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**Brochure of the week running
from March 1 to 6, 2015**

**Meeting with european actors
in Croatia, Zagreb and Pula**

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INTRODUCTION

Croatia is the last State to have joined the European Union. After a six-year negotiation period, which is the longest lasting accession process, Croatia became officially the 28th Member State of the Union on July 1st, 2013.

However, since it was a part of the European policy of neighborhood until its recognition as candidate State, and during its period of premembership, Croatia was already invited to participate in various programs and European projects. In this way, the former country at war stemming from the explosion of the ex-Yugoslavia was able to access various European funds. Thus the instrument of premembership (IPA) allowed to raise the country at the European level during the 2007-2013 program, allowing the actors of various institutional bodies and associations of the civil society to launch their first European projects.

In the continuity of the undertaken work, the European projects are from now integrally part of all the programs. In this context, the final year master students of European Studies and International Relations of the University of CergyPontoise had to the opportunity met the Croatian project officers. The students, divided into 5 groups, handled the organization of professional seminars on the following themes: "Education and Training", "Culture and Citizenship", "Environment", "Research and Innovation" and "Economic affairs".

Between Zagreb and Pula, from the East to the West of the country, the students were able to exchange with project managers of the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Culture, the Research institute and innovation Rüder, the association for the environmental protection "Friends of the Earth", the movement of the European Young People, the Volunteer's Center of Zagreb, the region of Istria, the museum of Maritime History in Pula, the Comitad of culture. They also discovered the role of the information desk of the European Parliament in Croatia and the representation of Zagreb to the EU.

Programme of the week running from March 1 to 6, 2015

Day 1 - Zagreb

Ministry of Economy

The European parliament information

Movement of young European

Day 2 - Zagreb

RuderBoskovic Institute

Creative Europe Desk

Day 3 - Zagreb

Volunteer's Centre Zagreb

Zelena Akcija

Day 4 - Pula

Administrative Department for Sustainable Development of Istria

Metris

Day 5 - Pula

Maritime museum of Istria

Administrative department of Culture, Region of Istria

Ministry of Economy on Monday, March 2, 2015

<u>Economics issues group :</u> C. HUBER E. PAPAROV M. RETAUX S. FIRION	Location: Zagreb, Ministry of Economy Date: 2th March 2015 Time: 11.am – 12.am Speaker : Whole team of the Department and the head of the Office, MrsZerec
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Our class of Master 2 EERI had a meeting with the Office for European and International Affairs of the Ministry of Economy of Croatia. The meeting took place in their premises in Zagreb. We had the chance to meet the whole team of the Department and the head of the Office, MrsZerec answered all our questions.

The main issue was about the way the Ministry dealt with the changes implied by the evolution of Croatia as a new member of the European Union. Indeed on 1st July 2013 Croatia became the 28th member of the EU. This was the result of a very long and difficult process as the negotiations between Croatia and the European Commission lasted for six years – the longest process in European history of accession. The process opened in 2005 and was closed in 2011. Among the 35 chapters of negotiation, the main difficulties concerned the economic issues involving the maritime sector. Another important issue was related to borders, justice and security. The difficult relationship with Slovenia had also an impact on the negotiations, but European and American diplomacy solved the problem temporarily.

A referendum was held in 2012 to know if Croatian population was in favor of Croatia's accession to the EU. About 66% of people said yes, however, the participation rate was low. It appears that it was hard to mobilize people due to the economic crisis European countries have to face.

After Croatia's membership in the EU, everything changed: economic, financial, social and energetic matters became the biggest challenges the country had to face. The working team of the Ministry of Economy focused on the importance of the energetic sector for the development of Croatia. Indeed, energy policy appears in the European global strategy and at the national level, and Croatia could have an important key role in it. Thus it is really in the center of the Croatian institutional decision process dealing with EU matters.

This field involves different actors and ministries, as the development of such a strategy implies to consider all the inputs in all sectors. The role of the Department is to gather information and to send proposals to the national government and ministries. Mrs Zerec explained us that although they are a very small team, they are dedicated to their work, multifunctional and flexible. Its organization is quite unusual as it is directly linked to the Cabinet and the Minister of Economy himself. This access to political decision makers was presented as necessary as dealing with European affairs demand a huge investment and human resources. The Office is responsible for the Competition council, the Transport and Telecommunication ones and the Energy council. In that way, it works closely with the COREPER, but considering the amount of work it cannot cover everything from Zagreb.

As for the energy policy the Ministry has developed a whole strategy, which has become an important part of the European energy diplomacy. Because of its geopolitical location and its several projects, Croatia is indeed an important partner in this specific field, which has become the main concern of the European agenda. Mrs Zerec explained that the Croatian's projects concerning energies were becoming EU projects after a long process, and that the situation in Ukraine was pushing the development of a European energy policy and energy security. According to her, every member state of the EU is in favor of these projects in Croatia. Moreover, the fact that the Minister of Economy is an engineer deeply involved in gas matters helps the Ministry to be active on this subject. The Ministry has strong connections with other Croatian institutions (transport, climate, etc.) and with Croatian energy companies in order to be able to write relevant proposals to the EC. Energy matter is the center of the European foreign policy for the members of the Ministry. One of their projects, the terminal of LNG of the Krk island is meant to be an example of how European funds could be used in central countries, for the interest of all EU's members.

As a matter of fact, it was interesting to have a different vision of the EU through a new entering member, especially through an Eastern country. As an institution, the Ministry of Economy clearly sees the EU as an amount of possibilities and is as well truly convinced that Croatia has a main role to play in the European energy policy and in the definition of a common foreign one. They are aware of their added-value to Europe and they are really willing to participate in the European process.

The european parliament information office in zagreb, march 2, 2015

<u>Socials issues group :</u> E. DE ANTONIO K. BRUNO L. MAUCOURT K. BOCHAROVA	Location: Zagreb, The European Parliament Infomation Date: 2th March 2015 Time: 1.pm – 3.pm Speaker : Andrea ČOVIĆ VIDOVIĆ, Head of Public Relations, European Parliament Information Office in Croatia Tania VLAŠIĆ, Adviser in the National Office of Human Rights and National Minorities of the Government of Croatia
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1. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are a fundamental EU value important to Europe and to the EP as the own directly elected body among European institutions. EP Information Office is responsible for advertising and promoting information on best practices in the application of traditional values and in the promotion and protection of human rights and the respect of human dignity. The idea is to find a way to make it relevant to the people. Outside of human rights it is fighting for human goals and human speech. The EP is here to fight against violation of human rights trough legislative and political means. Each member of the Parliament is also a member of a political group and has not only European influence but also interest and influence in their own country. There are 9 MEPs in Croatia and through lobbying in the media and covering certain topics, each and every MEP can be a spokesperson for different cause and topics of Human rights. Through Sakharov price they become one only spokesperson.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Sakharov Price for Freedom of Thought

Sakharov was a famous physician who worked eventually on the creation of the first Soviet hydrogen bomb; but he was increasingly disturbed by the probable consequences of his work and realized the danger of it. In the second half of his life, he became a human-rights campaigner. The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was set up in 1988. The EP awards the price each year, not only to one person to honour individuals or organisations for their efforts on behalf of human rights and fundamental freedom. It represents the most global program that the Office administer and tries to show that the EP as influence all around the globe. Members of parliament propose candidates for the Sakharov Price: the six European parties nominate their candidates for the Price and then the vote is general.

Many persons from Israel, Palestine, Cuba, Iran, Belarus, Nigeria, France, Soudan, China, and Russia have received the price. This gives a more global perspective to the EP as an institution. In 2014, December, Dr Mukwege, gynaecologist on sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been laureated for the Price.

In Croatia, there are many domestic issues due to the History of the country and only a few people have experienced the benefit of EU simply because of the difficult national economic context Croatians face. The Sakharov Price shows them how good it is to be in the EU especially in the field Human rights.

Other Programmes of the EP Office:

Sakharov Price for Freedom of Thought; Euroschola Competition - takes the best courses for Strasbourg simulation of the work of the Parliament; LUX Film Prize - Film price awarded by EP to best EU films; Cooperation with the Human rights Film Festival. There was also a documentary by Ukrainian team of director with the film "hoping the bless". We learned that the Croatian public is very interested because they discussed it on Facebook; EYE 2014 /European Youth Event 2014; Events that cover economy, we had the recession for a while so we often deal with those topics; European Citizens' Award; Common organization of events with NGOs; Program that is important for the EP is the equality issue: International women day with a campaign towards the empowerment of women trough education; and also Programs that do not directly target policy but send messages.

3. The National Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities

In the Republic of Croatia, human rights are protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, international treaties to which Croatia is a signatory and the Law. The Major institutions in Croatia are: the Parliament, which is the most important one, and four other independent institutions for the protection of human rights:

1° The Ombudsman is the central body for the elimination of discrimination based on other grounds as well (prisons), 2° with the exception of disability, which falls within the competence of the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities, 3° and sex and sexual orientation, which are dealt with by the Gender Equality Ombudsperson, 4° Office of the Ombudsman for children.

There is also the office for cooperation with civil society in Croatia which has funded a lot of projects related to Human rights and which administers a lot of EU funds.

Commissions and national committees of the Croatian Government for the protection of human rights: Government's Commission for Human Rights, Government's Commission for

Monitoring the Implementation of the National Roma Program, Commission for Disabled Persons, Commission for the Prevention of Behavioural Disturbances in Children and Youth, National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, National Committee for Human Rights Education, National Bioethics Commission for Medicine, Commission for Relations with Religious Communities, Children's Council, Council for Development of Civil Society, National Minorities Council.

Particularity of our system: We work a lot with the Council of Europe. During the EU accession, one of the benchmark at that point was to improve the capacities of our own institutions. Since this, our office is responsible for monitoring directives and for recommendations issued by the Ombuds institutions in terms of coordinating and letting all the ministries know about the recommendations.

Concrete examples of EU funding:

We did not use the European funds for asylum, migration and integration (AMIF), we have applied in this 2014-2020 period but we are still seeking a national coordination. We have used other projects like the CARDS programme (Community assistance for reconstruction, development and stabilisation) (2000-2006); the Programme of Community aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (PHARE) (2000-2006); the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) projects (from 2007), PROGRESS programme (2007-2013) and now we have applied to Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020. CARD was used regarding the trafficking of Human being and the institutions set up in this area. PHARE and IPA were used regarding the Roma settlement and the organization of the conditions in which Roma live whereas PROGRESS was used to support our work and that of the Ombuds. We have had a very good experience with EU funds.

When the Anti-discrimination Act (ADA) was adopted, we have had funding to implement the act, EU funds helped us to implement the activities, and the project was implemented together with the Ombuds institutions (independent institution as the government office) and one NGO. Raising the capacity of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the Anti-discrimination Act: we have had training for various stakeholders.

Croatia has a lack of data's on various human rights issues so a lot of research activities were funded through the EU programmes. We opened telephone lines where people who have experienced discrimination could call. We have built a quality data base and a Database within the Ombuds institutions for data monitoring. A lot of the campaigns were done either through PROGRESS or IPA.

Movement of young european, march 2, 2015

<u>Youth group & Economics issues :</u> K. STOISTEVA C. HUBER J.DROUET E. PAPAROV H.WALTER M. RETAUX PY. TOURPIN S. FIRION	Location: Zagreb, Movement of young European Date: 2th March 2015 Time: 4.pm – 6.pm Speaker : Marko Boko and Renata Bačić
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The meeting with the Movement of Young European was held on Monday the 2nd of March 2015 in the Europe House of Zagreb located in the center of the capital of Croatia.

During this two-hour meeting, we discussed with Marko Boko and **RenataBačić**.

RenataBačić is a European project Manager of the Europe House of Zagreb and a representative of the European Movement of Croatia. She is very concerned by the European issues in Croatia and she is involved in the European Movement of Croatia since its creation as she was at the heart of the integration process of Croatia in the European Union in 2013.

Marko Boko is a 24 year old student in political sciences and the president of the National Youth Council of Croatia. He is active in several students and citizens initiatives about youth and social rights in various other youth organizations at local, regional, national, European and international levels.

MrBoko pointed out facts and figures about the situation of young people in Croatia. The unemployment rate is extremely high, and estimated in between 40% and 50%. Also the involvement of young people in associations, around 9%, or for political elections, is very low.

The main objective of the association is to defend the youth policy, rights and employment. They are active in citizenship actions and provide basic level to the people (quesignifiecette phrase?). They participated in EU projects as local trainers for the young to create NGO. They have made a lot of contact with other youth organizations in Europe in order to share ideas and experiences.

Through the Youth Employment Initiative, they obtained an important budget to develop in-company placement and apprenticeship. However, it did not help the employment of young people as when one student has accomplished his internship, he is replaced by another intern. We felt this tension between economic interests and social issues for the youth.

Discussions and impressions

We have seen a lot of different actors in Croatia. However, this appointment was really interesting as it allowed us to reinforce our knowledge about the way youth movement tackle with social, economic and politic issues in this time of recession. These issues affect us directly in our respective countries and seeing the viewpoint of Croatian youth representatives.

YOUTH GROUP: K. STOITSEVA, PY. TOURPIN, J. DROUET, H. WALTER

ECONOMICS ISSUES: C. HUBER, E. PAPAROV, S. FIRION, M. RETAUX

RuđerBošković Institute, March 3, 2015

<u>Innovation group :</u> PA. LEGRIX P. BENAVENT E. GRAF	Location: Zagreb, Ruđer Bošković Institute Date: Tuesday, 3 rd March 2015 Time: 9.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Speaker: MarijanaKlasnićKožar, Head of the Office for Projects and International Collaboration, and TomislavSmuc, her assistant and research scientist at the RBI
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The meeting at the *RuđerBošković Institute* (RBI) was chaired by MarijanaKlasnićKožar, Head of the Office for Projects and International Collaboration, and TomislavSmuc, her assistant and research scientist at the RBI. The conference was divided into two main parts: a short presentation of the research institute, followed by a presentation of the Department for Projects and International Collaboration. During the meeting, a lively interactive discussion took place between the chairs and the students, who showed great interest in the topic.

The RBI is the biggest multidisciplinary research institute in Croatia. It covers life sciences and other disciplines, such as physics, chemistry, marine and environmental research, geosciences, computer science, electronics and engineering. The mission of RBI is to deliver high quality basic research, and its long-term perspective is to become a leading European centre of scientific excellence.

The RBI was founded in 1950 and was originally dedicated to physical research. The institute first gained multidisciplinary character in 1963. Today the RBI counts 11 research divisions, 82 research laboratories and 3 research centres, such as the Marine Research Centre. It employs a total of 850 people, amongst whom there are 500 researchers who account for 6% of the country's total number of researchers. In recent years, Croatia has become more and more attractive for foreign researchers, and the RBI currently employs researchers from countries like Australia, Italy, Spain and France. Besides, the institute holds 50% of the Croatian registered scientific equipment and produces 32% of the country's scientific publications. Finally, RBI has successfully set up five spin off companies specialised amongst others in ICT, innovation and technology transfer, and biotechnology.

The RBI has been participating in EU projects since the launch of the FP5 and the institute is Croatia's top beneficiary of European funding. Although EU funds are by far the most important financial resource for the research activities of the RBI, the institute also benefits from non-EU

funds that come for example from NATO, IAEA or national institutions, such as the Ministry of Science or the National Science Foundation. Within the current EU funding programming period, RBI is participating in two ERC-projects, four H2020-projects; and one ERA-project is still pending.

The institute also tries to establish active cooperation with Croatian private companies, which is sometimes difficult because of a general lack of interest from the companies. According to TomislavSmuc, this is due to the fact that Croatian companies are small and lack the necessary budget to invest in long-term research activities. They actually need quick results and products that they can immediately launch on the market. The Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Sport, which is, together with the Ministry of Economy and Energy, the highest public instance in charge of the research and innovation sector, also tries to create synergies between the Croatian academic research institutes and the national industry. Since Croatia has become an EU Member State, there are dedicated funds of € 8 billion for establishing ties between these two fields. However, TomislavSmuc thinks that this budget might be kept unused due to a potential lack of relevant high quality projects.

To ensure a smooth running of the research activities, the RBI has a dedicated department, the *Office for Projects and International Collaboration* (OPIC). The OPIC is designed as a one stop shop for the internal RBI departments, such as the research divisions, the legal or the accounting departments. As the RBI is the most experienced Croatian institute in terms of project management, it also cooperates with external researchers and national institutions, including the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Sport, the Croatian Chamber of Economy, the Croatian Science Foundation, the industry and SMEs. The Office has an informative, consulting and supportive mission and guides the researchers throughout their projects, from the proposal submission to the actual implementation of the projects. Currently, the six people who work at the OPIC are dealing with 210 different projects. They do not subcontract any of them.

As well as (?) the work with the RBI researchers, the role of the OPIC is particularly crucial for newcomers, who have to be well guided in order to understand the rules of EU funding instruments. The Office generally recommends to their researchers to become EU evaluators themselves in order to improve their application skills for their own projects. According to MarijanaKlasnićKožar, RBI researchers are quite reluctant to follow the EU application rules. Yet, they are more and more aware of the importance of EU funding, since national funds are

limited and even more complicated to apply to. Currently, only 0.7% of the total national budget is spent on research.

To sum up, the conference at the *RuđerBošković Institute* was very interesting, varied and interactive. It offered a broad overview of the RBI research activities, the work at the OPIC and the relevance of EU funding for the RBI. Also, it allowed the students to gain insight in the existing initiatives to strengthen the cooperation between the research and innovation sector, as well as in the state of mind of Croatian researchers regarding the EU and its funding opportunities.

INNOVATION GROUP: PA. LEGRIX, E. GRAF, P. BENAVENT

European impact on cultural projects: the example of creative europe desk of croatia, march 3, 2015

<u>Cultural group :</u> F. JARRIGE, P. GIRAUDET, R. ZAHARIEVA L. NECCI	Location: Zagreb, Creative Europe Desk Date: 3 rd March 2015 Time: 4.pm – 6.pm Speaker: MladenŠpehar
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The purpose of the meeting was to present the ministry of culture and the function of a Creative Europe desk in a new entered country. The meeting was informal.

The cultural aspect in Croatia

The speakers tried to start by a general presentation of the Ministry of Culture in Croatia but the first question from the students was about European Capital of Culture. This field seemed important for the Ministry because Dubrovnik applied to become the Capital in 2020. The Ministry and the Creative Europe Desk are in charge of managing the application the winner will be known in 2016. After this brief explanation, the representative person from the Ministry started to present their goals and their main activities. The Ministry is interested in different kind of cultural aspects like contemporary art or support to cultural associations. An interesting element was the "Back pack of culture" which is an initiation in art for children in elementary school. National cultural priorities are the support of Contemporary art, Heritage and some similar European main topics such as audience development, mainstreaming, access to culture etc. Regarding audience and sustainability, one question related to cultural goals and EU aims was asked. The Ministry seems to be aware that audience is important to promote cultural events. Finally they promoted their Festivals and it seems that those events are very popular and well known in Croatia and in Europe.

Croatia and EU cultural program

Further, MladenŠpehar explained us the beginning of using EU culture programme. Croatia started in 2007-2008 with small NGOs and, years after years, with more experiences, cities, counties and bigger structures started to participate in those schemes. Now their good results of application form are high mainly in cooperation projects (70% of their applying files) and in translation projects (6/7%). Croatia is the 3rd countries in getting Creative program funds for translation. It is important for them to spread out a rarely spoken language. The students were wondering if they felt changes since Croatia entered Europe. Answer was different than other actors in European field because of the fact that they used to have a Creative Desk before

the entry. Indeed, the entry of Croatia in the EU didn't change much, cultural stakeholders in Croatia used to reach European culture project since years.

The creative desk

The organisation of the creative desk was similar to other creative desk in Europe. They represented a link between Brussels and Croatia regarding cultural scheme. They used to inform people by making seminar and conferences. They are in charge of the implementation of the programme in Croatia. All representatives of Creative desks in Europe need to meet their colleagues twice years. The representatives of the Desk have contributed to the development of new European Creative program by lobbying in Brussels. According to them the program completed their expectation.

Students were satisfied that their answers were honest and clear. For instance a question was related to Scandinavia influence in cultural strategies and they admitted that it was personal feeling. They were mostly inspired by their way of thinking than the sustainability cultural view promoted in EU projects. Another example concerns Serbia new creative desk. They explain us how they help them build their own desk and manage the program in Serbia.

CULTURAL GROUP:F. JARRIGE, P. GIRAUDET, R. ZAHARIEVA AND L. NECCI

Volunteers' Centre Zagreb, March 4, 2015

<u>Youth group :</u> K. STOISTEVA J.DROUET H.WALTER PY. TOURPIN	Location: Zagreb, Volunteers' Centre Zagreb Date: 4 th March 2015 Time: 10.am – 11.am Speaker: Ivana PavelicSprajc, the coordinator of volunteers and international exchanges
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Report The meeting with the Volunteer's Centre Zagreb took place on Wednesday the 4th of March 2015 at 10 am in the Zagreb office of the NGO Friends of Earth. The students of the Master degree in European affairs and International relations, European projects from Cergy-Pontoise University had the opportunity to discuss european financing and projects with Ivana PavelicSprajc, the coordinator of volunteers and international exchanges.

I. Origins of the volunteering in Croatia Under the communist regime, NGO and civil society involvement couldn't exist. The most NGO's have their roots in peace movements. The volunteer movement started after the war in 1996, when people came to Croatia to help and rebuild war-devastated areas. Most of them came from Switzerland. Organised volunteer projects started in 1997. In 1998, the volunteering became more structured with the official registration of the Service Civil International (SCI). This was the beginning of the creation of the Volunteers' Centre Zagreb. In 2001 it became an associate member of SCI and in 2007 an official branch of the network. Since 2003, the Center sends and receives the EVS volunteers, too.

II. The Center Volunteers' Centre is the oldest and most experienced organization in the field of voluntary actions in Croatia. It mission is to encourage volunteering and make it accessible to everyone in Croatia. The Centre is involved in SCI as well as EVS programmes. Also, it organizes on a regular basis different information days and campaigns which aim at promoting voluntary actions. To make the center well-known: open doors are organized all tuesdays and sundays. The Centre is organizing training sessions for other NGO and associations on writing and managing a volunteer project (3 modules: motivation, project writing and evalutation). Currently there are four people working full-time, two people working part-time, two trainees and two EVS volunteers.

III. What has changed in the last years?

1. National level: In 2007, the Croatian Parliament adopted a law on volunteering, first of such kind in the country. A special department has been created in order to help and encourage volunteer actions.

2. EU Level: Before the joining of Croatia to the EU in 2014, there was no national agency in Croatia. That's why, projects had to be submitted through SALTO located in Ljubljana or to Brussels.

IV. Projects the Volunteers' Centre Zagreb has participated in around 10 projects (as a close partner or as coordinating organization). Particularly, since 2008 they took part in 2 big projects. In the frame of pre-accession funds, they developed new projects. Projects focus are on several aspects: peace, social inclusion, gender equality and intercultural contexts. They are often involving high school pupils. After each project, a final meeting is organized to share experiences and conclusions. The obtained funds allowed the organization to further develop and employ more people. Therefore, the team working on projects has grown up to 9 people today. The work is divided in different work groups: environment, climate, youth unemployment etc. 1400 projects are developed at a worldwide scale, and 1800 at a local scale.

1. Database project: behind this project is to collect all the volunteers and organizations working in Croatia and thus establish a unique and reliable database. Up to the moment, there are almost 500 registered organizations and more than 12 000 volunteers.
2. Developing local volunteer center: the idea was to develop volunteering equally everywhere in the country. The project managed to establish 4 regional volunteer centers and 2 local in Rijeka and Split. Today they are all applying to european project calls and submitting proposals together.

Questions: 1. Do you organize exchanges between former Yugoslav countries?

In the past, the exchange of volunteers between countries from the region was encouraged in order to reconcile people and establish new relations between the countries. There was a problem to accept Serbian volunteers after the war. That is why, in 2007 United Nations conducted an EVS project on exchanging volunteers between former Yugoslav countries. Although people are opening up, it is still hard to find volunteers that want to go to Serbia for exemple. For the moment the most popular destination among Croatians is Spain.

2. Are young people aware of the EVS program? Usually people are informed through our web site or through a friend who has already participated in a volunteer program or through an information day (like Open doors). Medias are giving a wrong image of EVS as a possibility to leave the country.

3. What are the main topics for international programs? On a local level, voluntary actions focus mostly on work with kids, youth and elderly people or in the field of human rights. There is still a difficulty to enter other sectors. Hospitals for example are unwilling to accept volunteers. On international level environmental topics predominates.

4. How are you establishing the contact with international partners? There has always been communication and contact before the idea of submitting a project. We have never started from nothing. The project has to be useful and have a real meaning. For 7 years, the Centre has established partnership with 62 local communities/ partners. International meeting are organized regularly and they help establishing partnerships with international organizations.

5. Does the experience as a volunteer helps young people find work afterwards? By the end of this year the Ministry should implement the Croatian version of the Youth Pass. The business world does not take into account the Youth Pass, because volunteering is still considered as free time activity. There is no recognition for volunteership until now.

6. What are the main difficulties to international volunteers to come to Croatia? For years the government did not recognise foreign volunteers. Therefore they were illegal and had difficulties in applying for visa. With the modification in the law in 2007, the government recognises volunteering as a work. So even if the volunteers aren't illegal anymore, they now have to ask for special work permits. This presents a new amount of work and money for the Center and it is therefore lobbying to change that rule.

7. Ivana Pavelic Sprajc Involved since 10 years, she started as a volunteer and coordinator in a training camp in Germany and became EVS employee in 2012. In 10 years, she attended 15 camps. When the Balkans EVS started, she did volunteer service in Macedonia. Her motivation is doing well for local community. Our impressions Ivana Sprajc was welcoming and open to answer all our questions. She introduced well and fully the EVS although her workmates couldn't attend to this meeting. Our meeting was helpful and brought us interesting information and details on how volunteer ship is managed in Zagreb and more widely in Croatia. Volunteership is developed in Croatia linked to the 1990's war. The youth knows the EVS process and doesn't hesitate to participate in European projects. Besides, EVS Zagreb aims to develop more and more volunteer ship at a local scale. However there are still some obstacles such as the volunteer status or the lack of recognition of this experience by the professional area.

YOUTH GROUP: K. STOISTEVA, J. DROUET, H. WALTER, PY. TOURPIN

ZelenaAkcija/Green Action, March 4, 2015

<u>Environnemental group :</u> D. LAMOUREUX C. GARNIER G. LUNGU T. FABRE	Location: Zagreb, ZelenaAkcija/Green Action Date: 4 th March 2015 Time: 1.pm – 3.pm Speaker: Bernard Ivicic, the President of the association
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On Wednesday, the 4th of March, we met the leading non-governmental organization for environmental protection in Croatia, **ZelenaAkcija/Green Action (Friends of the earth Croatia)**, in its headquarters in Zagreb. Created in 1990, it is one of the oldest NGOs in Croatia. Around 17 people are currently working for it, including our speaker, Bernard Ivicic, the President of the association and engineer by training.

The general environmental situation in Croatia

First, Mr. Ivicic explained us that the Croatian people are not very eco-friendly. Indeed, they are more and more aware of the environment, but only a few are really changing their habits. One of the reasons is that they don't have the opportunity to do it (e.g. there are not enough containers to recycle). But in his opinion, "*things are going better*". Organic farming is for example increasing in Croatia.

According to him, the fact that Croatia had to respect the EU environmental standards in order to enter the EU has had generally positive impacts on Croatian laws, except for some like the one on GMOs, which has become more flexible than before. However, he thinks that Croatia doesn't really recognize the opportunities that the integration represents yet and that the problems are still solved in a national way instead as in a European way.

Then, regarding the energy objectives for 2020, we have learnt that Croatia had been criticized in its attitude. Indeed, because of the war in the 90s, Croatia didn't emit a lot of CO₂ and that is why the country has the right to emit more, as they will still be under the fixed goals. Therefore, the President of ZelenaAkcija thinks that it would be better not to use 1990 as a basis.

Besides he spoke about the green political parties in Croatia. They were seven in the past: some of them were founded by larger parties, and some cooperated with extreme right wing parties. Today, only one still exists: the OraH (Walnut), a party very strong until lately, but overtaken at the last elections by a new party famous for physically blocking the policemen trying to expel

families for unpaid rent. Our speaker also highlighted the fact that ZelenaAkcija is independent regarding political parties.

The main projects and activities of ZelenaAkcija

First, the association had an important role in the pre-accession process in employing two lawyers to lobby the Croatian Parliament. Still, the association doesn't have a strong impact at the international level because it is the role of the international association of Friends of the earth. However, the NGO is preparing some activities for the COP21 in Paris in 2015 and also cooperates a lot with other Balkan countries to transfer their experience as a new EU member.

Then, the NGO has nowadays a dozen of projects and campaigns about topics, as for instance energy, protection of natural resources... Their activities are mainly focused on Zagreb and its region. For instance, every Thursday volunteers repair bicycles for free. 70% of their budget is coming from the EU funds (Pre-accession funds, Life+, etc.) and they work with several partners: other organizations of Friends of the earth, Greenpeace, WWF, Climate Action Network, the Croatian and city government (e.g. for a recycling project). Most of their projects are aimed to try to solve the problems and only some of them are protest actions to oppose to negative projects from the government or other actors (e.g. to stop projects using fossil fuels). Their campaigns had a lot of success, e.g. the construction of 200 km bicycle paths in Zagreb. The key of their success is to do very visible protest actions in order to attract the media.

The point of view of ZelenaAkcija on current debates

They are against the Ionian Adriatic pipeline project that the Ministry of Economy had presented to us, as they would prefer the development of other energies than gas. They have a big campaign with other NGOs against another Ministry project whose goal is to drill oil in the Adriatic Sea. He also said that it is "*rather ambitious*" from the Ministry to say that Croatia has a big role in European energy.

Then, the association has organized a campaign against the TTIP as they think that all the EU standards will be reducing with this partnership and that too many power will be given to the companies.

He is also rather pessimistic about the COP21 and thinks personally that what will be decided will be not enough in order to be below the 2°C fixed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Conclusion

Our exchange with the head of ZelenaAkcija was very interesting and rich in information. Mr. Ivicic was spontaneous and honest in his answers. He gave us a more citizen approach on the environmental issues than the one given by the Ministry of Economy and by the Region of Istria.

For more information about the activities of ZelenaAkcija: <http://zelena-akcija.hr/en>

ENVIRONNEMENTAL GROUP: D. LAMOUREUX, C. GARNIER, G. LUNGU, T. FABRE

Administrative Department for Sustainable Development of Istria, March 5, 2015

<u>Environnemental group :</u> D. LAMOUREUX C. GARNIER G. LUNGU T. FABRE	Location: Pula, Administrative Department for Sustainable Development of Istria, Date: 5 th March 2015 Time: 1.p.m – 3.p.m Speaker: Bruno Kostelić, Adviser for European issues in the Department who is also an expert in waste and water management, Dunja Babić, Professional collaborator for international projects and Patrizia Bosich, Head for the Department of International Cooperation
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On the morning of Thursday the 5th of March we met with the Administrative Department for Sustainable Development of the Region of Istria. We were received in a conference room near their offices in Pula. Three people were there to answer our questions, although the department has five people dealing with EU projects: Bruno Kostelić, Adviser for European issues in the Department who is also an expert in waste and water management, Dunja Babić, Professional collaborator for international projects, and Patrizia Bosich, Head for the Department of International Cooperation and EU affairs who only attended the first part of the meeting. The Administrative Department for Sustainable Development deals with the preservation of the environment all the while that this comes with the improvement of quality of life and economic development. The department collaborates with bodies of state administration and bodies of local self-government.

Overview of the EU programmes that the Region is involved in

Croatia has had the possibility to apply for EU funds since 2007, due to the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance funds. The Region of Istria is one of the most involved Croatian regions in cross-border projects (INTERREG). This was possible especially due to the IPA Adriatic programme, which brings together several EU member states (Italy, Slovenia, Greece and Croatia) and some non-EU states (Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina). Istria was also the first Croatian region to join an international organisation: the Assembly of the European Regions, but also the first to have an interest representation office in Brussels ever since 2005.

Territorial administration

Istria has the particularity of being a bilingual region with two official languages: Croatian and Italian. With its Adriatic coast and particular cultural heritage, Istria is much more active in its partnerships with Italian regions, than with regions from former Yugoslavia.

In Croatia, there are three levels of authority: the local level (about 450 municipalities), the county level (21 counties) and the national one. Counties have competences in education, sustainable development and environment and a few taxes. Mrs Bosich expressed her discontent with this delimitation of competences and expressed her desire to see Istria endowed with the same competences as Italian ones, like energy or legislation. It was interesting to see two members of the same department disagree on such a basic concept: after Mrs Bosich left the meeting, Mr Kostelić disagreed and said that counties would not have the capacity to carry this type of competences, nor would it be advisable in such domains such as energy, which are of national or even of European importance. Because Croatia is a very small country, he said, big infrastructural projects need to be implemented at the national level and regions should deal with "softer subjects".

EU funds are managed at the national level only and no funds are managed at the regional level like in France or Italy. The budget for Croatia is valued at approximately one billion Euros for the 2014-2020 period, which is not comparable with other countries. To this date, ten calls have already been published. An issue for Istria is that some funds are already reserved for national projects, which the state will implement itself.

Environmental issues and EU projects of the Department of Sustainable Development:

Previously to the meeting, Bernard Kostelić sent some documents with information about the EU projects that the Department is or was involved in so he can directly answer questions to the date of the meeting.

According to him, there are several stages to planning a project: having an idea, finding a program, finding partners and improving the initial idea and the application process. Due to the extensive experience with EU funds, the Department of Sustainable development, doesn't have to look for partners anymore, it is directly invited to participate in consortia.

After a brief presentation of their projects, which all captured the interest of the audience, Mr Kostelić talked a little about the main environmental issues in Croatia and Istria respectively.

The first environmental law was adopted in 1997 and an important set of environmental laws was adopted in 2004. Since then, there haven't been any changes in legislation. Waste management has been one of the main issues in Croatia, with only 5% of waste being recycled and a 25% national target. Another issue has been illegal waste, which the Region dealt with in an NGO manner, rather than a regional authority, by employing a shock-based campaign.

Mr Kostelić underlined the fact that being successful in EU projects is very difficult and thus the Department's projects only concern fields in which the team is an expert: water, waste and karst. However, it was surprising to see that none of the environmental projects concerned tourism, one of the most harmful factors of the environment in Croatia.

The team expressed their preference for cross-border projects and for programs managed directly by the EC, as the national authorities for structural and investment funds have more strict controls and arrive very late after the end of the project.

Mr Kostelić also expressed his preference not to work with NGOs, because they are not open to compromises. He then gave a very interesting example of a landfill which could be built in a protected lake if the costs of waste transport are too important if done elsewhere. This compromise, he said, would not be acceptable for NGOs.

Conclusion

It was particularly interesting to be able to compare the points of view of a local authority and of an NGO. As Mr Kostelić pointed out, they have different and sometimes not compatible approaches.

ENVIRONNEMENTAL GROUP: D. LAMOUREUX, C. GARNIER, G. LUNGU, T. FABRE

METRIS – Research Centre for Materials, March 5, 2015

<u>Research and innovation group :</u> PA. LEGRIX P. BELEVANT E. GRAF	Location: Pula, METRIS Date: Tuesday, 5th March 2015 Time: 1.p.m – 3.p.m Speaker: Sanja Kantaruti, the Incubator Manager
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The meeting at METRIS, the Research Centre for Materials in the Region of Istria, was chaired by Sanja Kantaruti, the Incubator Manager. The conference was divided into two main parts: a presentation of the research centre and its EU related activities, given by Sanja Kantaruti, followed by a guided visit through the laboratories by two scientists working at the centre. During the visit, the scientists answered the questions of the students, who showed much interest in the research facilities and the work of the scientists.

Presentation

The research centre METRIS was founded in 2009 within the EU project "*Research Centre for Metal Industry in Istrian County – MET.R.IS.*". The project, which was budgeted at € 740,000, was co-financed by the European PHARE 2006 fund. METRIS was established in an abandoned part of a hospital. The European funds were used for the renovation of the site and the purchase of high-end research equipment for material analysis.

Until recently, METRIS was part of the Istrian Development Agency (IDA) and was the agency's R&D department. It obtained an autonomous status on 16th January 2015 and is now officially called *Research Centre for Materials in the Region of Istria – METRIS*.

METRIS is divided into three different departments specialised in chemistry, mechanics and biotechnology. The main objective of the centre is to provide quality control services, advice and expertise on the development of new or the improvement of existing products. The centre also tries to boost technology development, to support services regarding the development of prototypes and pilots, as well as scientific research and development. Hence, METRIS plays a key role in supporting development for SMEs and innovation, and in bridging the gap between science and innovation. It works with both the public and private sector. The research centre is also responsible for the management of a technology incubator¹ in order to provide quality support to the establishment of innovative start-up firms.

¹www.tehnoloskiinkubator.com

METRIS is particularly committed to the implementation of EU and national projects. Since 2009, it has been involved in more than five IPA projects, and it was also the coordinator of the METRIS PLUS project. According to SanjaKantaruti, it has been quite complicated to implement these EU projects, since they involve actors coming from different fields. Nevertheless, EU projects have always been of very high importance for METRIS, and SanjaKantaruti thinks that the research centre would probably not exist without EU funding. SanjaKantaruti also highlighted the fact that METRIS has learnt a lot thanks to its cross-border relations with Italy.

Visit

Four laboratories were visited, where the students could observe different types of equipment: microscopes for analysing materials linked to cultural heritage, a spectrometer for testing the quality of metals, computers for cell analysis, and others. The majority of this equipment was acquired within different EU projects. METRIS being very conscious about complying with EU communication rules, the machines and pieces of furniture (e.g. chairs) show the EU logo. The equipment used at METRIS is one of the most expensive (one microscope was bought at € 250,000) and most performing in Croatia, which makes METRIS particularly attractive for the relevant national stakeholders.

The permanent staff at METRIS is only six scientists, which means that besides their research activities, the scientists also have to deal with administrative and financial tasks related to the different projects they are involved in. Despite the heavy workload, the scientists enjoy working at METRIS, as it provides excellent research equipment. They also appreciate the opportunities to participate in EU projects, as this allows them to publish articles and to meet people coming from different backgrounds, like museums, universities and SMEs. In other terms, the assignments of the scientists working at METRIS are highly varied and dynamic and also offer them the opportunity to travel abroad.

To conclude, the visit at METRIS was very rich in information and diverse. It was particularly interesting for the students to visit the laboratories and to discuss with the scientists, since this allowed them to get an idea of their point of view regarding their involvement in EU projects. The students also learnt about the role and importance of EU funds dedicated to Research and Development projects. Finally, it was very formative for them to see the wide range of projects that can be implemented in an organisation that uses sophisticated high-end machines.

European impact on istrian museums: the example of the historical and maritime museum of istria, march 6, 2015

<u>Cultural group :</u> F. JARRIGE, P. GIRAUDET, R. ZAHARIEVA L. NECCI	Location: Zagreb, Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria Date: 6th March 2015 Time: 9.am – 11.am Speaker: Katarina Pocedic – Curator of the Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria
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The purpose of this meeting was to present the European impact on a museum and its exhibitions. Indeed, this museum has been a part of various european projects under the phase of préadhesion of Croatia to the EU and is a current stakeholder of a project. Moreover, the historical museum is a member of a european network called Euromuse which enables its members to do projects together and enhance good practices and shared experiences. The speaker presented to us the museum itself, their past projects and their link with the EU and vision for the future.

The Historical and Maritime Museum history

The speaker explained us that the museum was located in a venitian castle. It is a regional structure which is funded by public money from the region mostly, the state, the city and a bit from the EU. Asides from European projects, the museum is involved in projects in the educational field with schools and kindergarden even if this is not yet organised at a more implemented level. Moreover, the administration of the museum tries to connect and work with universities throught internships.

The museum and European projects

Katarina Pocedic then told us about the different projects the museum took part in at the European level. The first one was the joining of the European network Euromuse. This network gathers museums around this area of Europe. Then, the museum applied for funds to restore and maintain their museum. The italian fund was made to restore and maintain venitian cultural heritage. That way, the museum was able to restore its place and realise more exhibitions.

Following this first experience, the museum took part in an international project called ADRIAMUSE for cultural heritage in coastal areas. These funds enabled the museum to improve

their communicational strategy and they participate to the creation of an application developed for children about items presented in different istrian museums.

The speaker developed more the current project involving the museum : HERA which is a big project with 19 partners. HERA aims at reconstructing and rehabilitating the water tank in the grounds of the museum. The speaker was not really aware of the role of the museum in this particular project but told us that the objective was to develop the country, the coast and the museum itself.

Concerning the advantages and disadvantages brought by the EU, the speaker explained that in general, applying to a european fund was quite complicated with lots of paperwork but a good experience which makes learn. She added that it enables her and her director to meet with lots of colleagues, to exchange experiences and to share good practices. Moreover, thanks to the european projects, the museum shares items and exhibitions with other museums in Europe.

The vision and perspectives within the European Union

Even if there are some projects planned within the european framework, Mrs. Pocedic asserted that it was just the beginning and so the museum will need time to get used to this and that there was still lots of work to do. However, it appears that the adhesion to the EU gives the historical museum a larger view of the possibilities and more opportunities. They want to keep on cooperating with their neighbours and thanks to their network and their previous experience in EU projects, it is easier for them to connect with other stakeholders.

For the future, the speaker spoke about an ongoing reflection on H2020 and the Zerostrasse (an underground network built in 1913 used as a shelter during aerian attacks and now changed into art galleries). However, she admitted that there was no real project for now. Concerning, Creative Europe, the Museum has not planned to apply for now.

Conclusion

The speaker did not seemed very at ease with European projects and this is understandable due to the fact she did not really managed any of the projects but worked merely as a curator. However, this was interesting to have the insight of a partner of european projects and not only the administrative vision of the institutions.

This meeting enables the public to understand the difficulty European projects and programs can represent for people who are not familiar with this framework. Indeed, Katarina Pocedic has a background of historical studies which does not include european projects and she learnt

on the field. Moreover, it shows that european projects can be found in lots of areas and fields and that with experience, projects can be successful.

For more information :



Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria
Gradinski Upson 6
52 100 Pula – CROATIA
<http://ppmi.hr/hr/> and <http://www.euromuse.net/>
Contact: ppmi@ppmi.hr

CULTURAL GROUP : P. GIRAUDET, F.JARRIGE, L. NECCI, R.ZAHARIEVA

The role of the Local authorities on the implementation of UE projects based on culture, Administrative Department of Culture, Region of Istria, March 6, 2015.

<u>Cultural group :</u> F. JARRIGE, P. GIRAUDET, R. ZAHARIEVA L. NECCI	Location: Zagreb, Building of the Comitad of Pula Date: 6th March 2015 Time: 10.am – 12.am Speaker: Mrs Puljko, Local authorities, Istria Delegate for International projects
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General overview

The region of Istria is characterizing with multiculturalism and bilingualism which facilitate the cultural relations with neighboring countries and regions. Since the negotiation period for accession to EU, Croatia has been benefited of EU programs such as IPA and Istria takes on a key role on the implementation of EU cross-border projects. Currently, Istria implements projects in relation with the European programs for cultural development and has its representation office in Brussels. One of Istria's priorities is to better protect its cultural heritage and regional identity within European projects. In this field the region of Istria (cultural department) has recently elaborated a new strategy on cultural policy for 2014-2020 period called « Creative Istria for Creative Europe ». The Local authorities have been establishing a partnership with many stakeholders such as State institutions, universities and museums from Croatia and the neighboring countries: Slovenia, Italy, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Projects implemented by the Local authorities of Istria

The project called Heart of Istria based on Istrian heritage and art was implemented during the period 2006-2008 in relation with the program INTERREG III. It represents a cross-border project between Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia. Its main objectives are to promote the cultural tourism in Istria and create a cross-border tourist itinerary, to increase scientific evaluations of the cultural heritage. A second cross-border project called Revitas is implemented with the same purpose: revitalization of the Istrian hinterland and tourism as part of the operational program IPA in cooperation with Slovenia. The project focuses on the cultural heritage, promoting the cultural and sustainable tourism. The main activities of the projects are conservation, revitalization of the original buildings, workshops, seminars and conferences. During the period 2011-2014 the Local authorities worked on AdriaMuse project, part of the program IPA

Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation which aims to strengthen the relations among partners and support the sustainable development of Adriatic area through the harmonization of local policies. This project includes a wide range of innovative methods aiming at better attracting the population. More precisely, it encompasses specific activities related to new technologies and information such as creating mobile applications regarding the Croatian museum and protected cultural sites; street museums and exhibitions are organized within the project. It seems to be highly important because of its particular target group: children at primary and secondary school. For various reasons during the last 2 decades children participate less and less in cultural activities and events. This project gives the opportunity to bring closer the young population of Istria to their culture. On the other hand, this group is targeted because of the needs to educate children to preserve the cultural heritage and increase their involvement in cultural activities. The communication via website dedicated to the project takes a major role to outreach this specific target group. Activities in some schools allow to involve actively the children in this project. A pilot project in relation with the same program has been implemented for the period 2012 – 2015 called EX.PO AUS (Extension of Potentially of Adriatic UNESCO Sites) which purpose is to set up a network between the UNESCO sites of the Adriatic Sea. The last project of the Local authorities of Istria is called HERA and is implemented for a 3-year period (2013-2016). This project is based on sustainable tourism management of Adriatic heritage and has the same global objectives as the project implemented during the pre-accession period. In fact this is the only project based on culture that Istria implements after joining the European Union.

The presentation of the Istrian projects has been followed by a debate based mainly on the process of the communication and dissemination of projects' outcomes as strategy to attract the population. During the debate, it became clear that the Local authorities have some activities for sensibilizing different target groups of the Istrian population but they don't take any specific measures regarding the Istrian civil society. High quality books and brochures, CDs, internet platforms, videogames for children dealing with Istria heritage have been produced in order to reach the population. Creating these products consume a lot of time and financial resources. In addition, these materials are published in many languages which increase even more the expenses related to the project. However, an important activity taken over by the local authorities is cultural education (that has been discussed at the first meeting, at the Ministry of Culture in Zagreb) which targets the Istrian Youth, as part of the local policy on culture. It shows the maturity, the autonomy and the open-minded nature that characterize Istria Region. The partnership that Istria establishes is another topic discussed during the meeting. According to the speaker this cross-border partnership includes all stakeholders: institutions, Local authorities, universities, museums which collaborate effectively for a common goal. The last topic discussed during the debate with the representative of the Culture

department of Istria was the cooperation between the Local authorities of Istria and the Ministry of Culture based in Zagreb. As reported by the speaker, the region of Istria benefits from autonomy guaranteed by the Croatian law and is able to take many initiatives to develop a cultural policy based on the priorities of the region.

Conclusion:

This meeting took place after the meeting with one of the beneficiaries of the EU projects implemented in Istria: the historical and maritime museum. The meeting with the Local authorities completed the general overview on the implementation of European projects in the region. It gave us the opportunity to better understand how EU projects are articulated on national and local levels: between the State, the Local authorities and direct beneficiaries. Many issues became clear after this meeting such as the lack of participation of local NGOs in these projects and the lack of interest of the population toward EU programs and projects. Many efforts are made by the Local authorities in this field in order to involve the population, especially the Istrian Youth and children initiative. The Local authorities organized different workshops with various target groups of the Istrian population but do not take any specific actions for capacity raising of local NGOs which actually are not able to apply for EU projects which limits also the capacity of Istrian civil society to participate actively in the decision making process regarding the regional cultural policy. The Local authorities have a good knowledge about the Istrian projects and their management. Unfortunately, she was not fully aware of the regional strategy on cultural policy for the next 6 years, neither of the regional priorities articulated with Creative Europe program (planned to be implemented during the next years in Croatia).

CULTURAL GROUP: R. ZAHARIEVA, L.NECCI, P.GIRAUDET, F.JARRIGE

GRATITUDE

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LOGISTIC GROUP :

A.LAFAYE, R.CHOISEAU, A.PASQUIS, M.GERMAIN



