

FOREWORD

In the first half of 2020, the Republic of Croatia will hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union. This is an important task and a maturity test of sorts for any Member State, but particularly so for Croatia which, having been an EU member for barely seven years now, will find itself in that role for the first time.

To mark the occasion, we have decided to publish a new, updated and enlarged, edition of *CROATIA: LAND AND PEOPLE*, first published ahead of the country's entry into the European Union on 1 July 2013.

In order to acquaint the wider public with Croatia, the youngest European Union member, the publication has been updated and enhanced with new information and illustrations. This edition, like the first one, is available in several languages and in a digital format.

The second edition of the publication (*CROATIA: THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE*) contains useful information on the country: its geography, history, political organisation, population, economy, culture and society. One chapter is dedicated to relations between Croatia and the other European countries with which it has had ties for centuries.

This second edition was also produced at the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, a national institution founded in 1950 in Zagreb, which specialises in publishing encyclopaedias, lexicons, dictionaries and atlases. In compiling texts and selecting illustrations, the authors and editors have relied primarily on previous Institute publications, seeking to make Croatia better known to the general public abroad.