

FOREWORD

The richly illustrated publication *Croatia: The Land and its People* provides reliable information about the Republic of Croatia – its geography, history, political structure, population, economy, culture and society – laid out in a concise and readable form. One of the chapters is devoted to the centuries-old ties between Croatia and other European countries and peoples with which it came into contact. This kind of ‘identity card’ of Croatia, created in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, is also available online (croatia.eu).

The first edition of *Croatia: The Land and its People* was launched in several languages in 2013 on the occasion of Croatia’s entry into the European Union, and was primarily intended for a larger audience from other member countries, so as to introduce them to the new member. The second edition was launched on the eve of another important foreign policy event for Croatia, its presidency of the Council of the European Union (from 1 January to 30 June 2020). Considering the available data on the distribution of printed copies and the number of visits to its online version, and even more so considering their reception, we have reason to believe that the publication has fulfilled its task, which is why we continuously update and supplement it and prepare new foreign language translations. Of course, the Croatian language edition is always available to the domestic audience.

This publication was produced at the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, a national institution founded in Zagreb in 1950, which specialises in encyclopedias, lexicons, dictionaries and atlases. Authors and editors mainly relied on the Institute’s publications during the selection and compilation of materials.

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