

Enhanced Strategic Planning

at Regional and
Local Levels
in Croatia



WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF) of Croatia, with the financial support from EEA and Norway Grants, is working to strengthen the governance capacity of regional and local actors to best implement the National Development Strategy: Croatia 2030. To support this objective, the MRDEUF is working with the OECD on a two-year project that supports enhanced strategic planning at the regional and local levels in Croatia.

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of regional and local actors to design and implement evidence-based development strategies. These strategies will contribute to the National Development Strategy Croatia 2030, and will guide the integrated investments to address development needs at regional and local level. The project also aims to support the MRDEUF reinforce the strategic governance of integrated investment for territorial development. Moreover, through these actions, the OECD and MRDEUF seek to boost regional competitiveness and resilience across Croatia.

The OECD will provide analysis and policy recommendations, as well as different capacity building actions, together with MRDEUF and other stakeholders at the national, regional and local level.



WHY THIS PROJECT?

The MRDEUF and the OECD undertake this project to:

STRATEGY: *To support regional and local public bodies to design effective development strategies*

An effective regional or local development strategy builds on a robust identification of local needs and capacities and is aligned to national-level priorities. It presents coherent development goals and serves as a framework for policy-making and public investment. In particular, it can help policy actors make informed decisions on where efforts and resources are best spent to achieve their goals.

This project aims to build the capacity of regional and local bodies to design and implement evidence-based strategies to optimise the mobilisation and use of public and private resources. This capacity is particularly crucial in the COVID-19 recovery context as regional and local actors face short- and medium-term challenges such as business recovery, while pursuing complex long-term development goals including boosting regional competitiveness and resilience.

IMPLEMENTATION: *To design and implement integrated investments in regions and municipalities*

To maximise the potential of public investment in realising development goals, governments at all levels need to offer incentives for integrated investment, set up the right mechanisms to foster coordination and cooperation, build partnerships among actors, and closely monitor the results of integrated investment. This project aims to identify practical tools and good practices that Croatia can use to implement subnational development strategies and reinforce integrated investment.

CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION:

To ensure a place-based and bottom-up approach for regional development

The effective implementation of the National Development Strategy at the subnational level should follow a place-based and bottom-up approach. This implies building strong and visible linkages among the Strategy and regional and local development needs, policies, and capacities. The implementation of this approach requires effective coordination mechanisms and an appropriate governance system. This project will explore multi-level governance arrangements that Croatia can adopt to ensure that national, regional and local actors have the incentives, tools and capacities to foster these linkages, build partnerships and networks, and collectively pursue the development goals detailed in the National Development Strategy 2030.



WHAT ARE THE PROJECT COMPONENTS?



1

A Multi-level Governance Report on Integrated Investments

The OECD will deliver a report that provides analysis and concrete recommendations for Croatia to enhance its multi-level governance arrangements, in order to promote an integrated system of planning, managing and financing regional development. It also aims to help regional and local actors in Croatia prepare projects that contribute to the effective implementation of the National Development Strategy 2030. The report will include recommendations for the national government, as well as for Croatian regions. It will draw on international experiences and good practices.

2

Knowledge-sharing Fora

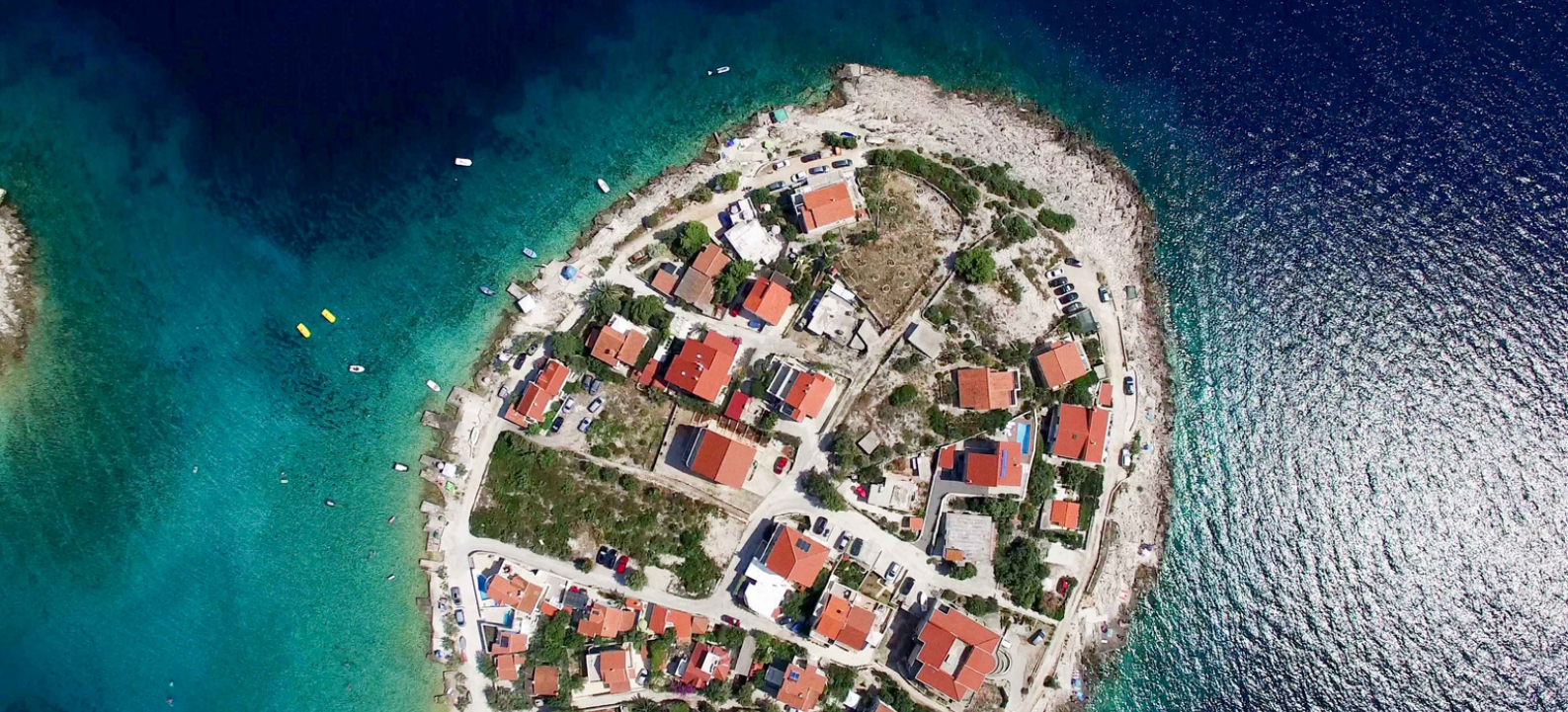
The OECD and the MRDEUF will organise three Knowledge-sharing Fora with a broad set of national and regional stakeholders, as well as international experts and policy practitioners. The Fora will cover distinct topics related to multi-level governance for regional development and integrated investment. They will generate opportunities for dialogue, permitting participants to build their networks and interact with peers with whom they normally may not exchange experiences and perspectives.



3

Capacity Building Workshops and Trainings

In order to build and sustain the capacity for the strategic planning and management of development at regional and local levels, the OECD and the MRDEUF will organise a series of workshops/training courses for Croatia's regional coordinators, as well as a "Train-the-Trainers" workshop. These workshops will focus on regional development policy and multi-level governance instruments and practices. Two study tours to two countries will also be organised to observe good practices that will be featured in the Multi-level Governance Report.



WHAT DO WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

- Strategic partnerships and functional networks developed within and among regions to achieve the goals associated with the National Development Strategy 2030, and Croatia's Recovery and Resilience Plan;
- Improved horizontal and vertical coordination for regional development planning and investment;
- Improved Regional Development Plans, in terms of feasibility, sustainability, impact and contribution to the National Development Strategy 2030;
- Improved ability to design implementation mechanisms and integrated investment projects for regional development that support the National Development Strategy 2030 at the national, regional and local levels;
- Improved linkages, governance and use of public investment funding among levels of government;
- Fostering a culture of dialogue for effective policy and decision-making.

For more information of the project, please contact:

OECD

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About OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, good-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

About CFE

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.



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