

## Opportunities for traineeship

### *Background information*

Croatia is in a process of preparation for EU-accession. One of the areas of preparation is regional policy. This area directly links to the EU-objective of pursuing economic and social cohesion among the different parts of the European territory and important social groups. Through the CARDS-programme the EU is providing support to Croatia in this preparation. In the context of CARDS the project Regional Development Capacity Building Facility is providing assistance to the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development (MMTPR) in this process in the field of regional development.

The main objectives of the project are:

- Strengthen MMTPR capacity in coordination and management of development programs and projects at regional/local level and prepare the Ministry for its future role in managing the EU-Structural Funds regarding regional development;
- Enhance capacity to plan and implement development activity at county/wider region level;
- Strengthen capacity of regional and local level for the effective use of funds for development (enhancing absorption capacity).

The project is implemented by a consortium of ECORYS Nederland and GDSI Ireland. It started in late September 2007 and will continue until September 2009.

### *Opportunity for traineeship/profile of trainees*

In the context of the project 5 trainees will be offered the opportunity to acquire more in-depth knowledge on several parts of the preparation process for EU-accession in the field of regional development. The trainees will be a final year undergraduate or graduate student, either with or without relevant work experience.

### *Trainee programme*

The trainees will be specifically oriented at technical assignments that junior practitioners can undertake in the context of their traineeship, in close collaboration with either the international (key) expert in the project and/or the local experts. Some examples of topics for the trainees:

- Assist in assessing the quality of all existing ROPs;
- Review the counties' activities, strengths and weaknesses regarding inter-county and intra-county co-ordination, co-operation, partnership and networking (in respect of developing economic and social development programmes);
- Assist in assessing the capacity of existing county PMU's, or other relevant organisational structures within the county administration and/or county development agencies;
- Assist in running an awareness campaign for local stakeholders informing them about their role, responsibilities and capacity requirements in developing local development strategies in general, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Structural funds;
- Assist in setting up and running a training programme to strengthen the capacity for working with development funds at regional and local level, including participation in courses;

- Assist in creating an “inventory of capacity” database, in which information will be included on number of experts for regional development in each county, their background, experience and trainings followed, etc..

### *Trainee contract*

The trainees will be offered a trainee contract with ECORYS, lasting for between 3 and 6 months, which will be split between on-the-job training on the project, and carrying out project-related work with the Ministry. Each trainee will be given a work programme from the beginning of their traineeship, and will be assigned to an ECORYS mentor, normally either the Team Leader or one of the Key Experts, and will have a named contact person in the Ministry depending on the trainees specific work area.

### *Location*

The traineeship will normally be carried out at the premises of MMTPR, Vlaška 106, 10.000 Zagreb. In addition, the trainees will be expected to accompany ECORYS personnel, normally either the Team Leader or one of the Key Experts. A subsistence allowance will be paid where the trainee is required to spend a night away from Zagreb.

### *Selection criteria*

The following criteria will be used in the selection of the trainees:

- Relevant academic background (economics, geography, sociology, political science, civil engineering);
- Undergraduate or recently graduated in one of the above mentioned academic studies;
- Fulltime or part-time (minimum 25 hours per week) availability during at least 3 to max. 6 months;
- Proven ability to work both as part of a team and also on their own initiative;
- Demonstrable ability in working in co-operation with a range of other organisations;
- Good command of English (both written and spoken);
- Driving licence would be advantageous;
- Recommendation by one of the Professors of a Croatian university in a relevant faculty would be advantageous.

### *Applications*

Please send your application (curriculum vitae plus short covering letter explaining why you are interested in a traineeship) before 14 December 2007 to:

Mrs. Anja Celio-Cega

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