

## Action plan for speeding up the implementation of 2007-2013 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) programmes

The first mission of the European Commission Implementation Task Force to the Republic of Croatia was organised on 28 January 2015. The following activities has been discussed and agreed between the Task Force and the Managing Authorities of three Operational Programmes - Operational Programme Transport (TOP), Operational Programme Environment (EOP) and Operational Programme Regional Competitiveness (OPRC) - to be implemented by the end of 2016 in order to speed up the implementation of the programmes:

Action		Responsible body	Deadline
<b>HORIZONTAL ACTIONS (applicable to all 3 operational programmes)</b>			
1)	Organisation of seminar / workshop related to the closure of programmes in Zagreb	EC (DG REGIO) and MRDEUF	June 2015
2)	Recruitment of new staff as per Government Decision of November 2014	Managing Authorities	December 2015 (reporting milestone June 2015 and follow up reporting milestone June 2016)
3)	Preparation of assessment of Technical Assistance needs (staffing, training, outsourcing of external expertise)	Managing Authorities	March 2015
4)	Preparation and implementation of Training programme for new staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of Training Programme (plan of training activities to be implemented)</li> <li>▪ Continuation of the current trainings</li> <li>▪ Further development of the new trainings for the bodies of the management and control systems</li> </ul>	Managing Authorities Managing Authorities MA OPRC	March 2015 Continuously by the end of 2016 June 2015
5)	Regular monthly reporting on monitoring of public procurements in projects	MA TOP and MA EOP	Monthly by June 2015
6)	Quarterly monitoring / reporting on the state of the contracting, public procurement, payment, certification and forecasting to EC and Government of Croatia (Working Group for EU Funds)	Managing Authorities	Quarterly from April 2015 to October 2016

7)	Increasing frequency of submission to EC of Statements of Expenditure	Managing Authorities (via Certifying Authority)	If needed
<b>OP TRANSPORT</b>			
1)	Modification of the operational programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of individual projects to be included in the modification of the operational programme</li> <li>Discussion on inclusion of additional projects</li> <li>Completion of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment</li> <li>Submission for adoption</li> <li>Adoption</li> </ul>	MA TOP  MA TOP / EC MA TOP  MA TOP EC	April 2015  May 2015 June 2015  August 2015 October 2015
2)	Phasing of major projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of 1st proposal for major Project Dubrovnik Airport</li> <li>Submission of 1st proposal for Major Project Dugo selo – Križevci rail</li> <li>Submission of Major Project Application modifications for both projects for adoption</li> </ul>	MA TOP	April 2015  May 2015  June 2015
3)	Reinforcing support to beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing guidelines for beneficiaries</li> <li>Organisation of trainings for beneficiaries at the local level</li> </ul>	MA TOP	March 2015  Continuously by the end of 2016
<b>OP ENVIRONMENT</b>			
1)	Modification of the operational programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of first draft</li> <li>Submission for adoption</li> <li>Adoption</li> </ul>	MA EOP MA EOP EC	Q1 2016 Q2 2016 Q2 2016
2)	Phasing of major projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First discussion on phasing</li> <li>Submission of first proposal of phasing</li> <li>Submission of second proposal of phasing</li> <li>Submission of Major Project Applications for modification</li> </ul>	MA EOP	April 2015 October 2015 December 2015 Q1 2016
3)	Assessment of additional projects from the list of national projects ("retroactive/small projects" for water sector)	MA EOP	April 2015
4)	Approval of additional projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water sector</li> <li>Waste sector</li> </ul>	MA EOP	October 2015 November 2015

5)	Reinforcing support to beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obligation to employ additional expert staff in the beneficiaries (Waste centres) in waste sector</li> <li>▪ Organization of training for beneficiaries at the local level</li> </ul>	MA EOP	By the end of 2015  From March 2015 by the end of 2015
<b>OP REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS</b>			
1)	Modification of operational programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of non-functional projects for OP modification and needed actions in the context of the possibilities given in the Closure Guidelines</li> <li>▪ Submission to EC</li> <li>▪ Adoption</li> </ul>	MA OPRC  MA OPRC EC	November 2015  December 2015 Q1 2016
2)	Reinforced support to beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of Activity plan (including: plan of educational activities – thematic workshops for groups of grant beneficiaries, establishing help line, publishing common mistakes reports)</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the Activity plan</li> </ul>	MA OPRC	April 2015  From May 2015 by the end 2015
3)	Increasing number of on the spot checks performed by the Intermediate bodies	MA OPRC	Continuously by the end of 2016