatia.

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/index_en.htm

Media 2007

Budget: EUR 754.95 million

- Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity by reducing imbalances between European countries with a high audio-visual production capacity and countries with low production capacity or a restricted linguistic area
- Strengthen European audio-visual sector
- Help dissemination of European audio-visual works within EU and beyond
- Support the competitiveness of the European audio-visual sector by stimulating private financing for the sector and promoting the use of digital technologies

Six activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Acquisition and improvement of skills in the audio-visual field and the development of European audio-visual works

17 http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/index_en.htm
2. Distribution and promotion of European audio-visual works
3. Pilot projects to ensure that the program adjusts to market developments
4. Training of professionals
5. Developing production projects with distributing and promoting films and audio-visual programs
6. Supporting film festivals

Eligibility: EU Member States, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/audiovisual_and_media/l24224a_it.htm

**Pericles Program**

Budget: EUR 7 million

- Protect against counterfeiting
- Act as catalyst for closer cooperation between relevant structures and staff as well as improve the general understanding of relevant Community and international laws and instruments.
- Raise awareness on the act

Four activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Awareness raising actions on the need for close cooperation between competent authorities
2. Awareness raising actions on legislation related to the protection of the euro
3. Training related to legislation, cooperation, investigation and security features of the euro
4. Develop and strengthen mechanisms and exchange of best practices

Eligibility: Member States and countries with the euro as the official currency.

18 http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/audiovisual_and_media/l24224a_it.htm
Open to: National authorities.

http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/index_en.htm

Progress
Budget: EUR 657.59 million

- To deliver analysis and advice on relevant issues in employment and social affairs
- Checking how far Member States have implemented EU legislation and policies
- Engaging with stakeholders and society at large to make sure that their concerns and expectations are voiced and heard
- Strengthen the capacity of key EU networks related to social inclusion, non-discrimination, disability and gender equality
- Promoting policy transfer, learning and support on EU objectives and priorities at EU and Member State level.

Five activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Europe-wide studies such as research on health and safety at work
2. Development of statistic tools necessary for EU Policy development by fund studies and disseminate results
3. Funding of EU networks of NGOs fighting social exclusion and discrimination on grounds of racial origin, age and disability or promoting gender equality
4. Public awareness campaigns on EU social and employment policies and laws
5. Promotion of networking and mutual learning and exchange of best practices

Eligibility: 27 EU Member States, EU Candidate and EFTA/EEA countries.

Open to: Public employment services, local and regional authorities, universities and research institutes, experts in evaluation, national statistic offices.

http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en

**Public Health Program**
Budget: EUR 321.5 million

- Improve citizens' health security
- Promote health for prosperity and solidarity
- Generate and disseminate health knowledge

Five activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Protect citizens against health threats and improve Member States' capacity to respond to threats
2. Facilitate healthy active ageing and bridge inequalities, with a particular emphasis on the New Member States
3. Promote cooperation between health systems on cross-border issues such as patient mobility and health professionals
4. Decrease alcohol, tobacco and drug consumption
5. Exchange knowledge and best practice by bringing together expertise from different countries

Eligibility: Member States and entities based in EEA countries.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

**Safer Internet Program**
Budget: EUR 45 million

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21 http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm
- Providing the public with a network of contact points for reporting illegal and harmful content
- Fostering self-regulatory initiatives in this
- Establishing a knowledge base on new trends in the use of online technologies and their consequences for children's lives

Actions related to the following activities are eligible for funding:

1. Actions ensuring public awareness (addressing illegal, harmful and unwanted content spread via Internet)
2. Actions fighting against illegal content and tackling harmful conduct online (support to improved efficiency of Hotlines allowing people to report illegal content)
3. Actions promoting a safer online environment (encouraging the establishment of self-regulation and codes of conduct)
4. Actions establishing a knowledge base

Eligibility: EU Member States and EEA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland). In addition, the program is open to legal entities established in candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy and the countries of the Western Balkans and the European neighborhood. However, they will only receive funding if a bilateral agreement with the relevant country has been concluded to this effect.


Security and Safeguarding Liberties Framework program
Budget: EUR 745 million

Two financial instruments encompassing the following specific programs:

1. **Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks (Budget: EUR 137.4 million)**

- Foster risk and threat analysis on critical infrastructure
- Develop common security standards
- Promote exchange of information and best practices
- Support coordination on the protection of the EU's critical infrastructure

Five activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Actions on operational cooperation and coordination
2. Analytical, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities
3. Development and transfer of technology and methodology, particularly regarding information sharing and inter-operability
4. Training, exchange of staff and experts
5. Awareness and dissemination activities

Eligibility: Non-profit entities based in Member States.

2. **Prevention of and Fight against Crime (Budget: EUR 597.6 million)**

- Fight all forms of crime in particular terrorism, trafficking, offences against children and illicit drug and arms trafficking
- Promote coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies, national authorities and Community bodies
- Develop new methods for fighting crime and effective of victims and witnesses

Eight activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Increasing mutual understanding
2. Development of contingency plans
3. Exchange of information
4. Analysis
5. Monitoring
6. Evaluation
7. Education and training
8. Dissemination of information to relevant actors and the public, etc.

Eligibility: Depends on the type of action:

*Action Grant:* Requires the involvement of at least two Member States or one Member State and one Candidate Country. For National projects' minimum requirement is one entity.

*Operating Grants:* Non-governmental, not-for-profit organization active in the field of education (in particular of youth), in the field of counter-radicalism, or training and/or competence building of professionals/spokespersons/spiritual leaders/political leaders/youth organizations within Member States.

*Framework Partnership:* Public bodies or organizations including EU agencies with legal status established in Member States.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm

**Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows Framework Program**

Budget: EUR 156.8 million

Four programs fall under this Framework Program:

1. **European Refugee Fund (Budget: EUR 699.37 million)**
   - Supporting and improving the efforts of Member States to grant reception conditions to refugees, displaced persons and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection
   - Applying fair and effective asylum procedures and promoting good practices in the field of asylum
   - Protecting the rights of persons requiring international protection

Five activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

23 http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm
1. Reception conditions and asylum procedures
2. Integration of persons whose stay in a particular Member State is of a lasting and stable nature
3. Enhancement of Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies
4. Resettlement of those persons who are in one of the official statuses of a refugee defined by the EC and UNHCR*
5. Transfer of persons from the Member State, which granted them international protection to another Member State where they will be granted similar protection

Eligibility: All Member States, except for Denmark.

2. External Borders Fund (Budget: EUR 1 820 million)

- Provide financial support to states bearing a durable and important financial burden of implementing common standards on control and surveillance of external borders and visa policy.

Four activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Implementation of Common Integrated Border Management System – utilizing the available resources to control and monitor the external borders of the EU
2. External Border Movement Management – ensuring efficient management of all the people crossing the external borders
3. Application of EU Law - promotion of harmonization of education of Member States' border guards and technology and facilitating exchange of border guards between states
4. Improve Member States Consular support actions and education

Eligibility: 23 Schengen countries (United Kingdom, Ireland, Romania and Bulgaria are not participating in the Fund) as well as the countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, subject to specific agreements).
Open to: International Organizations, private bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations

3. The Integration of Third-Country Nationals –INTI (Budget: EUR 825 million)
   - Improved integration of third countries nationals into European Societies
   - Facilitation of admission procedure

Two activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Strengthen the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate in general all integration strategies, policies and measures for third country nationals
2. Improve the exchange of information, best practice and co-operation in and between Member States

Eligibility: All Member States participate, except Denmark. UK and Ireland have opted in.

4. The Return Fund (Budget: EUR 676 million)
   - Promote cooperation between Member States related to immigration
   - Develop effective working relations between Member States and third countries authorities
   - Empower and train authorities to take appropriate decisions

Three activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Institute Integrated Return Management-establishing cooperation between Member States and immigration services to ensure quick and efficient action
2. Cooperation in Integrated Return Management - via developing effective working relations between Member States authorities and third countries relevant immigration services, and via studies, exchange of best practices and awareness raising actions among authorities
3. Equal Standards of Return - by empowering and training authorities to take appropriate return decisions

Eligibility: All Member States excluding the UK and Denmark

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm

TEN-E - Trans-European Energy Networks
Budget: EUR 155 million

- Encouraging interconnection, interoperability and development of Trans European energy networks
- Ensuring the security and diversification of supply
- Strengthening territorial cohesion in the European Community by reducing the isolation of the less-favored, island, landlocked or remote regions
- Promoting sustainable development by improving the links between renewable energy production installations, thus reducing losses and the environmental risks associated with the transportation and transmission of energy

Three actions related to the below three lines are eligible for funding:

1. Projects of common interest related to the electricity and gas networks and displaying potential economic viability
2. Priority projects, those having significant impact on the proper functioning of the internal market, on the security of supply and/or the use of renewable energy sources
3. Projects of European interest, those priority projects, which have a cross-border nature or a significant impact on cross-border transmission capacity.

Eligibility: Applicants legally established in one of the Member States.

24 http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm
Open to: Member States, public or private undertakings or bodies and international organizations.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/tent_e/ten_e_en.htm

TEN-T - Trans-European Transport Networks
Budget: EUR 8 013 million

- Bring the geographical and economic areas of Europe closer development of roads, railways, inland waterways, airports, seaports, inland ports and traffic management systems
- Establish interconnections, interoperability and continuity of services especially on long-distance routes and across borders

Four activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Establish and develop the key links and interconnections needed to eliminate existing bottlenecks to mobility
2. Fill in missing sections and complete the main routes - especially their cross-border sections
3. Cross natural barriers
4. Improve interoperability on major routes

Eligibility: All EU Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States

Open to: International organizations, joint undertakings, or public/private undertakings or bodies.


Youth in Action
Budget: EUR 885 million

- Promote active citizenship amongst young people
- Develop young people's solidarity and promote tolerance
- Encourage mutual understanding between young in different countries
- Encourage European youth cooperation, redress and education

The program is implemented through 5 actions:

1. Youth for Europe - aiming to increase mobility of young people by supporting youth exchange, initiatives and democracy projects
2. European Voluntary Service - supporting young people's participation in voluntary activities both within and outside the EU
3. Outside the EU Youth in the World - promoting cross border activities and network building with partner countries, and supporting the exchange of youth active in youth work and youth organizations
4. Youth Support System - providing support to European NGOs in the field of youth, to the European Youth Forum, to training of people active in youth organizations, and support projects encouraging innovative approaches
5. Support for European Cooperation in the Youth Field - supporting the development of youth policy by organizing structured dialogue between young people and those responsible for youth policy and facilitating cooperation between the EU and international organizations

Eligibility: Member States, EEA Countries, Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, Eastern Europe and Caucasus and Mediterranean Partner Countries


**Fiscalis 2013**

Budget: EUR 175.3 million

- Efficient and effective information exchange and administrative cooperation in the field of value added tax, excise duties and taxes on income and capital
- Improve officials' understanding of Community law and its implementation in Member States Develop and share good practices to improve administrative procedures
- Encourage cooperation regarding taxes on insurance premiums and implementation of existing rules
- Assist Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries in the field of tax legislation and their administrative capacity
- Increase cooperation with the tax administrations of European Neighborhood Policy Countries

Four activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Developing a communication and information exchange systems Interface
2. Establishing multilateral controls regarding tax liability in different participating countries
3. Organization of seminars and training activities
4. Coordination of working visits

Eligibility: Member States and Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries that have concluded a bilateral agreement with the Commission on the conditions for participating in the programs (Croatia, FYROM, Turkey and Serbia).

**European Funds – Direct Support**

**EAGF - European Agricultural Guarantee Fund**
Budget: EUR 320 055 million

- Support economical, environmental and societal sustainable agriculture,
- Ensure high quality and safety food production,
- Ensure animal health.

Expenses under EAGF:

1. Direct payments to farmers under the CAP
2. Refunds for export to third countries granted under the Common Organisation of Markets (CMO)
3. Intervention payments to regularise agricultural markets
4. Certain informational and promotional measures

Eligibility: 27 EU Member states

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/funding-opportunities/index_en.htm

**EAFRD - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**
Budget: EUR 10 030 million

- Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector and the quality of life in rural areas
- Protecting the environment in the countryside
- Encouraging diversification of the rural economy

Supported actions are related to a package of measures grouped around 4 axes

29 http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/funding-opportunities/index_en.htm
1. Competitiveness (vocational training and information actions, schemes promoting the establishment of young farmers, actions aimed at modernisation of agricultural and forestry holdings and the improvement of their commercial performance, actions encouraging farmers to participate in schemes that promote quality food etc.)

2. Environment

3. Quality of Life (actions renovating and developing villages and preserving and making the best use of the rural heritage)

4. LEADER

Eligibility: 27 EU Member states

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm

EFF - European Fisheries Fund

Budget: EUR 3 849 million

- Strengthen competitiveness,
- Reinforce viability of the operators in the fishery sector,
- Promote environmentally friendly fishing and production methods,
- Foster sustainable development in fisheries areas.

Supporting actions for achieving following five priorities:

1. Adapting fishing capacity and efforts to available fish resources
2. Supporting the various industry branches (promoting methods that reduce the impact of fishing on the environment and improve human and animal health; priority is given to SME-s)
3. Aid for organizations, which represent the collective interest of the sector (actions contributing to the sustainable development or conservation of resources, improving the services offered by fishing ports etc.)
4. Sustainable development of fisheries-dependent (costal) areas
5. Technical assistance to Member States to facilitate the delivery of aid

Eligibility: Entities based in Member States

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/eff/index_en.htm

IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession
Budget: EUR 12 900 million

- Strengthening democratic institutions
- Intensifying administrative and economic reforms
- Promoting and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Enhancing respect for minority rights
- Developing civil society
- Improving regional and cross-border cooperation

IPA assistance is divided into five components:

1. Transition and institution-building: actions aim at strengthening democratic institutions and helping to progress the economic and administrative reforms
2. Cross-border cooperation: actions supporting cross-border activities among beneficiary countries and between beneficiary countries and Member States
3. Regional development: activities designed to prepare the countries for the implementation of the Community's cohesion policy, and in particular for the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund
4. Human resources development: actions preparing the countries to take part in the Cohesion policy and the European Social Fund

31 http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/eff/index_en.htm
5. Rural development: activities providing support to prepare for future funding related to the Common Agricultural Policy and related policies, as well as for support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Eligibility: Candidate (Croatia, FYROM and Turkey) and Potential Candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia including Kosovo) of the European Union.


ENPI - European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
Budget: EUR 11 181 million

- Promoting prosperity in the EU neighbourhood by supporting neighbours’ economic reform processes
- Increasing freedom and democracy in our neighbourhood by deepening political cooperation, on the basis of shared values and common interests
- Encouraging security and stability by working with neighbours to address environment and counter-terrorism issues – in line with the European Security Strategy

Financing actions in seven different sectors:

1. Liberalisation of certain sectors
2. Justice and home affairs
3. Energy
4. Transport
5. Information society
6. Environmental sustainability
7. Research and innovation

Eligibility: ENP partner countries - 16 of EU's closest neighbours: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine and Russia.

Open to: Decentralised institutions and entities in partner countries and regions, international and regional organisations, international financial institutions, non-governmental players and European institutions and agencies

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

MFA - Instrument for Macro-Financial Assistance
Budget: EUR 30-40 million annually

- Supporting political and economic reforms
- Stabilising financial situation
- Establishing market-oriented economies

Eligibility: Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro), particularly those that formerly comprised the Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition to these, according to a Council decision, a few Newly Independent States (Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, and Russia) and the countries of the Mediterranean, a region that also receives other forms of macroeconomic support under the ENPI.

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/index_en.htm

33 http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm
34 http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/index_en.htm
DCI - Development Cooperation Instrument
Budget: EUR 16 897 million

- Assist developing countries to reduce poverty
- Enhance sustainable development
- Support faster integration into world economy
- Foster human rights
- Promote democracy and good governance
- Strengthen relationships between the Community and partner countries

Two main components:

1. **Geographic Programs supporting actions in following fields**
   - Poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
   - Essential needs of the population, in particular primary education and health
   - Social cohesion and employment
   - Governance, democracy, human rights and support for institutional reforms
   - Trade and regional integration
   - Sustainable development through environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources
   - Sustainable integrated water resource management and fostering greater use of sustainable energy technologies
   - Developing infrastructure and an increased use of information and communication technologies
   - Sustainable rural development and ensuring food security
   - Assistance in post-crisis situations and fragile States

2. **Thematic programs supporting actions in following fields**
   - Investing in people
   - Environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy
   - Non-state actors and local authorities in development
   - Food security
   - Migration and asylum
Eligibility: Geographic Programmes support cooperation with 47 developing countries* in Latin America, Asia and Central Asia, the Gulf region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and South Africa. While, the Thematic Programmes are open for all developing countries* (including those covered by the ENPI and the EDF).

Open to: Decentralised bodies of the partner countries (municipalities, provinces, departments and regions), joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the Community, non state actors, international organisations and EU agencies.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci_en.htm

EIDHR - European Instrument for Promoting Democracy & Human Rights
Budget: EUR 1104 million

- Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform
- Increasing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk
- Enhancing the reliability of electoral processes, in particular through election observation missions and through support for local civil society organizations involved in these processes

Five activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Support for human rights defenders
2. Education in the area of human rights and democracy
3. Support for civil society organisations focusing on human rights
4. Fostering cooperation of civil society with international organisations, and supporting civil Society activities aimed at monitoring the implementation of instruments concerning human rights
5. Promoting observance of international humanitarian law

35 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci_en.htm
Eligibility: All countries except EU and industrialized countries

Open to: Civil society organisations, public- and private-sector non-profit organisations, national, regional and international parliamentary bodies (where the proposed measure cannot be financed under a related Community external assistance instrument, international and regional inter-governmental organisations, natural persons (where their help is necessary for achieving the aims of the EIDHR)

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/eidhr_en.htm

**IfS - Instrument for Stability**

Budget: EUR 2062 million

- Assist in the recovering processes during and after a crisis situation or an emerging crisis

The instrument has two components:

1. *The short-term component* - aims to avoid conflict, support post-conflict political stabilisation and to ensure early recovery after a natural disaster.
2. *The long-term component* - means to fight against the increase of weapons of mass destruction, to strengthen response capacities of non-EU member countries to cross-border and to enhance pre- and post-crisis preparedness capacity building

Activities supporting two components:

1. The short term component actions to prevent conflict, maintain post-conflict political stabilisation and to ascertain fast recovery after a natural disaster
2. The long term component activities to enhance the capacity on national, to address persistent trans-regional and global threats affecting one or more countries and their

36 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/eidhr_en.htm
people causing greater vulnerability and support to international organizations, governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building

Eligibility: Nationals of or legal persons who are established in a Member State, a Candidate Country or in an EEA State.

Open to: Non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, local citizens' groups and traders' associations, co-operatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, local organisations (including networks) involved in de-centralized regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and private and public foundations likely to contribute to development or the external dimension of internal policies.


NSCI - Nuclear Safety Co-operation Instrument

Budget: EUR 524 million

- Financing EU activities to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety, radiation protection and effective safeguards in non-EU countries
- Promotion and development of effective regulatory frameworks, technical support to the regulatory bodies in the targeted countries

Actions supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Improving nuclear safety, particularly management of nuclear plants
2. Accident prevention activities

3. Promotional actions on international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety
4. Activities related to safe transport, treatment and disposal of radioactive waste
5. Actions related to the remediation of former nuclear sites

Eligibility: Third countries (with special focus on Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kazakhstan, Northern African, ACP and Latin American countries).

Open to: Decentralised bodies, private companies, non-state actors such as non-governmental organisations or professional associations, natural persons, the Joint Research Centre or EU agencies, international organisations and financial institutions.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/nsci_en.htm

Humanitarian Aid
Budget: EUR 5 609 million

- Provide short-term emergency aid (necessary assistance to people affected by crises arising from outbreaks of fighting or wars and support to carry out short-term rehabilitation and reconstruction work, especially on infrastructure and equipment)
- Stabilise the economic and social situation
- Facilitate long-term development in third countries

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Direct aid such as medicines, tents, food, emergency equipment
2. Specific and targeted food aid
3. Purchase of products needed for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction work, and external personnel costs logistical support
4. Training, studies and network actions

38 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/nsci_en.htm
Eligibility: Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States, Asia Latin America, Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, Newly Independent States, Mediterranean Countries

Open to: International organisations and bodies, NGOs, Member States, beneficiary third countries, or on the Commission's own initiative in the above mentioned countries.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo

Structural Funds

ERDF - European Regional Development Fund
Budget: app. EUR 203 000 million

1. The Convergence objective - modernising and diversifying economic structures as well as safeguarding or creating sustainable jobs.

2. The Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective - support to sustainable development strategies with emphasis on promoting employment.

3. European territorial cooperation objective - support for the establishment and development of transnational cooperation joint strategies for sustainable territorial development of cross border activities.

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

- Direct aid to investments in enterprises (focus on SMEs) to create sustainable jobs
- Infrastructures related to research and innovation, telecommunications, environment, energy and transport

39 http://ec.europa.eu/echo
- Support via financial instruments such as capital risk funds, local development funds, etc. for regional and local development and encouragement of cooperation between cities and regions Technical assistance

Eligibility: Under the three objectives selected NUTS* regions (on different NUTS level, depending on the country and objectives) of the 27 EU Member States are eligible for funding.


**ESF - European Social Fund**

Budget: app. EUR 75 000 million

- Reinforcing economic and social cohesion
- Contributing to the creation of better and sustainable jobs
- Supporting regions for a changing economic and social environment in an era of globalisation

ESF supports actions related to:

1. Lifelong learning and adoptability of workers and enterprises
2. Integration of unemployed, women and migrants in the labour market
3. Fighting discrimination in the labour market
4. Reforming education system and improving human capital

Eligibility: Organisations, both from the public and private sector (from regional and local authorities, educational and training institutions, non-governmental institutions, trade unions, works councils, industry and professional associations to individual companies).

PEACE III Programme

Budget: EUR 333 million

- Reconciling communities (e.g. building positive relations at the local level)
- Contributing to a shared society (e.g. creating shared public spaces)

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Promoting a participative bottom up approach (the priority will seek supporting the active role of people, communities and voluntary organisations in decision making which directly affects them)
2. Promote activities on a regional level and/or cross-border basis: actions to ensure the active involvement of women, youth or other identified groups in strategic actions that contribute to programme objectives
3. Providing funding for new shared public spaces and helping address the issues of physical segregation
4. Developing new and innovative approaches for changing the physical environment in a way which maximises potential for reconciliation and economic development

Eligibility: Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (the Border Region comprises counties Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal).

- Open to: Public Sector Body or equivalent


Community Initiatives

- Supports initiatives to improve conditions for the access to finance for entrepreneurs and regions in the EU

41 http://ec.europa.eu/esf/
- Initiatives apply various solutions to common problems throughout the Community in order to identify the most efficient and effective
- Partly financed through the EU Structural Funds/Cohesion Fund and by supplementary or other sources (such as EIB & EIF, CEB, EBRD etc.)

**JASPERS - Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions**

- Enhancing economic growth and job creation
- Improving the quality of technical advice available to project promoters
- Encouraging the beneficiary Member States to submit mature grant applications to the European Commission as rapidly as possible
- Ensuring that applications are prepared in line with the requirements of the European Commission

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Advice on conceptual development and project structuring
2. Advice on project preparation (e.g. cost-benefit analysis, financial analysis, environmental issues, procurement planning)
3. Review of documentation: feasibility studies, technical design, grant application.
4. Advice on compliance with EU law (environmental, competition and others)

Eligibility: New 12 Central and Eastern EU Member States

[http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/](http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/) 43

**JESSICA - Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas**

- Managing authorities the possibility of providing funding for public-private partnership or other urban development projects that are capable of repaying in the long-term

43 [http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/](http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/)
- Attract contributions from international financial institutions, banks, and the private sector, thereby achieving greater leverage from scarce grant resources
- Allow managing authorities access to expertise, as well as greater accessibility to loans in the field of urban development

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. Urban infrastructure
2. Heritage or cultural sites
3. Redevelopment of brownfield sites
4. Creation of new commercial floor space
5. University buildings
6. Energy efficiency improvements


**JEREMIE - Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises**

- Allow regions to utilise structural funds more efficiently
- Improve access to finance for SMEs
- Develop micro credit in regions supported by the ERDF

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives:

1. New business or expansion
2. Access to investment capital (particularly SMEs) to modernize and diversify their businesses
3. Research and development, technology transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship
4. Technological modernization to reach low carbon economy targets
5. Product investment that creates sustainable jobs

JASMINE - Joint Action to Support Microfinance Institutions in Europe

- Providing technical assistance to Microfinance Institutions (MFI)
- Help MFI establish their credibility on the market and allow them to obtain a better access to capital
- Improve their capacity to finance loan operations

Activities supporting above-mentioned objectives

1. Activities supporting a more favourable environment for the development of micro-credit
2. Actions promoting training courses, especially to develop mentoring capacity, essential for good micro-credit operations
3. Actions setting up a new European-level facility with staff to provide expertise and support for the development of non-bank micro-finance institutions in Member State

Eligibility: 27 EU Member countries

Open to: non-bank microfinance institutions (MFIs) in development phase, sustainable or close to sustainability


**Cohesion Fund**

Budget: app. EUR 70 000 million

- Stabilising economies
- Contributing to sustainable development and the improvement of transport infrastructure

The Cohesion Fund is implemented through two types of projects:

1. Transport infrastructure projects - support is provided to the development of transport infrastructure as outlined in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) guidelines (railways, road traffic, inland waterways, civil air transport, etc.).
2. Environment projects - support is available to implement projects in line with the Community Environmental Policy, covering areas of sustainable development such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport projects (outside the priority fields of TEN-T) in order to help achieve the objectives of the EC treaty and in particular projects in line with the priorities of the relevant Environment and Sustainable Development action plans.

Eligibility: the least prosperous Member States of the EU who’s Gross National Product (GNP) per capita is below 90% of the EU-average. This currently includes the 14 new Member States plus Greece and Portugal. Spain is eligible only on a transitional basis


**Other funds & instruments**

**EEA & Norway Grants**

Budget: EUR 1 79 000 million

- Environmental protection and management

- Combat against climate change and increase the share of renewable energy
- Support research and scholarship
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Promotion of decent work

Priority sectors of the beneficiary countries are:

1. Environment and climate,
2. Health
3. Research, education and culture
4. Decent work and civil society
5. The judiciary and human resources

Eligibility: 12 most recent EU members plus Portugal, Greece and Spain (with Spain receiving transitional support in the period 1 May 2009 – 31 December 2013), while the Norway Grants is earmarked for the 12 newest members.

Open to: Public and private sector bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, education and research institutions, environmental groups, voluntary and community organisations.

http://eeagrants.org/ 48

**EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

- Promoting policies that will bolster the business environment in the targeted countries
- Supporting countries in moving closer to a full market economy

Activities supporting objectives:

48 http://eeagrants.org/
1. Project financing for banks, industries and businesses, both new ventures and investments in existing companies
2. Works with publicly owned companies, to support privatisation, restructuring state-owned firms and improving municipal services.
3. Finances projects in most sectors such as agribusiness, energy efficiency and transport, manufacturing, municipal and environmental infrastructure, natural resources, tourism and telecommunications, information technology and media.

Eligibility: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, FYROM, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

EUREKA - Eurostars Programme
Budget: EUR 800 million

- Bringing increased value to the economy, higher growth and more job opportunities
- Improving availability of joint national and EC funding for Eurostars-approved international research projects, led by R&D-performing SMEs, in any area of technology
- Enabling companies to develop closer working relationships with the European research community

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Include technological areas with civilian purpose
2. Aiming development of a new product, process or service

Eligibility: 32 European countries participate in the Eurostars Programme (out of the 40 EUREKA members). These are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and The United Kingdom.

Open to: Any type of organisation (small and medium-sized enterprise, large company, university, research centre) can participate in the Eurostars project consortium; however, projects must be led by a research-performing SME from a Eurostars member country and the role of the SME participants in the project should be significant (at least 50% of the project’s core activity should be carried out by SMEs).

http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/50

Visegrad Fund

Budget: EUR 6 million yearly

- Enhance co-operation among the funding countries in the filed of education, culture and tourism.
- Support common cultural heritage

In case of grants the following activities can receive funding:

1. Cultural cooperation actions
2. Scientific exchange and research activities
3. Education and youth exchange
4. Cross-border cooperation activities
5. Tourism promotion activities

50 http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/
Eligibility: Visegrad Group countries (and other countries). For scholarships the citizens of the following countries can apply: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Open to: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities and local or regional governments, schools and universities, but also private companies and individual citizens

http://visegradfund.org/  

IMF - International Monetary Fund

- Fostering global monetary cooperation
- Securing financial stability
- Facilitating international trade
- Promoting high employment and sustainable economic growth

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Surveillance (keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries)
2. Lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties
3. Technical Assistance (giving practical help to members)

Eligibility: IMF members, countries coping with balance of payments problems caused by natural disasters or military conflicts.


51 http://visegradfund.org/
52 http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm
IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- Aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries
- Promotes sustainable development through loans, guarantees, risk management products, and analytical and advisory services

Eligibility: Countries that previously joined International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

http://www.worldbank.org/ 53

EDFI - European Development Finance Institutions

- Fostering co-operation among its members and to strengthening links with institutions of the European Union
- Providing finance for investment in the private sector of developing economies
- Promoting responsible corporate governance

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Providing funds, either as equity participation, loans or guarantees, to foreign or domestic investors
2. Providing funds for technical assistance, feasibility studies, and management consultancy, as well as serving as channels for policy implementation in the areas of responsible governance

Eligibility: Private or public sector (or both) within developing countries and emerging markets

http://www.edfi.be/ 54

53 http://www.worldbank.org/
European cultural foundation

- Support cultural exchange and creative expression
- Share and connect knowledge across cultural sector in Europe
- Catalysts for cultural and artistic expression
- Solicit for arts on the political-decision making levels

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Three grant schemes supporting artistic cultural expression
2. Youth and Media program – six cultural organizations linking with young media makers
3. Creating opportunities through European Neighborhood program across wider Europe, with emphasis on Ukraine, Moldova, Turkey and the Arab-Med region.
4. Supporting development of new research in the sector through Young Cultural Policy Research awards
5. Activities through online platforms that helps advocate the cultural development

http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/\(^{55}\)

Supplementary sources

EIB Group - European Investment Bank & European Investment Fund
Budget: EUR 8 7 000 million

- Individual loans
- Intermediated loans
- Venture capital finance

http://www.eib.org/about/group/index.htm\(^{56}\)

\(^{54}\) http://www.edfi.be/
\(^{55}\) http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/

60
EDF - European Development Fund
Budget: EUR 22 682 million

- Achieve economic growth
- Support human and social development
- Promote cultural values of communities
- Support institutional reforms
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Reinforce gender issues
- Help institutional development and capacity building

Activities supporting actions:

1. Programmes for technological co-operation
2. Actions to reduce harmful affects of fluctuating export revenues
3. Activities to improve the organisation and representation of non-state actors
4. Actions to establish consultation mechanisms among non-state actors
5. Networking an capacity building activities
6. Small infrastructure projects (e.g. building a rural school)

Eligibility: Local and regional authorities, corporations, unions, agencies, development NGOs, SMEs, associations and International organisations.


EUSF - European Union Solidarity Fund
Budget: EUR 1 million

56 http://www.eib.org/about/group/index.htm
- Natural disasters (A natural disaster is considered 'major' if in the case of a state, it results in damage estimated either over EUR 3 billion, or at more than 0.6% of its gross national income);
- Industrial and technological disasters;
- Public health emergencies;

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Immediate restoration to working order of infrastructure and plant in the fields of energy, drinking water, waste water, telecommunications, transport, health and education
2. Providing temporary accommodation and funding rescue services to meet the immediate needs of the population concerned
3. Immediate securing of preventive infrastructures and measures of immediate protection of the cultural heritage
4. Immediate cleaning up of disaster-stricken areas, including natural zones

Eligibility: Member States, Candidate Countries and Pre-Candidate Countries (after formal opening of accession negotiations) following the criteria: the country suffers of total direct damage above the threshold, neighbouring country, satisfy political criterion.


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EGF - European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

Budget: maximum EUR 500 million/year

- Provide tailored made services to each worker and reintegrate dismissed workers into the labour market as soon as possible

- Encourage a competitive but fair EU

Activities supporting objectives:

1. Job-search assistance
2. Personalised training and re-training including IT skills
3. Promotion of entrepreneurship or aid for self-employment
4. Job-search allowances, mobility allowances or allowances to individuals participating in lifelong learning and training activities

Eligibility: Only individual workers made redundant in EU 27 as a result of globalisation.


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Analysis of the absorption of European funds in Croatia during the enlargement process

In order to focus the study on the on-going enlargement process the use of European funding opportunities in Croatia is being overviewed.

Community Programs

The following table is showing the progress Community Programs Croatia joined under Memoranda of Understanding till the 11th of May 2011 (Source: Mission of Croatia to the EU):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directorate General</th>
<th>Community Programme</th>
<th>Entry into force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DG INFSO</td>
<td>IDABC</td>
<td>13.03.2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG TAXUD</td>
<td>Fiscalis 2013</td>
<td>27.12.2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Customs 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG EAC</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>28.06.2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Europe for Citizens</td>
<td>5.11.2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directorate General</td>
<td>Community Programme</td>
<td>Entry into force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG RTD</td>
<td>FP 7</td>
<td>27. 11. 2007(^{60})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG INFSO</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme – ICT PSP</td>
<td>26.05.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG TREN</td>
<td>Intelligent Energy Europe 2 - IEE 2</td>
<td>26. 12. 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG EMPL</td>
<td>PROGRESS</td>
<td>14.04.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG ENV</td>
<td>Civil Protection Financial Instrument</td>
<td>26.05.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Mechanism for Civil Protection</td>
<td>14.09.2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG EAC</td>
<td>Media 2007</td>
<td>26.05.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG SANCO</td>
<td>Community Action in the Field of Health</td>
<td>31.03.2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{60}\) The MoU „took effect“ as of January 1st 2007.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directorate General</th>
<th>Community Programme</th>
<th>Entry into force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DG MOVE</td>
<td><strong>Marco Polo II</strong></td>
<td>5.03.2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG EAC</td>
<td><strong>Life Long Learning Programme</strong></td>
<td>30.03.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Youth in Action Programme</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG DIGIT</td>
<td><strong>ISA – Programme on Interoperable Solutions for Public Administrations</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**The overall financial overview of pre accession assistance programs 2007-2011 at the 31st of December 2012 (Source: Mission of Croatia to the EU):**

**Ukupni financijski pregled pretpristupnih programa pomoći**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dodijeljena sredstva</th>
<th>Primljena sredstva od EK</th>
<th>Ugovoreni iznos</th>
<th>Plaćeni iznos</th>
<th>% Ugovoreno / Dodijeljeno</th>
<th>Napomena</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2007 NACIONALNI PROGRAM</td>
<td>39.954.000,00</td>
<td>34.914.018,97</td>
<td>36.844.797,38</td>
<td>33.387.738,48</td>
<td>92,22%</td>
<td>završeno ugovaranje (rok 17.11.2010.) i provedba projekata (rok 17.11.2012.), plaćanja u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2007 PROGRAMI ZAJEDNICE</td>
<td>4.600.000,00</td>
<td>4.440.643,66</td>
<td>4.600.000,00</td>
<td>4.274.485,76</td>
<td>100,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2008 NACIONALNI PROGRAM</td>
<td>35.799.000,00</td>
<td>32.195.108,75</td>
<td>33.889.588,15</td>
<td>22.682.020,89</td>
<td>94,67%</td>
<td>ugovaranje završeno (rok 5.6.2012.), provedba projekata u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2008 PROGRAMI ZAJEDNICE</td>
<td>5.575.000,00</td>
<td>5.263.620,86</td>
<td>5.575.000,00</td>
<td>5.215.012,36</td>
<td>100,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2008 NUKLEARNA SIGURNOST</td>
<td>952.000,00</td>
<td>95.200,00</td>
<td>676.846,78</td>
<td>293.348,86</td>
<td>71,10%</td>
<td>ugovaranje završeno (rok 30.9.2012.), provedba projekata u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2009 NACIONALNI PROGRAM</td>
<td>36.796.502,00</td>
<td>23.917.726,30</td>
<td>26.919.026,74</td>
<td>14.054.386,45</td>
<td>73,16%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2009 PROGRAMI ZAJEDNICE</td>
<td>5.304.928,00</td>
<td>5.106.484,43</td>
<td>5.304.928,00</td>
<td>5.106.484,23</td>
<td>100,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2010 NACIONALNI PROGRAM</td>
<td>31.180.773,00</td>
<td>9.354.231,90</td>
<td>5.914.964,47</td>
<td>4.061.554,80</td>
<td>18,97%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2010 PROGRAMI ZAJEDNICE</td>
<td>7.442.685,00</td>
<td>7.402.434,31</td>
<td>7.442.685,00</td>
<td>7.402.433,31</td>
<td>100,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2011 NACIONALNI PROGRAM</td>
<td>26.766.261,00</td>
<td>2.676.626,10</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2011 PROGRAMI ZAJEDNICE</td>
<td>7.062.867,00</td>
<td>7.062.867,00</td>
<td>7.062.867,00</td>
<td>7.062.867,00</td>
<td>100,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA I 2011 NUKLEARNA SIGURNOST</td>
<td>808.750,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA II PREKOGRAINČNA SURADNJA + TRANSNACIONALNI PROGRAM 2007-2010</td>
<td>10.319.302,00</td>
<td>6.751.611,60</td>
<td>7.989.539,15</td>
<td>5.780.278,63</td>
<td>77,42%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA IIIa 2007-2011</td>
<td>96.700.500,00</td>
<td>30.307.739,88</td>
<td>64.575.782,63</td>
<td>31.504.409,98</td>
<td>66,78%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA IIIb 2007-2011</td>
<td>96.699.750,00</td>
<td>34.226.476,02</td>
<td>56.990.604,78</td>
<td>20.896.149,96</td>
<td>58,94%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA IIIc 2007-2011</td>
<td>63.949.750,00</td>
<td>24.100.972,91</td>
<td>45.487.286,83</td>
<td>27.979.717,50</td>
<td>71,13%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA IV 2007-2011</td>
<td>69.977.000,00</td>
<td>33.123.243,07</td>
<td>43.176.677,33</td>
<td>34.009.970,80</td>
<td>61,70%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA V 2007-2011</td>
<td>129.400.000,00</td>
<td>30.883.640,03</td>
<td>56.486.903,34</td>
<td>14.772.886,41</td>
<td>43,64%</td>
<td>ugovaranje u tijeku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UKUPNO IPA</strong></td>
<td>669.289.068,00</td>
<td>291.022.645,79</td>
<td>569.289.907,58</td>
<td>238.483.745,42</td>
<td>61,10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UKUPNO PRVA GENERACIJA + IPA**

|  | 696.518.613,17 | 533.362.775,37 | 673.035.806,87 | 479.096.301,25 | 69,64% |
The table shows the five components of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in its three variables: *national, community programs* (from 2007 to 2011), and *nuclear safety* (starting form 2008).

For each of the components and variables the data show the Allocated Funds, Funds Received from the European Commission, the Contracted Amount, the Paid Amount and the Ratio Between the Contracted and Allocated Amount expressed in percentages.

According to the given data on December 31 2012 the contracting was concluded, projects in implementation and payments in course in the following 3 out of 18 listed cases: IPA I 2007 National Program, IPA I 2008 National Program, IPA I 2008 Nuclear Safety. The ration between the contracted and allocated amount in these 3 cases in the given order are: 92,22%, 94,67%, 71,10%.

In all other cases the contracting was either in progress or this data is not given.

The ratio between the contracted and allocated amount in the IPA I component of Community Programs is 100 % in all measured years (from 2007 to 2011).

For IPA I 2011 National Programs data on contracted and paid funds are null, and so is the ratio between the contracted and allocated amount.

IPA I 2011 Nuclear Safety is the only case were funds have been allocated but not received.

For IPA II Cross-border cooperation + Transnational Programs 2007-2010 the contracting is in progress and the ration between the contracted and allocated amount 77,42%.

The highest allocated amounts are in the IPA III a, b, c 2007-2011, IPA IV and V 2007-2011 components, the ratios in these cases are lower in percentages and are in the given order 66,78%, 58,94%, 71,13%, 61,70%, 43,64%.

The total amounts indicate a ration between the contracted and allocated amount in the value of 61,10%.

The overall total when you add the first generation and the IPA in allocated funds it amounts to 966.518.613,17; amount received from the EC to 533.362.775,37; the contracted amount adds up to 673.035.806,87 and the amount paid to 479.096.301,25. The ratio between the contracted and allocated amount in the overall total equals to 69,64%. 

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**Analysis of Community Programs in 2006 (Annex 1)**

The overview of the impact of Community Programs in the Republic of Croatia is outlining the numerical data of three indicators: Membership, Funds used and the Usage rate. Community programs considered in the budgets in 2006 are: Fiscalis 2007, Customs 2007, Community Measures in the Field of Employment, Intelligent Energy Europe, Gender Equality and the Sixth Framework Program FP6.

The total overall in the usage rate of funds in 2006 amounts to 205.8%. Considering the individual usage rates compared to the amounts of the memberships and considering the additional co-financing from the state budget, the usage rate is null when it comes to Community Measures in the Field of Employment.

**Analysis of Community Programs in 2007 (Annex 2)**

The overview of the impact of Community Programs in the Republic of Croatia is outlining the numerical data of three indicators: Membership, Funds used and the Usage rate. Community programs considered in the budgets in 2007 are: the Seventh/Sixth Framework Program FP7/FP6, Competitiveness and Innovation framework Program (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), CIP IEE, Fiscalis 2007, Customs 2007, Culture Program, Progress and IDABC.

The overall usage rate in 2007 amounts to 276.0%. 8 Croatian projects are approved for funding (1 through the program category CIP, EIP and 7 in Culture Program. 7 more projects were approved for funding where a Croatian partner was partner on the project.

As far as the Program Progress, Croatia signs the Memorandum of Understanding in August 2007, but does not benefit from the program in this year.

IDABC on the other hand cannot be measured with a numerical financial value. The benefit of using this program is CIRCA (Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations), a tool for data exchange and efficient communication among the EU institutions and member states as well as candidate countries and other interest parties. CIRCA is implemented on an e-hrvatska.hr domain and can be used by all state administration bodies: Central State Administrative Office for Public Administration and the Central State Administrative Office of e-Croatia.
**Analysis of Community Programs in 2008 (Annex 3)**

The overview of the impact of Community Programs in the Republic of Croatia is outlining the numerical data of three indicators: Membership, Funds used and the Usage rate. Community programs considered in the budgets in 2008 are: the Seventh/Sixth Framework Program FP7, Competitiveness and Innovation framework Program (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), CIP IEE II, Fiscalis 2013, Customs 2013, Culture Program 2007-2013, MEDIA 2007, Europe for Citizens, Civil Protection Financial Instrument, Progress and IDABC.

The overall usage rate in 2008 is statistically positive and amounts to 174.2%. Considering the individual usage rates compared to the amounts of the memberships and considering the additional co-financing from the state budget, the usage rate is null when it comes to CIP, IEE and very low when it comes to Civil Protection Financial Instrument. Europe for Citizens and Progress compared to 2006 both have a significantly positive rate compared to other given data.

The overall trend of Croatian participation in European projects is much higher compared to 2006 and 2007. 66 projects from Croatia are submitted for funding in 2008, 26 of them are approved and granted funding. Apart from this other 55 Croatian partners are participating in different FP7 conglomerates.

**Analysis of Community Programs in 2009 (Annex 4)**

The overview of the impact of Community Programs in the Republic of Croatia is outlining the numerical data of three indicators: Membership, Funds used and the Usage rate. Community programs considered in the budgets in 2009 are: the Seventh Framework Program FP7, Competitiveness and Innovation framework Program (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), CIP IEE II, Marco Polo II, Fiscalis 2013, Customs 2013, Culture Program 2007-2013, MEDIA 2007, Europe for Citizens, Civil Protection Financial Instrument, Second Program of Community Action in the Field of Health, Progress and IDABC.

The overall usage rate in 2009 is positive and statistically higher than in 2008, it amounts to 181.7%. Croatia participates in two more programs: Marco Polo II where the usage rate is null in 2009 and Second Program of Community Action in the Field of Health.
Croatian participation in the European projects is higher compared to years before. 102 project proposals from Croatia are approved for funding in 2009, 57 more are submitted, and on 4 more international projects Croatia is a partner. More officers from Tax and Customs Administrations are participating in various seminars, meetings, study visits, filed exercises as well as are members of different program committees compared to 2008.

*Analysis of Community Programs in 2010 (Annex 5)*

The overview of the impact of Community Programs in the Republic of Croatia is outlining the numerical data of three indicators: Membership, Funds used and the Usage rate. Community programs considered in the budgets in 2010 are: the Seventh Framework Program FP7, Competitiveness and Innovation framework Program (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), CIP ICT PSP, CIP IEE II, Marco Polo II, Fiscalis 2013, Customs 2013, Culture Program 2007-2013, MEDIA 2007, Europe for Citizens, Civil Protection Financial Instrument, Second Program of Community Action in the Field of Health, Progress, Life Long Learning, Youth in Action.

The overall usage rate in 2010 amounts to 166,6%, which is less than in 2009 and in 2008. Croatia starts using two more programs Life Long Learning and Youth in Action. Amounts stated in the table for the membership are really the amounts that consider the project Preparatory measures for the participation of Croatia in the Life Long Learning Program and Youth in Action in the framework of IPA I 2009. 1.887.376,29 euros were allotted to finance 315 approved projects, the rest of the funds (738.995,71 euros) is used for the operative expenses of implementation.

Apart from these, 72 other project proposals are approved for funding and Croatian partners are participating in different conglomerates.

The trend of officers (Tax and Customs Administration) participating in different activities (seminars, meetings, field exercises and program committees stays positive.
The European Enlargement Process

To better understand the nature of the policies that are behind the monetary aspect, have to be analyzed the evolution of the process of enlargement having direct impact on the perception of the effects of the policies by the citizens.

The idea of Europe as today’s common sense perceive it, did not come up from the World War II, but it was rather ancient, and at the dawn of the modern era it has been confused with the organization of an “useful world”. It was at the end of the 19th century that the concept and outlook of a United Europe has begun to flourish.

There were three major theories that took shape after the 1945. The first one was the confederal theory with its bigger supporters Winston Churchill and Charles De Gaulle, giving European countries relatively large sovereignty powers; the federalist idea postulated the decrease of strength and leverage for national states. Such statements were outlined by characters as Altiero Spinelli, Henri Brugmans and Denis de Rougemont; the last but, surely, not the least was the one represented by Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet, known as the functional theory, which claimed that only through “sectorial integrations” the goal of a United Europe could have been reached.61

The crucial fact that brought to Europe’s first supranational community, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), established in 1951 by the Treaty of Paris, was the Declaration of the French foreign minister Robert Schuman presented on May 9th 1950.

As stated in the Declaration:

“World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it. […] The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. […] It proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries

The ECSC was inspired to a great extent by Jean Monnet and by his principles of interdependence and integration, arguing that the economic integration should precede the political one.

With the Coal and Steel Community, that entered into force on July 27th 1952, the six founder states – Belgium, France, Italy, West Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands – decided to bestow to common and independent institutions their powers in the field of coal and steel. By doing that, the coal and steel sectors become the first attempt of the big design of the common market.

Following the initial method and the need to integrate some other economic sectors, among which transport and energy sources, as well as to develop and foster a common market, this

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62 The Schuman Declaration (9 May 1950); http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration/index_en.htm.
process led “The Six” to the founding, in Rome on January March 25th 1957, of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

Afterwards, in 1969 a single institutional structure of the European Coal and Steel Community, of the European Economic Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community was created with the Merger, or Brussels, Treaty. It brought to a unified Council and Commission while the three communities shared the same budget.

The first phase

There is no evidence of the will of the United Kingdom to be among the founders of the three communities. During the 50s, it has been hostile to a deep integration since it highlighted nationalistic ideas and to liberal principles put forward an organized economy, and cared particularly for its privileged alliance with the United States. The British reaction to the EEC was the formation, together with several European countries – Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal - of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1960.

After the UK refused to be among the founder members, it changed its policy views due to the Suez’s crisis and undertook its path toward the joining of the Communities.

The Hague Conference in 1969 got the point that without the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark, the European Economic Community would not lasts long and it put an end to the veto again the UK. Moreover it confirmed the commitment in the economic and monetary domain.

The course of events opened the negotiations to British integration, especially after president De Gaulle stepped down, as it was one of the greatest opponents to British accession.

An agreement was reached. France accepted EEC’s own, even if limited, resources while, on the other side, the United Kingdom allowed concessions regarding the Common Agricultural Policy, which represented one of the biggest issues for its accession.
At the Paris Summit in 1972 a program for new adhesions was set and for the first time it was mentioned the idea of a “European Union”. In this occasion it was stated that the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) should be reached by 1980.

The first enlargement took place on January 1st 1973 and hence, it got the Communities three new members, namely Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark. Even if it applied too, Norway rejected to enter, after the negative referendum, because of the regulation on fisheries hardly acceptable for its Government and public opinion.

**The second phase**

The next step in the European enlargement process was carried on with the applications for accession, submitted by Greece in 1975 and by that of Spain and Portugal in 1977. Those countries, during the 70s, were emerging from dictatorships and were keen to democratic principles within the framework of the EEC.
The proper and successful integration of these countries wanted to ensure the stability of the southern boarders of Europe.

The years that followed led to the European Monetary System (EMS) in 1979, which was intended to bound fluctuations among the currencies of most of the EEC’s countries.

The enlargement of the three Mediterranean countries was accomplished firstly with the entrance, on January 1st 1981, of the Hellenic Republic.

Originally, Portugal has been admitted to the European Free Trade Agreement, with a special status, while Spain was never part of it.

Nevertheless, even if those countries had adjustment difficulties, because they were heterogeneous with respect to the fundamental nucleus, the negotiations with Spain have been pushed forward as in 1982 it joined the NATO. Both of them, in 1986, completed their integration process.
In 1987 the Single European Act (SEA) has amended the Treaties of Rome, dating the 1957, during the well-known Delors Commission. It concerned two different matters, the communitarian one and the political cooperation whilst it looked at the fulfillment of the internal market.

Amidst its changes there were, the creation of the *European Regional Development Fund*; in the research field the Community action had been set on the basis of a multiannual framework while the monetary integration obtained with the EEC was not modified.

It has been argued that the SEA was inadequate for a Treaty of the future European Union, thus it was seen as a “forward flight”.
The third phase

With the end of the Cold War, East Germany, after the reunification with its western part, became a part of the Community in 1990.

The milestone of the process of the European integration is undoubtedly the Treaty of Maastricht signed on February 7th 1992, know as the Treaty on European Union (TEU), formally, in force since November 1st 1993.

The Treaty was designed on three pillars:

- European Community (incorporating the ECSC, the EAEC and the EEC);
- Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and
- Justice and Home Affairs (JHA).

Maastricht enshrined the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which was achieved in three phases and gave the European Union its new brand currency in 2002, the Euro.

Other major innovations were the Subsidiarity principle (already mentioned in the draft for the Treaty of the Union of the European Parliament in 1984), of vital importance for the European decision-making process, the introduction of the codecision procedure, which enable the Parliament to adopt legislation together with the Council, and the European citizenship.

Additionally, the European Ombudsman and Committee of the Region took shape with the Maastricht Treaty.

Under the Danish Presidency of the council of the European Union, in 1993, the negotiations with Austria, Finland and Sweden have been initiated.

Those states, together with Norway and Switzerland, were members of EFTA and had growing difficulties to export within the territory of the EEC. Hence they tried to strengthen their ties with the Economic Community.

Alongside the three candidates that joined the UE on January 1st 1995, even Norway and Switzerland applied for the membership. Their applications were turned down after negative referendums.

It is noteworthy that the fourth and new enlargements were influenced and subjected to the “Copenhagen criteria”, introduced in 1993, and precisely:
“Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.”63

The fourth phase

Before the enlargement was spread to greater extent, two other Treaties were signed in the meanwhile. It is about the Amsterdam and Nice Treaty.

The Amsterdam Treaty, dated in 1999, emended the treaty signed in Maastricht. Mostly, it carried to new right of individuals, emphasizing a higher standard of democracy, and it reinforced the cooperation with a closer integration of certain countries in specifics sectors while preparing the institutions for the forthcoming enlargements. On the other side, came into force on February 1st 2003, the Treaty of Nice, aimed to reach the institutional reform necessary for the enlargement process that was to follow.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe had long been influenced by the communist system having, most of them, a backward economic system. Their approach toward the European Union had been certainly complicated, and somehow awkward, as they had to set high political and economic standards. They had to guarantee the stability of their institutions, a stronger market economy and the respect of democratic principles.

Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, plus Cyprus and Malta joint the European Union on May 1st 2004. Thus, it represents the biggest enlargement, in terms of countries and population, and at the same time it has been feared by the west. The old members stated that the ten new comers were lacking readiness to compete with the new challenges they would have to face.

Source:https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EU25-2004_European_Union_map_enlargement.svg
However in 2004 Bulgaria and Romania were defined not ready to enter, according to their economic and social indicator, pointing out the low growth rate, on January 1st 2007 they became members of the EU.

The controversial Treaty of Lisbon, that modified the Treaties of Rome and Maastricht, entered in force on December 1st 2009.

Basically the treaty abolished the three pillar structure, defined the division of powers between the Union and the Member States and it fostered the strengthening of the democratic structure.

The 2007 enlargement widened the EU’s borders and brought the Union to 28 member states. The process is moving ahead with the acceding of Croatia on July 1st 2013, whereas there are, at the moment, five candidate countries: Iceland, Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro.
The Europeanization process

The term of “Europeanization”, defining a specific area of the EU studies from the 90s, determine the impact and the effect that the EU policies, its conditionality and the acquis communautaire exert not only on the member states but rather on the outsiders. The Community’s regulations, directives and other rules influence the candidate counties in a comprehensive and direct way. Along their accession process they have to adopt and harmonize their political, economic and legislative structure in order to align it with the requirements of the EU.

The sway of the Europeanization process has been particularly evident in the case of the members of the European Free Trade Associations and in that of the Central and Easter European countries. Most of the EFTA states, aware that closer relations to the EU was needed, joined the European Economic Area (EEA) thus accepting the acquis communauraire. In the other case, the Central and Eastern European Countries, were affected not only by the adjustments and absorption of the acquis communauteris but, they have likewise been influenced by the incentive that the accession to the EU were offering instead after their communist experience.

The top-down adjustment approach has been noticed also in the current case of the Western Balkan candidate countries but it has to be underlined that the result of the Europeanization in new member and candidate states varied from country to country and from issue to issue. It did not have the same impact in all of them, even though a certain similarity can be argued. It was rather diversified on the basis of the social and economic background of the countries at issue. Moreover the impact of the EU to carry over its structure and approach has largely contributed to this diversification. Finally it can be claimed that the influence of the Europeanization process has been much more self-evident in the eastern enlargement than in the member states.

The question that has been raised after the enlargement of 2004 and 2007 concerned the ability of the new member states to comply with the acquis communautaire after their accession. The empirical findings have demonstrate that there was not a single outcome,
yet comparisons showed that the reason of such argumentation relied of various factors, as for example the pre-accession conditionality and adjustment preparations. 64

The Europeanization process can be outlined, and well demonstrate, also in the ongoing enlargement of the West Balkans countries. Those countries have to fulfill a long series of requirements in the pre-accession phase in order to be completely ready to implement the acquis communitaire after their accession. Croatia has gone through many agreements and 33 chapters while negotiating its entry in order to foster a further enlargement of the boundaries of the EU.

The Ongoing Enlargement Process

The boundaries of the European Union cannot be seen as something static or fixed, conversely since the creation of the European Coal and Steal Community they have been continuously revised and widen. The ongoing enlargement process affects two kinds of countries: the candidate, official, countries and the potential candidate countries.

The current candidate countries are:

- Croatia (acceding);
- Turkey;
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Serbia;
- Iceland and
- Montenegro.

Whilst the countries with the “potential” status are:

- Albania;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina and
- Kosovo.

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The legal basis of the enlargement process can be found in the Article 49 of the Treaty on the European Union, quoting:

“Any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union. The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall be notified of this application. The applicant State shall address its application to the Council, which shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the consent of the European Parliament, which shall act by a majority of its component members. The conditions of eligibility agreed upon by the European Council shall be taken into account.

The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, which such admission entails, shall be the subject of an agreement between the Member States and the applicant State. This agreement shall be submitted for ratification by
all the contracting States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.”

As highlighted in the Official website of the European Union it is of major importance for the understanding of the enlargement that the accession process is based on the following criteria: economic and political readiness, fulfillment of the conditions for the adaptation, strengthening of the absorption capacity and the fully take-over of the “acquis communautaire”.

In the multiannual financial framework 2007-2013 the above-mentioned objectives have been reached with the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

These financial instruments, aimed to improve the overall structure of the those counties, are based on the Accession Partnership of the candidate countries and on the European Partnership of the potential countries.

From 2003 the Western Balkans countries have became the priority in the enlargement process and the EU’s policy, towards them, moved from the term of External Relations to that of Enlargement.

The accession of Croatia to the European Union

The Croatian path toward the membership to the EU started with its application submitted on February 21st 2003.

While the candidate status has been assigned in June 2004, the negotiations scheduled for March 2005, have been postponed, due to a lack of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and formally started on October 4th 2005.

The European Commission in its Opinion on Croatia’s Application for the Membership to the European Union concluded the following:

“Croatia is a functioning democracy, with stable institutions guaranteeing the rule of law. There are no major problems regarding the respect of fundamental rights. In April 2004, the

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ICTY Prosecutor stated that Croatia is now cooperating fully with ICTY. Croatia needs to maintain full cooperation and take all necessary steps to ensure that the remaining indictee is located and transferred to ICTY. Croatia needs to make additional efforts in the field of minority rights, refugee returns, judiciary reform, regional co-operation and the fight against corruption. On this basis, the Commission confirms that Croatia meets the political criteria set by the Copenhagen European Council in 1993 and the Stabilisation and Association Process conditionalities established by the Council in 1997.

Croatia can be regarded as a functioning market economy. It should be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the medium term, provided that it continues implementing its reform programme to remove remaining weaknesses.

Croatia will be in a position to take on the other obligations of membership in the medium term, provided that considerable efforts are made to align its legislation with the acquis and ensure its implementation and enforcement. However full compliance with the acquis in the field of environment could be achieved only in the long term and would necessitate increased levels of investment. 66

In February 2005 the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Croatia came into force. The agreement is set within the Stabilization and Association Process (PSP) and it is devoted to Western Balkan countries. The aim of the PSP is the stabilization of the transition countries in this area.

On the other side, the concrete action of the Agreement is the harmonization of the legislation promoting stronger economic relations and enforcing the regional cooperation while establishing an open dialogue between the EU and the candidate countries.

The negotiations started with the screening phase that analytically analyzed in deep the harmonization of Croatia with the acquis communautaire. It identified the differences in each of the 35 negotiation chapters between the national legislation and the acquis of the EU. Or rather, Croatia had to cope with the existing deficiencies before its accession. 67

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Furthermore, the guidance document for Croatia’s accession to the EU, the Accession Partnership, has been put into force on February 12 2008.68

Apart from the negotiations chapters, Croatia had to solve some other problems that have slowed down its accession course.

First of all there was the problem with International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia or else Croatia had to hand over the whole documentation concerning the Croatian War of Independence. Only with the extradition of the General Gotovina it was argued that Croatia is fully cooperating with the Tribunal and it got the green light for the beginning of the negotiations.

Another important issue was that of corruption. It had been highlighted that there was an eradicated high level of corruption that was spread in all sectors. A stronger commitment for the strengthening of the prevention and removal strategies has been asked.

Side to this was the state of the judiciary system. The inefficiency of the system and the overly long trials have been revealed.

The most disputed matter has been the border disagreement with Slovenia that brought to the blockade of the negotiations in December 2008. The blockade has been removed in September 2009, after ten months of stalemate, with the assumption that Croatia does not affect the contested border nowise and that the dispute will be resolved by arbitration.

However, even considering the above mention problematic issues, the core of the negotiations were the 33 chapters.

*Progress of harmonization by Chapters*[^69]

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>2. Freedom of movement for workers</td>
<td>17.06.2008</td>
<td>02.10.2009</td>
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<td>3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services</td>
<td>26.06.2007</td>
<td>21.12.2009</td>
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<td>4. Free movement of capital</td>
<td>02.10.2009</td>
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<td>6. Company law</td>
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<td>8. Competition policy</td>
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<td>11. Agriculture and rural development</td>
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<td>31. Foreign, security and defense policy</td>
<td>30.06.2010</td>
<td>22.12.2010</td>
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Focus on a sensitive policy sector – employment and labour market

Croatia had undertaken and incorporated new legislation regarding the employment and the labour market. In the course of preparations for accessing the European Union, over the last years, the Republic of Croatia has prepared two national documents in the field of social policy and employment in cooperation with the European Commission, aimed at social inclusion and social cohesion upgrade, strengthening the labour market. Those are the Joint Memorandum on Social Inclusion of the Republic of Croatia (JIM) and the Joint Assessment of Employment Policy Priorities of the Republic of Croatia (JAP).

As in the case of other candidate countries, Croatia has prepared (and concluded in March 2007) the JIM with the European Commission in order to move towards full participation in the area of EU social inclusion policy upon accession. To this end, where deemed appropriate, the priorities identified in this Operational Programme are in line with the key priorities and challenges identified hereunder.

As well, particular areas of employment are regulated by specific laws setting for the right an obligation regarding protection at work, health and pension insurance, social protection, income taxes, etc. The CES (Croatian Employment Center) is also regulated by different labor law on the modality of mediation and rights of the

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70 JIM was signed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission in March 2007. The objective was to prepare joint analysis of trends, challenges and political answers, including identification of priorities with a view to perform in line with European goals in the field of employment and social inclusion and policy harmonisation.

71 Official Gazette Nos. 150/08, 85/06, 150/08, 84/08 and 152/08

72 Official Gazette Nos 73/97, 27/01, 59/01, 82/01, 103/03, 44/06, 79/07, 85/08, 110/08, 88/01, 188/03 and 44/04

73 Official Gazette Nos 84/08 and 152/08
unemployed person. Leading experts believe that labour legislation should be more flexible, which, alongside a fundamental reform of educational system, would advance the labour market and reduce unemployment in order to get closer to the EU standards. The **National Action Plan for Employment for 2009 and 2010** was adopted, having as basis the JAP, by the Government in May 2009 and it includes measures to be taken by the Republic of Croatia under each of the guidelines, including both active and preventative measures. These measures are intended to promote employment and social inclusion and make it possible for unemployed and inactive persons to benefit from various forms of training which increase their competitiveness and facilitate their integration in the labor market. Regarding to youth population in NAPE is written that youth unemployment represents a significant challenge for the Croatian labor market because it is permanently in a very high level. Starting from the assumption that roots of high youth unemployment lie mainly in the absence of prior work experience it was decided to take some action such as the general promotion of lifelong learning, a need for a better harmonization of education to labor market and adjustment of the education system as a response to new competence requirements necessary to ensure continuous involvement of young people in the labor market. One of the key priorities that Croatia intends to achieve through harmonization of this national program to EU standards, is to ensure the possibility of increasing the levels of youth employability and participation rates on labor market. In order to reach this goal it will be undertaken the actions that will ensure an adequate assessment to young people who are looking for the first employment through the introduction of measures that could facilitate the entry into the labor market, such as: careers guidance services (occupational information and counseling), counseling specialized for support in seeking the first employment, additional training that would allow easy entry to labor market, the introduction of an early and personalized support. It will also be support the introduction of practice programs (educational programs with the application in practice) with the aim of providing young people more opportunities to acquire work experience. In addition it will be supported action that will positively influence the reduction disproportion skills (in relations to the needs of the labor market) and increase investment in human

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74 Official Gazette Nos 80/08 consultable also in croatian on http://www.hzz.hr/docslike/Posredovanje.pdf

75 Full text in Croatian language on [http://www.uprava.hr/doc/ppp20092010.pdf](http://www.uprava.hr/doc/ppp20092010.pdf)
resources through better education such as the development of institutional capacity to analyze and predict the needs of the labor market, the improvement of the organized system of professional targeting young people in their educational choice in order to provide a better knowledge of the labor market needs, etc.\(^7^6\)

**The National programme of action for Youth 2004-2007** defines a set of fundamental principles of the governmental policy on youth between 15 and 29 years of age, and defines the working plan that guides different segments of central and local government and self-government, as well as public institutions and non-governmental and civil organisations in the implementation of these principles. The working Plan for the period 2003-2008 turns programmes goals into implementation measures and defines the governmental bodies, public institutions and other relevant bodies that are either individually or collectively responsible for their implementation and harmonization with EU principles. It also contains recommendations to local and regional self-governmental units and NGOs pursuant for realization of the Plan. The measures and their implementers are divided into eight areas previously defined by the National Programme, as follows: Educational and informatisation; Employment and entrepreneurship; Social policies; Health care and reproductive health; Active participation of youth in society; Building civil society and volunteer work; Youth culture and free time; Mobility, dissemination and information and counselling.

In September 2008 was published a draft of the new **National programme of action for Youth**. Regarding youth employment area three measures are exalted which action should been put in life. These measures regard: the improvement of the information system concerning the labour market and the employment possibilities; the *improvement of the formal education system and the vocational guidance; measures aimed to encourage and finance the employment of young people and youth entrepreneurship.*

\(^7^6\) For achieving this goals in period 2009-2010 it have been planed 22 activities (studies, projects, publications, roundtables, meetings, educations, etc ) that will be carried out by different actors mostly by CES and the Ministry of science, education and sport.
For the period 2009-2010 the CES promoted several measures\(^77\) for increasing the employment\(^78\) of groups that are facing social exclusion such as co-financing the employment of young people without working experience\(^79\), long-term unemployed, unemployed persons aged 50+, and special groups of unemployed persons, but also co-financing education with the aim of professional development\(^80\). Measures within the jurisdiction of the CES are aimed to the: stimulation of employment motivation, co-financing and financing of education; co-financing employment of long-term unemployed and other groups of unemployed people at risk of social exclusion. For achieving its goal CES gives information about career opportunities and education programs for unemployed persons or job seekers\(^81\). From 2008 under the organization of CES, March has been marked as the month of job fairs across all Croatian countries. Unemployed people had the possibility to present themselves to the employers and get additional information about the activities of CES. Also the Psychologists of CES (Division of professional Guidance) presented their work to the public. Within CES acts also Center for Professional Information that is organized according to the principle of self-use. Unemployed persons can get information about the possibilities of education, scholarship, employment, etc; use the computer program of professional directing "My

\(^{77}\) Measures within the competence of the Croatian Employment Service Croatian State Aid Law (140/05) are dedicated to support employment and training programs of all businesses, with the exception of companies facing difficulties

\(^{78}\) Some measures have been adopted also thanks to EU programmes. Croatia has been a beneficiary of the EU CARDS programme 2001-2004 and became beneficiary of pre-accession programmes Phare, ISPA and SAPARD after gaining the status of EU candidate country. CARDS and Phare programmes were decentralized in February 2006. The CARDS 2002 ‘Vocational Education and Training: Modernization and Institution Building’ and CARDS 2003 VET “Upgrading of vocational schools” were finalized in December 2006 and December 2007 respectively. CARDS 2003 “Decentralization of Croatian Employment Services and CARDS 2004 Local Partnership for Employment were finalized in 2007. The Phare 2005 “Active Labour Market Programme” is still under implementation. The CARDS 2004 “Adult Learning” project started in September 2007 and will last for 18 months. Croatia continues to participate in the implementation of the regional CARDS programme, and will do so until its closure. All of these programmes were replaced by the single, integrated ‘Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance’ (IPA) from 2007 onwards. Source: ETF Country Plan 2009- Croatia

\(^{79}\) The employers who decide to take working a young persons without experience (first occupation) has the right on some Tax relief

\(^{80}\) Besides the CES, some other institutions also implement active labour market measures that included also young people: the Ministry of the Family, War Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity; the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship subsidizes; the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development

\(^{81}\) Professional information may be carried out through leaflets and brochures, and if necessary can be orally through individual appointment with the counselor or groups meetings across workshops, such as „How to seek a job?“; „How to introduce yourself to an employer?“; „Self-evaluation methods“. 
choice”, seek for open job positions, and even get a professional assessment in writing a motivation letter or a CV.

Following the European policy of Life Long Learning Education Labor market with individual needs taken into consideration LIFELONG GUIDANCE “employment policy tool“ brought to a improvement of Vocational guidance at the CES that includes development of selection standards; implementation of vocational guidance software “My Choice”; psychodiagnostic instrument standardization; participation in the reform of occupational education and adult education; partnership development on national and regional levels. Vocational guidance at the CES includes informing and publishing, counselling, professional rehabilitation, education for the labour market needs, professional selection. The service is dedicated to unemployed persons, Employers in helping them with the professional selection, Pupils and students.

Operational Program "Human Resources Development 2007-2009" within IPA program. This OP is a program framework for the use of EU financial assets in the field of employment, education and social inclusion. The OP describes the current situation, identifies priorities and targets groups facing social exclusion, including youth.

Education Sector Development Plan (2005-2010), Croatia has taken a number of substantial steps to improve the quality and effectiveness of its educational system with the aim of establishing comprehensive national standards and achieving more coherence

82 Vocational guidance software “My choice”, funded by Cards program, is intended for everyone who has to choose future occupation and for those who want to find out something new about occupations. My choice is available in all regional offices of the Croatian Employment Service and in many elementary and secondary schools. Even if the program encourage the user to think about some questions about occupations in order to help the user to decide about what areas s/he wants to speak with a vocational guidance counselor, it enable the user to acquire new knowledge of occupations, it cannot replace a counselor for vocational guidance and conversations with him/her in the process of vocational guiding. Also without previous training, it is not possible to use the program properly.

83 In accordance with the Council Resolution on lifelong guidance (2004): “Lifelong guidance refers to a range of activities that enables individuals to identify their abilities, competences and interests at different points of their lives, to make educational and occupational decisions and to manage their careers.”

84 8th grade pupils - gaining advantage or direct enrolment in high school and high school pupils and students in helping in the choice/change of program because of unsucess, health contraindications, etc., but also supports educational institutions into the guidance system development

between the education sector and labour market needs. The Development Plan describes the current situation, identifies priorities (improving the quality and effectiveness of education, stimulating the continuing professional training of teachers, developing strategies for the education system) and specifies qualitative and quantitative performance targets for the education system. In addition, new organizations have been established recently for a proper harmonisation, notably: the National Council for Higher Education; the Commission for Adult Education; the Agency for Vocational and Educational Training (AVET) and the Agency for Adult Education (AAE). These are in the process of introducing a range of initiatives, including the development of a National Qualifications Framework, a survey of labor market needs (with the aim of rationalizing the VET sector), the development of sectoral councils to match skills to labor market needs, the upgrading of the school curricula and the development of local partnerships for employment with municipalities, local CES and employers.

Moreover, the new Croatian Labour Law has transported into national legislation the following European directives: 2003/88/EC; 97/81/EC; 1999/70/EC; 98/59/EC; 2001/23/EC; 96/34/EC; 2002/73/EC; 94/33/EC; 91/533/EEC; 2000/14/EC; 2001/86; 2003/73/EC; 2000/78/EC; 2006/54/EC; 75/117/EEC; 92/85/EEC; 97/80/EEC. These directives aim to a fully harmonisation of the Croatian legislation in various sectors of the labour market, such as working hours, part-time working hours, equality between men and woman, protection of worker’s rights, protection of young workers and youth employment, equal pay for equal work for both sexes etc.

The activities concerning the harmonisation with EU legislation have continued also adapting and enhancing the Law on Labour Protection with the Directive of the Council 89/391/EEC. The mentioned directive regulates the improving of health and safety conditions of workers.

Furthermore, the Employment Law adopted in 2002 introduced the possibility to open the door to private employment agencies both for mediation on the labour market as well as the implementation of active labor market policies\(^\text{86}\). In Croatia also exist a

\(^{86}\) Also introduced some other changes such as: the introduction of international standards in unemployment statistics by ensuring that unemployed people were not employed, that they actively seek work and that they are available for work; the obligation of the unemployed to accept jobs which are up to 80 km away from their place of residence; discontinuation of mandatory declaration of
Student services\(^{87}\) for employment mediation\(^{88}\) where usually students seeks for part time jobs also due the fact that the service is quite flexible\(^{89}\). In contrary CES services appears rigid and far from youth. A study conducted on youth shows that just 1/3 of young people seek a job throw the CES\(^{90}\), the rest get an employment throw other canals due the opinion that the service is too rigid and unable to satisfy their needs (to many unemployed on few open position). Most of the open positions regard low specialized position, while major companies in Croatia that offers more attractive job positions use other services such as internet recruitment, their own human developing sector or throw privet recruitment and selection services such as the Selectio Group (SELECTIO Ltd., Electus Human Resources Ltd., Electus DGS Ltd. for temporary employment with strategic partner MojPosao\(^{91}\)) that represent the leading group in human resources management\(^{92}\) on Croatian labour market. A big success throw youth population has had the project conducted by MojPosao named Dan karijera (career day), event that brings together young people and representatives of the major companies

As the monitoring report has showed, many steps forward have been taken, but there are still many efforts that have to be carried on.

In general, employment opportunities are increasing in Croatia but job creation is very unevenly distributed and not adequate to absorb the labour surplus which has been generated over the transition period on the unemployment register.

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\(^{87}\) Croatian Law: “PRAVILNIK O IZMJENAMA PRAVILNIKA O POSREDOVANJU PRI ZAPOŠLJAVANJU REDOVITIH STUDENATA” (»Narodne novine«, broj 16/96, 125/97, 37/06, 59/07)

\(^{88}\) With the introduction of temporary agency the government tried to decrees the number of student contracts made for temporary employment even for non student, but it didn't succeed due the fact that this type of contract is the most profitable cause the low taxation.

\(^{89}\) It also should be also noted that the unemployed statistic is improved in a high part by seasonal employment, specially for employment position in tourism and agriculture, where often young people find there firs occupation

\(^{90}\) “Čemu služi diploma? Visoko obrazovanje i ishodi na tržištu rada” i Autor: mr. sc. Teo Matković, Pravni fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Studijski centar socijalnog rada

\(^{91}\) MojPosao is the leading jobsite in Croatia and represents the central spot of Croatian job market. Over 25,000 companies use MojPosao as the main recruitment channel and the website offers more than 1,500 job postings at any time. MojPosao is part of the leading human resources management group in Croatia that functions on a one-stop-shop concept. It has also a good develop area for youth with project such as MojPrviPosao (MyFirsJob), a website which offers part-time jobs, student jobs and trainee positions. Another jobsite is Posao.hr which also put on announcement of the CES.

\(^{92}\) Other groups active on Croatian labor market are: Adecco, Kadus, Dekra
Overall, the labour market performance continued to improve\textsuperscript{93}, but even if is possible to observe a positive trend in the past years\textsuperscript{94}, high youth and long-term unemployment and limited job turnover remain a cause for concern\textsuperscript{95}.

The next steps will be the respect and the tendency to fulfil the headline targets that the European Union has determined in order to strengthen growth and employment. These are: raise the employment rate of the population aged from 20 to 64; a higher level of investments while tracking innovation; reduce the share of early school leavers and the observance of the other objectives upcoming from the strategy Europe 2020.

\textit{The conclusion of the negotiations}

The accession negotiations has come to the end on June 30\textsuperscript{th} 2011 with all the chapters aligned with the acquis communautaire. Croatia signed the Accession Treaty in Brussels on December 9\textsuperscript{th} 2011 while the referendum was held in January 2012 with an outcome of 66\% of votes cast in support of EU membership of Croatia. The Republic of Croatian is scheduled to become the 28\textsuperscript{th} member state of the European Union on July 1\textsuperscript{st} 2013.

As outlined in the article 3 of the Accession Treaty:

\begin{quote}
\textbf{1. This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their}
\end{quote}

\textsuperscript{93} The past few years in Croatia were characterized by a continues positive trends on the labour market, data from the labour force survey confirm strong employment growth of 2.7\% in 2007, which contributed to an increase in the average employment rate to 57.1\%, up from 55.6\% in 2006. The unemployment rate (ILO) fell from 11.1\% in 2006 to 9.6\% in 2007. The long-term unemployment rate decreased to 5.9\% (2006: 6.7\%). The officially registered unemployment rate declined to 12.4\% in July 2008, compared to 13.7\% in July 2007. This trend change into the last year due also the influence of the global economic crisis

\textsuperscript{94} The latter can be ascribed to the prolongation of participation by young people in education, as well as active labour market measures implemented of which many were targeted at young unemployed persons according to the Croatian National Employment Action Plan

\textsuperscript{95} CROATIA 2008 PROGRESS REPORT, COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic by 30 June 2013.

2. By ratifying this Treaty, the Republic of Croatia is also deemed to have ratified or approved any amendments to the Treaties referred to in Article 1(2) open for ratification or approval by the Member States pursuant to Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union at the moment of ratification of this Treaty by the Republic of Croatia, as well as any acts of the institutions, adopted at or before that same moment and which only enter into force after having been approved by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

3. This Treaty shall enter into force on 1 July 2013 provided that all the instruments of ratification have been deposited before that date.”

The main challenges that Croatia will have to deal with in the near future have been pointed out in the anticipate Position Paper of the European Commission for the period 2014-2020, aimed to assure the adequate preparation of the Partnership Agreement and Programs.

Great efforts will have to be undertaken to successfully and efficiently fulfill the Europe 2020 targets, since the Paper highlighted:

“Croatia's most pressing challenges are related to Under-development of knowledge based factors of growth and insufficient connection of the growth hubs; Low labour market participation, particularly of youth, inefficient education system and a difficult social situation; Protecting the environment, preserving the natural resources and heritage and adapting to climate change and Inefficient public governance on central and local level and weak involvement of civil society and social partners, which are all interrelated.”

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The multimedia campaign for the referendum

The signing of the Croatian Accession Treaty to the European Union, on December 9th 2011, was followed in January 2012 by the referendum for the corresponding accession.

The campaign that preceded the referendum was characterized by the overall difficulties encountered during the enlargement negotiations that have been tougher and longer than expected, as Croatia originally aimed to join the Union in 2007. It had to negotiate more chapters than the other member states while the EU talks were blocked for almost a year due to bilateral issues in late 2008.

In addition to that, in Croatia there were expressed feelings whether the tough accession conditions that have been imposed were fair and appropriate whilst the biggest issue was the Eurozone crisis that posed the question if it was the right moment to join. More difficulties were cause by the change of Government in December 2011, the late announcement of the referendum as well as the communication mistakes linked to the overdue interest of the media and public opinion.

Among the fears that Croatian citizens were outsourcing, at the first place was the unceasing sentiment that the membership means a loss of national sovereignty and an increase of unemployment, a feeling that has been strengthened by the extremely negative situation in Greece. Furthermore the price increases and the euro was a reason of concern tied with the fright of the fall of living standards.

Not less worrying was the Common Agricultural Policy considered as a political option that will strike the poorest ones.

The multimedia communication tools that have been used to inform and advertise about the EU were the TV and radio through live debates, interviews and talk shows, speeches of various politicians and other personalities. Websites were dedicated to the topic of the European Union and even a Halo EU! call center has been established.

Of course even other communication tolls have been exploited, such as adds and supplements in newspapers, leaflets, booklets and public debates and roundtables.

What has been argued as a downside was the fact that the social media – facebook, youtube, twitter…- as a mean of propaganda, have been used to late and that were
almost no application for mobile phones that could have spread much wider the campaign.

For what it concerns the targeted audience, the first to be affected were the unskilled and unqualified population, easy to persuade, followed by the farmers, mostly against oriented, fearing for their products, the housewives, the youth population and the working class seeking for an improvement of the living and financial conditions.

The outcomes of the campaign highlighted a rise of support, especially among the over sixties and the young, with a slight fallback in the weeks preceding the referendum. From the 2006 till 2012 a stable majority in favor has always been hold with an estimate of the last opinion polls of 61% in favor with a turnout of 58%.

Accordingly to this trend, on January 22nd 2012, the official outcome was of 66,27% of votes cast in support of EU membership of Croatia while the percentage against was of 33,13 with a turnout of 43,51%.98

A REGIONAL FOCUS ON THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS IN CROATIA

After the exploration of the European policy context and the collection of information on funding opportunities available in Europe, it was possible to better understand the enlargement process in Croatia. This research is now going to study the role and the activities of the regional authorities during the phase of accession to the EU, deepening the analysis on the perception of the European Union by the citizens of the Region of Istria and the use of multimedia communication and European projects in order to develop the territory and impact on the quality of life of the community.

Case study: The Region of Istria

The Region of Istria is a Croatian county administrating the most of the territory of the largest peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, located at the head of the Adriatic between the Gulf of Trieste and the Bay of Kvarner.

The macroeconomic indicators are showing that the Region of Istria is the most developed county in Croatia in the most of the sectors.

208,440 people or 4.86% of the Croatian population live in Istria. The population density is 74 inhabitants per km². (Croatian Census 2011)

The EU accession referendum in the Region of Istria passed with 68.40% of votes cast in support and 30.91% against EU membership for Croatia. There were 0.69% blank or invalid votes.

For the regional authority of Istria, the European projects are the main tool to develop the territory in line with the European policies and directives. Through the implementation of EU funded projects the region is enhancing international cooperation and considering the accession of Croatia the regional bodies are deeply involved in the integration process.
The international cooperation and European integration activities of the Region of Istria

The Department for International Cooperation and European Integration of the Region of Istria, directed by Mr. Oriano Otočan, was established in 2009 but the international cooperation activities of the region of Istria started in 1994 with the membership in a very relevant and influential international organization, the Assembly of European Regions (AER).

Beside the activities in international organizations, the Region of Istria develops bilateral cooperation with several regions of the European Union and worldwide. The bilateral relations with influential regions and the membership in international organizations have led to fruitful collaboration in different fields of the economy. The main instrument is the development of projects in cooperation with foreign regions based on different programs (especially the ones related to cross-border cooperation).

The preparation and implementation aspects of the projects developed in the region are being followed by the regional Department for international cooperation and European integration. This department coordinates the work of the other departments in the design and development of projects, candidates and follows the realization of projects co-funded by the EU, national and international entities.

In 2005, while the Republic of Croatia was starting its approach to EU accession, the Region of Istria established a regional representation office in Brussels. It was the first office representing the interests of a Croatian region to the European institutions in Brussels.

Through this office, the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration is searching for European opportunities for its regional stakeholders, supporting them in facing the European institutions and promoting the regional values and interests at European level. It organizes various informative, promotional and educational events on several topics related to the regional priorities focusing to the aspects related to the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union. Furthermore, the Office maintains relations with Istrian expatriates and, as concerns the youth, it organizes trainings and professional improvement programs.

Timeline:
1994: the Region of Istria becomes an active member of international organizations
1994-1999: intensive development of bilateral cooperation with European regions
1999-2004: participation in the INTERREG, CARDS, PHARE programs
2004-2005: establishment of the EURO Info Point in Pula, opening of the regional representation office in Brussels, participation in the PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD programs
2006: establishment of the Adriatic Euroregion, inclusion in the IPA program acting as lead partner and transferring knowledge and experience to the public
from 2007: participation in Community Programs; support of the region in the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU, strengthening of the cooperation network with subjects and institutions on the local level, use of the available programs and funds along with the development of human resources and capacities, dissemination of information to the citizens regarding European integration.

The Regional Representation to the EU – a liaison office in Brussels

The European Union takes decisions that can directly affect the local, regional, and national level. It is therefore of great importance that the Region of Istria is able to present its interests and concerns to the EU, and to cooperate with the EU institutions in order to influence future policy developments. Establishing a network in Brussels with different European regions, organisations and EU institutions such as the committee of the Regions is essential in achieving this ability to influence European policies and communicate Istria’s needs and interests within this network.

The Region of Istria was the first Croatian region to open a representative office in Brussels, the political and administrative centre of the European Union. The office has been opened in June of 2005 and is located in the centre of Brussels within walking distance from the EU institutions, i.e. the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Committee of the Regions, and the European Social and Economic Committee.

The EU office in Brussels is part of the department for International cooperation and European integration of the Region of Istria.
It serves to represent the interests of the Istrian citizens, its economy, civil society and the local administration to the European Union and other European regional offices. Tasks fulfilled by the office are among others: following the work of the EU institutions, developing cooperation with other Regional offices, providing Istria with information about EU programs and events, and giving insights on the possibilities of financing and funding through EU programs and projects. In addition, the office in Brussels promotes the cultural values of the region, Istrian tourism and economic development, and it presents possibilities for investment.

In 2011 the office, thanks to the cooperation with the Europea Regional Information Society Association – ERISA and the European Projects Association – EPA, developed a pilot project included in the project SEED that is being financed by the European Union through the program for Competitiveness and Innovation – CIP ICT PSP. From 2012 the office is managing the implementation of the pilot project of SEED delivering, through a set of multimedia communication tools, information about public services and EU opportunities to the stakeholders in the region.

Membership in international organizations

The Region of Istria and its representatives are active in international organizations, institutions and networks, particularly those connecting the regional authorities. Those activities started in 1994 with the involvement in the Assembly of European Regions AER, an association where more than 250 regions from 25 countries are cooperating in order to present their interests to the European institutions. From 2001 the Region of Istria is member of the CPMR – Conference of the peripheral maritime regions of Europe. In 2005 the region was one of the founding members of the IRE - Institute of the Regions of Europe. In 2006 the AE – Adriatic Euroregion was established in Pula and the Region of Istria held the presidency of this association till 2011. In 2007 was founding member of the Network of Regions for Water – WATEREGIO.
In 2008 it became member of AEBR - Association of European border regions and MMFN - Mediterranean model forest network.
From 2010 the region is member of AREV - Assembly of European wine producing regions, CEMR - Council of European municipalities and regions and R20 – Regions for Climate Action.
In 2011 the region joined the European Regional Information Society Association – ERISA.
From 2012 the region is member of the European Network for Sustainable Tourism – NECSTouR.
Regional representatives of Istria are covering functions in the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly – ARLEM, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA and the European Projects Association – EPA.
The region is cooperating as well with the Council of Europe and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities.
From 2012, representatives from the regional and local authorities of Istria are involved as Croatian observers in the work of the Committee of the Regions – COR.
The political cooperation with NGOs has as objective the fostering of economical, cultural, scientific and other forms of cooperation.
On the bases of the cooperation in international context the region is gaining experiences and knowledge in different important fields for the regional development.

The objective of the involvement in this kind of thematic partnering networks is the development of priority sectors, to gain knowledge about European regulations, the adoption of best practices, the creation of partnership relations with other regions in order to develop projects of common interest.

**Bilateral cooperation**

Along with the political relations with several regions, it is important to develop cooperation in order to achieve knowledge, information and experience. The cooperation of the Region of Istria with the other regions is often the precursor of further economic relations necessary for the attraction of foreign investments, the
The cooperation with Western regions fosters the achievement of experience in interregional and cross-border programs as well as the use of European funding instruments, particularly relevant in the period when Croatia is given many opportunities to receive financial funding in the field of agriculture and rural development, transport infrastructure and environment protection for the strengthening of the economic capacity. The priorities of the Region of Istria in this period are the development of international cooperation in the Adriatic region, in South East and in Central Europe.

The most important achievements in the cooperation with foreign regions are:

- Regione Toscana (Italy) - Statement on Friendship, signed on: October, 6th 1994
- Regione Liguria (Italy) - Letter of Intent
- Regione Veneto (Italy) - Statement on Intent, signed on: February, 21st 1995, Protocol of understanding signed in February 2013
- Regione Autonomia Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) - Protocol on Cooperation between the autonomous region on Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Region of Istria, signed on February, 22nd 1999; Cooperation agreement signed in March 2011
- Somogy region (Hungary) - Cooperation Agreement, signed on April, 29th 1998.
- Carinthia (Austria) - Letter of Intent, signed on April, 21st 1998, Letter of Intent II, signed on August, 27th 1999
- Hargita region (Romania) - Declaration on future Agreement on cooperation, signed on May, 10th 2000
- Vojvodina Autonomous province (Serbia) - Intensive cooperation, Agreement on Cooperation signed in 2006
- Zenica-Doboj Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Cooperation since 2004
- Kerry (Ireland) - Cooperation established in 2004
- Yunnan (China) - Letter of Intent signed in 2004
- Trenčín (Slovakia) - Cooperation established in 2004, Agreement on Cooperation signed in 2006
- Zhejiang (China) - Cooperation established in 2005, Agreement on Cooperation signed in 2006
- Champagne-Ardenne (France) - Letter of Intent on Cooperation signed on April 29th 2009
- Canton Sarajevo (Bosnia i Herzegovina) - Agreement on Cooperation signed on June, 26th 2008
- Regione Puglia (Italy) - Letter of Intent signed in April 2009
- Region Emilia Romagna (Italy) – Declaration of common interests in April 2011

Focus on a political achievement of the international cooperation activities: The Adriatic Euroregion

The Adriatic Euroregion was established on June, 30th 2006. It represents a model that combines transnational, trans-border and interregional cooperation in accordance with current standards and numerous examples across Europe.

The Adriatic Euroregion is an institutional framework for the identification and resolution of the most common issues on the Adriatic. It consists of 26 members - Regional and local authorities from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. The objectives of Adriatic Euroregion are the following:

- Creation of an area of peace, stability and cooperation
- Protection of the cultural heritage
- Protection of the environment
- Sustainable economic development especially in tourism, fisheries, agriculture
- Addressing transport and infrastructure issues
- Support to the accession of the Adriatic countries to the European Union

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Italian regions of Molise and the Region of Istria started the process for the creation of the Adriatic Euroregion. The Adriatic Euroregion is a new model of cooperation in the
Adriatic - an association of regional and local authorities in the area of the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Greece and the national and international institutions, which represents an institutional framework for identifying and resolving the most common issues.

The Constituent Assembly of the Adriatic Euroregion (Adriatic Council) was held on June, 30th 2006 in Pula in presence of the Croatian President Mr. Stjepan Mesić, President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Sulejman Tihić, the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Italy, Albania, Romania, Croatia, representatives of the Council of Europe, of the Committee of the Regions. At the inaugural session it was decided that the headquarters will be in Pula and the following entities became members: Region of Istria, Primorje - Gorski Kotar, Lika-Senj, Zadar, Šibenik-Knin, Split-Dalmatia, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, (Croatia) the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto region, Emilia-Romagna, Puglia, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche (Italy), the Region of Durres, Fier region, Lezhe Region, Region of Shkoder, Vlore region (Albania), Herzegovina - Neretva Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina), City of Koper (Slovenia) and the town of Kotor (Montenegro).

The President of the Region of Istria Ivan Jakovčić became President of the Adriatic Euroregion, while the president of the region of Molise Michele Iorio became vice President. In subsequent years the Adriatic Euroregion has joined the municipality of Tivat (Montenegro), Albania Tirana region (Albania), the prefectures of Kerkyra and Thesprotia (Greece).

There are seven working committees within the Adriatic Euroregion:

- Commission for institutional issues, (headquarters: Abruzzo Region);
- Commission for Fisheries, (headquarters: Region of Istria);
- Commission for the Environment (headquarters: Emilia Romagna Region);
- The Commission for the transportation and infrastructure, (headquarters: Primorsko-goranska county);
- Commission for Culture and Tourism, (headquarters: Puglia region, vice-president headquarters: Region of Istria);
- Commission for productive activities, (headquarters: Fier region);
- Commission for Social Affairs, (headquarters: Region Thesprotia).
Focus on a practical aspect of the international cooperation activities that involve the citizens: The Eurodyssey program

Eurodyssee/Eurodyssey is an international youth exchange program between the member regions of the Assembly of European Regions (AER). The program is aimed for young people between 18 and 30 who want to gain work experience in different areas of activity (tourism, culture, media, science, computer science, industry, agriculture, administration, etc.). In addition to professional training to young people, it enables learning or training of foreign languages. The program lasts from 3 to 6 months, and is carried out in 38 European regions that are currently included in the program.

The Eurodyssey program is the first inter-regional program aimed to teach young people how to better integrate into the world of work by offering them the opportunity to gain work experience abroad.

The objectives of the program, in addition to gaining professional experience and language development, are exploring the host region, friendly contacts with other participants in the program, creating European awareness, inter-regional connections and enable faster and better employment after the return to their region.

The Region of Istria is a member of the Assembly of European Regions since 1994 and actively participates in the program Eurodyssey since 1996. The program was attended by more than 200 young people so far, both from Istria and from different European regions.

Given the great interest in participating in the program, the Region of Istria opens a competition once every two years for the collection of applications to determine the list of candidates to participate in the program.

The use of European financial sources in the Region of Istria

The entities from the Region of Istria are participating in projects financed through various EU programs or realized through cooperation with foreign partner regions. The
previous experience of participation in such programs and projects, along with the realization of specific project objectives, the implementation of specific project goals, achieved through direct or indirect financial benefits, are the foundation of the knowledge necessary for success in the future use of European funds once the Republic of Croatia becomes a member of the European Union.

The following are the most important programs that have been available for the participation of the public sector of the Region of Istria, including those available in the pre-accession period since 2007.

- IPA Instrument for Pre-Accession
- Community programs
- CARDS
- Pre-accession funds (ISPA, PHARE, SAPARD)
- INTERREG
- Programs under Act 84 of the Italian Republic
- CEI - CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

**The Regional projects database**

The Region of Istria actively participates in the process of adaptation and Croatian accession to the European Union with three important goals in the field of international cooperation and European integration. These are:

- the implementation of projects financed by the European programs
- strengthening of the absorptive capacities of the public sector for the use of EU funds
- information on the European integration processes, adapting to the EU, the programs and the projects.

Projects financed by the EU and other international sources are important for the realization of activities and projects that are relevant to the Region of Istria, for the financial resources they provide, for the new knowledge and experiences, for the actual partnerships and strengthening administrative capacity and for the preparation for the
Croatian accession to the EU, when the available funds from the EU sources will be much higher.

In this sense, the large number of projects implemented by the Region of Istria and other regional bodies and agencies, cities and municipalities, other scientific institutions, NGOs and the private sector, showed the need for systematic recording and monitoring of the work and results of the accepted projects financed by the EU and by other international sources.

The regional project database is collecting all projects that have been implemented or are currently being implemented and where the participating partners are legal entities based in the Region of Istria.

The database, available online at www.istra-europa.eu, is constantly updated and analysed to help decision-makers define priorities and address them.

**Overview of the projects listed in the European Projects Database (2012)**

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<td>EFIKASNA PLATFORMA ZA USPOSTAVU SURADNJE U ISTRAŽIVANJU I TRANSFERU TEHNOLOGIE</td>
<td>ISTARSKA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA D.O.O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CESTA ZDRAVLJA I PRIJATELJSTVA PARENZANA</td>
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<td>INFORMACIJSKA TEHNOLOŠKA PLATFOMA S CILJEM STVARANJA</td>
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<td>PRO.SME - INTEGRIRANE AKTIVNOSTI ZA PREKOGRANICNU PROMOCIJU HRVATSKOG SEKTORA MALOG I SREDNJE PODZIENIŠTVA I EKONOMSKU INTEGRACIJU S PODZIENICIMA I STRADIŠKIH REGIJA U HRVATSKOJ I ITALIJU</td>
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<td>PROMOCIJA I VALORIZACIJA ISTARSKOG GOVEDA</td>
<td>AŽRRI AGENCIJA ZA RURALNI RAZVOJ ISTRE D.O.O. ; AŽRRI AGENCIJA ZA RURALNI RAZVOJ ISTRE D.O.O. ; GRAD PAŽIN ; ISTARSKA ŽUPANIJA</td>
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<td>Organisations Involved</td>
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<td>Grad Novigrad</td>
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<td>Regionalni razvoj kroz bore, koridor i čvoršta</td>
<td>Istarska razvojna agencija D.O.O.</td>
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<td>Revitas – revitalizacija istarskog zaleđa i turizma u istarkom zaleđu</td>
<td>Istarska županija; Grad Vodnjan; Grad Poreč; Grad Buzet; Općina svetočenat; Turistička zarednica istarske županije</td>
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<td>Vapnenac kao zajednički nazivnik prirode i kulturne baštine duž Jadranjske obale</td>
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<td>IPA CBC AdriaTIC</td>
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<td>Aziri agencija za ruralni razvoj Istre D.O.O.</td>
<td>INTERREG III B CADSES/CARDS 2004</td>
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<td>Jcane – identiteta pripadnika manjina vodi ravnopravnosti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seenet – mjesta za suradnju između lokalnih vlasti u cilju razvoja i dijalog u jugoistočnoj europi</td>
<td>Istarska županija; Grad Rovinje; Grad Pazin; Općina Brotinjla</td>
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<td>Istarska županija; Grad Rovinje; Grad Pazin; Općina Brotinjla</td>
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<td>Javna ustavna zavod za prostorno uređenje istarske županije</td>
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<td>Istarska županija; Istarska županija; Udrugra Sunčokret; Sveučilište Jurija Dobrile u Puli</td>
<td>PHARE 2005</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rešenja i intervencije za prijenos tehnologije i novacije u poljoprivredno-prehrambenom</td>
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<td>THROUGH INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS EU</td>
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<td>UČIMO ŽAĐENO O EUROPI TJEKOM RAZMJENE KROZ AKTIVNOSTI USPOREĐUJUĆI RAZNE KULTURE I MANIFESTACIJE</td>
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<td>OCUVANJE I ODRŽIVO KORIŠTENJE PRIRODNIH RESURSA U SVRHU ZAŠTITE IZVORA PITKE VODE I PODIZANJA NIVOJA SVIJESTI LOKALNOG STANOVNIŠTVA U PREKOGRAĐIČNOM PODRUČJU ISTRE I KRšKOM PODRUČJU</td>
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<td>WELCOME – VODA: ELEMENT KOR POVEZUJE GRADOVE, PRILIKA ZA POVEZIVANJE EUROPE</td>
<td>WELCOME – VODA: ELEMENT KOR POVEZUJE GRADOVE, PRILIKA ZA POVEZIVANJE EUROPE</td>
<td>EUROPE FOR CITIZENS</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTEGRACIJA VRHUNSKIH TIPičNIH PROIZVODA POLJOPRIVREDE, KULINARSTVA, PRIRODNE I KULTURNE BASTINE TE SPA SREDIŠTA U TURIStičkoj PONEDI ODRŽIVE WELLNESS DESTINACIJACHE ISTRA</td>
<td>INTEGRACIJA VRHUNSKIH TIPičNIH PROIZVODA POLJOPRIVREDE, KULINARSTVA, PRIRODNE I KULTURNE BASTINE TE SPA SREDIŠTA U TURIStičkoj PONEDI ODRŽIVE WELLNESS DESTINACIJACHE ISTRA</td>
<td>IPA CBC SLOVENIA-CROATIA</td>
<td>ENDED</td>
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### Analysis of the participation of the Region of Istria in European projects

Considering that for the regional authorities, the European projects are the main tool to develop their own territories in line with the European policies and directives, through the implementation of EU funded projects the regions are enhancing international cooperation and, in the candidate countries, they are contributing to the integration process, building consensus among their citizens. Addressing these efforts with the aim of increasing the absorption capacity of the regional stakeholders is a challenging task since improving the quality of the life for the whole citizenship is always difficult.

The following analysis of the European Projects Database of the Region of Istria is aiming to understand how an innovative information technology instruments, as the online database is, can be used by the policy makers to get useful data for addressing their actions when monitoring the effectiveness of the current projects and planning future actions.

The following data emerged from the analysis of the entries present in the database at the 31st of December 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Organisations Involved</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHARING EXPERIENCES AND DEVELOPING JOINT TOOLS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH ADRIATIC POPULATION IN THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND CREATE A NETWORK</strong></td>
<td>Grad Pula</td>
<td>IPA CBC Adriatic</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH FOR EU</strong></td>
<td>Agencija Lokalne Demokracije Biritonigla; Udruga „Agencija Lokalne Demokracije“; Zaklada za Poticanje Partnerstva i Razvoja Civilnog Drustva Istarske Županije</td>
<td>IPA INFO 2011</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
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<td><strong>KONTAKT TOČKA PROGRAMA MLADI EUROSKE KOMISIJE</strong></td>
<td>Udruga ZUM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH THE RIGHT DIRECTION</strong></td>
<td>Agencija Lokalne Demokracije Biritonigla</td>
<td>Youth in Action</td>
<td>ENDED</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SMANJENJE ZAGAĐENJA I OČUVAњE BIOLOŠKE RAZNOLIKOSTI U POLJOPRIVREDI S NAGLASKOM NA MASLINARSTVO</strong></td>
<td>Grad Vodnjan, Udruga Agroturist Vodnjan</td>
<td>IPA CBC Slovenia-Croatia</td>
<td>ENDED</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ZOOТЕHНИЧКО УМРЕЋАЊЕ РАДИ ОДРЈИВЕ ИНОВАТИВНОСТИ У ЗАДРГАНОЈ ЕУРОРЕГИИ</strong></td>
<td>AZRBI Agencij za Ruralni Razvoj Istre D.O.O.</td>
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<td>Kasthun D.O.O.; Istarska županija</td>
<td>IPA IIIB</td>
<td>ENDED</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: European Projects Database
The total number of international projects collected is 211.
The number of concluded projects is 139
The number of on-going projects is 72

This data are showing that the entities from Region of Istria are currently increasing the use of European funding instruments for financing projects considering that the on-going projects are more than the half of the total projects realized since the beginning of its involvement in international cooperation activities.

The number of projects where the subjects from the Region of Istria are proponents is 109.
The number of projects where the subject from the Region of Istria participated/participate as partners is 102.
Proposed Participated as partner

This data are showing that the entities from the Region of Istria are actively cooperating with European partners, proposing initiatives and recognising useful opportunities in foreign proposals of collaboration.

The number of proposed project, where entities from Istria are leading a consortia of partners is showing a good level of knowledge in managing European projects as well the participation as partners is indicating that the experience is being achieved cooperating and learning from experienced European partners.

The total value of the international projects where the subjects from the Region of Istria participated/participate is 238,917,721, 94 €

This data is indicating the monetary value that the projects where entities from Istria are involved are generating at European level.

The total value of financial resources realized through international projects on the territory of the Region of Istria 57,578,085, 19 €

This data is indicating the monetary value of the project activities implemented on the territory of the Region of Istria by its entities.

Considering the data above it is possible to calculate that the Region of Istria is benefiting of the 24% of the value produced at European level by the projects where Istrian entities are involved.
This data can be indicative of the fact that when regional entities are taking part in European projects that are creating value at European level, also at regional level is being created a significant benefit in monetary terms.

Overview of the number of nominated projects by source of assistance:

This data are showing that the Region of Istria took benefit from different funding sources, experiencing the effects of European opportunities in different sectors. According to the chart above, it is visible that the larger number of projects was financed through the IPARD programme (37), followed by the IPA CBC ADRIATIC programme (24), Europe for citizens (13) and IPA CBC Slovenia Croatia (10).

Considering this data can be commented that in the Region of Istria the most of the impact of European projects was realized through the pre-accession instruments mostly in the sector of agriculture and rural development. The number of cross border cooperation projects is showing that the Region of Istria is actively involved in the development of wider European areas and enhancing the relations with entities from the surrounding regions.
The number of projects funded through the program dedicated to the citizens involvement is showing the active role of the civil society in the regional development.

Overview of the financial resources granted to the subjects from the Region of Istria by source of assistance:
Analysing the graphs above it is visible that not always the monetary value absorbed is depending by the number of projects. Most of the funds were absorbed through the IPA III B (25,045,994, 00 euros) with just 1 project, followed by IPARD (9,095,055, 12 euros) with 37 projects and IPA CBC Adriatic (6,045,201, 73 euros) with 24 projects. The exception of IPA III B is due to the fact that the project financed, the regional waste management centre – Kastijun is a strategic project at national level.

Overview of the entities from the Region of Istria that participated/participate in international projects according to the number of projects in which they are involved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Region of Istria</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Istrian Development Agency (IDA) Ltd.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Baje</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZRRI – Agency for Rural Development of Istria Ltd.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local democracy Agency Brtonigla</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Pula</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Rovinj</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University “Juraj Dobrila” Pula</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Labin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Buzet</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Poreč</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Pazin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation for partnership and civil society development</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association ZUM</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Istria</td>
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<tr>
<td>The heritage museum of the Poreč territory</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association Informo</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Vodnjan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Municipality of Brtonigla</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Municipality of Motovun</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Municipality of Medulin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natura Histrica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pula Port Authority</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The City of Umag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipbuilding Uljanik</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Novigrad</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRENA- Istrian Regional Energy Agency Ltd.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for the Inclusion and Community Support</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Agriculture and Tourism Poreč</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Public institution, Department of Urban Planning of the Region of Istria</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chamber of Trade of the Region of Istria</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Municipal service Ltd. Rovinj</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaštijun Ltd.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Number of projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Municipality of Tinjan</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pula Herculanea Ltd.</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School for Tourism and Catering “Antun Štifanić” Poreč</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUT- Society for Communicating Ambijenta</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association Suncokret</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Municipality of Cerovlje</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish office Pazinski Novaki</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport Pula Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zigante truffles Ltd.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rovinj heritage museum</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Association for helping people with mental disorders from the Istria County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Craft for Catering and Production of Codfish</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber turist Ltd.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRA- Višnjan Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Council of the Region of Istra</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Poreč Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Pazin Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural and Catering Craft “Ric”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catering Craft “Major”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catering Craft</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft Association Poreč</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Agro Tourist Vodnjan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Local Democracy Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Entrepreneurship Pula</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Board of the Community of Brtonigla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourist Board of the Region of Istra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourist Board Grožnjan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomislav Rubinić</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian kindergarten “Naridola”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian high school Rovinj</td>
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<tr>
<td>University “Juraj Dobrila” Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profesional school Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school “Mate Bližina”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sic Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian elementary school “Bernardo Benussi”</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Polo Ltd.</td>
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<td>Roberto Kadenaro</td>
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<td>Ranch “Barba Tone”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Open University “Ante Babic” Umag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pismium Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petar Brajković</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pescamar Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Ltd. Buzet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary school “Vladimir Nazor”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary school “Juraj Dobrila”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household farming “Merklin”</td>
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<td>Institution</td>
<td>Number of projects</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>Household farming “Marinela Merklin”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household farming “Guiseppe Lupier”</td>
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<td>Household farming “Brajković Ivan”</td>
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<td>Household farming “Antonijo Tireli”</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Vižinada</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Višnjan</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Svetvinčenat</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Sveti Lovreć</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Raša</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Opotlj</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Lupoglav</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Lanišće</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Kršan</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Grožnjan</td>
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<td>The Municipality of Gračišće</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karlo Soldatić</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenko Uravić</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labin Art Express XXI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kozlović- Craft for Viticulture, Producing Wine and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Museum of Labin</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Nadomak sunca”</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTB Istra Pazin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mladen Kancelar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mladen Brnić</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical school Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauricio Mišan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marko Radola</td>
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<td>Marko Kožljan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Authority Umag- Novigrad</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public institution “Kamenjak”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivan Vretenar</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDA- Istrian Development Agency Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry and Craft school Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatian Employment Service- Regional Service Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian association “Oaza”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatian Chamber of Economy- Regional Chamber Pula</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOMO- Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Civil Liberties</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic initiative centre Poreč</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau Information Junesse (BTJ)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Mirković</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrolaguna Ltd.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Maj Ltd. Umag</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Maj Ltd. Labin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic school Buje</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music school “Ivan Matetić Ronjgov”</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty for Economy and Tourism “Dr. Mijo Mirković” Pula</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This last overview of the entities involved in European projects in Istria is showing that besides the regional and local authorities there is a wide range of actors involved in European projects. An important role is being taken by the civil society and private sector, but also individuals are starting to be directly involved in projects.

As mentioned, this analysis was conducted using the data available in the European Projects database at the end of 2012.

Exploring the involvement of the Region of Istria in European projects it was possible to obtain an overall vision of the involvement and the results of the regional entities in European project.

The European Projects database of the Region of Istria shows to be a good instrument, collecting useful data for addressing the efforts of the regional authorities when planning new projects that have to impact on quality of life of the whole community.

**Research and innovation addressing the multimedia communication of European values and policies in the Region of Istria during the integration process – The project Istria Communicating Europe**

The project ICE, ‘Istria Communicating Europe’, has as overall objective to broaden knowledge and understanding of the European Union and the process of European integration in general among Croatian citizens.

It was conducted to foster the participation of active citizens in their society’s development, leading to benefits for the whole community.
The European Commission supported the project through the ‘Europe for Citizens Program’, recognizing the quality and innovation of this approach.

The partners consortium was coordinated by the Foundation for Partnership and Civil Society Development of the Region of Istria.

The European Projects Database of the Region of Istria has an important role for the development of this project collecting the data about the EU projects implemented in the region by the public bodies, CSOs and private subjects. Using this data it became possible for the regional authorities to make an initial analysis of the financial absorption capacity of the different subjects, the territorial diffusion of the effects, the impact of the different EU programs and its connection to the communication, information, education and project development activities carried on by the Euro Info Point of the Department for International Cooperation and European Integrations.

Additionally, a scientific public opinion research (Istrian citizens and Europe - 2009) that collected and analysed real life data was conducted by Dr.sc. Andrea Debeljuh and Dr.sc. Adriana Hrelja (experts in sociology, education sciences and transborder policies for daily life; members of the association Informo, partner in the ICE project and National Contact Point of the European Projects Association in Croatia), who discovered the perceptions surrounding European Union policies, and carried out the first research of its kind in Croatia on a regional level.

The objective of the study was to identify the different strands of public opinion, in relation to the knowledge about the EU and the Croatian integration process. A set of questions was prepared to measure citizens attitudes, and their knowledge of the activities of the EU and its institutions, including the enlargement of the EU and the integration process of Croatia, the assessment of the work in the Region of Istria in terms of European integration, but also by means of questions relating to the quality of horizontal communication between citizens and the regional authorities.

To further identify public opinion about European issues, the research also tried to explore the similarities and differences in the socio-political attitudes of average Croatians and Europeans.

The collection of data was conducted on randomly stratified samples and by territorial affiliation, as well as gender and age according to socio-demographic distribution of the Region of Istria. The data was then analysed and compared with the results of the Standard Eurobarometer-Eurobarometer Croatia.
The research showed that a greater number of residents from the Region of Istria and Croatia do not have a defined position on the EU. Euro-optimists prevailed in the North-Eastern Istria, whilst in Western and Southern Istria neutrality reigns. This optimistic vision was growing with increased education, whereas respondents holding a Masters or PhD were remaining independent of this trend. In fact the most optimistic among respondents proved to be the group representing the ages of 51-65 years.

Regarding Croatian adhesion to EU, the perception of its benefits appeared to increase when more general questions were asked. This indicates that the perception of well-being was present in the citizens, but only a small number was considering it in terms of its affect on them, since a large number did not wish to join the EU in the first place. The number of respondents who was considering themselves to be European citizens was quite high; exceeding the number that was thinking membership will bring them benefits.

The analysis of citizens’ trust in European institutions also revealed that while among the European citizens there were more who believe in European institutions than those who do not, between Croatian citizens the distrust was much more visible.

A crucial finding of the research has been the perception of the integration process, in terms of the EU and its institutions. The answers were indicating poor awareness of the situation in the country and ignorance of the benefits that EU membership brings. These conclusions were confirmed by the fact that despite euro-scepticism, more than half respondents supported the further expansion of the EU, and almost 60 per cent believed that the accession of the Western Balkan Countries will contribute to the stabilisation of the region, perceiving Europe as a factor of stability. These basic findings were suggesting that people’s attitude toward the EU were not defined by the human capital, but it was rather based on subjective motifs. The survey therefore confirmed that people were still insufficiently familiar with the work of European Institutions.

In accordance with these facts, the need to interest citizens at a regional level about the activities implemented in the Region of Istria has been highlighted.

The sphere of European integration and international cooperation were requiring more attention since these were perceived as vital elements by Istrian citizens’ in their daily life.

The need for multimedia information services was confirmed by the public opinion research.
In the research, to the specific question: “Does the Region of Istria inform enough the public on European Integrations?”, almost two thirds of respondents considered that the Region of Istria does not inform sufficiently the public about European integrations, 27% of the respondents were undecided and only 9% of respondents answered positively. Data does not depend on the place of residence of the respondents.

By age, the least satisfied with the amount of information about European integration were respondents in the age group 26 to 35 (71%), while almost one fifth of respondents in the group of 51 to 65 were satisfied (19%). By level of education, the most undecided were among respondents with secondary level of education, 33%, while the other groups were generally equally disappointed.

The same research gave useful data about citizens main sources of information: even 80% of respondents were informing themselves by watching television, while 69% receive information from the newspapers. Something more than two fifths of respondents get the information on the internet, almost half less listening to the radio, and less than 5% of respondents get the information through other sources.

Istrian citizens were asked also what type of information related to the EU and European integration they would like to receive. The respondents were primarily interested in how the membership in the European Union affects their daily life (60%), and what Europe brings to the local level (38%), followed by interest in European institutions (25%) and Members Country (24%). A fifth of respondents does not want to receive any type of information related to the European Union.
As answer to the results of the public opinion research, through the project ‘Istria Communicating Europe’, a series of Interactive workshops and lectures have been organised. The aim was to present the opportunities offered by the EU, the active citizenship, the volunteering and the intercultural dialogue, including a study visit for representatives of Youth NGOs and Youth councils.

A multimedia dissemination campaign was activated through the internet and by the local media, with TV and radio shows and a documentary film about the EU projects in Istria.

Using the data collected in the European Projects Database was published a selection of the best EU projects developed in Istria, an interactive multimedia DVD including educational and promotional materials and the publication of the public opinion research was distributed and showcased also during the 8th European week of Regions and Cities – Open Days 2010, jointly organized in Brussels from the 4th to the 7th of October by the European Commission DG Regional Policy and the Committee of the Regions, together with partners from European regions and cities, as well as other European Institutions and businesses. The scientific public opinion research ‘Istrian citizens and Europe’ also participated at the Early career research competition 2010 organized by the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional Policy in partnership with the Regional Studies Association – International Forum for Regional Development Policy and Research.
That year the Region of Istria participated in the Open Days conglomerate entitled, ‘Adriatic Macro Region towards Enlargement’, with the aim of transferring the developed methodology and best practices to other regions and potential candidate countries. The aim was to facilitate knowledge sharing between regions and other public bodies to prepare them for the absorption and management of European funds to support Croatia’s integration in the EU.

Analysis of the evolvement of the citizens perception about the EU in Istria before the accession of Croatia

Public opinion surveys were conducted in the framework of the project THINKEU - Through Information and Knowledge towards the EU99 - with the aim of analysing the familiarity of Istrian inhabitants with the European Union and its institutions. The survey analysed the attitudes of Istrian citizens regarding issues concerning EU citizenship, the level of confidence in the European Union and its institutions, the process of accession to the European Union and comparisons between the Region of Istria and the European Union in a number of issues. The effectiveness of the Region of Istria in the field of European integration and international cooperation was also part of the analysis.

The research allowed a comparison of attitudes of Istrian citizens in relation to the European Union within a period of two years. As described above, the first public opinion survey was conducted in 2009 as part of the project Istra Communicating Europe (ICE).

The THINKEU project objectives pointed to spread knowledge and information about the European Union amongst all citizens, especially children and youth, amongst civil

99 Istarski građani i Europa 2011. - Istraživanje javnog mnijenja - Dr.sc. Andrea Debeljuh, Mr.sc. Dino Babić, Mr.sc. Monika Brščić (Zaklada za poticanje partnerstva i razvoja civilnog društva – 2012)
society organizations and to provide assistance and support in understanding the process of European integration as easily accessible and user-friendly information. The project aimed to prepare citizens to take active roles as future EU citizens and introduce them to the available programs and funds of the European Union.

The lead partner for both the projects was the Foundation for partnership and civil society development. The researches were conducted by the experts of the association Informo, National Contact Point of the European Projects Association in Croatia. Funding for surveys has been provided by the European Union through the program "Europe for Citizens".  

Data were collected in the period from October 14th throughout November 3rd 2011, and 830 individuals were examined aged 15 and above. The subjects were divided by gender (men and women), by age group (15-25 years, 26-35 years, 36 -50 years, 51 -65, 66 or more years), by education (low, medium, university degree, master degree-doctorate) and territorial affiliation (north-western Istria (Umag, Buje, Vrsar, Novigrad), north-eastern Istria (Buzet, Pazin, Labin) and southern Istria (Pula, Rovinj).

The survey was conducted under strict supervision of researchers following the Eurobarometer Standard 101, in order to allow the comparison with others European Regions, and the Standard Eurobarometer Croatia 102.

100 Community Program, which provides support for a wide range of activities and organizations promoting "active European citizenship" and especially the inclusion of citizens and civil society organizations in the process of European integration. The program was established by the Decree of the European Parliament and Council, 1904/2006/EC for the period in 2007. - 2013. The budget is 215 million euros. The Community Program is managed at the EU level by the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual sector and Culture.

101 Eurobarometer (EB) is a special research project of inter-ethnic, comparative social research that is carried out for the needs of the European Commission. Using the Eurobarometer, the Commission monitors the development of public opinion on social and political issues in the Member states. The EB standard was established in 1973. Each consists of approximately 1000 interviews, face to face, for each member country. A report is issued twice a year.
The objective of the study was to identify attitudes of public opinion in relation to knowledge of the European Union and the integration process of Croatia into the European Union. Attitudes were measured through the perception of citizens of the Region of Istria on questions of their knowledge of the activities of the European Union and its institutions, comparison of situations in the country and in Europe, the enlargement of the European Union and the process of integration of Croatia into the European Union.

Along with the survey about public opinions, the work of the Region of Istria was rated within the field of the European integration as well as the immediate quality of horizontal communication of citizens and the region.

The survey, aimed not only to establish the attitudes of public opinion of the citizens on the European Union, but also sought to explore the similarities and differences in the socio-political attitudes and values in relation to the survey conducted in 2009.

Furthermore, the study was performed with the aim to establish the foundation for further development and improvement of the regional actions in the field of European projects development.

It is important to emphasize that this research was held in parallel with the pre-election campaign for parliamentary elections in Croatia and the European Commission's proposal on the acceptance of the so-called package of expansion and completion of negotiations for Croatian accession to the EU. Because these mentioned issues were very important, and the referendum on joining the EU was expected to be held at the end of January 2012, the research has allowed that, with collected data and its analysis,

102 The Standard Eurobarometer public opinion research is conducted twice a year in all 27 Member States of the European Union, the two candidate countries in the negotiations, Croatia and Turkey, then in the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, which has a candidate country status. The Standard Eurobarometer is managed by the General administration for Communications of the European Commission, and was carried out by the consortium TNS Opinion & Social, which consists of two members Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe.
was gained an insight into the most reliable state of the facts in the ending phase of the accession process.

The main topics of the research were developed through three parts in which the public opinion of the citizens of the Region of Istria was analysed regarding attitudes about the EU, information and knowledge of the European Union and the work of the Region of Istria in the sphere of EU integration.

In the first part was analysed the support of Istrian citizens about Croatia’s process of accession into the EU. As to enable comparison with the research conducted in 2009 in the Istrian region the survey showed that the citizens of Istria are quite euro-optimistic, since the support to Croatian membership to EU was declared by 43% of the population, while negatively perceived by 38%. This is a proof that this opinion in the previews two years has not changed. The research has also shown that there was more of those who do not expect a personal benefit from the EU membership then those who expect a personal benefit; followed by the undecided. There is an improvement considering the results of 2009, when more people in Istria were hesitant at the question whether it will be better or not for the Istrian citizens when Croatia will enter in the European Union.

Visible was the fact that the number of Euro-optimists increased. In 2009, 15% of respondents were of the opinion that the Croatian accession to the European Union is
unfavourable for the Region of Istria, while at the end of 2011 this percentage increased to 33%.

It is also interesting the fact that 59% of respondents think of themselves as EU citizens. There was a significantly higher percentage of those respondents who support the membership, than those who believe that the EU accession will advantage them personally, and of those who believe that it is positive for Istria that Croatia can become a member of the European Union.

In the first part of the study were analysed the perceptions of the citizens on the European Union. A quarter of the Istrian respondents positively perceive the European Union, while in 2009 there was only a third of those, and there still remains the same percentage (18%) of those who have a negative view about Europe. In 2009 as also in 2011 there is a substantial majority of citizens that perceive the EU neutrally.

The referendum on the Croatian accession to the European Union was announced for late January 2012. According to the survey the majority of 70% of citizens were sure to approach the referendum while the 5% of the respondents were still undecided. The balance on the accession was in the hands of the undecided citizens (22%). According to collected data, the same number of respondents said that they are going to vote yes to the accession (39% of them) and the ones against (39%).

Do you support the Croatian membership in the EU? (from 43% in 2011)

In the first part of the survey, an analysis of the enlargement policy of the European Union was performed where it was possible to see that the majority of Istrian citizens
support the enlargement process as it was in 2009. The citizen’s trust in European institutions already in 2009 was in a slight decline throughout Croatia, and in Istria nearly 40% of respondents expressed disbelief, while a large percentage of people in Istria was undecided.

At the end of the first part of the survey, was performed an analysis of perceptions about the situation of single sectors in Istria in comparison with the European Union. The compared sectors were the following: economy, employment, cost of living, energy prices and the quality of life. The study showed that most of the inhabitants of Istria have the opinion that the situation in Istria, in all the proposed areas is worst than in the European Union.

The second part of the study was an examination about the familiarity with the process of Croatian accession to the European Union, the work of the European Union and its institutions and on what would the Istrian citizens prefer to be informed about. The survey showed that 48% of respondents were very badly acknowledged about the theme of the Croatian accession to the European Union, while 52% claimed good or excellent acknowledgement. Little more than half of the respondents in Istria claimed to understand how the European Union acts which was much higher compared to 2009, when only a third of the respondents claimed to understand the effects of the European Union policies.

The survey has shown that the most of respondents, 67% are getting informed through television, while 43% of them are getting informed through the press. More than two-fifths of the citizens are informed through Internet, followed by 28% of those getting informed through the radio and just 5% prefers other types of media. The analysis shows that the citizens in Istria are mostly interested in the impact of the Croatian membership in the European Union on their everyday life, in what Europe brings to the local level as well as the in the information about the possibility of using EU Funds and in the facts about the European institutions.
In the third part of the study, the activities of Istria in the field of European Integration were analysed. There were an equal number of citizens that support the activities of European Integration with those unfamiliar with these activities, while only 10% of respondents did not support the European integration activities of the Region of Istria. The study also showed that the citizens are not very familiar with the work of the Region of Istria in the field of European integration. From the 30% of respondents who are familiar with the work of Istria in the area European integration, 68% of them think that the work of Istria is good or excellent, while 32% of the respondents think that is bad.

The study wanted to examine whether the citizens of Istria know about some of the European projects that Istria has already implemented or are in the implementation phase. 36% of respondents was familiar with European projects and 79% of respondents believe that the projects have a positive effect on development of Istria.

To the question "Does the Region of Istria sufficiently inform the public about European integration?" 60% of the population of Istria believes that the public is not well informed about European integration. However, compared with 2009 the percentage of respondents who thought that the Region of Istria sufficiently informs the public is almost doubled.
**The research methodology adopted**

The research was carried out from the 14th of October till the 3rd of November 2011, when the date of a referendum on Croatian accession to the European Union was not yet known. In order to be able to compare the results with the ones from 2009, were used the same parameters. A randomly stratified sample was selected in order to have control over the population characteristics relevant for the purposes of the research.

The percentage of samples in every segment was the same as in 2009, and was stratified by the following segments: territorial affiliation – North-western Istria (27%), southern Istria (43%), North-eastern Istria (30%), gender (50% male - 50% female) and age (from 15 to 25, from 26 to 35, from 36 to 50, from 51 to 65 and from 66 and up).

![Graph showing support for Croatian membership in the EU by territorial affiliation](image)

Do you support the Croatian membership in the EU? - Territorial affiliation

The research took place in four phases:
- Development of the research concept
- Development of the research instrument and the matrix for processing the input of data collected and the collecting and processing of data in a matrix
- Data Analysis
- Comparison of data with those from 2009
In the first stage of the research a theme and research concept was defined and a total of 23 questions were prepared. What the study intends to examine was accurately determined and the research in 2009 was analysed in order to use the same percentage of the sample in the new study.

In the second phase the field research was planned. The persons responsible of gathering the data were selected and the interviewers were trained. The planning and effective organization enabled the research to be conducted within 20 days with a sample of 830 respondents, which reduced the possibility of changes in public opinion due to external influences. Of greatest importance was the collection of data before the referendum. In order to test the instrument, a pilot study with a representative sample was held to be able to choose the best method of research. After the pilot study, the most efficient method proved to be a field study. During these phases the interviewers were further trained, some questionnaires were corrected in some points and the final survey was carried out. At the end a plan was developed for the data processing. During the collection of data the percentage of conducted research was controlled and the data was prepared for processing. Respondents did not have considerable difficulty understanding the questions of the questionnaire.

In the third phase, the collected data was controlled, the final phase of controlling the questionnaire was finished, after which the data was analysed in a program for statistical data processing. Based on the collected data, analytical tables and graphical overviews were established, and the obtained data obtained results were interpreted. As the representative sample was obtained randomly, the results can be applied to the entire population of Istria with a high degree of reliability.

In the final phase, the data of the survey from 2009 was compared with the research carried out in 2011. After this comparison, the conclusions were formulated.
Final considerations about the citizens perception of EU in Istria

The results of the analysis described above are gaining importance considering that are being used for a continuous development and improving of the activities of the Region of Istria in the European integration field. Remarkable events on the political and social scene happened during the realization of the research, both in the country and abroad. As mentioned, the most important social discussions were about the election campaign before the parliamentary election is Croatia, the ending of the negotiations of Croatia within the European Union and the approval of the enlargement package from the European Commission as well as the upcoming referendum about EU membership. An instable social situation caused by the global financial crisis, perceived both in Croatia and other EU member countries has had a large influence upon the answers, it is understandable that an instable socio-economical situation in the country and abroad helped strengthening the feeling of insecurity among the citizens.

The survey didn’t show remarkable differences compared to results from the previous survey in 2009 but the evolution of the perception is visible when considering the following aspects.

The results showed that the majority of citizens of the Region of Istria remain “euro-optimistic” while the number of undecided arose. 43% of surveyed citizens support the European membership, 38% were against, and 19% were undecided.

The growth of indecision for 2% compared to the answers of 2009 decreases at the same time the number of euro-optimists and euro-sceptics and shows that the socio-economical and political uncertainty influence the insecurity of citizens when it they are about to take decisions about important changes.

The comparison with the data from 2009 showed a slight increase of the numbers of those who don’t expect personal benefits or improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of the region after the accession of Croatia.

There was also an increase of the number of those who declared the expectation that the Region of Istria as well as the rest of the country won’t benefit from the accession. In 2009, 15% of the examinees had such opinion, in 2011 this number arose to 33% it can indicate that the examinees are more sensitive to changes within the institutional than the personal and social environment.
An interesting fact is that in the Region of Istria there is a 59% of those who consider themselves to be European citizens which is much more that those who support the membership, those who consider that the membership won’t bring them a personal benefit and those who consider that it is positive for the Istrian citizens that Croatia become a member of the EU.

Do you feel like a European citizen?

This fact is a proof of European awareness among citizens of Istria as a border region of EU where crossborder policies influence everyday life.

This hypothesis can be also confirmed by the facts emerging from a comparison of the results analysing the territorial belonging data because there was a slight difference in answers between citizens of different parts of Istria with different perception of the border.

The positive perception of citizens about the European Union had a light improvement compared to the year 2009.

A quarter of the examinees perceived European Union in a positive way while in 2009 this was the case in one third.

The percentage of those who perceived the Union in a negative way, that was 18%, hasn’t changed which shows that within the territory the informing process about positive values of the European reality between the two surveys has been effective.
However, a great majority of the examinees remain aware of both the positive and negative aspect brought by the European Union. Namely independently of the place of residence, Istrian citizens think that the interests of the Republic of Croatia won’t be taken into consideration that much in the European Union as well as consider that Croatia hasn’t been protecting its own interests during the negotiation process while entering the EU. Regardless of the age, the examinees consider the EU imposes its wills to Croatia. Istrian citizens have shown to understand the importance of voting at the referendum concerning the membership of Croatia in the European union. According to the survey, 70% of Istrian citizens will vote at the referendum whereas 5% of citizens still don’t know if they will use their right to vote.

The Collected data showed that an equal number of those who wish to give a positive vote to accession as well as against (39%) it, the 22% of citizens that at the time were still undecided played a crucial role for the final positive result of the referendum.

The data analysis about the perception about the enlargement policy of the European union showed that the majority of the citizens were supporting the policies of Brussels on this sensitive issue as it was in 2009 as well.
In 2009 Croatian citizens have already expressed their weak trust in the European institutions so it wasn’t surprising that the 40% of examinees in 2011 showed their disbelief as well. Furthermore a big percentage of the neutral opinions confirm the fact that periods of crisis in every country bring to a decrease of trust in institutions and politics in general. This conclusion is also strengthened also by the perception analysis of specific society sectors in Istria compared to the European Union.

A comparison of economy, employment, costs of living, energy prices and quality of life showed the majority of Istrian citizens believed the situation in Istria, compared to other areas taken into analysis, was worse than the average situation within the European union.

A more clear understanding of the motivation of the most of the answers from the first part of the survey emerged from results of the analysis of the answers to the questions in the second part, where the knowledge of the processes of accession of Croatia to the European Union was questioned, as well as the work of the Union and its institutions and general questions about what the citizens want to be informed.

The survey showed that 48% of respondents were very badly acknowledged with the themes of the Croatian accession to the European Union, while 52% claimed good or excellent knowledge.

A bit more than half of the respondents in Istria claimed to understand how the European Union acts which is much higher compared to 2009, when only a third of the respondents claimed to understand the effects of the European Union.

These data shown the quality of results achieved through various campaigns of a general informing process held by different institutions on a European, national and regional level.

The survey has shown that the most, even 67% of respondents are informed through television, while 43% of them are informed through the press. More than two-fifths of the citizens are informed through Internet, followed by 28% of those informed by radio and with just 5% by other types of information. Compared to the 2009 survey it can be seen that there was a increase of citizens who use radio as source of information which is an indicator of an increase of mobility and change of lifestyle of citizens like using mobile innovative information and communication technology devices.
Citizens of in Istria are interested mostly in how will the membership effects their lifestyle, what does European Union bring on a local level as well as information about using EU funds and facts about European institutions.

The interest for additional information can be seen in the results of the part regarding the knowledge about the activities of the Region of Istria within the European integration field. There is the same number of citizens who are supporting the activities of the region in the field of European Integration and those unfamiliar with these activities, while only 10% of respondents do not support the activities of the regional bodies in that field.

From the 30% of respondents who were familiar with the work of Istria in the area of European integration, 68% of them think that the work of the regional bodies is good or excellent, while 32% of the respondents think that is not good.

Nevertheless, there is still space available to improve the positive impression of the Union among the citizens with an effective informing system and this is clearly confirmed by answers to questions about the activities of the Region of Istria within the European integration field. The study wanted to examine whether the citizens of Istria know some of the European projects that Istria has already implemented or are in the implementation phase. 36% of respondents was familiar with those European projects and 79% of respondents believe that the projects have a positive effect on development of Istria.

The quality of the informing process about European integration is supported by the fact that the number of examinees that consider that the Region of Istria puts enough effort into informing its citizens has grown from 2009 from 30% to 40%.

It shouldn't be forgotten that border regions are traditionally tied directly with consolidated communication channels that influence the effects of communication campaign of informing.

Citizens have a different perception about European Union and the policies of enlargement depending on the effectiveness of the programmes of international cooperation that have a direct influence to the quality of their everyday lives as well as the development of projects in their area of residence.

The conclusions of this opinion poll research and its comparison to the results from 2009 showed that multimedia informing campaigns, especially those directly connected to results of tangible activities of international cooperation projects realised with the
support of the European Union and its institutions can have a remarkable effect on creating a positive perception among the citizens.

**The use of ICT and multimedia communication for enhancing the perception of European policies as priorities for the Region of Istria**

In the Istrian Regional Operational Program (ROP) the priority 1.3 Development of the informational society, states that the usage of innovative informational and communicational technologies in the development of the economy considerably facilitates entrepreneurial activities fostering in this way the consensus building by the public bodies. Furthermore, computerization of regional and local governments and public institutions in the region should raise the level of availability of relevant information to entrepreneurs and citizens, enable the performance of more tasks from the scope of public administration through the Internet, and ease the monitoring of the economical development and development in general.

Under the priority 3.1 Establishment of an integrated environmental management system, of the same document mentioned above, a need for computerization and the development of the information society is also stated; establishment of an environmental information systems that will serve as the basis for planning and as a source of environmental information to all interested parties.

The development of information society in the Region of Istria should be one of the drivers of modern economic and social changes in the region, which, among other things, requires an extensive involvement of citizens in the acquisition of a new element of literacy for the 21st century. Although it is recognized that information and communication technology is an important component of development and increases overall business competitiveness.

Istria is currently under-using the potential of the information society. For this reason, the information society development in Istria has been recognized as one of the key priorities (in the context of a strategic goal 1- The competitive economy - although the spheres of the influence of computerization is far broader).
Through the implementation of new European projects, the Region of Istria is aiming to develop the ICT sector providing to its citizens a wider range of eGovernment services and building a broadband infrastructure provide them a better access to information.

The regional Department for International Cooperation and European Integration is delivering services to all the regional subjects that can benefit from European funding opportunities through different media such as the portal www.istra-europa.eu, the regional TV, radio stations, newspapers, the Euro Info Point located in Pula and the regional liaison office located in Brussels.

The portal www.istra-europa.eu has been developed with the aim of integrating all the information related to the EU opportunities accessible for the Istrian stakeholders by deepening the international and regional cooperation in the field of ICT and promoting the participation of public and private organizations, entrepreneurs, freelancers, small businesses, NGOs, researchers, students, families. In the first 17 months of activity of the portal, 45,600 visits has been achieved, 43,846 visits in 1 year with an average of 3,654 visits per month. The trend of monthly visits increased thanks to the promotion activities through different media so in 2011 was registered a particularly significant growth from 3,180 visits in January to more than 7,000 in May.

The main information tools and services available through www.istra-europa.eu are:
- Calls for proposals, tenders, and other opportunities provided by EU institutions
- Involvement in international organizations
- Regional partnerships and bilateral cooperation
- European programs available for Croatian stakeholders
- Regional projects database
- Regional activities in Brussels
- EU related news from the Region
- EU related news from Croatia
- EU related news from Europe
- Cooperation with the Istrian citizens abroad
- Mobility and exchange programs
- Crossborder cooperation and Adriatic Euroregion
- Newsletter
- Education materials
Improving the interactive content and the usability of the portal and providing alternative multimedia communication channels the Region of Istria expect to widen the knowledge and information of the regional stakeholders about the EU and the understanding of European integration process through the opportunities for citizens to propose and participate in calls for project ideas; disseminate the results of project activities, to be informed about European priority themes (i.e. European Active Citizenship, Intercultural dialogue, Volunteering..); arouse the interest in and need for information about the EU through activities of facilitation of the access to the existing sources of information and development of new ones; familiarize the target groups with available EU programs and pre-/accession funds available for the Croatian stakeholders; provide a wide range of information useful for improving the quality of life such can be the real time values of the measurements of air and water quality; analyse the opinion of the citizenship about the EU and regional issues and the perceived needs to address correctly the future regional policies.

**The project SEED – multimedia communication tools “Speeding Every European Digital”**

Thanks to the experience and information gained by the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration of the Region of Istria through the involvement in the activities of the European Regional Information Society Association – ERISA and its cooperation with the European Projects Association, the Istrian Regional Representation Office to the EU in Brussels was able to prepare and currently is developing a pilot project in the frame of the project SEED – Speeding Every European Digital.

Gathering information and e-services into one place SEED provides its users with updated local and European news. SEED started on January 1st 2012 and will run until the end of June 2014. There are 12 partners from 7 European countries involved in the project: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania and Spain. The project, worth of 5.12 million Euros is funded by the European Commission under the
ICT Policy Support Program (ICT PSP) as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program. The value for the Region of Istria is 273,670.00 Euros.

Through the project SEED are being installed info kiosks and LCD screens that will display news in 5 locations in the City of Pula: at the City Library, at the Pensioners Club, at the General Hospital, at the Market, at the University "Juraj Dobrila" and at the Memorial Center in the City of Pazin.

The LCD screens are displaying information as well as interesting news from the region, the European Union and the strategic partner countries. News are being automatically generated using the RSS technology. Through the info kiosks users are being enabled to independently surf on the Internet and use eGovernment services, track their own cases in the city administration and use the e-bill services or other public e-services available to the citizens of Croatia.

With the SEED pilot project the Region of Istria is aiming to enhance the effectiveness of the available services provided through the portal www.istra-europa.eu widening the pallet of tools offered to the regional stakeholders with the development of new services and the integration with other eGovernment services provided by all the regional departments, agencies and local authorities. The overall objective of the project is to stimulate the use of eGovernment services by all the regional stakeholders, providing and promoting efficient and innovative tools aiming to simplify the interaction between the administrations and the citizens, focusing on the opportunities for active citizen’s participation in the European integration process and access to projects funding through local regional and European funds.
BRIDGING THE EUROPEAN BORDERS THROUGH A MULTIMEDIA PLATFORM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Taking in consideration the information acquired through the exploration of the context and the case study analysis, this last part is aiming to give an overview of the applied research work being conducted building and testing an “ideal” multimedia environment for the development of European projects. The aim is to verify the effects of the impact on the territory of Istria produced by multimedia communication applied to European projects “bridging” the European borders during the Croatian accession process.

Building the basis for an “ideal” multimedia environment for the development of European projects – My Europa project

A set of online multimedia tools and services for the design and implementation of European projects is being developed for the European Projects Association (EPA) and its members on the bases of the experiences gained and information collected from 2009 through the PhD study in Transborder policies for the Daily Life of the International University Institute for European Studies and the work in the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration of the Region of Istria and its Representation to the European Union in Brussels. The experimental application of this research started in 2011, when the European Projects Association was reorganised for this purpose.

The platform collecting the set of multimedia tools and services is named My Europa and is available on the internet at the address www.my-europa.eu.

The main aim of the «My Europa» project is to research, through a multidisciplinary approach, the influence of the multimedia communication on the perception of the effects of EU policies by the citizens in order to identify the best practices adopted by the different actors involved.

The research is pointing to develop a methodology for the enhancement of the perception of the effects of European policies by the citizens through the optimization of
the different techniques for the development and implementation of European projects as well as methods for effective dissemination of the results achieved.

The main expected result is the improvement of the absorption capacity of the European Projects Association members and European stakeholders in general by using more efficiently the funds using the available technologies, instruments and resources.

The basis for this research project were placed already in June 2008 when the European Projects Association (EPA) established a National Contact Point in Vodnjan – Dignano (Croatia) with the challenge of developing a multimedia cooperation platform for the facilitation of the connection of its members.

The basic hypothesis was that through an effective communication, networking, knowledge sharing, education, stimulating the participation of the youth in the development processes and facilitating the live interaction and complementary work of young enthusiastic professionals and experienced managers, through the use of information and communication technology tools and a correct ethic approach, can be achieved a more efficient use of European funds enhancing the absorption capacity of the stakeholders involved and lowering the overall costs of the entire process independently from the territorial aspects.

The information gathering and hypothesis testing for the research has been mainly conducted, using the platform developed for EPA members, through the activities of the association Informo (EPA National Contact Point in Croatia) directed by dr. Sc. Andrea Debeljuh, professor of Education Sciences at the University of Pula (Croatia) and Academic Director of the European Academy.

From 2009, performing the Professional Improvement Program is being tested the hypothesis of the research project. For this reason the European Projects Association and its Territorial Contact Points signed agreements and hosted students and researchers from:

- International University Institute for European Studies (Italy)
- Firenze University (Italy)
- European College of Parma (Italy)
- Padova University (Italy)
- Bologna University (Italy)
- Trieste University (Italy)
- Teramo University (Italy)
- Torino University (Italy)
- Ca' Foscari University - Venezia (Italy)
After one year of decreasing of the activities of the European Projects Association, in November 2010, the resignations of two of the founding members of EPA, members of the managing board put on hold all the activities till a new managing board was set in March 2011.

The new elected board, starting the My Europa project decided to address the future development of EPA using the most innovative multimedia technologies available for developing an online platform for its members.

The application of the methodology being developed through «My Europa» was supported by the European Regional Information Society Association (ERISA) from march 2011 (Annex 6 – Cooperation Agreement EPA - ERISA). ERISA provided to all its members free access to the resources of the My Europa platform. Members of ERISA were 20 of the most developed European regions in the field of ICT. The Region of Istria (Croatia) administration authorities, on which territory the research activities where mostly performed also supported the research project.

The International University Institute for European Studies supported as well the project through the cooperation on educational activities and the inclusion of the Prof Alberto

The editors of the portal Research Media (www.research-europe.com) and the scientific magazine International Innovation disseminated the achievements and documented the progress of this research through different online and paper publications.103

The information collected from the daily use of the tools available by the users on the platform is helping the evolution of the methodology.

The results of the first testing on the platform shown that the financial sustainability of the project and the technical development can’t perform at global level with the available resources that were based on voluntary activities and private investments.

Considering that the challenge was to show that it is possible to perform a valuable work without any direct financial contribution of the European Union and its Institutions to demonstrate that great things can be done just by researching, cooperating, learning, sharing and having good common purposes, the board members of the European Projects Association supported the establishment of the European Academy for Education and Social Research in July 2011.

The European Academy started the My Europa project developing the web based multimedia set of tools and services for cooperation on European projects reproducing in a social network community the “ideal” environment for each European projects stakeholder.

While giving access to knowledge and facilitating the cooperation, education and know how transfer the European Academy has the opportunity to research the processes and interactions between the stakeholders in order to optimize the methodology of design and implementation of European Projects.

Performing those processes the European Academy is contributing to the EPA efforts in achieving the objectives outlined by the European Commission in the Europe 2020 strategy through the know how transfer from academic research and stimulating the employment and professional improvement of young people.

The main challenge of the My Europa research is stated in the EPA values and mission section:

“The successful delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy depends on the involvement of all sections of society. The responsibility for action does not stop with governments. Giving access to knowledge and facilitating the cooperation, education and know-how transfer, European Projects Association aims 'to achieve the objectives outlined by the European Commission, through the know-how transfer of academic research by stimulating the employment and professional improvement of young people.” (www.europeanprojects.org)

Building the European Projects Association as an experimental network

The European Projects Association\textsuperscript{104} is a non-profit organization established in 2008, focusing on research and development, innovation and internationalisation. Through the use of information and communication technology it aims to become European's leading cooperation network completely dedicated to all the European projects stakeholders. The European Projects Association supports the goals of individuals and organisations through a broad range of products and services including live courses, e-learning courses, conferences, corporate and government solutions, practical guides and research.

In the frame of this research was realised a bottom up reconstruction of the European Projects Association in order to set an internal organization and a communication strategy in line with the ambitions of development of the My Europa project. Following a roadmap for a development of the concept tied with the growth of My Europa platform\textsuperscript{105} a new website was realized (www.europeanprojects.org) presenting the evolution of the association through the materials realized during the research.

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{104} www.europeanprojects.org
\textsuperscript{105} www.my-europa.eu
\end{flushleft}
The administrative structure of EPA was rebuilt in order to fulfil the needs of the realization of an “ideal” environment for the development of European projects.
The managing board, the general assembly and the advisory board have been composed selecting experts from different fields, involved in European projects matters (regional development, academia and research, economy and trade, associations and networks).
The team of experts started working on voluntary base supported by young enthusiastic people attending the Professional Improvement Program in order to realize the objectives agreed.

The experimental research process started from the definition of the fundamental values of the association.
The values were defined as follows:
- Co-operation
- Ideas
- Youth
- Corporate social responsibility
- Political independence
- Innovation

Following these values was defined the mission:

_EPA mission is to provide all information, networking, services and tools needed to improve the participation in EU funded projects to achieve higher capacity of absorption of EU funding._

This mission is being pursued through following specific objectives:
- to increase effects of EU policies using EU funding instruments;
- to improve capacity of absorption of EU funds;
- to promote new partnerships;
- to broaden the knowledge and understanding of the European Union and the process of European integration, giving an easier access to the information and the possibilities offered by EU- Institutions;
- to work at local level through National Contact Points (NCPs).

The broader function of the association was clearly defined as well:
The broader function of European Projects Association is to contribute building a better Europe using the European funding opportunities to finance development projects in the best possible way.

To develop a roadmap and decide the activities to perform it was important to understand the needs that EPA is aiming to provide solutions for. Through the initial research, experimentations and tests the main milestones to achieve were clarified and the following points were defined as follows:

1) Become an NGO based on an inclusive social network with a particular ethic philosophy EPA focus on:
   - development of competences needed to improve the participation in European Projects and develop professionalism in projects management;
   - to encourage the participation of youth in the construction of Europe.

2) Become a facilitator between the organizations, experts and young professionals that contributes to job creation and to the so-called European Knowledge Economy, through the coordination of activities for the creation and exchange of good practices in the field of European projects, in terms of professionalism and competence of its members.
   - Development of a "trademark" of quality in the field of creating documents, financial plans and management of European projects;
   - Organizing "Network" activities, in order to help the creation of the consortium and the participation of its members in the European projects;
   - Creation of a database for finding and posting job opportunities;
   - Creating a database of European project experts.

3) Become a Non-Profit Association, EPA investing in the future of Europe.
4) Become a Network EPA that works also as a “virtual office”.
5) Ensure the growth also through Collaboration Agreements with relevant association private and public bodies (such as: the European Regional Information Society Association- ERISA; the European Academy for Education and Social Research; the International University Institute for European Studies - IUIES).

Following these milestones EPA main activities were divided into three sectors, each one based on two pillars.
Sectors:

1. Supporting professionalization of EU projects practitioners
   - Developing EU projects skills through EPA Professional Improvement Program
   - E-Learning course
   - Creating a dedicated stage (stage surfing concept) and job marketplace
   - Developing a database of certified experts

2. Networking & Projects incubation
   - Advices and IT supported solutions to enhance cooperation and identify project ideas (projects incubator)
   - Support strategy combining EU funds (FP7+Structural Funds or FP7+IPA…)
   - Support management of EU funded project (Embedded project management software)

3. Supporting Post Project Strategy
   - Support dissemination and communication
   - Influence EC DGs through proactive dialogue and constructive feedback

Pillars:

1. Education and training
2. Research and innovation

Under these pillars are being developed the main programs aiming to realize the “ideal” environment for the development of European projects.

Under the first pillar is being developed:

- the European Projects Academy, an educational program based on the “Master in Technologies for the Development of European Projects” that is being realized through cooperation with the European Academy for Education and Social Research. The program is being realized through live and eLearning courses.
- The Professional Improvement Program (PIP), a training program dedicated to young professionals willing to improve their knowledge contributing to the development of a better society applying a learning by doing methodology.

The European Projects Academy is an educational programme composed of training courses and practical experience based on the ‘learning by doing’ methodology. The Master’s course in Technologies for the Development of European Projects is a specific programme composed of five ordinary courses and a Professional Improvement Program (PIP). The courses are created in order to improve and enhance the professional level of the European stakeholders with the most up-to-date knowledge regarding funding opportunities, and to develop their project writing skills in a goal-orientated way. The PIP gives attendants a chance to put the newly-obtained knowledge into practice, applying the know-how and developing opportunities for the host organisation and its partners-community. Furthermore, it stimulates the participation of youth in the project development processes and facilitates the live interaction and complementary work of young enthusiastic professionals and experienced managers.

Under the second pillar are being realized all the activities related to the development of the My Europa multimedia communication platform as well as the connected researches aiming to the achievement of the association objectives.

**The territorial enlargement approach**

Additionally, for the diffusion of the My Europa methodology around Europe EPA is enhancing the cooperation with the most active members, establishing Territorial Contact Points (TCP) categorized in National, Regional and Local Contact Points.

*An EPA TCP is an active member of EPA, promoting the Association at national, regional and local level. The primary role of a European Projects Association Territorial Contact Point (EPA TCP) is to serve as liaison officer between the European Projects Association and potential or existing members, stakeholders and users in a specific Region or Country.*
As mentioned before, EPA started the model of diffusion and dissemination based on the Contact Points even before the reorganization in 2011. Understanding the importance of the process of enlargement the first EPA NCP was established in the Region of Istria, Croatia in 2008. Currently there are active 3 National Contact Points:

- Croatia – Association Informo
- Belgium – Finnovaregio Fundation
- Malta – Paragon Europe Ltd.

and one Regional Contact Point in the Lazio Region, Italy – Ken Parker Sistemi Ltd. At the moment of writing 2 more National Contact Points in Poland and Slovenia and 1 Regional Contact point in Calabria, Italy are in process of establishment.

The duties of the Territorial Contact Points are:

- To honour the statute, mission and values of EPA;
- To observe the EPA ethical development methodology;
- To use My Europa platform for internal and external communication in daily activities; To apply the EPA branding on all the relevant materials, publications and website;
- To propose a yearly plan of activities;
- To demonstrate professionalism in project management and development of European projects;
- To recruit yearly at least 3 Organization members or 5 Expert members or 25 Individual members;
- To promote the Association and develop relevant activities at national, regional or local level;
- To use My Europa platform for supervising all the members from the territory of competence by providing them information, education and promoting partnerships;
- To support the training of local stakeholders according to EPA methodology within European Projects;
- To use My Europa platform to be constantly updated and in contact with the EPA staff and Board and as well to propose, organize and track their activities for all the EPA community;
• To cooperate with the other TCPs of the EPA network in order to foster the development of partnerships and common projects;
• To have regular communication with the EPA board about the relevant activities

The EPA TCP status is being yearly renewed depending on the approval of the TCP annual activity report and valuable activities on My Europa.

In 2013 was conducted a review of the achievements and is in process the adoption of new strategic changes in the organisation of EPA in order to improve the quality of the methodological approach.

In January 2013 a Cooperation Agreement with the Polish Region of Lodzkie was signed considering the important experiences of Poland as the best performing European country in absorbing European funds.

During the General Assembly 2013 new experts joined the Managing and Advisory Boards and a reorganisation of the teams and functions is currently in process in order to ensure the enlargement of EPA in new countries and a better service to the members involved.

The active involvement in the association

As defined in EPA statute, the members of the association are divided into two main groups:

1) Effective members, with decision-making power;
2) Associate members, which are at the same time the beneficiaries of the services provided and the contributors in terms of information and content. Using the services they are able to influence EPA activities through their experiences and suggestions.

Following a preliminary research about the target groups it was decided to subdivide the Associate members in 4 categories:

• Web members - every internet user interested in European project
• Individual members – students, researchers and attendees of the Professional Improvement Program
• Expert Members – those who are experts in developing projects
• Organization Members – open to every type of organization active in the field of European projects

It was decided to give to all the members free access to the My Europa web platform but to gain the Individual, Expert and Organization membership it is necessary to pay a fee that is giving access to additional tools and services.

The research about the target groups pointed out the following types of organizations can be the main beneficiaries of the EPA services:

• local, regional, national and international authorities;
• companies, associations, chambers, business groups;
• institutes of Communications Studies;
• universities and other institutions of higher learning;
• research institutes, centres for European studies;
• professional associations (local, regional, national, international);
• foundations (regional, national, international);
• non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
• other entities interested in European Projects.

The research behind the realization of the multimedia environment My Europa

From the preliminary explorative and applied research work was concluded that independently from the sector they are based in, the role of all institutions should include fostering the development of innovative projects, which can contribute to a better society.

Knowing that it is never easy to create an “ideal” environment where stakeholders coming from an array of sectors can find the necessary tools to build projects together and make the results widely available to the public, it was challenging to test if today’s technologies can make the difference.
My Europa platform (www.my-europa.eu) was born as a research initiative implementing tools and services shaped to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the development of European projects. It explores the role of multimedia communication on public perception of EU policy in order to identify the best practices adopted by those involved. The project aim is to identify and implement useful methodologies for addressing the development efforts.

It was expected that by applying the results of this research, the efficiency of EU policy dissemination can be improved.

The work is being coordinated by the European Projects Association (EPA), in cooperation with the European Academy for Education and Social Research and the EPA Territorial Contact Points. For a better dissemination of the on-going research process the progress of the work was published by Research Media on a dedicated blog of the portal www.research-europe.com and in the printed editions of the International Innovation magazine.

Screen view of My Europa (source: www.academy-europa.eu)

However, as the project is based on the hypothesis that everybody can contribute to the development of a better European society, participation is open to all, connecting the efforts of students, researchers, young professionals, experts and organizations.

The research focuses on identifying the various actors involved in the communication of the EU policies and instruments to their target groups. This work is carried out in order to:

• Realise a mapping of the communication processes

• Analyse the relations between the identified actors with the aim of individuating the sectors, the clusters and the networks

• Research the information flows in order to identify the best communication channels • Analyse the communication methodologies in order to individualise the models of efficient communication

• Research the impacts of the different models on the population in order to identify the best practices in use

• Analyse the relation between the communication model used and the type of perception obtained, in order to enhance the influence of the communication models in effectively communicating EU policies to its citizens

My Europa have as objective to develop opportunities for public and private organisations, entrepreneurs, freelancers, small businesses, NGOs, researchers, and students. These opportunities are built on a set of assumptions – tested with scientific rigour – supposing that:

• Good ideas can become excellent European projects if the efforts are well addressed

• Developing partnerships, sharing knowledge and experiences are natural Processes

• The European Union has funding programs for each society sector and it is not the only way to finance a project

• The Institutions are developing the rules that are there to be followed or changed
• Professional networking, online project development tools, easy access to information and education are increasing opportunities for European development.

Multimedia aspects of the My Europa environment

The networking community platform www.my-europa.eu is being developed to offer the opportunity to change the approach to developing projects by adopting innovative methodologies and techniques. My Europa is designed to overcome the difficulties in successfully absorbing European funds for the development of effective and efficient projects. Each member have the chance to: display their skills and experiences and interact with others to enhance their knowledge on EU programs; connect and expand the network of partners; share information; promote ideas; exchange best practices; and create their own projects or join other consortia in order to cooperate on a specific transnational project.

All these features are supported by integrated tools such as: Funds Forum, Europa News, Projects Factory, Projects Showroom, eAcademy and Work in Projects. Through research and testing with European project managers and organisations was produced a web-based set of tools and services for cooperation on European projects reproducing in a professional network community the “ideal” environment for each stakeholder.

In the Funds Forum, all European programs as well as additional sources of possible funding are explained thanks to interaction with experts. It provides a tool for members to discuss EU funding opportunities and related questions can be posed and answered. The forum gives members the opportunity to share knowledge and information on European programs, calls for proposals, calls for tenders, European project management, seminars, training and workshops focused on EU funding issues.
The **Projects Factory** is a project management warehouse with several useful cloud computing tools for European project planning and implementation. By using this cooperation platform a project manager can set up a project, add all partners involved, set up a roadmap with a timeline, upload files, set milestones, assign tasks, organise schedules or events and meetings, and interact with the team on all the daily activities of project planning and implementation. The reporting system and the activities stream strengthens teamwork, lending the project manager a transparent overview of the work in progress from the starting date to the final deadline.

**Europa News** is an information centre collecting news from EU-related websites that constantly monitors the updates of institutional webpages, news portals and alternative sources of information. It thereby guarantees an ‘at-a-glance’ overview of what is going
on in European affairs and is a time-saving system that collects fresh news, daily events, activities, reports, conferences, seminars, calls, projects and job opportunities published on the most significant European portals. The objective is to collect all the fragmented information about EU issues in one place, giving every user the opportunity to contribute to the growing stream suggesting new sources to follow.

Screen view of My Europa (source: www.academy-europa.eu)

The eAcademy is the eLearning tool of My Europa, where different courses can be taken individually by the members to foster their knowledge in specific fields. The attendants can follow video lessons, download materials and test the acquired knowledge and skills. eAcademy is the place where educational organisations and experienced members can share their knowledge and help young professionals to become the leading European minds of the future.

Screen view of eAcademy (source: www.academy-europa.eu)
The **Work in Projects** section is the meeting point for organisations searching for professionals in the EU affairs sectors and individuals looking for jobs and new experiences. This is not only an online job marketplace but also a hub for professional growth and career opportunities related to European project development. The tools for finding the right profiles and simplifying the selection process are available to employers. Meanwhile, job seekers have the chance to develop their curriculum and track new opportunities available in their fields of interest. The future of Europe can be shaped through European projects managed by experienced people.

The **Projects Showroom** is a multimedia space where every project can be showcased in each stage of its life cycle. In the different thematic categories every member of My Europa can post project ideas or look for partners and funding sources. Members can find on-going projects or promote their activities and events. In addition, results from completed projects can be disseminated and best practices can become a matter of discussion and sources of inspiration for new projects. The Projects Showroom is aiming to map the spread of European projects and partnerships, showing the cooperation efforts in achieving European objectives. The intention is to foster the development of even better projects linking the partners and facilitating a long-term communication and follow-up as a good way to strengthen the cooperation between stakeholders.
In the Projects Showroom were created 13 working groups according to the European policy areas. Every member of the platform is automatically being included in the Working Groups responding to his fields of interest. In this sections are being streamed all the information about projects, programs, events, partner searches, calls for proposals or tenders, news and other opportunities related to the thematic of the group. Every user is allowed to follow the discussions, participate and contribute with own content or information.

The following list is including the European programs and other funding opportunities discussed in each working group:

1) WG Agriculture, fisheries and foods
   - European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
   - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
   - European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

2) WG Education and training, culture and youth
   - Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)
   - Erasmus Mundus
   - Tempus
   - Bilateral cooperation – EU-USA ATLANTIS Programme, EU-CANADA Programme, EU-ICI ECP Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea
   - Intra-ACP academic mobility scheme
   - Media 2007-2013
   - Culture 2007-2013
   - Europe for Citizens
   - Youth in Action
3) WG Economy, finance and tax
   - Fundamental Rights and Justice
   - The Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys
   - Hercule II
   - Pericles
   - Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)

4) WG Employment and social affairs
   - European Social Fund (ESF)
   - PROGRESS
   - European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)
   - European Progress Microfinance Facility (Progress Microfinance)
   - Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

5) WG Energy and natural resources
   - LIFE+
   - NER300
   - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Intelligent Energy Europe (CIP-IEE)
   - Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)
   - FP7-ENERGY
   - European Energy Programme for Recovery
   - CIP Eco-innovation

6) WG Enterprise and Industry
   - CIP - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP)
   - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
   - Sustainable Industry Low Carbon I (SILC)

7) WG Environment, consumers and health
   - Consumer Programme 2007-2013
   - LIFE+
   - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (CIP-EIP)
   - Health Programme
   - Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF)
   - European Fisheries Fund (EFF)
   - CIP Eco-innovation

8) WG External relations and foreign affairs
   - Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)
   - European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
   - Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)
   - Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
   - European Instrument for Promoting Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
- Instrument for Stability (IFS)
- Humanitarian Aid
- European Development Fund (EDF)
- Civil Protection Financial Instrument (CPFI)

9) WG Information, communication and media
- Media 2007
- Media Mundus
- Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program (CIP) Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Program (ICT PSP)
- Safer Internet Programme 2009-2013

10) WG Justice, fundamental rights and home affairs
- Europe for Citizens
- Hercule II
- Pericles
- European Refugee Fund
- European Fund for the Integration of non-EU nationals
- External Borders Fund
- European Return Fund
- European Migration Network
- Pilot Project on Resettlement
- Daphne III
- Fundamental Rights and Citizenship
- Leonardo Da Vinci Programme
- Civil Justice Programme
- Consumer Programme
- Criminal Justice Support Programme
- Drug Prevention and Information Programme
- Prevention and Fight Against Crime Programme (ISEC)
- Health Programme
- PROGRESS

11) WG Regions and local development
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)
- JASPER
- JESSICA
- JEREMIE
- JASMIN
- European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)
- Cohesion Fund

12) WG Research, innovation and technology
It became a challenge after building it, to spread the use of My Europa platform among the European projects stakeholders supporting effective communication, networking, knowledge-sharing and education.

Fostering the use of information and communication technology tools and with the correct ethical approach, this system aims to create a new generation of professionals being able to use the European funds more efficiently. In this way it is targeting to enhance the absorption capacity of the stakeholders involved and lowering the overall costs of the entire process.

Considering the technical aspects, it have to be mentioned, that the system was built using mostly open source software but also commercial licensed components were integrated in order to create an integrated multimedia environment based on the social networking and user interaction in line with the innovative cloud computing standards.

**Fostering the growth of the My Europa network through the campaign “..for a better society”**

The strategy adopted to promote the My Europa environment, gaining and engaging users and collecting projects culminated with the campaign “..for a better society”.
The European Projects Association in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Academy for Education and Social Research has launched to praise individuals working “…for a better society”

The Campaign “…for a better society” is still on-going and is aiming to reward finished and ongoing projects financed by the EU, which had a great positive impact on a specific community, territory or sector. The campaign aspires to improve the visibility and the cross-border partnerships also by rewarding the most innovative and beneficial project ideas submitted by professionals and young researchers through a series of European Projects Awards.

The participation in the Awards is available to everybody who operates or would like to operate in the field of EU project management. Fully supported by the European Economic and Social Committee, the Awards ensure the visibility of different organisations’ initiatives and recognise the most successful projects realised through European funds.

The Awards are taking place on the online platform My Europa which before the starting of the campaign gathered 1450 members, mostly professionals in EU project management.

After a project has been posted in the My Europa tool Projects Showroom, all the members of My Europa have the chance to vote for the best works through the “like” system. The winners of the three categories (finished, ongoing and project ideas) are being rewarded with valuable prizes as well as the voters and the people who nominate projects for the competition.

The Campaign “…for a better society” goes beyond the traditional research domains to draw attention to art and how it can contribute to an improvement of the everyday life quality. The Viral Movement is the second part of the Campaign “…for a better society” and it works to support young artists who express their views and their contribution to a better European society through photography. The hope is that their creative standpoint on current issues will lead to new project ideas developed by the target group prized in the Awards initiative.
The third component of the Campaign is the Europa News section on the My Europa platform which is dedicated to the most current news regarding European issues and the wider reporting of the activities which work with an aim to strengthen the relationship between Regions and European Institutions (Regional offices, cities and municipalities, associations, etc.). Being aware of how difficult it is for young researchers to gain visibility and publish their research. Therefore the opportunity is to given to young researchers and students to submit their articles and research to Europa News. The best work will be selected and published on Europa News, mentioned on the Awarding Ceremonies and published in the “…for a better society” catalogue.

The purpose of the Campaign “…for a better society” is to connect people whose aim is to make a difference and contribute to a better more meaningful development of Europe and consequently the entire world using My Europa platform.

On 28 November 2012, the first awards ceremony was held in Brussels in the premises of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

It highlighted the most prestigious and innovative projects, both ongoing and completed, and ideas in the 13 different categories that have the potential to make a big impact in the future. The first edition of the awards was supported by the Association Informo, Research Media Ltd, Renewable Energy Magazine, Finnovaregio Fundation, Communication Package, Aquieuropa, The Business Incubator, The Regional Review and The Research Review.

An intensive multimedia promotion campaign was held to inform internet users through direct mailing and messages on social media platforms and communication networks. 217 projects participated and the finalists were chosen by popular vote of the entire community. Loredana Simedre from Bucharest was awarded the best Project Idea for her CareerKIT concept, while the BiscayTIK Foundation and its director Ibon Oñate Zamalloa won the Ongoing Project prize. The Concluded Project that gained the jury consensus was Virtual Physic Lab developed by Trim Kadriu from Kosovo. In addition, a special mention was been given to two finalist projects, Vocational International Trade Training Implementation (VITTI) by ITM Worldwide Foundation, Sweden, and Student for Europe Brussels (SFEB) by Guillaume Guéziélu, Elisa Lironi and Sofia Romanin from Belgium.

Alongside the Project Awards, a competition was held to honour photographers who helped in the promotion of the event. 34 artworks were submitted to the Viral Movement challenge and were used in promotional materials of the campaign and the
viral video circulated prior to the ceremony. The winning picture that collected the most of likes on social media was ‘Unemployed Hands’ by Alen Medjić. A special mention was given to ‘Jewels made in waste materials’ by Elza Bontempi and ‘Critical mass’ by Dalibor Platenik.

At the end of the European Projects Awards, in November 2012, after a 2 months intensified campaign ‘WHAT ARE YOU DOING ..for a better society?’, more than 2513 European projects stakeholders were involved in My Europa. From the beginning of the development activities in March 2011 till September 2012, when the campaign started, 1438 users had activated a profile on the platform. In 2 months of multimedia campaign more than 1000 new users joined My Europa showing the big impact that multimedia communication can have on the European projects environment.
OVERVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVE RESULTS

Thanks to the most significant data collected during the process of this experimental research applied on My Europa, it is possible to have an overview of the effective results achieved.

My Europa members active map showing the partnership connections in Europe:

In 2 years, from March 2011 to March 20013, 2787 members registered a profile on My Europa. The average number of users/month result to be 116. Considering that the average for the 17 months before the multimedia campaign was 85 users/month, from the following graph it is visible that the participation on My Europa was massively being influenced from the promotion activities in September and October 2012.
Another significant fluctuation indicating the effectiveness of the multimedia promotional campaign is the growth of the number of projects in the Projects Showroom in the same period, visible from the following graph.

The Campaign “...for a better society” brought noteworthy increase in the number of posted projects and new My Europa members. From the data presented we can see that from August to December, the number of My Europa members grew. Most of them signed in in October which corresponds to an upsurge in activities on social networks and sent mailing campaigns (from September 10th 2012 to October 15th 2012 the
information about My Europa and the Campaign on social media and direct mailing reached approximately 20000 contacts.

The number of posted projects also grew proportionally to increased social network activities and mailing campaign resulting in 49 new projects posted in October.

The number of projects per type and sector are reported in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>ongoing</th>
<th>concluded</th>
<th>Total projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agriculture-fisheries-foods</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economy-finance-tax</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>education-training-culture-youth</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment-social-affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>energy-natural-resources</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enterprise-industry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environment-consumers-health</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>external-relations-foreign-affairs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information-communication-media</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>justice-fundamental-rights-home-affaires</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regions-local-development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research-innovation-technology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transport-tourism-travel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>217</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table we can see that in the Projects Factory are active more on-going projects (120) than ideas (79) and concluded projects (18). There is also a significant difference in representation of projects by sector; the most participated sector is “education-training-youth”, it precedes in all three categories with a total of 63 projects, followed by “environment-consumers-health” (30), “energy-natural resources” (18), “agriculture-It is fisheries-food” (14) and so forth.

Looking at the graph below representing the data from the table above, is better visible that the users involved in My Europa are more active and participative in the policy areas of direct impact on the quality of life.
The promotional campaign “..for a better society” was conducted mainly through the most popular social media where the activity was intensified. The graph below is showing the growth of the visits on the Facebook page of EPA during the examined period.
Growth of the visits to the EPA page on Facebook from September to November 2012.

On the social networks mostly used by the professionals as Twitter and LinkedIn, in the period in exam, was also registered a growth in terms of followers of the EPA activities as visible from the graph below.

Deepening the analysis on the demographic distribution of the social networks users it was possible to verify the impact of the campaign in the different countries. The following graph is showing the nationality of the twitter followers.
From the graph above it is visible that in the first 10 positions also Croatia appears.

A focus on Croatia in the analysis is necessary to have a vision of the multimedia perception of the communication of European opportunities by the citizens in the process of enlargement achieved through the multimedia campaign.

The data shows that Croatian users are also very actively following EPA on LinkedIn as visible from the graph below.

Croatians are present as well in the top positions as active visitors of the EPA page on Facebook in September 2012 as visible below.
In October the number of Croatian active users increased, as visible below.

And as prove that the overall growth visible from the graphs above was generated by the multimedia campaign we can take in consideration the graph below showing the most active countries on the Facebook page in November when the communication
efforts of EPA on the social media, after the conclusion of an intense multimedia campaign, lowed down.

The good impact of the social media campaign on the Croatian stakeholders can be seen from the data related to the members of My Europa platform.

Focusing on My Europa statistic data collected in March 2013 on the My Europa platform the participation of Croatian members and members from Istria resulted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL My Europa MEMBERS</th>
<th>My Europa MEMBERS FROM CROATIA</th>
<th>My Europa MEMBERS FROM ISTRIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2787</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The overview of number of projects presented in the Projects Showroom by the entities from the Region of Istria, compared to the total number of projects is showing a good result in the promotion of the ended projects. This can indicate the effort of the entities from Istria in communicating their achievements during the integration period.

There is a growing number of Croatian people using My Europa network to find new calls for proposals and partners for project development. An increase transfer of knowledge had been noticed between Istrian individuals and organizations already involved in EU affairs and project management. People and institutions with less experience have been somewhat reluctant to use this type of media due to its complexity. An important factor influencing the active participation on My Europa is the time. The users need time not only to get familiar with the environment but also to
learn innovative methodologies that can improve the quality of their daily life just if rigorously applied.

Considering that on the platform is visible an increasing trend of sharing projects, knowledge and experience between My Europa members of which a little bit less than 7% falls on Croatian nationality members, the future development of the tools and services have to follow the innovation trends of the social networks and user friendly mobile technologies.

The activities of the EPA Croatian National Contact Point in Istria certainly contributed to the enhancement of the perception of the effects of European Policies by its citizens during the integration process of Croatia.

The direct involvement of the EPA TCP Croatia in the development of the My Europa project and methodology since its beginnings, and the experiences gained through the explorative research work in the Region of Istria had a clear impact in the development of the platform and the multimedia communication activities.

The fact best results for the citizenships are being achieved when investing in education, training and youth can be confirmed by the following data about the participation of students from Croatia and Istria in the live educational activities based on the My Europa methodology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Live courses</th>
<th>From other Countries</th>
<th>Students from Istria Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Students</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student from other Croatian Region</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students from Istria Region</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From other Countries</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students from Croatia and particularly Istria were a good number thanks also to the promotion of this education opportunity by the TCP.

The number of those from Istria and Croatia who are attending eLearning courses through the My Europa platform is also a good indicator of the ability to adopt innovative technologies for improving the knowledge, and as is showing the graph below, Croatia and Istria are again showing a good will to learn using the multimedia.
Considering that the best experiences are being gained through the practice, in the graph below, the number of users attending the Professional Improvement Program of EPA in Istria compared to those who are gaining the experience in Brussels is also indicating that in the Region of Istria a new generation of professionals is being created.

The good results achieved by the experts and the young professionals from all around Europe attending the PIP at the Association Informo, the Croatian TCP of EPA based in Vodnjan – Dignano, is visible by the following table showing the project ideas, ongoing and ended projects developed from its establishment in 2008:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>Location of the Action</th>
<th>Donors to the Action</th>
<th>Ended</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Idea</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Platform for Entrepreneurship Educators</td>
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<td>Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme</td>
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<td>Irecoop</td>
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<td>IPA Adriatico, Measure 1.4; 2.4 3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Istra Communicating Europe</td>
<td>Pazin, Buje</td>
<td>European Program Europe for Citizens</td>
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<td>Europa za mlade - Mladi za Europu I, II, III</td>
<td>Istria</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Centar za zastitu i odrzivi razvoj maslinarstva na mediteranu</td>
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<td>IPA Adriatico</td>
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<td>Progress Programme</td>
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<td>Erasmus for young Entrepreneurs</td>
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<td>Kids Go Green (KGG)</td>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Idea</td>
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<td>Action 2 - Active Civil Society in Europe</td>
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<td>Measure 2 – Citizens’ projects and support measures</td>
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<td>SUPER - SUport Professionals in EuRope</td>
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<td>Twinning</td>
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<td>Measure 1.2 – Network of twinned towns</td>
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<td>LAB</td>
<td>Croatia, Serbia, Spain and Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia</td>
<td>PPpROGRESS VP/2010/005 – PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO EXCHANGE GOOD PRACTICEs Progress Programme</td>
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<td>PS Change - People’s skills: Croatians Help in Achieving New Greater Employability</td>
<td>&lt;Croatia, Bjelovarsko-Bilogora County, Primorsko-Goranska County, Istrian County, the Counties with the highest rate of unemployment; Osijek-Baranja County, Bjelovar-Bilogora County, Brod-Posavina County, Virovitica-Podravina County, Sisak-Moslavina County, Vukovar-Srijem County&gt;</td>
<td>EuropeAid/132434/M/ACT/HR</td>
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<td>IVE</td>
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<td>Istria</td>
<td>European Voluntary Service</td>
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<td>TOI</td>
<td>Croatia, Romani, France</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>SMILE</td>
<td>Region of Istria, City of Pula, City of Pazin, City of Zagreb</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>PROJECT</td>
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<td>Ended</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Idea</td>
</tr>
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<td>------------------------</td>
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<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE ARE</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina (Region of Bijeljina), Croatia (Region of Istria), Italy, Serbia (North Banat District)</td>
<td>EUROPEAID/131114/C/ACT/MULTI</td>
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<td>HEPP - Highly Educated Persons’ Potential Increased</td>
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</table>

The on-going project “Enhancing the school curricula with an aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle” is an excellent example of how the My Europa multimedia tools and services combined with the activity of the Territorial Contact Point, the knowledge gained through the Master in Technologies for the Development of European Projects, the learning by doing experience of the Professional Improvement Program and the awareness of the local community can result in an approved project aiming to improve the quality of life of the regional community.

The Croatian proponent of the project, Strukovna Škola Pula[^107] was informed on time about a European funding opportunity that can give them the chance to finance a project, the Territorial Contact Point supported them to write a good project idea, to place it on the Projects Showroom of My Europa where was established the contact and started the cooperation with the Italian partner Confindustria Nord Sardegna, attendees of the Professional Improvement Program and a student of the Master program prepared the project documentation supervised by EPA experts in Brussels and after the approval of the project the same people involved are still working together on the implementation of the project through My Europa.

The project “Enhancing the school curricula with an aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle” is being co-financed by the European Union through the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education Department for Financing and Contracting of IPA Programme. The modernisation of school curricula in vocation and

[^107]: Vocational School of Pula – www.ss-strukovna-pu.skole.hr/
training schools in line with the changing needs of the labour market in a developing economy.

The value of the project is 190,730,64€.

The project is leaded by the Vocational School of Pula, partners in the projects are the association Informo, Confindustria North Sardegna, the Medical school of Pula. The project is also supported by the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Pula, the Policlinic Peharec, Maistra d.d., Istraturist Umag, the Croatian Employment Agency in Pula, the Istrian Development Agency, the European Project Association.

The implementation started the 21st September 2012 and will last for 12 months until the 21st September 2013.

“The overall objectives of the project is to reduce the unemployment problem by providing the students of the Vocational School Pula with specific knowledge and tools to become more market relevant, giving as well to those with fewer opportunities a chance to get a job and ease their social situation. The project aims at contributing to the local and regional development enhancing the educational offer, meeting the needs of the labour market for better educated and more skilled professionals in the key sectors of tourism and services for the citizens, developing knowledge based economy and improving the quality of work and life.”

This example, as many other facts that emerged through this overview, are showing that the use of multimedia communication instruments designed to facilitate the international cooperation on European projects can positively impact on the perception of European policies by the citizens of a country engaged in the enlargement process.

Applied research is used to find solutions to everyday problems and develop innovative technologies.

A deeper research on the thematic and an overview of the analysis conducted can always be performed in future and show other aspects of the concept that were not perceived as relevant or observed at all. The facts described are for sure being interpreted in a different way by differed observers and from different perspectives.

The process of enlargement is dynamic and in continuous evolution as the perception of the citizens is. An explorative and experimental approach to the thematic was needed in
order to have the opportunity to apply in the daily activities the experiences and information gathered.
CONCLUSIONS

The process of enlargement is dynamic and in continuous evolution as is the perception of the citizens about the opportunities faced in the daily life. The actors involved at different levels are experiencing different contexts of cooperation where are searching for opportunities and information. The opportunities are available at European level and it is up to the subjects acting in the different sectors to recognise the best way to satisfy the needs or the interests in line with the priorities defined by the policies. The European policy context is covering almost every single sector of the society and is really challenging to follow all the evolutions in act. The time factor is crucial when observing a process and the description of the changes is always a question of points of view and of the moment of the observation.

The research work presented in this dissertation, have a particular value when considered in the moment of its publication. This work is being finalized less than four months before the accession of Croatia to the European Union. Through this work it is possible to observe the evolution of the on-going process of European enlargement ‘in real time’ as the data presented were all been produced and immediately analysed in order to react in the most efficient possible way to the new circumstances. The adoption of the applied research approach was needed because in order to verify the hypothesis that a virtual environment based on multimedia communication, and networking can positively impact on the perception of the effects of European policies by the citizens of countries involved in the enlargement process; different opportunities and challenges came out with the urgency of being immediately solved. One of the biggest challenges was to try to achieve a positive verification of the hypothesis without using any direct financial contribution of the European Union and its Institutions to demonstrate that great things can be done just researching, cooperating, learning, sharing and having good common purposes. This limitation of the possibilities was set in order to have the chance to strengthen the results being achieved. Assuming that the funding instruments provided by the European Union, in the different policy areas, are the main opportunities for individual
citizens and organizations for getting involved in the development and perceive the benefits of projects having an impact to their quality of life; the research work pointed to understand the situation of facing a big challenge without additional external opportunities or help.

The main considerations were made from the analysis of the public opinion research about the perception of the EU by the citizens of Istria were very useful to address the efforts of the Regional authorities when developing the future projects.

The on-going pilot project SEED is prospecting to give good results in improving the quality of access to eGovernment services and EU information by the citizens and the data that will be possible to collect about peoples involvement will be another useful source of information for building better project and give to the citizens more valuable services in the future.

As main result of this research, the My Europa platform was built, is active on the internet and available to everyone who is aiming to develop European projects contributing to the development of a better society.

The main objectives achieved and the performances obtain are satisfying.

The European Projects Association is in continuous evolution, establishing new Contact Points around Europe and signing new cooperation agreements. New students are attending the courses organized in Cooperation with the European Academy for Education and Social Research and new attendees are approaching the Professional Improvement Program becoming the new generations of European expert professionals.

The number of people working in EPA is growing and the events organised are attracting more and more visitors.

A new edition of the European Projects Awards is being organized this time in the framework of the World Research and Innovation Congress 2013.

The campaign “WHAT ARE YOU DOING ..for a better society?” is continuing to attract the attention of new stakeholders interested in developing projects as artworks that can be planed, implemented and showcased in a virtual environment shaped for that purpose.

The environment of My Europa will probably never deserve the adjective “ideal” because even with all the innovations that will be adopted the perception of the users will be always unique and depending from individual needs.
The multimedia communication is evolving continuously bridging the European borders and it can enhance the perception of the effects of European policies by the all citizens, as is visible on My Europa: www.my-europa.eu
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### 2006

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**Table Notes:***
- IDAls: Molf refunded on March 13, 2007, membership not paid for the year 2006
- Marco Polo: no participation in 2006, Molf not ratified, membership not paid

**Usage rate**
- Funds used from Community Programmes budget in comparison to the total membership: 145.7%
- Funds used from Community Programmes budget in comparison to the total membership + additional funds from the national budget: 117.5%
- Funds used from Community Programmes budget in comparison to the member budget funded from the national budget: 306.2%
- Funds used from Community Programmes budget in comparison to the cofinancing from the national budget: 205.7%

**ANNEX 1**
<table>
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<th>Community Programmes</th>
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<td>Culture Programme</td>
<td>519,000.00</td>
<td>51,000.00</td>
<td>120,000.00</td>
<td>352,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRESS</td>
<td>45,000.00</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDABC</td>
<td>78,274.00</td>
<td>25,592.00</td>
<td>103,366.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,197,904.00</td>
<td>1,010,836.00</td>
<td>4,080,540.00</td>
<td>6,533,467.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Instrument for Civil Protection: MOL was signed in 2007 and ratified in 2008. Croatia will not pay for the 2007 membership, and it did not participate in the programme in 2007.

CIP, ICT PSP: MOL was signed in 2008. Croatia did not participate in the programme in 2007 and did not pay the membership in 2007.

ANNEX 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Programmes</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Funds used</th>
<th>Usage rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PA EUR</td>
<td>National budget</td>
<td>Total EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP7</td>
<td>2.055.745.00</td>
<td>970.214.66</td>
<td>3.025.959.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP, EHP</td>
<td>374.265.00</td>
<td>56.012.00</td>
<td>430.277.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP, ICT PSP</td>
<td>175.516.00</td>
<td>13.951.00</td>
<td>189.467.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP, EHEC II</td>
<td>354.816.00</td>
<td>29.247.00</td>
<td>384.063.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2013</td>
<td>54.000.00</td>
<td>54.000.00</td>
<td>108.000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISICA 2013</td>
<td>60.385.40</td>
<td>60.385.40</td>
<td>120.770.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture 2007 – 2013</td>
<td>119.000.00</td>
<td>119.000.00</td>
<td>238.000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDITERRANEAN</td>
<td>96.500.00</td>
<td>11.033.00</td>
<td>107.533.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe for Citizens</td>
<td>63.300.00</td>
<td>23.156.00</td>
<td>86.456.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Protection Financial Instrument</td>
<td>96.142.51</td>
<td>37.471.38</td>
<td>133.613.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRESS</td>
<td>25.000.00</td>
<td>25.000.00</td>
<td>50.000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROC</td>
<td>87.624.50</td>
<td>77.540.50</td>
<td>165.165.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TOTAL | 4.298.564.04 | 1.283.163.14 | 5.582.446.18 | 5.712.073.98 | 4.250.371.92 | 174.0%| 58.3% | 174.2% |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Programmes</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Funds used</th>
<th>Usage rate</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td>in €uros</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

- **Membership:** The number of members or subscribers.
- **Funds used:** The total amount of funds used by the program.
- **Usage rate:** The percentage of funds used.
- **Notes:** Additional information or comments about the program.

**ANNEX 4**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Programmes</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Funds used</th>
<th>Usage rate</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IPA/EU</td>
<td>National budget</td>
<td>Total Euro</td>
<td>In comparison to the amount of membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYV</td>
<td>2,504,000</td>
<td>3,281,000</td>
<td>3,105,000</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CII, CIP</td>
<td>3,920,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP, EAFP</td>
<td>3,970,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPE B</td>
<td>3,970,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Polo II</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canarian 2013</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicilia 2013</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calais 2007 - 2009</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED Programme</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euromed for Citizens</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Protection and Environment</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARE 55</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFE Long running</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth in action</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>7,475,410</td>
<td>7,475,410</td>
<td>7,475,410</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANNEX 5
COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into on [date], by and between:

European Regional Information Society Association – eris®, Boulevard de l’Empereur 24, 1000 Brussels, VAT BE0465 698 856 represented by its CEO Mr Charles WATT (hereinafter referred to as “eris®”), and
European Projects Association ASBL - E.P.A., Rue des Francs, 46, Brussels, Belgium, 1040, represented by its President Mr Dino BADIC (hereinafter referred to as “E.P.A.”)

WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to cooperate on:

- the E.P.A. headquarters’ address will be registered at Boulevard de l’Empereur 24, 1000 Brussels, at the eris® premises.
- E.P.A. is assigning to eris® a honorary membership in the association.
- E.P.A. is going to provide to all eris®’ members 1 year of free of charge organization membership in the association.
- the CEO of eris®, Mr Charlie Watt, will cover the function of President of the E.P.A. Advisory Board.
- eris® will provide free access and use of its facilities, members platform and materials to E.P.A. staff in order to develop projects of common interest.
- eris® and E.P.A. will host young professionals on professional improvement programs to develop projects of common interest.
- eris® is supporting the E.P.A. project of development of web based integrated services for the development and management of European funded projects and sustainable global development projects. (This project is based on the research being conducted by Mr. Dino Badić, E.P.A. Vice-president and PhD student at the International University Institute for European Studies in Gorizia, Italy);
- E.P.A. and eris® will cooperate on expanding their members’ community.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

I. General Conditions

I.1. Subject and Term of the Agreement

I.1.1. The Parties hereby undertake to perform the tasks related to the implementation of the cooperation mentioned above.

I.1.2. This Agreement shall take effect as on the 1st of March 2011 and shall remain in effect until the 1st of March 2012. This Agreement will be considered automatically prolonged from year to year, if the Parties will not express different willing.

I.3. Funding

I.3.1. Both sides agreed not to charge each other for any service that is mentioned above.

I.4. Conflict of interests

The Parties undertake to take all necessary measures in order to avoid any conflicts of interests during the performance of the Agreement, as well as to identify any conflict of interests.

ANNEX 6
COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into on 4/07/2011, by and between:

International University Institute for European Studies – IUIES, Via Mazzini 13, 34170 Gorizia, represented by its President Prof. Alberto Gasparini (hereinafter referred to as "IUIES"), and
European Projects Association ASBL - E.P.A, Boulevard de l'Empereur 24, 1000 Brussels, represented by its President Mr Dino Babic (hereinafter referred to as "E.P.A.")

WHEREAS the parties have agreed to cooperate on:
- E.P.A. is going to provide to IUIES 1 year of free of charge organization membership in the association,
- the President of IUIES, Prof. Alberto Gasparini, will cover the function of Member of the E.P.A. Advisory Board,
- IUIES will provide free access and use of its facilities and materials to E.P.A. staff in order to develop projects of common interest,
- IUIES and E.P.A. will host young professionals on professional improvement programs to develop projects of common interest,
- IUIES is supporting the E.P.A. project of development of web based integrated services for the development and management of European funded projects and sustainable global development projects (This project is based on the research being conducted by Mr. Dino Babic, E.P.A. Vice-president and PhD student at the International University Institute for European Studies in Gorizia, Italy),
- E.P.A. and IUIES will cooperate on activities common interest.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. General Conditions

1.1. Subject and Term of the Agreement

1.1.1. The Parties hereby undertake to perform the tasks related to the implementation of the cooperation mentioned above.

1.1.2. This Agreement shall take effect as on the 4th of July 2011 and shall remain in effect until the 4th of July 2012. This Agreement will be considered automatically prolonged from year to year, if the Parties will not express different willing.

1.3. Funding

1.3.1. Both sides agree not to charge each other for any service that is mentioned above.

1.4. Conflict of Interests

The Parties undertake to take all necessary measures in order to avoid any conflicts of interests during the performance of the Agreement, as well as to identify any conflict of interests.

1.5. Cooperation

The Parties agrees that attendants of the Professional Improvement Program of E.P.A., mentioned above, will become liaison officers in charge of both Parties' cooperation.

Brussels, 4th of July 2011

Mr Dino Babic
President of European Projects Association

Gorizia, 5th of September 2011

Prof. Alberto Gasparini
President of IUIES

ANNEX 7