CITY OF CRKVENICA
CROATIA

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CITY

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About Crikvenica

- Surface: 60 km², coastline: 8 km long
- Population: 11,348 inhabitants
- The city dates back to 1412; over 125 years of tourism tradition
- Local self-government unit in the County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar (coastal Croatia, north Adriatic)
- 2021 budget: HRK 196 million = over EUR 26 million
Geographic Position

- Located in Croatia, Southeast Europe, in the Kvarner Bay of the Adriatic Sea, 37 km away from Croatian largest port – Rijeka; well-connected by road, rail and air connections, vicinity of Central European countries
- Adriatic Sea riviera consisting of 4 settlements: Crikvenica, Selce, Dramalj, and Jadranovo
- Mild Mediterranean climate, high level of air quality, clean sea
- Business-Friendly, Child-Friendly and Healthy City status, member of the CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-South East Europe Network for Sustainable Planning and Mobility
Natural Resources and Infrastructure

• Mild and healthy Mediterranean climate characterised by many hours of sunshine per year; beneficial air quality, clean sea; health tourism destination especially beneficial for recovery from respiratory diseases

• Long sandy and pebble beaches, promenades, and belvederes; especially beautiful belvedere is the one by the Dubračina creek that offers recreational facilities, green areas for relaxation and also connects the city to the neighbouring Municipality of Vinodol

• A coastline promenade connects all four settlements of Crikvenica; the land is protected from tide by breakwaters; since the climate is mild, there is no great risk of flooding
The City has recently received funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund through the local FLAG for the arrangement of educational walkways in order to raise awareness of the fishing tradition and the necessity to preserve the fish fund and seabed (project value: over EUR 100,000).

Current project: construction of a museum for the presentation of local fishing tradition with emphasis on environmental protection (project applied to FLAG’s public tender; expected funding: EUR 100,000).
The most important energy efficiency projects, that were all funded from the EU Structural Funds:

- Energy-efficient renovation of the Radost Kindergarten – insulation, roofing, carpentry
Energy Efficiency

- Energy-efficient renovation of the Zvonko Car Elementary School – insulation, roofing, carpentry, solar panels planned next year (2022)
Energy Efficiency

- Energy-efficient renovation of the Vladimir Nazor Elementary School – insulation, carpentry, solar energy
Energy Efficiency

- **Gornji Kraj-Ladvić Sports Centre** is built in 2021, powered by solar panels and energy-efficient.

- Current project: **replacing the entire energy inefficient public lighting system throughout the city with LED lights**; the estimation of energy savings and maintenance costs is 75% - funded by the EU Cohesion Fund
Project objective: Improving drainage, wastewater treatment and water supply with the aim of preserving the sea and water resources of the Republic of Croatia and protecting the environment

✓ Total value of the project: HRK 460 million = over EUR 61 million
✓ Total eligible costs: over HRK 367 million = over EUR 49 million
✓ EU funding: 71% - over HRK 261 million = over EUR 34 million (OP Competitiveness and Cohesion)

• Improvement and expansion of existing public drainage and water supply system and reduce losses in the water supply system

• Current phase: procurement procedure of four pumping stations and two water purification devices

• The wastewater treatment system will also ensure the protection and cleanliness of the marine ecosystem
Our waste management model, that started as a pilot project in 2002, received many awards for the best practice of local governments in the field of environmental protection – this was in the early days of waste separation, reusing and recycling practice in Croatia. This project introduced it all.

The City’s Waste Management Plan in force is in line with the EU goals; plans: building a recycling facility and a waste-sorting plant – project documentation for both projects has been completed – expected increase in recycled solid waste by 2023 of up to 30%.

Project „Recycle and Save Money” funded from the EU Cohesion Fund was aimed at educating citizens about sustainable waste management and included many educational and fun activities for the children and the youth as well as adults (web: www.otpad-uredi.com).

The City of Crikvenica also obtained EU funding from the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund and for the project of distribution of the recycle bins for paper and plastic which were distributed to all the interested households free of charge.
Civil Protection

- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Crikvenica relied on the activities of local Civil Protection Headquarters which included stakeholders from City authorities, emergency services, utility companies, the Police and civil sector representatives.

- The epidemiological measures in line with the national and county-level measures greatly contributed to low COVID-19 incidence in Crikvenica.

- Crikvenica also has in force a Protection and Emergency Rescue Plan which includes protection measures from natural disasters, epidemics, and emergency situations.
Environmentally Friendly Initiatives

✔ *Purchase of e-bicycles for communal officers* in order to reduce the use of cars and air pollution

✔ Local public transport network – *City Bus* – to motivate the citizens to use public transport and reduce air pollution

✔ Throughout the city there are *E-bike renting points* and, recently, *E-scooters*

✔ „*I Have My Own Tree*”, „*The Green Entrepreneur*”, „*Love Avenue*”, „*Happy Umbrella Pines*” – for a symbolic fee, the citizens can „adopt” a new tree which is then planted at attractive locations along the coastline
Environmentally Friendly Initiatives

- Joint public, private and civil sector initiative – cleaning the seabed, removing waste from beaches, cleaning illegal dumping sites – utility company, Crikvenica Tourist Board, civil society associations and volunteers

- Beaches are arranged in accordance with sustainability principles and Coastal Management Plan; activities on beaches are regulated through city decisions. Most beaches are in the system of concessions; they are regularly maintained and kept clean and unpolluted
Environmentally Friendly Initiatives

✓ Vladimir Nazor Elementary School is an **eco-friendly school** and carries out numerous educational eco-activities with the students.

✓ The City of Crikvenica collaborates with its 8 twin cities from the EU in joint application in EU projects, eco-initiatives and cultural exchange programs.
Crikvenica applied for the Istanbul Award in 2017 and 2020; in 2017, Crikvenica was also one of the finalists; we are happy to be among the cities who are best practice examples in applying sustainable development principles

Benefits of the application process:

- Opportunity to gather all relevant statistical data on environmental protection, urban planning, energy efficiency and „green” initiatives in one place
- Obtaining a detailed analysis of the energy efficiency results and the overall „green” identity of the city
- Identification of problems and weak points in sustainable governance at the local, regional, and national level
- Improved networking of the City Administration with local utility companies, civil society, stakeholders in tourism, county- and national-level institutions in the process of collecting data
- Promotion of the City of Crikvenica as an environmentally friendly city and raising public awareness of the climate change issues and sustainable development
- Peer-to-peer experience sharing at international level
Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

Difficulties in the application process:

- City size – since Crikvenica is a small city, many indicators are inapplicable since the reference value is 100,000 inhabitants
- Large number of data from various fields are required, and databases at the local, county and national level are often incomplete or do not collect such data at all
- Data collection is slow due to the extent of the necessary data
Thank you for your attention!
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