

## For more information

Delegation of the European Commission  
to the Republic of Croatia  
Press and Information Section  
Masarykova 1  
HR-10000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
Tel: 00 385 1 4896 500  
Fax: 00 385 1 4896 555  
Email: [mailto@delhrv.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delhrv.cec.eu.int)  
Website: <http://www.delhrv.cec.eu.int>

CARDS 2001 Project Implementation Unit  
Ministry of Education and Sports  
Institute for Educational Development  
Badalićeva 24  
HR-10000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
Tel: 00 385 1 3664 760  
Fax: 00 385 1 3631 536  
Email: [kskjolstrup@mips.hr](mailto:kskjolstrup@mips.hr)  
[nenad.vakanjac@mips.hr](mailto:nenad.vakanjac@mips.hr)

## This project is funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

Croatia is a full participant in the Stabilisation and Association Process, which is the framework for European Union support to peace, stability and prosperity in South-East Europe. It includes the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the CARDS assistance programme.

Through the CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) programme, the European Union supports the overall economic and social development of Croatia as well as it assists Croatia to fulfil its obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The CARDS programme priorities for Croatia are:

- Democratic stabilisation
- Economic and social development
- Justice and home affairs
- Public administration reform
- Environment and natural resources

The indicative financial allocation for CARDS assistance for Croatia for the period 2001-04 is € 249 million. Croatia also benefits from the CARDS regional programme, which has an indicative allocation of € 95 million over the period 2001-04.



The European Union CARDS programme for Croatia

## CARDS 2001: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

*Support to the Restructuring of  
Vocational Education and  
Training system in Croatia*



A project implemented by Aalborg  
Technical College, Denmark

## Vocational Education and Training Technical Assistance, Croatia

### *“Support to the Restructuring of Vocational Education and Training in Croatia”*

#### The concept

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is an increasingly important, but often underestimated, driving factor for the economic and social development of a country.

In order to acquire a Vocational Education and Training system which meets the needs of the labour market and actively supports the policy of the Croatian government to speed up the process of integration with the European and global economy, it is vital for Croatia to initiate a process of gradual, structural reform of the present system.

The Cards 2001 VET Technical Assistance project will support this process by providing technical assistance to the restructuring process and training a “critical mass” of key staff to carry out development objectives in both the present project and in future CARDS supported programmes in the VET sector.

***Vocational Education and Training Reform is an important contribution to the Stabilisation and Association Process in Croatia.***

***Countries in the process of joining the European Union are all in some stage of Vocational Education and Training reform. These reforms are aimed at modernising the systems towards the standards and structures of the European Union and create demand driven training and education for young people and adults which meets the requirements of modern market economies.***

#### The objectives

The main objective of the project is to lay and develop in Croatia the foundations for a modern, flexible and high-quality vocational education and training system, responsive to the needs of the labour market and society in general. The proposed VET system should be well integrated with the primary, secondary and higher educational systems and secure social partner participation in the management and development of the system.

#### Project components

The project has 4 components with the objective to:

- Develop a framework for VET legislation, a programme for strategic implementation, the empowerment of a critical mass of stakeholders in VET reform and the establishment of institutional homes for the future VET system;
- Promote a labour market and education management information system in cooperation with the CARDS 2001 Labour Market project;
- Prepare for a wider VET curriculum reform under the CARDS 2003 VET project and test new training methods;
- Redesign both the initial and in-service training programmes for VET school teachers and the teacher performance appraisal system, along with the development of standards and training course for a new mentor's profession.

Each of the four components will develop training courses, train relevant key staff and expose them to examples of best practice in EU or candidate countries.

#### The key partners

The Ministry of Education and its strategic partners, The Ministry of Craft & SME's, The Ministry of Science and Technology, The Croatian Employment Service, the Institute for Educational Development, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Chambers of Commerce and Trades/Crafts and Employers Associations, Trade Unions, Research and Curriculum Development Institutions, local and regional authorities, headmasters and teachers in VET schools.

#### Project duration and implementation

The total value of this project is € 600,000 in EU support and is expected to last 24 months. An international consortium led by the Aalborg Technical College, Denmark, is implementing the project. The consortium partners are the Slovenian branch of the German BBJ Consult and the Finnish Helsinki Consulting Group.

The expert team consists of a Danish team leader and a Dutch, Slovenian and Finnish short-term experts.

The European Training Foundation (ETF), the EU agency promoting innovative practice in human resources development for societies and economies in transition will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the project.