



Inland Navigation Development Centre Ltd. (Centar za razvoj unutarnje plovidbe d.o.o.)

is a young, dynamic and fast-growing company specialized in project management, research and development, software development and marketing and PR in the sector of inland navigation. CRUP was founded in September 2003 by Croatian inland port authorities, port operators and shippers in order to motivate and enhance the development of inland navigation in Croatia. The major goal was to connect Croatian inland navigation to European inland waterway transport network in accordance with EU recommendations and fundamental determinants of European transport policy.

The company is 65% state owned and the founders and owners are:

- Port Authority Sisak
- Port Authority Osijek
- Port Authority Slavonski Brod
- Port Authority Vukovar
- Port Vukovar
- Port Tranzit Osijek
- Dunavski Lloyd
- Nautica Vukovar
- RTC-Brod
- Brodska Posavina

Main objectives and focus of CRUP's activities are: development and modernisation of inland navigation by means of state-of-the-art technology, integration of inland navigation into modern international transport chains, revitalisation of Croatian rivers (Danube, Sava and Drava), development of Croatian inland ports (Vukovar, Osijek, Sisak, Slavonski Brod), connection of Adriatic and Danube region, as well as enhancement of public opinion regarding inland navigation. All these objectives are being realised by means of project management, research and development, traffic and economic studies, marketing and public relations, production of software and hardware, support with various technical issues and consulting services in all segments of business operations.

The foundation of CRUP is closely connected with introduction of River Information Services in Croatia. Croatian Minister of Transport was present at the Rotterdam Conference in September 2001 where Declaration was adopted which obliges all signatories to develop and implement RIS until 2005. Croatia signed the Memorandum of Understanding together with all Danube countries, in which all Danube countries confirm the importance of Danube corridor and development of regional transport network and accept the obligation of development of RIS system. Since the beginning CRUP was chosen for the role of leading coordinator for RIS in Croatia and in October of 2004 was accepted in COMPRIS (Consortium Operational Management Platform River Information Services), whose task was to enhance the existing concept of RIS in terms of development and implementation. In May 2004 official contract was signed between CRUP and Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development which marks the official start of RIS implementation in Croatia and the beginning of project named CRORIS.

CRORIS project was developed independently, but with expert and institutional help from COMPRIS. Project was implemented on governmental level (Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, port authorities etc.) and at a commercial level (port operators, ship operators, etc.). After two years of hard work, first RIS centre in Croatia was opened in Vukovar on January 18, 2006 and today 100% of Croatian part of Danube and commercial part of Drava is covered with AIS signal. The next step is to equip all Croatian river ships with AIS transponders and to promote RIS to commercial users. It is expected that RIS will be fully operational in Croatia in 2008.

In 2006, as a sequel to CRORIS project, CRUP established another RIS oriented project, named CB-RIS. CB-RIS (Cross-Border Implementation of River Information Services on Danube and Drava Rivers) is a project financed by the European Union through "INTERREG III A – Neighbourhood Programme Slovenia-Hungary-Croatia 2004-2006". It is a joint project between Croatia and Hungary established in order to improve cross-border mobility and

accessibility in the border region on the Danube and Drava waterways and develop accessible ITC technology which will have a future use in social and economic life of the border area. Implementation of this project will include setting up of another RIS centre, this time on Drava river, in Osijek and connection of this centre with RIS centre in Mohacs, Hungary, in order to enable faster and more efficient information flow between Croatian and Hungarian customs, border police and other actors included in cross-border procedures.

According to the plan this project will be finished in 2008.

CRUP has also participated in various other projects, most of which were implemented on European level. The most important were:

- D4D (Data Warehouse for Danube Waterway) – project for the establishment of joint data base of all Danube countries in order to create digital navigation charts of Danube and main tributaries,
- MarGAL – project for the development of calamity abatement services using EGNOS/Galileo and enhancement of satellite positioning for inland navigation,
- MarUSE – project aimed to bring together SME's, maritime GNSS industry, other GNSS industry and key service providers and users within maritime and inland waterways with the aim to introduce EGNOS and Galileo in the maritime domain,
- DRAVIS – development of cross-border disaster management system using RIS on river Drava between Koprivničko-Križevačka county in Croatia and Somogy county in Hungary,
- DaTraM (Dangerous Cargo Transport Monitoring on Inland Waterways) – project for the establishment of dangerous cargo monitoring RIS test system on the Danube and suggestions for security policy in inland navigation on European and national level,
- Feasibility study for the development of Port Vukovar
- Pre-feasibility study for rehabilitation and development of the Sava river waterway

Considering that to date CRUP has participated in about ten European projects with objective of RIS development and implementation, its employees are regular member of ERI Expert Group, GIS Forum Danube, NtS Expert Group, IRIS Task Force, etc.

From the beginning CRUP has a role of service and information agent between its owners and the public. In this respect CRUP has built close relationships with all the key players in inland navigation sector in Croatia, especially with Croatian Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Agency for Inland Waterways and Sava Commission. One of CRUP's goals was to promote and enhance public opinion of inland navigation in Croatia and in that respect has established good connections with Croatian press and promotion agencies. From the beginning of this year CRUP is a member of INE (Inland Navigation Europe), European organisation for the promotion of freight traffic on the inland waterway network, and this way has taken a more active role in promotion of inland navigation in Croatia and promotion of Croatian inland navigation in Europe.

CRUP is also very active in establishing close connections with important stakeholders from inland navigation sector throughout Europe in order to exchange experience and know-how and to apply it in Croatian inland navigation sector. CRUP's goal is to include Croatian navigation sector in European trends and flows, regardless of the fact that Croatia is still not a member of the European Union.

Today CRUP is a dynamic, flexible and fast growing company managed by the team of young but experienced experts with back-ground in radio communications, computer science, nautical science, transport engineering and management. In the future it is expected that the company will grow according to the increased importance of inland navigation in Croatia and future plans are devoted to the implementation of RIS on the Sava river, inland navigation promotion campaign on national level, continuing close relationships with Croatian and European key stakeholders in the sector and keeping up with European trends.