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PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of County's Physical Plan Concept in the sector of traffic infrastructure

Public institution "Institute for Physical Planning of County Primorje and Gorski kotar", as leading authority in physical plan development at regional and local level, cooperates with different international organizations in the field of data/information transfer, training and support in methodology defining.

The Institute and GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GmbH)), from the 1st January 2011, German International Cooperation (GIZ), continuously cooperate several years. In April 2009 a Memo of Understanding is signed where mutual interest in joint action and support of ICZM has been confirmed in the period from 2009 to 2012, not only in County Primorje and Gorski kotar, but also in Croatian Adriatic region. During collaboration period several trainings and workshops on exchange of experience and transfer of EU experience in spatial planning have been organized including study trips where EU experience in ICZM and spatial planning have been presented.

During 2011, as support in elaboration of the new Physical Plan of County Primorje and Gorski kotar and Strategic Environmental Plan and Programme Assessments, several meetings and workshops have been organized where German experts presented EU best practices and provided expertise. Special focus was put on optimal harmonization of all activities on sea and land tending to reduce negative environmental impact and try to avoid negative conflicts among different sectors.

In order to confirm projection of freight transport increase already elaborated in "Traffic and Transport Integrated Study for County Primorje and Gorski kotar and City of Rijeka" and traffic content and

solution assessments which will be included in the new Physical Plan, in cooperation with GIZ a German expert and evaluator, Mr. Jens Gertsen from “Inno-mobil Jens Gertsen”, is engaged. Mr. Gertsen is expert in spatial and traffic planning, and independent traffic consultant with age-long experience in different projects for German, French, British and Esthonian railway companies.

Mr. Gertsen provided ex-ante evaluation of the draft Plan Concept with special focus on possible new port on the Island of Krk and building of new railway. In order to insure expert's fully objective and neutral prospective about new development plans, several professional discussions and round trips were organized. During the period of his visit (from 11th to 14th July 2011), Mr. Gertsen was familiarized with existing and planned port's areas (organized by ship), and had a chance to visit the main areas in the County to get an overview of existing and planned business zones and traffic corridors. Besides that, a round table “Presentation of pre-draft Physical Plan of County Primorje and Gorski kotar in sector of traffic infrastructure” was held. On that event, besides GIZ's representatives, Mr. Gertsen and Mr. Dräger (German consultant responsible for Strategic Environmental Plan and Programme Assessments), participated also representatives of Port Authority Rijeka, HŽ Infrastructure (Croatian Railways) and County Department for Maritime Issues and Traffic in order to further discuss and reach a consensus on traffic development concept of County Primorje and Gorski kotar. Since road traffic network was already adequately considered during the first revision and amendment of the Physical plan of County Primorje and Gorski kotar, during this event an emphasis on available alternatives of Rijeka's port development was made, including a new railway development as complementary issue.

Mr. Gertsen was highly satisfied with methodology and professional approach applied during elaboration of the Physical plan. Complete procedure was according EU standards, also respecting EU directives, environmental protection and sustainable development. Development plans of the Rijeka's Port and construction of new railway are in line with vision of EU and global increase of container transport. Mr. Gertsen emphasized that pre-draft of the Plan is based on numerous sectoral studies and analyses (e.g. Study on demographic development of County Primorje and Gorski kotar, Study on economic development of County P. and G.k., Integrated traffic and space study of County P. and G.k. and Town of Rijeka, Master plan Port of Rijeka, Study on complex impact of investments during modernization of Port of Rijeka on Croatian economy, Master plan of tourism of County P. and G.k. and many other documents). With such an approach a basic precondition of high quality planning is insured taking into account different aspects of e.g. economic, traffic and ecological criteria. Elaboration of previously mentioned highly professionally elaborated studies and analyses provide a base for current and future assessment of development potential which will be incorporated in the County's Physical Plan. It is very important to emphasize that the Pre-draft of the County's Physical Plan considers future development from prospective of past and current conditions, providing quality and objective estimation of future development needs. This activity confirms again excellent results obtained through cooperation between the Institute and GIZ, always aiming to support sustainable development in County Primorje and Gorski kotar.