

PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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SUMMARY

The State Audit Office of the Republic of Croatia performed an audit of the preparedness of the Republic of Croatia to implement the sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The subject of the audit were the activities undertaken by the competent institutions and bodies of the Republic of Croatia in order to be ready for the implementation of the sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The auditees were the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

The goal of the audit was to assess the preparedness of the Republic of Croatia's institutions and bodies for the implementation of sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, as well as to check whether strategies, national programs and action plans for the implementation of sustainable development goals have been adopted, whether the institutional framework for the implementation of sustainable development goals has been established with a clearly defined organisational and coordination structure, whether the competencies, roles and responsibilities of Croatian institutions and bodies are clearly defined, whether the implementation of sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda and whether it is reported on the implementation of the sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda.

The audit, among other things, identified:

- Considering that the website www.hrvatska2030.hr was not active for six months, it did not fully achieve its purpose, that is information related to the process of preparation and development of National Development Strategy (NDS) were not publicly available during the part of the period of preparation and development of NDS.
- Considering that, according to the Indicative List of Strategic Planning Acts from the NDS, the period of application for most of the mentioned strategic acts (38 of them) has begun, it is necessary for the developers to urgently undertake activities for their adoption. Also, by the insight of the NDS it is determined that the goals of sustainable development are related to the goals of the NDS, but measures, activities, deadlines and holders of measures to achieve the goals of sustainable development, which should be regulated by strategic acts in accordance with the Act on the Strategic Development Planning and Development Management System of the Republic of Croatia, have not been determined.
- Within the drafting of strategic documents, envisaged by the NDS, the institutions responsible for individual indicators for monitoring the sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda, should be clearly defined. It is also necessary to more clearly

define the competencies, roles and responsibilities of Croatian institutions and bodies procedures on their cooperation.

- The Croatian Bureau of Statistics did not (in coordination with other statistical data holders and official statistics holders, as well as decision makers) develop a national action plan for systematic monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals, mapped the availability of data necessary for calculating sustainable development indicators; decided on responsible institutions who would be in charge of certain data from their scope for the purpose of producing certain indicators as determined by the Program of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2018-2020. Given that the reviewed documentation and insight into the Croatian Portal of sustainable development goals shows that out of the 244 global indicators, it monitors 28 indicators (11.5%) and that it contains certain indicators only in English, as well as part of the outdated data on indicators, it was found that the number of produced indicators, which is a key prerequisite for the success of the whole process, is not sufficient or updated in order to effectively monitor the achievement of sustainable development goals in the Republic of Croatia.

Based on the facts established by the audit and taking into account the set audit objectives, the State Audit Office assesses that the activities undertaken by the competent institutions and bodies of the Republic of Croatia in order to be ready for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, are effective but certain improvements are needed.

The State Audit Office made the following recommendations:

- Ensure constant availability of the website www.hrvatska2030.hr in a way that it is continuously active and updated for the purpose of transparency, public availability and availability of information related to the process of preparation, development, implementation, monitoring, reporting, financing and evaluation of NDS.
- Develop a national action plan in coordination with other statistical data holders and official statistics holders, as well as decision makers, for systematic monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.
- Designate responsible institutions in coordination with other holders of statistical data and holders of official statistics, as well as decision makers, who will be in charge of producing indicators from their scope.
- Take the necessary actions in coordination with other statistical data holders and official statistics holders, as well as decision-makers, in order to conduct a mapping of the availability of data necessary for the calculation of sustainable development indicators.

The Office is of the opinion that the implementation of these recommendations would contribute to the elimination of identified shortcomings and omissions, which would increase the preparedness of the competent institutions and bodies of the Republic of Croatia for effective implementation of sustainable development goals from the 2030 Agenda.