



Croatia



- Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia
- Area: Total - 56,542 sq km; Land - 56,414 sq km; Water - 128 sq km
- Natural Resources: oil, coal, bauxite, low-grade iron, and salt; Hydropower, etc.
- Population: 4,493,312 (July 2006)
- Languages: Croatian 96.1%, Serbian 1%, other 2.9%
- Government Type: Presidential/Parliamentary democracy
- Legal System: Civil Law System
- Executive Branch: Chief of State - President Stjepan Mesic, Head of government - Prime Minister Ivo Sanader
- Political parties: Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Croatian People's Party (HNS), Croatian Peasant Party (HSS)

Challenges:

- Criminal groups involved in economic crime use sophisticated methods to develop and recruit experts from financial and legal branches and enhance links with public structures via funding of sport activities, media articles, grants, and joint ventures with criminal organizations from Italy and Russia.
- The World Bank Doing Business Report 2008 notes that vast measures have been taken to reduce red tapes and bureaucratic delays. For example, the average number of hours spent by a medium size corporation to file and pay taxes were 196 hours compared with 183.3 hours in the OECD region in 2008.
- Investors have experienced corruption in the bidding process for public investment contracts and when obtaining import and export licenses. In addition, bribes have been demanded to speed up bureaucratic procedures and to receive impartial court decisions, as well as when investors wish to influence law and policies.

Challenges: Medium

HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW

Actions:

- CIN screens business partners and investigates any hidden ownership structures to ensure that there are no criminal organizations involved, which can damage your business credibility and reputation.
- CIN identifies state officials that are free from corruption and can assist with any, otherwise time consuming, administrative matters.