

**Ms. Savka Kučar Dragičević,
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Mrs.chair, ladies & gentleman

The Republic of Croatia is aware of the importance of systematic monitoring of the state of the environment as well as tracing environmental pressures as a basis for the integrated environmental management.

It therefore, already in 2002, established a separate institution, the Croatian Environment Agency, to collect and IT integrate data on the environment, to set up and maintain the national environmental information system, and to prepare the relevant national and international documents and reports on the environment.

Today, the Republic of Croatia is about to complete the setting up of the environmental information system (NEIS) at the national level. NEIS includes a wide range of data and information on the thematic fields of air, climate, soil, sea water, biological and landscape diversity, spatial features, waste management and a number of other data relevant for environmental assessment. In practice, this implies linking of existing databases and data sources, development and construction of new databases, as well as ensuring unimpeded flow of data towards the Croatian Government, towards the public, and for purposes of international cooperation.

A national list of indicators for all major environmental components has been prepared and is currently undergoing a broad process of intersectoral coordination.

Furthermore, significant efforts have been made in order to prepare the national environmental information system for a successful integration into the Shared European Information System (SEIS).

For the first time, the State of the Environment Report of the Republic of Croatia was prepared based on the indicator approach. Somewhat less than 200 different indicators related to environmental pressures, environmental components, and general environmental protection issues were processed. The Report was adopted by the Croatian Parliament, and the summary in English will be available in late October.

The Republic of Croatia, although not yet a member of EEA, actively participates in its work and a number of bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects. We would like to mention, as an example, the cooperation in the development of the presented Report, particularly in the part concerning the comparative review of the environmental status based on common indicators. In the course of implementation of this project, the Croatian Environment Agency, prepared and submitted 29, out of a total of 37 EEA Core Set indicators. This document, published in a bilingual edition, is available.

We hope that thereby we have enabled a better insight into the status and perspectives of the quite preserved environment of the Republic of Croatia, promoted the indicator-based approach for the environmental assessment in the wider region and ultimately, contributed to common efforts towards the preservation and protection of the European environment.