

Capacity building for Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in the Republic of Croatia

Project Newsletter



Number 1 – October 2007.

Introduction

The project started on July 2005 and will end by October 2007. It is mostly financed by the European Commission within the framework of the LIFE-Third Countries Programme (70 %) and partially by Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction (20 %)

and his partner EKONERG – Energy Research and Environmental Protection Institute (10 %).

The beneficiary is Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction.

For further information about the Project please visit: <http://klima.mzopu.hr>

Project Presentation

Background

The Republic of Croatia became a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1996. As a country with economy in transition it assumed the responsibilities under Annex I to the Convention.

The Republic of Croatia signed the Kyoto protocol in 1999. At the session of the Conference of Parties (COP 12) held in Nairobi in December 2006, the decision was adopted to recognize specific circumstances of Croatia under Article 4.6 of the UNFCCC, related to emission level in base year.

The Croatian Parliament ratified the Kyoto Protocol on 27 April 2007, which entered into force on 28 August 2007. As a party of Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, Croatia have to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 5 %

Objectives

- The main objectives of the project are to establish institutional, legislative and organizational capacities and to promote education and public awareness related to climate change in order to prepare Croatia for implementation of the obligations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and for ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and meeting its commitments.
- Specific objectives of the project are to: assess capacity building needs; develop implementation strategy with an action plan; draft all the necessary legislation; prepare guidelines for sectoral operational programmes i.e. energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; remove barriers in the implementation of programmes; establish effective implementation monitoring system; set up a system for implementation of the Kyoto flexible mechanisms (JI, CDM, ET); strengthen international collaboration on climate issues; and network relevant institutions and programmes.

Expected results

- Comprehensive understanding of all necessary capacity building needs will be achieved.
- Implementation strategy and an action plan will be created and adopted.
- Legislation framework needed will be established.
- Operative programmes guidelines should provide up-to-date methodology for emissions, projections and measures in relevant sectors.
- Effective GHG monitoring mechanism will be in place which will allow regular reporting to national and international bodies.
- Opportunities and constraints of Kyoto flexible mechanisms will be identify.
- Enhancement of knowledge and level of public awareness about climate change using concrete and suporting step-by-step process will be achieved.
- Co-operation between Croatia, The Netherlands and Slovenia in the area of climate building issues and mitigation policies and measures will be established.
- Results of the project will be disseminated to targeted groups and stakeholders.

The project is divided into 10 tasks as shown below:

Task 1: Analysis and assessment of capacity building needs

Task 2: Preparation of National implementation strategy and an action plan

Task 3: Drafting of legislation

Task 4: Preparation of technical guidelines for sectoral operational programmes

Task 5: Establishment of implementation monitoring mechanism

Task 6: Implementation of Kyoto flexible mechanisms

Task 7: Education and public awareness

Task 8: International co-operation

Task 9: Task management and reporting to the European Commission

Task 10: Task dissemination

Project status

Up to now, the following task results started or completed:

Task 1: Following documents were prepared:

- Proposal of Project: Capacity Building for Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in the Republic of Croatia (LIFE04 TCY/CRO/000029)
- Study: Analyses and assessment of Croatia's capacity building needs for implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol
- Mission report from technical visit to Netherland, 25-26 October, 2005
- Mission report from technical visit to Slovenia, 3 February, 2006

Task 2: The First meeting of the Working group on Strategy was held on 31 May 2007 in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia. National Strategy and Action Plan for climate change mitigation in the Republic of Croatia was prepared.

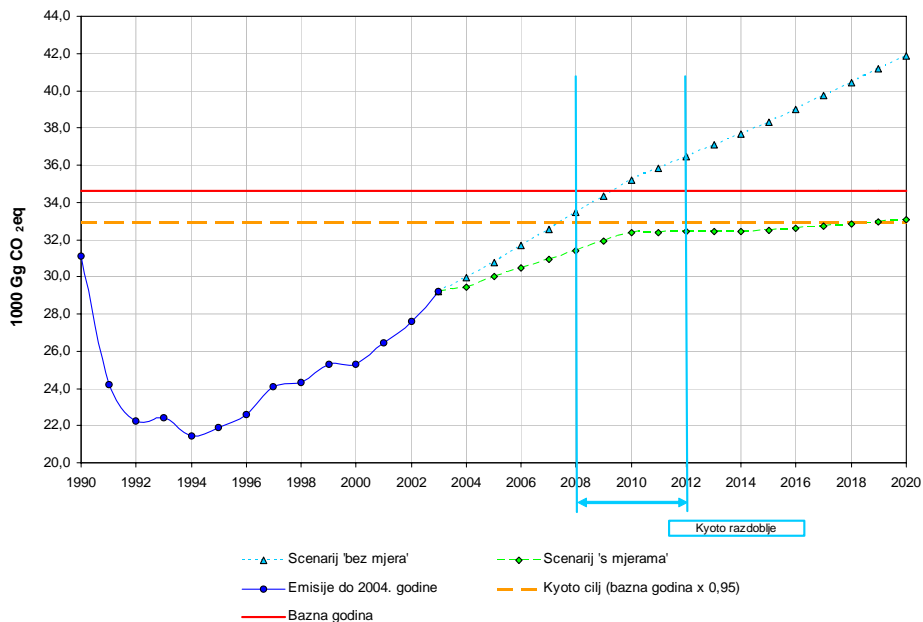
Task 3: Following By-laws were prepared:

- Draft By-law on Carbon Dioxide Tax
- By-law on Greenhouse gas emissions monitoring in the Republic of Croatia („Official Gazette No. 1/2007)
- Draft Regulation on greenhouse gas emission allowances and the modality of emission allowance trading

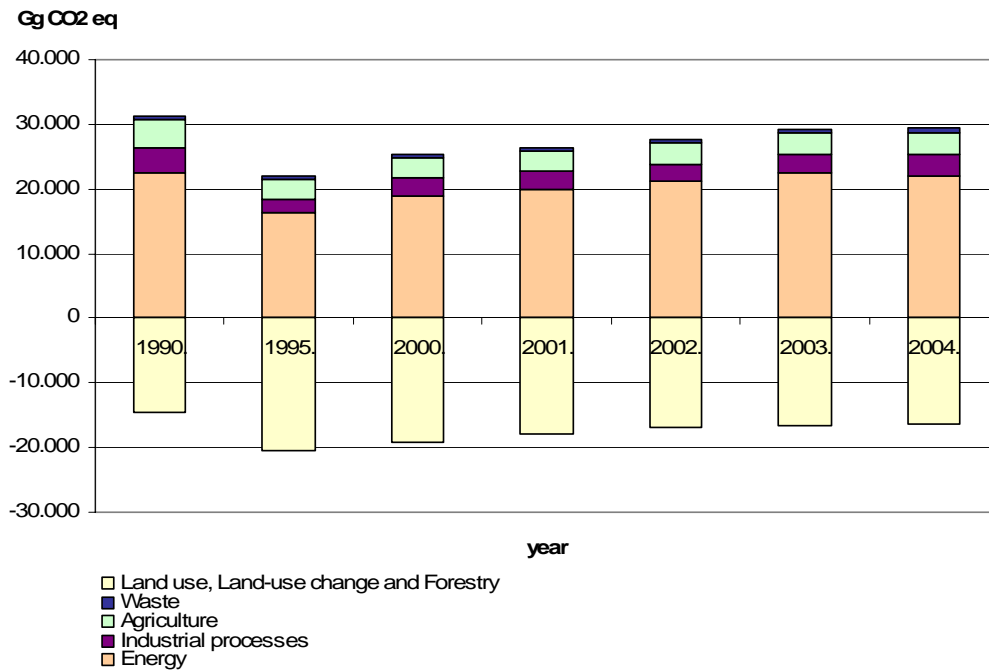
Task 4: So far project team has prepared techno-economic guidelines for preparation of operational programme for five sectors:

- (1) Energy
- (2) Transport
- (3) Industrial processes
- (4) Agriculture
- (5) Waste management

Sectorial experts continued work on the guidelines for Forestry sector, which is the last document envisaged in the framework of this task.



Trends and projections of Greenhouse gas emissions in Croatia



Greenhouse gas emissions and removals in Croatia by sectors, 1990-2004 (Gg CO₂ eq)

Task 5: Project team prepared:

- National Inventory Report 2005 on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the period 1990-2003
- National Inventory Report 2006 on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the period 1990-2004

National Inventory Report could be downloaded from <http://unfccc.int>

Project team is finishing with preparation of Croatia's National Inventory Report 2007 (NIR 2007) for greenhouse gases including CRF tables as required. The NIR and the CRF cover anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases in the following sectors: Energy, Industrial processes, Solvent and other product use, Agriculture, Land-use change and Forestry and Waste. This NIR 2007 is the last inventory report which will be delivered in the framework of this project.

Task 6: Following documents were prepared:

- Analyses of the implementation of the European Union Emission Trading Scheme in the Republic of Croatia
- Design of National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Registry in the Republic of Croatia
- Possibilities of Kyoto Protocol Flexible Mechanisms Implementation in the Republic of Croatia

First meeting of experts from SenterNovem and Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction and EKONERG was held on 4-5 April 2007 in Utrecht, the Netherlands in the premises of SenterNovem. Second meeting was held on 10-11 July 2007 in Zagreb, Croatia in the premises of EKONERG. Meeting was divided in two sessions, first on 10 July for members of project team and SenterNovem only, and second on 11 July was reserved for stakeholders. Final workshop with stakeholders from government and industry is scheduled on 30-31 October.

Task 7: Croatian Environmental Education Centre (CEEC) has started with educational campaign and promotion of educational tools delivered in the framework of this project (2000 copies of the book “The Drop that Spills over the Glass, Climate change – The World and Croatia”, and accompanied with CD which containing electronic version of the book in .pdf format and presentation material for education, 80 slides).

CEEC held 13 educational seminars for teachers and professors of geography, biology and chemistry as well as for NGOs, with average number of 50 attendees per seminar. So far more than 1400 copies of book “The Drop that Spills over the Glass, Climate change – The World and Croatia” was disseminated to institutions and participants of seminars. CEEC prepared DVD with film on causes and effects of climate change in Croatia.

Task 8: International co-operation was established with SenterNovem from the Netherlands, and Environment Agency from Slovenia.

Task 9: Each task in the project has a nominated task coordinator who is responsible for its coordination, execution and control.

Task 10: All project deliverables are available for public at: <http://klima.mzopu.hr>

Workshops/Meetings:

- Kick-off Meeting, 17 February, 2005
- First Workshop: Business Challenges of the Kyoto Protocol, 15 March, 2005
- Second Workshop, 3 November, 2005
- Meeting of WG Strategy, 31 May 2007
- First Meeting on Kyoto Flexible mechanisms in SenterNovem, 4-5 April 2007
- Second Meeting on Kyoto Flexible mechanisms in EKONERG 10-11 July 2007



MEPPPC's Climate change web site

In focus – Climate Change Strategy and action plan

For more than two decades scientists have been warning of the dangers of climate change, which have lately become quite noticeable, while extreme meteorological phenomena cause growing economic damage. They also point to the need for effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, since the precautionary and prevention principle is crucial for combating climate changes. Croatia is vulnerable to climate change and has an interest in actively participating in global efforts to mitigate climate changes. The goal is to reduce emissions without jeopardizing economic development, employment, competitiveness of businesses and individual standard.

The challenge consists in separating the dependence of production growth from energy demand for carbon and fossil fuels.

By this Strategy, Croatia has oriented its economic growth towards achieving sustainable development while assuming its share of responsibility in the international global efforts to preserve the climate system. The key task by 2012 is to reduce the increase rate of greenhouse gas emissions from 3 percent per annum in the past ten years to at least half of that percentage. The main measures for achieving this goal are the use of renewable energy sources, increase in energy efficiency, measures in industrial processes, and in the services and household sector. Among renewable sources, the highest effect should be achieved through construction of wind power plants, use of biomass for the generation of electricity and heat, and biofuels in the transport sector. In the period after 2012, several options with major potential, which still need to be examined in detail from the aspect of socio-economic and ecological acceptability, are available, such as: implementation of forestry measures through new afforestation, options for CO₂ disposal into oil and gas fields, and use of nuclear energy.

Instruments for the implementation of the Strategy are based on EU legislation. Funds to stimulate measure implementation, costs of administrative and organisational capacity building and research resources shall mostly be provided through a tax on CO₂ emissions and a tax on motor vehicles. Since the Strategy aims at reduction of fossil fuel import, reduction of economy vulnerability regarding fossil fuel prices, increased energy supply security, provision of new entrepreneurial opportunities and reduction of emissions of other harmful substances into the atmosphere, it is evident that these costs, compared to the benefits arising, are relatively low. Determined in the Action Plan are implementation activities until 2012, i.e., until the end of the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.

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