



Technical assistance development soil management policy in Croatia

Eva Spruyt, Stefan Helsen, Patrick Hambach, and Lars Cuyvers
Ecorem, Belgium (eva.spruyt@abo-group.eu)

As from the first of July 2013, Croatia became a EU member country and therefore has to comply with all the EU-rules (the “acquis”) as defined in the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993. One of the aspects of this acquis is the protection and conservation of the soil and groundwater and the remediation of contaminated sites that cause human and environmental risks. On behalf of the Department of Environment, Nature and Energy of the Flemish government together with the Public Waste Agency of Flanders(OVAM), ECOREM was assigned to carry out this study. The scope of this study therefore focuses on the aspect of soil management that can be divided into two main policies, being the policy for the prevention of soil contamination from new activities(1) and the policy for the management and remediation of historical soil contamination from local sources like industrial sites(2).

To form a soil management policy, Croatia must start from the legal obligations enforced by the European Union. One of the European Directives regulating the monitoring and protection of soil and groundwater is the new Industrial Emission Directive ('IED' – 2010/78/EU) from the 24th of November 2010. Whereas the framework of the Directive is larger than contamination of soil , the focus of this study was limited to soil contamination only.

In order to comply with the existing EU policy contributing to soil protection, the regulations in the IED, the Croatian government needs to adapt existing legislations or apply new regulations regarding soil monitoring for the industrial activities. Also other EU Directives enforce actions contributing to soil protection. Therefore, a questionnaire with different sorts of questions was sent to the different stakeholders (environmental institutes, agencies, ministries,...). The results were interpreted and allowed Ecorem, being the environmental consultant, to evaluate the gaps in the environmental and soil management policy.

This study gives advice on how to integrate these regulations in the existing legislation of Croatia within the current policy of Ministries and Agencies. Therefore an inventory study of the current environmental legislation and governmental organization has been carried out. The inventory study evaluates the process of implementing the EID and other Directives, within the new membership of Croatia in the EU.

Taking into account the future Soil Framework Directive and the Proposal of 2010, the study makes suggestions to implement future regulations for the protection and monitoring of the soil and the groundwater for potentially soil-contaminating activities.

Finally, the study makes suggestions on how to determine standards for contamination parameters, procedures, definitions, ... Input for these needs were obtained through the stakeholders.