

CROATIA

Provided by Adela Golub

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 2008

1. Steering Committee Activities

- Finalisation of the ReSPA activity report in the year of 2007 for the State Secretary of the Central State Office for Administration.
- Finalisation of preparation of ReSPA news which are to be presented on the website of the Central State Office for Administration in Croatian language.
- Communication between Croatian ReSPA SC Member and State Secretary of the Central State Office for Administration regarding the ReSPA's contract issue.

2. ReSPA Publications

- Preparation of **ReSPA regional publication on Civil Service Training Systems** still did not begin due to the unsolved contract issue.
- Completed and delivered contribution to the **ReSPA newsletter** describing situation in Croatia regarding ReSPA's further headquarters.

3. ReSPA Events

- Nothing to report.

4. Other Issues

- The Croatian government on Wednesday 19 March 2008 recognised Kosovo and issued the following statement: "The Government of the Republic of Croatia has accepted the decision of the Kosovo Assembly of 17 February 2008 to declare Kosovo's independence. "The Government of the Republic of Croatia is ready to develop with the Republic of Kosovo overall cooperation based on the principles of equality and reciprocity, thus contributing to the permanent strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in the interests of peace, stability and development. "At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Croatia reiterates its readiness to continue developing comprehensive and intensive relations with the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Croatia believes that relations among the countries in the region are of special importance and that their permanent stability remains an indispensable factor of Europe's peace and security. "The Government of the Republic of Croatia is confident that relations between Croatia and Kosovo will be based on European values and standards. "The Government of the Republic of Croatia expects the Government of the Republic of Kosovo to take a responsible and balanced approach to the processes lying ahead, notably with regard to the application of



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standards and normalisation of all aspects of life in Kosovo, with all ethnic groups living there being treated equally and their needs and differences being respected. "The Government of the Republic of Croatia attaches special importance to the position and protection of Kosovo Croats. Croatia expects the Kosovo institutions to do their best in enabling the Croat minority to exercise full minority rights, comparable to those exercised by the Albanian minority in the Republic of Croatia. "The Government of the Republic of Croatia will establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kosovo. Until the establishment of their respective embassies, the two governments will communicate through the Liaison Office of the Republic of Croatia in Pristina," the statement reads.