

Contact information:

Main project partner:

Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education (AVETAET)

Centar 2000, Radnička cesta 37b
10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Ms. Hrvojka Laušić Ramljak

Project Manager
Tel.: +385 1 6274 632
Fax: +385 1 6274 606
E-mail: hrvojka.lausic.ramljak@asoo.hr

Project office:

Centar 2000, Radnička cesta 39
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel./Fax: +385 1 6274 616
E-mail: santa.domijan.zviedre@asoo.hr
www.asoo.hr

Prof. Dr. Paul Roeders,

Team Leader
E-mail: paul.roeders@asoo.hr

Dr. Sergij Gabršček,

Key Expert for AE programmes
E-mail: sergij.gabrscek@asoo.hr

Ms. Andrijana Parić, MA,

Key Expert for Grant Scheme management
E-mail: andrijana.paric@asoo.hr

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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 The European Union Programme for Croatia

Regional Network of Local Learning Institutions

Main project partner:



Agency for Vocational
Education and Training
and Adult Education

A project implemented by:



in consortium with:



Background of the project

A significant factor contributing to high unemployment rates in Croatia is a mismatch between the competencies present in the labour supply and the competencies required in the labour demand. Hence, it is very important to **improve the competencies** of adult learners, oriented towards filling the existing and anticipated demands in the labour market.

The aim of this project is to **strengthen Adult Education (AE) Institutions** in creating new short programmes and/or modernising existing ones to **develop** key and other **competencies of adults** and to promote **lifelong learning**. The programmes for training and additional training of adult learners will be developed by using the methodology developed with support of the CARDS 2004 *Adult Learning* project. With its orientation toward **learning outcomes** and its application of **active teaching/learning** approaches, this methodology has proven to be effective. The project will also closely cooperate with the IPA *Further Development of the Croatian Qualification Framework* and the *VET Quality Assurance* projects, as the learning outcomes of the programmes should be in line with the CROQF, and QA mechanisms should be based on the same principles in the whole education sector.

Particular attention is given to the 10 counties facing the biggest **socio-economical challenges**: Lika-Senj, Vukovar-Srijem, Zadar, Šibenik-Knin, Sisak-Moslavina, Požega-Slavonija, Karlovac, Virovitica-Podravina, Brod-Posavina and Osijek-Baranja. These counties are amongst the ones with the highest unemployment rates with over 50% of their territory designated as Area of Special State Concern. Component 1 will provide direct help to the AE institutions within the mentioned counties. There are approximately 160 adult education institutions within these counties out of 560 bodies engaged in delivering adult education programmes in Croatia.

A tool to achieve a high quality labour market oriented offer in training programmes is **promoting regional networking** of AE institutions through which an exchange of programmes can be achieved. Another important tool is promoting **partnerships** of local AE institutions with other key local stakeholders (Croatian Employment Service, county offices for education, NGOs, etc.), as some of them have more direct access to labour market information.

AE institutions will be able to receive financial support for the development of new short programmes and/or modernisation of existing programmes through the **implementation of a Grant Scheme (GS)**. This enables the AE institution to increase its offer of programmes and enables many adult learners to engage in an AE programme free of charge during the GS implementation. The project will **support** the **grantees** with the implementation of their grant contracts.

Overall objective of the project

The overall objective of the project is to create conditions for **improvement of competitiveness of adult learners** in the labour market in order to enhance their economic and social status.

Project purposes

- To **improve** key and other **competencies** of adult learners through modernization of existing and development of new short AE institution programmes, which will enable them to participate more actively in the labour market.
- To increase **regional networking** among AE institutions for exchange and dissemination of programmes and to improve cooperation between AE institutions and relevant local partners to better meet the adult learners' needs.

Activities and expected results

Component 1 - Improvement of the capacity of adult education institutions in 10 selected counties

- **Capacity of AE institutions** in the ten selected counties improved.
- The **teacher training** programme developed through the CARDS 2004 *Adult Learning* project further implemented.

Component 2 - Assistance in disseminating information on the methodology for modernizing existing and/or designing new short AE programmes

- Targeted **assistance to the AVETAE** in disseminating information on the methodology for modernizing existing and/or designing new short programmes carried out
- **Standards and instruments for monitoring and evaluation** of the adult education programmes developed.

Component 3 - Support for the implementation of the grant scheme operation "Regional Network of Local Learning Institutions"

- The grant beneficiaries are familiarised with the principles relevant for implementation of the grant (procedural and sectoral principles).
- Appropriate **mechanisms for monitoring** of the grant scheme established.

Component 4 – Awareness-raising activities for potential adult learners regarding adult education training programmes and regional networks established

- Potential **adult learners familiarised** with the adult education training programmes on offer as well as with the established regional networks.
- **Web-based information** on AE available and regularly updated.