



Republic of Croatia  
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## **USE OF GIS IN PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA COUNTY WITH SHORT VIEW ON NEW LAW OF PHYSICAL PLANNING**

### ***I. WHY GIS technologies in PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA COUNTY?***

Only accurate data that we can compare and analyze within a short time frame permits accurate decision-making. With the use of GIS Technology, counties, cities and municipalities are given the following opportunities:

- a tool for monitoring the landscape and environment (implementation of the policy on environment protection and urban design, devastations of space, etc.,
- the development of a system in accordance with global and European standards of management of spatial data and information systems,
- accelerated access to information and provision of a permanent data service to the public,
- easier and faster access for resolving everyday business tasks that are based on spatial data.

### ***II. USING GIS AND FUTURE AIMS***

The starting point for the establishment of an information system on space can be found in numerous national programs and laws. Within its framework, the County Institute establishes and governs an information system of spatial planning at the county level, and encourages the establishment of GIS at the city and municipality levels for the planning, monitoring and management of space and environment.

## **1. Developing GIS in Primorsko-Goranska County**

In order to make a physical plan of Primorsko-Goranska County, we started in 1994 to create a data base of geographical information system. Data is sorted in a few larger clusters according to significance and characteristics:

- administrative organization,
- natural characteristics of soil, water, and air;
- constructed structures;
- environment protection;
- area management;
- documentation of space.

The data base is being constantly updated with new data, so today in GIS we have elaborated more than a hundred different items.

## **2. Integrating GIS – GIS for cities and municipalities**

The information system is decentralized and contains system guidance on different levels: from national through regional to local. Whereas on the regional (county) level, a settlement is monitored as one object in space, GIS on the local level monitors each building as a separate object.

It has been recommended to each local self-government administrative organ, when drafting projects involving space from Primorsko-Goranska County, digital data from the Institute's data base for sustainable development and physical planning should be used and upgraded

### Online GIS data

Data can be assessed and interactively searched online on the web site [www.zavod.pgz.hr](http://www.zavod.pgz.hr). The user can identify each area, structure or route, locate it in space, select the background, such as a topographic or relief map or satellite image, print it, etc.

## **3. Future: GIS of Adriatic – GIS of coastal regions of Croatian Adriatic**

The establishment of an information system of urban design is the priority of various programs. The Ministry of Environment Protection and Physical Planning has entrusted to the County Institute the construction of the professional background for the establishment of the GIS of the coastal area of the Adriatic. The system is to be based on data from all physical

plans from all seven regions of Croatian counties. The framework for this assignment is as follows:

- a) defining types of data and criteria for data processing,
- b) testing the chosen model,
- c) defining the data base,
- d) data entry,
- e) forming the GIS for Croatian Adriatic regions.

Collected data are to be used for drafting the physical plan for special areas of the Adriatic, for drafting reports on the conditions of space in the Republic of Croatia, for drafting a program of measures for improving the situation of space in the Republic Croatia and the alteration and addition of Strategy of the Republic of Croatia.

#### *IV. WHAT ARE OUR MAIN DISADVANTAGES?*

Because of a lack of adequately trained personnel and resources, Primorsko-Goranska County is unfortunately not yet able to use GIS as an analytic tool. Hopefully this will change in the near future.

#### *IV. Modification of legal regulations on physical planning*

The Parliament of the Republic Croatia made a decision on July 28, 2004 to amend the Law on Physical planning. Thus, the Government of the Republic Croatia, on September 8, 2004, passed an Act on the regulation and protection of the coastal area and sea. The basic and most significant reason for adopting this regulation is to protect the coastal area and block further devastation of the coastal area (hinterland and sea).

The Amendments to the Law on Physical Planning are of numerous significance, but the most important one is the establishment of the protected coastal area, which is now of special interest to the Republic of Croatia, and the determination of primary rules for the decision procedure for physical plans and construction in these areas.

Protected coastal area is includes:

- all islands,

- from the coastline to the land in the amplitude of 1000 m
- from the coastline to the seashore in the amplitude of 300 m

This Act has not brought important changes in design, planning, constructing, using and protecting the space since the creation of the Physical Plan of the Primorsko-Goranska County. Most of the regulations have already been implemented in cities and municipalities which established a physical plan after 2000.

However, for the other regions on the Adriatic coast, this Act has brought about a great change. This Act has done a quality shift towards the protection of the coastal area from illegal construction by:

- reviewing all physical plans that are in force,
- requesting a hierarchical system of drafting plans,
- requesting construction by building drainage.
- and numerous other measures.

An intention of the Act is that, on the basis of clearly defined conditions and criteria, rules of behavior are established when drafting physical plans in this area. It is almost certain that there will be some negative effects that may influence the realization of some planned investments, but this appears to be the only way to stop some negative effects.

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