



PRESS RELEASE

First Information Seminar of BIZimpact Project – “Improving Information to the Croatian Business Community” – held in Karlovac

KARLOVAC, 12 November 2008 - **the first information seminar on the implementation of the BIZimpact Project was held in the Karlovac County Chamber of the Croatian Chamber of Economy.. Experts from the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, the BIZimpact Project and the Croatian Competition Agency presented the information campaign which will be implemented in the Karlovac, Lika-Senj and Sisak-Moslavina counties.**

In addition to the presentation by the Small Business Directorate of the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship and information update on the BIZimpact activities, the seminar participants were informed about the state aid, one of the key areas covered by the BIZimpact Project, which is to be piloted in the Kordun, Lika and Banovina region and for which, due to the specific features of the region, additional information seminars and trainings are planned.

BIZimpact is an EU-funded project whose aim is to improve the business climate in Croatia by developing tools for assessing the impact of legislative changes and improving information to the business community about those changes. The two-year Project will finish in September 2009 and it covers legislative changes in eight key areas: consumer protection, environmental protection, standards for industrial products, standards for agricultural products, public procurement, state aid, competition policy and intellectual property rights.

The main BIZimpact Project beneficiary is the Small Business Directorate of the Ministry of Economy; Labour and Entrepreneurship (MINGORP). Other beneficiaries are the Croatian SME Agency (HAMAG), the Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK), the Croatian Chamber of Crafts (HOK) and the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP).

In 2009, the BIZimpact Project will focus on a national information campaign in all Croatian regions with the aim of improving knowledge among small businesses about new regulations and standards which result from Croatia's accession to the European Union. In the Kordun, Lika and Banovina region implementation of the campaign at local level will include establishment of a working group of partner organisations which have participated in Project activities in the Karlovac, Lika-Senj and Sisak-Moslavina counties.

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