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INVITATION TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EMN NCP FOR CROATIA  
“DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN”

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to the first Annual Conference of the European Migration Network National Contact Point for Croatia, titled “*Diaspora engagement in the development of the country of origin*” to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 22 October 2018.

This Conference aims to facilitate exchange of good practice examples between domestic and foreign experts working on diaspora related issues. Namely, as it is well known, diasporas are, or can be, an important factor in development of their countries of origin, primarily in the field of economy, but also in many other sectors (e.g. in education, health, technology). In this context, the Conference will gather representatives from Croatian state and research institutions, as well as experts and researchers from EU and non-EU countries, to explore existing models that recognize the potential of diaspora and to present viable tools for attracting diaspora to either return to or to engage with their countries of origin.

It will provide an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the current trends concerning Croatian diaspora, including planned state policies for establishing cooperation and encouraging return to Croatia, but also to learn about various practical models and strategies implemented in other EU and non-EU countries with the aim of facilitating investment and involvement of diaspora members in a variety of sectors. Additionally, contribution and activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in highlighting and supporting diasporas as effective agents of knowledge, skills and capital exchange will be presented.

The Conference will thus enable dissemination of successful institutional practices used in creating and maintaining partner relations between diasporas and their countries of origin, acknowledging the important role they have in their countries' development.

If you have any questions, please contact the European Migration Network National Contact Point for Croatia at [emncroatia@iom.int](mailto:emncroatia@iom.int).

Looking forward to welcoming you in Dubrovnik.

Yours sincerely,

Tatjana Radošević  
Head of Office