

Croatia



Main Issues related to SCP

The Republic of Croatia has been a candidate for EU membership since June 2004 and is currently aligning its regulatory and legislative framework to EU requirements. The areas of greatest concern in industry are greenhouse gas emission, inclusion in the European Union Emission Trading System, close implementation of the IPPC EU Directive model, and other legislative measures, that are currently seen as an obstacle to company competitiveness in Croatia because of high implementation costs. One of the major causes of pollution is the fast growing tourism industry.

Energy:

To date, an integrated system to monitor and analyse air quality has not yet been completely developed. Nevertheless, advances have been made and different institutions are coordinated in the exchange of data related to pollution measurement.

Waste:

Croatia is currently undergoing innovative change in the area of construction waste, landfills and management of sludge from waste treatment. A number of landfills (particularly illegal ones) have either been closed or reconstructed. The local waste disposal service is estimated to cover the whole country by 2025.

Natural Resources:

The national water management strategy foresees a secure supply, as well as the preservation of aquatic and water dependent ecosystems. The amplification of the sewage system and the integration of the polluter pays principle are a major focus in waste water management.

Policies and Strategic Framework

It can be generally affirmed that being in the accession process for EU membership has triggered the approval of a number of relevant strategies related to SCP. Croatia is for example currently implementing its National Strategy for Sustainable Development that includes SCP as one of 8 key factors.

A Water Management Strategy was approved in 2008, and the publication of the Energy Strategy (valid until 2020) is expected soon. Both strategies are focused on a more efficient use of resources. A national waste management strategy was adopted in 2005 and includes issues such as cleaner production and eco-labelling.

The national plan for the protection and improvement of air quality, as well as the action plan for the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) were approved in 2008. In 2009 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development was due to begin the development of the National Action Plan for Ecological Agriculture.

Additionally the environmental protection operational program 2007-2009 is an important preparation instrument for the accession to the EU, and involves a number of SCP-related principles. It covers air quality improvement, water management and waste disposal and management.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

In recent years a number of different laws relating to aspects of cleaner production have been passed. Regulations are clearly aimed at harmonizing Croatian and European legislation. Among the changes in the legal framework the 2007 Environmental Protection Act is the most important. It provides a general framework for industrial environmental procedures, such as energy efficiency, environmental management systems, and rational use of resources for example, as well as the procedures to obtain permits and other legal conditions. Other laws, such as the new Water Act, are still being designed. A lack of human and financial resources is the major obstacle to implementation and enforcement. A plan for developing administrative tools and human resources on a national level is currently under development to address this problem.

The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF) promotes SCP through credits and compensation payments for already approved credits. Similarly the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development provides special loans to promote SCP.

The new Croatian legislation on public procurement is harmonised with EU requirements and the government has started to integrate sustainability criteria.

Greening Industry and Society

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a relatively new concept in Croatia. Initiatives began to develop when Croatia received the official EU candidate status. The first national conference on CSR was held in 2004 and the UN Global Compact office in Croatia opened its doors in 2007. A number of companies publish sustainability reports. Different ministries and public bodies (such as the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, the office for social partnership or the EPEEF) and business organizations (such as the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Croatian Chamber of Economy) are working on the promotion of CSR.

ISO 14001 and EMAS are used in Croatia. There is an existing national eco label and a new legislation for eco labelling for the service sector, particularly within the tourism industry has been under development since 2008.

Main Actors and Projects

A number of actors are active in the promotion of SCP in Croatia:

- **Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction**
- **Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship**
- **The Croatian Cleaner Production Centre**
- **The Croatian Environment Agency**
- **The Croatian Managers and Entrepreneurs Association**
- **The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF)**

In 2005 Croatia hosted an international workshop on SCP and Education for Sustainable Development. Projects related to SCP include activities to improve energy efficiency, such as a project on systematic energy management in cities and counties, and the project for CSR and Workplace quality, promoted by UNDP and the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship.

