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The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is a pre-accession programme for the period 2007-2013 which has replaced the previous CARDS, Phare, ISPA and SAPARD programmes.

The main goals of this programme are: providing assistance in institutional capacity building and the rule of law, human rights including constitutional rights, minority rights, gender equality and non-discrimination, administrative and economic reforms, economic and social development, reconciliation and redevelopment, as well as regional and cross-border cooperation.

IPA Component IV Human Resources Development contributes to strengthening economic and social cohesion, and the priorities of the European Employment Strategy in the field of employment, education, vocational training and social inclusion.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.



**IPA Component IV - Human Resources Development
European Union Programme for Croatia**

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Quality Assurance Development

Project duration is for a total
of 24 months from March 2010



Main project partner:



Agency for
Vocational Education
and Training

Project implemented by:

WYG International part of the WYG group
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TRIBAL HELM

Project background

As a candidate country for membership in the European Union (EU), the reforming drive of the Republic of Croatia in a number of sectors/areas is closely related to the need to respond to the EU *acquis communautaire*, including the human resource development (HRD) reforms in the context of the European Employment Strategy and the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training.

The Republic of Croatia has made progress in the fields of education, training and youth, particularly in continuing with its reform of the VET system within the framework of the VET System Development Strategy 2008-2013 and the EU CARDS VET 2001-2003 programme. Following the establishment of the Agency for VET (AVET) it has begun the process of developing a new system of qualifications which will be based on learning outcomes, and will reflect labour market needs.

Introducing comprehensive QA approaches in Croatian VET system based upon the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF) for VET, developed within the framework of the EU Copenhagen Process on Enhanced Co-operation in VET, will be one of the key challenges for the AVET and various VET providers in the upcoming period, particularly having in mind the fact that the quality development in VET is a continuous process which requires effective and sustainable commitment of a wide range of stakeholders.

Overall objective and purpose

The overall objective of the project is to foster systemic development and modernisation of the vocational education and training (VET) system in Croatia in order to facilitate more coherent development of the HRD policies and the system's adaptation to the structural changes in the economy in compliance with the EU *acquis* in relevant fields.

The main purposes are to facilitate development of integrated and systemic approach to quality assurance (QA) development in VET in line with the Copenhagen / Maastricht issues, with emphasis on implementing this concept in practice and on the role of particular subjects in the process; and also to stimulate information exchange on the QA issues between the VET providers and general public.

Project Tasks**Component 1 – Institutional and policy development will:**

- assist gradual introduction of diverse QA tools which are identified and discussed at the policy-making level;
- ensure that the AVET staff is enabled to fulfil relevant QA-related development tasks;
- encourage definition of key elements of the applicable QA mechanisms and tools;
- create a comprehensive national campaign to increase awareness of the importance and added value of the VET QA instruments.

Component 2 – Comprehensive self-evaluation at the micro-level (VET schools) will:

- foster improvement in the comprehensive self-evaluation of the VET schools;
- train and support selected VET schools in the pilot-implementation of the self-evaluation mechanisms;
- revise the methodology for self-evaluation of VET schools and integrate this into the wider application of the QA system.

Component 3 - Further improvements of the Vocational Education and Training Information System (VETIS) and systematic exchange of experience and information on the VET QA will:

- examine the existing information within the educational databases in Croatia and redefine / integrate new indicators of quality assurance criteria that are important for the national policy in the field of the VET QA
- develop mechanisms for organised and planned sharing of information on the VET QA issues