EU ENLARGEMENT FACTSHEET
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CLOSE-UP ON ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES: CROATIA

- Full name: Republic of Croatia
- Capital and largest city: Zagreb
- Official language: Croatian
- Ethnic groups: 90.4% Croats
  4.4% Serbs
  5.2% others/unspecified
- Population: 4.3 million
- Currency: Kuna (HRK)
- GDP per capita PPP: EUR 14,000 (2012 est.)
- Accession status: Acceding on 1 July 2013

CURRENT STATUS

- All 35 negotiation chapters were closed successfully on 30 June 2011.
- On 9 December 2011 Croatia and the EU signed the Accession Treaty.
- At the EU accession referendum in 2012, 2/3 of Croatian citizens voted in favour of the EU.
- Croatia completed the ten priority actions identified in the Commission’s Comprehensive Monitoring Report of October 2012. These included commitments in the area of competition, the judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security. At the same time, Croatia is generally meeting the conditions and requirements arising from the accession negotiations in all chapters.
- Croatian citizens have elected their representatives at the European Parliament.
- Croatia joins the EU on 1 July 2013.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

- Croatia signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU on 29 October 2001. The agreement liberalised trade in almost all goods and contributed substantially to increased trade between the EU and Croatia.
- In 2012, EU imports from Croatia amounted to EUR 5.5 billion while EU exports to Croatia reached EUR 11.2 billion.
- The main sources of export to the EU in 2012 were industrial products (60%), followed by commodities (20%) and agriculture (10%).
- Similarly, the Croatian imports from the EU in 2012 were mainly in these three sectors with the emphasis on processed food and manufacturing, with commodities making up less of the trade.
- In 2012 the EU was Croatia’s main trading partner (62% of external trade). The second most important markets for Croatia were its southern neighbours Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. The EU stock in foreign investment to Croatia was 92%.
**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*EUR 1 billion* has been invested under the EU’s Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) for the period 2007 – 2013 to support the country’s social, economic and political development. This amounted to a total of 85% of each of the project’s total investment. IPA consists of five components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>2007-2013 (million EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assistance in transition and building of institutions Transportation Operational Programme (TOP)</td>
<td>277.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Cross-border cooperation</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Regional development</td>
<td>347.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Human resources development</td>
<td>95.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Rural development (IPARD)</td>
<td>184.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building component directly supports the strengthening of justice and home affairs and fundamental rights in Croatia. In 2011 EUR 19.2 million were allotted to projects of this nature, including for support of the rationalisation of the Croatian court network, supporting an active civil society in Croatia so as to ensure the durability of policy reforms after the accession, and strengthening the capacities of the Croatian Ministry of the Interior to combat computer crime.

Through the IPA Environmental Operational Programme, the EU contributes to the environmental maintenance of the patrimony of Croatia. By 2011, EUR 95 million had been invested in development projects for waste management infrastructures and the protection of Croatia’s water resources through improved water supply and waste water integrated management systems.

**TIMELINE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN CROATIA AND THE EU**

- **2001**: Croatia and the EU sign the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) to start closer economic and political cooperation.
- **2003**: Application for membership submitted.
- **2004**: Croatia receives official candidate status and the European Council sets the date for the entry negotiations to begin in 2005.
- **2005**: International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) confirms Croatia’s co-operation. Accession negotiations are launched the same day.
- **2011**: Accession negotiations formally end on 30 June.
- **2013**: Croatia and the 27 Member States of the European Union sign the EU Accession Treaty.
- **2013**: Croatia joins the EU on 1 July.