

Dijana Bezjak, senior advisor

Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport, and Development

Directorate for Integrated Regional Development

Department for areas of special state concern

E-mail: dijana.bezjak@mmtpr.hr

Phone: 01/46 95 736

Mobile: 098/923-5505

DEVELOPMENT OF DISADVANTAGED AREAS IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD) defines the objectives and priorities to be obtained in the three key areas – programmes, and legal and institutional frameworks, in order to achieve a more balanced development of the country and to reduce socio-economic disparities in Croatia.

There are three programmes:

- The County and Wider Region Development Programme,
- The Programme for the Development of Disadvantaged Areas,
- The Programme for Cross-border and Inter-regional Cooperation.

Programme for the Development of Disadvantaged Areas aims towards:

- Unified and simplified identification of disadvantaged areas;
- Capacity building at local, regional, and state level; and
- Effective management of development activities in order to achieve optimal results for invested efforts and financial resources.

For **identification of disadvantaged areas**, new model has been developed establishing the Regional Development Index, which will be used in classification of territorial units in 5 years periods. Based on the classification, the disadvantaged areas will be:

- Counties classified in Group I,
- Municipalities classified in Group I and II.

Financing of the Programme

NSRD introduces unique framework for development resources that are now dispersed among numerous programmes and proposes new Regional Development Act which will replace three currently existing laws. Financing would be distributed to:

- Disadvantaged County Support,
- Disadvantaged Local Government Unit Support.

Support assumes Development contract between state and a respective county, and it will be given in form of a co-financing of investments for approved projects within the County Development Strategies that are addressing the needs of disadvantaged municipalities.

Establishing the management capacity

New ways of thinking and working are necessary in order to achieve innovative approaches. Therefore, capacity building, especially in attaining new skills and know-how, is essential. NSRD anticipates formation of county work-groups that will provide guidance and leadership in formulation of local development strategies for disadvantaged municipalities which are mainly small towns located in rural areas.

Source:

- Strategija regionalnog razvoja RH
<http://www.mmtpr.hr/default.asp?ID=383&pojam=Strategija+regionalnog+razvoja>