

CPMR ISLANDS COMMISSION



„HOW CAN THE POST 2020 COHESION POLICY MEET EU ISLANDS CHALLENGES”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CROATIAN ISLANDS

**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EU FUNDS**

Brussels
24 April 2018

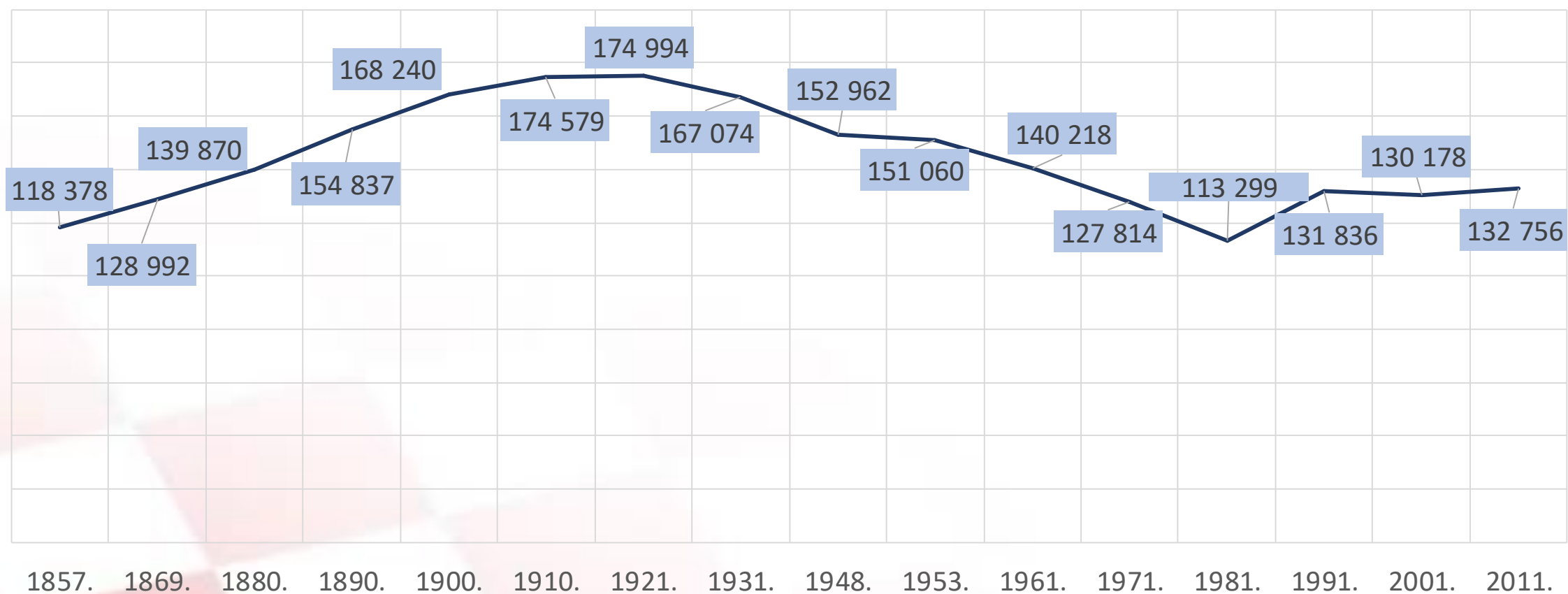
Data in general

Croatia - total area 56,542 km²; 4,284,889 inhabitants; 21 counties; 556 local governments

Croatian islands

- second most indented coastline of the Mediterranean
- occupy about 5.8% of the Croatian land area and take 3,259 km²
- 71% of the total coastline belongs to the coast of the islands
- 1,244 islands formation = 78 islands, 524 islets, 642 reefs and ridges
- 50 inhabited islands with 132,756 inhabitants – 3,1% of the Republic of Croatia
- 7 counties, 59 local governments, 355 settlements
- 51 local governments on the islands, 8 coastal local governments – 28 islands administratively belong to cities on the mainland

The population of Croatian Islands



Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics (<https://www.dzs.hr>)

Croatian Regulations and Acts on Islands

- The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, 1990
- The National Development Program of the Islands, 1997
- The Islands Act (1999, 2002, 2006)



EU Regulations and Acts on Islands

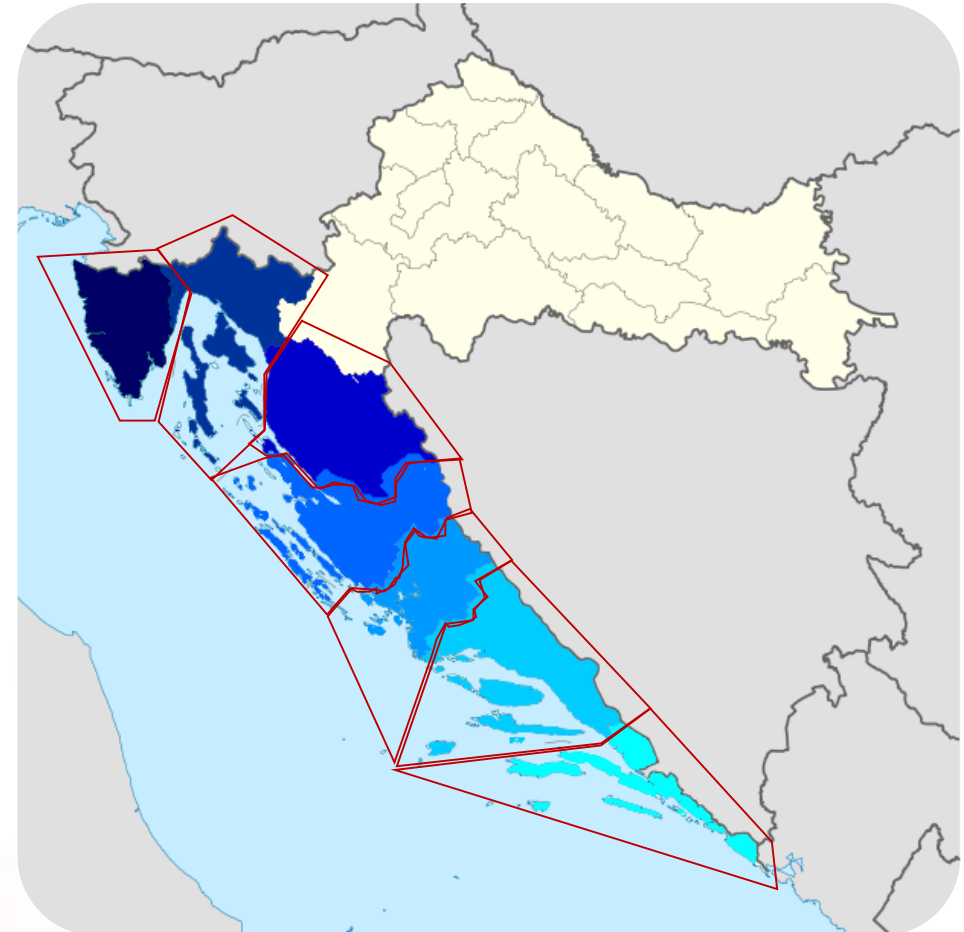
- Article 174 of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
- European Parliament resolution on the special situation of islands
- Smart Islands Declaration



Counties – Croatian Islands

Seven Adriatic Counties

- Istria County – no inhabited islands
- Primorje - Gorski Kotar County– 9 islands – population 39.706 (30%)
- Lika - Senj County- part of the island of Pag – population 3.663 (3%)
- Zadar County - 17 islands – population 20.952 (16%)
- Šibenik-Knin County - 7 islands – population 6.063 (5%)
- Split-Dalmatia County - 8 islands – population 36.338 (27%)
- Dubrovnik - Neretva County- 7 islands – population 26.034 (20%)



National position of the Republic of Croatia on Cohesion Policy (1)

- ❖ the cohesion policy is a key investment instrument of the EU
- ❖ directed towards providing a balanced development of Croatian islands
- ❖ an important instrument that enables economic growth and sustainable development
- ❖ a vital source of public investments
- ❖ a key component in reducing disparities among various regions

NUTS levels in Croatia

NUTS 2

- Continental Croatia (including the City of Zagreb)
- Adriatic Croatia



NUTS 3

21 Counties: 7 coastal-island; 14 continental



Operational programs for 2014-2020

OP Competitiveness and Cohesion

OP Efficient Human Resources

OP Rural Development

OP for Maritime and Fisheries

- ✓ new challenges and opportunities for integrated and sustainable development of Croatian islands
- ✓ provide additional funding - additional developmental effects!



Possibilities of using EU funds for the islands (1)

Operational Program Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014 – 2020 (OPCC)

- **SO 2a1:** Development of NGN broadband infrastructure in areas without sufficient commercial interest for investments in NGN broadband infrastructure, for maximum increase of social and economic benefits,
- **SO 6ii1** - Improvement of the public water supply system with the purpose of assuring quality and safety of drinking water supply,
- **SO 6ii2:** Development of wastewater collection and treatment with the aim to contribute to improvement of water status,
- **SO 7ii1:** To improve accessibility of the inhabited islands for residents,
- **SO 9a1:** Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status; Improving access to primary and emergency health care, with focus on isolated and deprived areas.
- **SO 10a3:** Increasing relevance of vocational education by improving the conditions for the acquisition of practical skills in targeted sectors of vocational education in order to achieve better employability of VET students.

Possibilities of using EU funds for the islands (2)

Programs of European Territorial Cooperation

- Cross-border cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Italy-Croatia 2014.–2020.
- Transnational cooperation Program INTERREG V-B Mediteran 2014.–2020.
- INTERREG V-B Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Cooperation Program 2014.–2020.
- the funds of the countries of the European Economic Area and the Kingdom of Norway

Current Island Development Programs, Projects and Measures

- ❑ Islands Development Program
- ❑ Encouraging Economic Development of the Islands
- ❑ Croatian Island Product (traditional economy promotion)
- ❑ Encouraging Islands Public Transports
- ❑ Providing Islands Households with Potable Water
- ❑ The Islands Associations and Civil Society Support



National position of Croatia on Cohesion Policy post 2020 (1)

MRDEUF has formulated the official position of the Republic of Croatia on cohesion policy after 2020:

- That Cohesion Policy remains one of the key pillars of the EU budget
- That cohesion policy remains a policy for all EU countries and regions, with less developed regions in the primary focus
- That the rates of national co-financing remain unchanged - 15%
- To maintain an n+3 period for resource absorption
- To simplify the legislative framework and implementation procedures
- To provide greater flexibility in the selection of funding areas characteristic of each region
- To remain the main instrument for the implementation of ESI funds
- To maintain current thematic areas / goals

National position of Croatia on Cohesion Policy post 2020 (2)

Proposals for the Croatian Islands

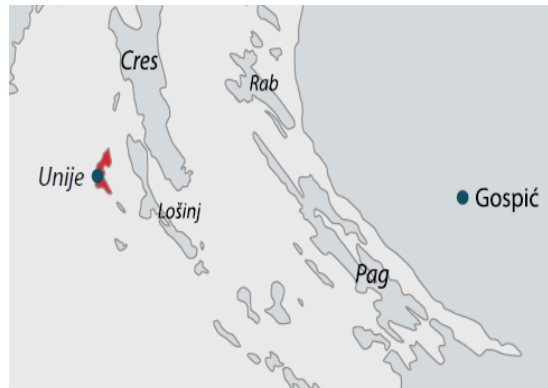
- largely be oriented towards the sustainable development of the islands
- particularly oriented towards the concept of "Smart Islands"

Smart Islands

- ❖ Resolution of the European Parliament on the Special Situation of the Island (2015/3014 (RSP)) and the Smart Island Declaration
- ❖ „Smart island" - an island that, with the use of the appropriate tools and innovative solutions, develops ecologically, socially, technologically and economically viable, building on this circular economy and increasing self-sufficiency and resistance to climate change

Smart Islands Projects (1)

1.1. Unije



PROJECT 1

Construction of desalination plant powered by renewable energy

PROJECT 2

Photovoltaic Power Plant

PROJECT 3

Educational Walking and Cycling Paths

1.2. Lastovo



PROJECT 4

Bike and electric bike sharing system

Smart Islands Projects (2)

1.3. Mljet



PROJECT 5

Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in NP Mljet and Mljet municipality

PROJECT 6

Installation of autonomous ecological blocks

PROJECT 7

Centre for protection of nature – Kulije

1.4. Krk



PROJECT 8

Anaerobic digestion plant for biogenic waste

PROJECT 9

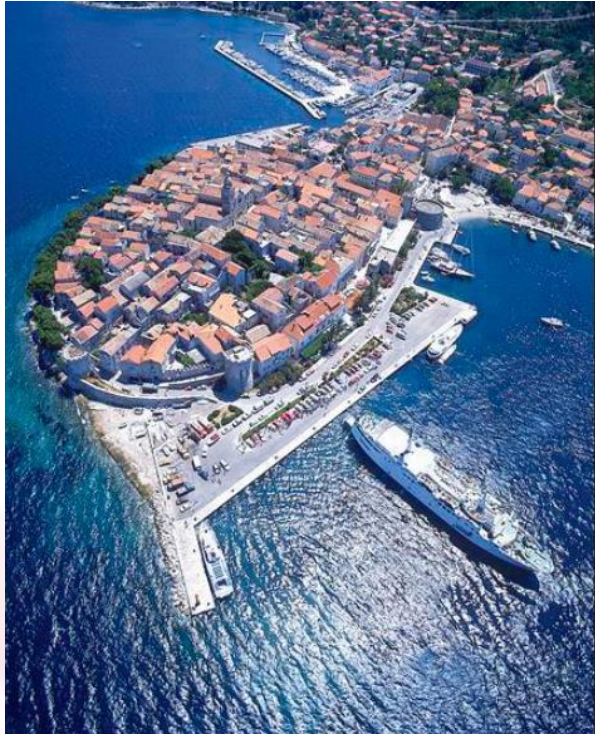
Smart Island (anticipates the construction and realization of all 10 of the Declaration of the Smart Islands)

PROJECT 10

Energy Academy and Information Centre

Small Islands Projects (3)

1.5. Korčula



PROJECT 11

Energy Renovation of households

PROJECT 12

Small PV plants

The new Islands Act in Croatia

Proposals for the Croatian Islands

- ✓ a new Act on Islands - the intent to strengthen and introduce modern mechanisms and new solutions to foster the policy of islands development in line with the general objectives of Croatia's development and economic policy and relevant EU-level policies
- ✓ harmonization, modernization and greater coherence of the islands' development policy with other national policies and the legislative framework both of the Republic of Croatia and the European Union

The new Islands Act in Croatia

- directing the Act according to the European Parliament resolution on the special situation of islands
- introducing new concepts and definitions into the legal framework
- a new approach to strategic islands development planning
- Island Development Agreement
- sustainable development of the island according to the concept of "smart islands"
- a new approach of defining island development

The new Islands Act in Croatia

- National Island Development Program
- Annual Island Program
- Island Development Plan
- Island Development Agreement
- Operational Program of Island Development



The new Islands Act in Croatia



Proposal for the Croatian Islands

The Island Development Agreement

- a new instrument for implementing policy of strategic planning and island development, creating a unique "island region"
- may include seven coastal island counties that cover the entire island area
- harmonizes the priorities of the islands' development at the state and regional level
- identifies strategic island development projects that contribute to the development of the whole islands area

The Island Development Agreement

The Island Development Agreement:

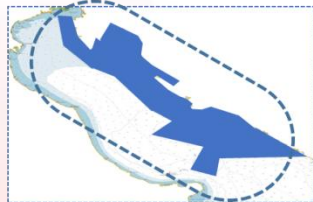
-  Islands of Iстриa County – no inhabited islands
-  Islands of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County - 9 islands - (population 30%)
-  Islands of Lika-Senj County - part of the island of Pag – (population 3%)
-  Islands of Zadar County - 17 islands – (population 16%)
-  Islands of Šibenik-Knin County - 7 islands – (population 5%)
-  Islands of Split-Dalmatia County - 8 islands – (population 27%)
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Thematic possibilities



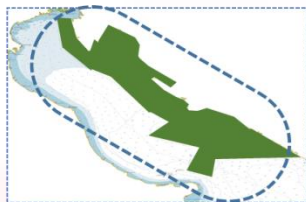
Island Development Agreement
01

"Integrated solar energy"



Island Development Agreement
02

"Traditional shipbuilding"



Island Development Agreement
03

"Mariculture-processing and fish farming"



Conclusion

- The islands are insufficiently represented in the existing programming period
- The Republic of Croatia will request changes to NUTS2 regions within the framework of regular changes to EU NUTS regulations with implications for the financial period 2021-2027
- Appreciating the special situation of the islands
- Changes to national legislation for the islands
- New Strategic Island Development Documents
- Largely be oriented towards the sustainable development of the islands
- Particularly oriented towards the concept of "Smart Islands"
- All activities are undertaken taking into account the needs of the island population and their life on the islands

Thank you for your attention!



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