



Digital, Innovation, and Green Technology Project (P180755)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Croatia | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing (IPF) | FY 2023 | Seq No: 2 | Archived on 25-Apr-2024 | ISR00229

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Science and Education

1. OBJECTIVE**1.1 Development Objective**

Original Development Objective (Approved as part of Approval package on 22-Jun-2023)

The project development objective is to advance research and innovation with a digital and green focus through enhancing institutional infrastructure and research performance of research organizations and firms.

Has the Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

2. COMPONENTS

Name

Programs for digital and green research and innovation:(Cost 43,900,000.00)

Enabling institutional conditions for digital and green research and innovation:(Cost 72,500,000.00)

3. OVERALL RATINGS

Name	Previous	Current
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Satisfactory	● Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Satisfactory	● Satisfactory
Overall ESS Performance	---	● Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	● Moderate	● Moderate

4. KEY ISSUES & STATUS



4.1 Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Since completing the conditions of effectiveness on October 24, 2023, the Government of Croatia has established a Project Steering Committee. Additionally, the Ministry of Science and Education is working on meeting the two conditions for disbursement: finalizing the Grant Operations Manual and signing an Implementation Agreement with the Croatian Science Foundation.

5. SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL

Risk Category	Rating at Approval Approval Package - 22 Jun 2023	Last Approved Rating ISR Seq. 01 - 25 Oct 2023	Proposed Rating
Political and Governance	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Macroeconomic	● Low	● Low	● Low
Sector Strategies and Policies	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Fiduciary	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Environment and Social	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Stakeholders	● Low	● Low	● Low
Overall	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate



6. RESULTS

6.1 PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

Enhance institutional infrastructure								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Total value in Euros of programs benefiting from measures to advance institutional capacity (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			200,000,000.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		<p>The indicator measures the value of RDI funding in the portfolio of the Ministry of Science and Education that benefited from support for program design, M&E, application support to strengthen the pipeline, and other forms of implementation support.</p> <p>The indicator represents the outcome of capacity building and technical assistance support for the design, implementation, and M&E of research and innovation programs.</p>					
Total value in Euros of programs benefiting from measures to advance institutional capacity: digital (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			15,000,000.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		<p>The indicator measures the amount of funding for programs supporting digital RDI, as described in calls for proposals, that benefited from support for program design, M&E, application support to strengthen the pipeline, and other forms of implementation support.</p>					
Total value in Euros of programs benefiting from measures to advance institutional capacity: green (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			15,000,000.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		<p>The indicator measures the amount of funding for programs supporting green RDI, as described in calls for proposals, that benefited from support for program design, M&E, application support to strengthen the pipeline, and other forms of implementation support.</p>					
Number of researchers using	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			200.00	Jun/2028



improved research infrastructure facilities (Number)	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of researchers using improved research infrastructure facilities funded through grants provided by the project. The indicator refers to the use of research or technology infrastructure that is going to be built with the project's support.					
Total value in Euros of research and innovation programs complemented (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			10,000,000.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of research and innovation funding programs complemented. This refers to RDI support programs that have secured financing but are missing complementary elements that are key to enhancing their effectiveness, such as pre-screening applicants, professionalization of research centers, piloting new interventions, developing the innovation ecosystem, and supporting the peer review process. The indicator captures the influence/impact of the project's complementarity activities on the effectiveness of research and innovation programs.					
Enhance research performance of research organizations and firms								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Total value in Euros of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			40,000,000.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries. The indicator reflects unlocking opportunities for further financing. The indicator measures the value of pre-commercial RDI subprojects which have advanced their research as a result of project's support under Component 2, and which might seek further funding to advance on the path towards commercialization.					
Total value in Euros of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries (digital) (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			15,000,000.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries, tagged as digital.					



Total value in Euros of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries (green) (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			15,000,000.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of potential RDI projects from DIGIT beneficiaries, tagged as green.					

6.2 Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Programs for digital and green research and innovation								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Number of beneficiaries of grants for pre-commercial R&D and Challenge Fund (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			70.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of entities awarded with pre-commercial applied R&D and of the Challenge program grants. This does not include only lead beneficiaries, but all the entities that are beneficiaries in the financed sub-project.					
Number of beneficiaries of grants for pre-commercial R&D and Challenge Fund, of which digital (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			50.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of entities awarded with for pre-commercial applied R&D and of the Challenge program grants, tagged in applications to calls for proposals as digital.					
Number of beneficiaries of grants for pre-commercial R&D and Challenge Fund, of which green (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			20.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of entities awarded with pre-commercial applied R&D and Challenge program grants, tagged in applications to calls for proposals as green.					
Number of beneficiaries of	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			15.00	Jun/2028



grants for Synergies program (Number)	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number entities awarded with grants from the Synergies program.					
Number of beneficiaries of grants for Synergies program with a focus on digital (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			4.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of entities awarded with grants from the Synergies program tagged as digital according to their application form.					
Number of beneficiaries of grants for Synergies program with a focus on green (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			3.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of entities awarded with grants from the Synergies program tagged as green according to their application form.					
Total value in Euro of private capital mobilized for digital and green innovation financing (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			10,000,000.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of funding directly matched to (1) pre-commercial R&D, (2) Challenge program, and (3) Synergies program.					
Enabling institutional conditions for digital and green research and innovation								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Number of program applicants and beneficiaries supported (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			500.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of applicants and beneficiaries receiving institutional support by project activities within the Ministry of Science and Education					
M&E unit within Ministry of Science and Education supported (Yes/No)	No	Mar/2023	No	10-Oct-2023			Yes	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures whether the unit received expert inputs and trainings for capacity building in monitoring and evaluation of research and innovation programs					
M&E Policy Analysis Unit workplan established (Yes/No)	No		No				Yes	
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures whether the M&E Policy Analysis Unit has established a workplan defining key processes and tasks of the Unit.					



Policy support unit within the Ministry of Science and Education dedicated to performance-based funding for research organizations established (Yes/No)	No	Mar/2023	No	10-Oct-2023			Yes	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures whether the unit is operational and staffed with capacity to assess the quality of research and innovation plans, monitor their implementation and guide research organizations through this process					
Number of research infrastructure projects completed with project support (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			2.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of research infrastructure projects completed during the project implementation period					
Numbers of programs complemented (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	14-Apr-2024	0.00	14-Apr-2024	3.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of programs complemented through piloting new interventions, developing the innovation ecosystem, and supporting the peer review process.					
Number of firms supported with digital or green diagnostics (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			1,000.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of unique users on diagnostic toolkits (one for digital technologies and one for green technologies) to provide firms with immediate insights into their current technology adoption and areas for improvement.					
Number of female-led firms supported with digital or green diagnostics (Number)	0.00	Apr/2023	0.00	14-Apr-2024	0.00	14-Apr-2024	200.00	Dec/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of unique users on diagnostic toolkits (one for digital technologies and one for green technologies) that provide female-led firms with immediate insights into their current technology adoption and areas for improvement.					
Number of service providers trained for technology scouting (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			10.00	Dec/2024
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of service providers that completed training for technology scouting.					
Number of firms supported by technology scouting (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			35.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of grants awarded for technology scouting services to firms to help define specific research needs and connect them to capacities in research organizations.					

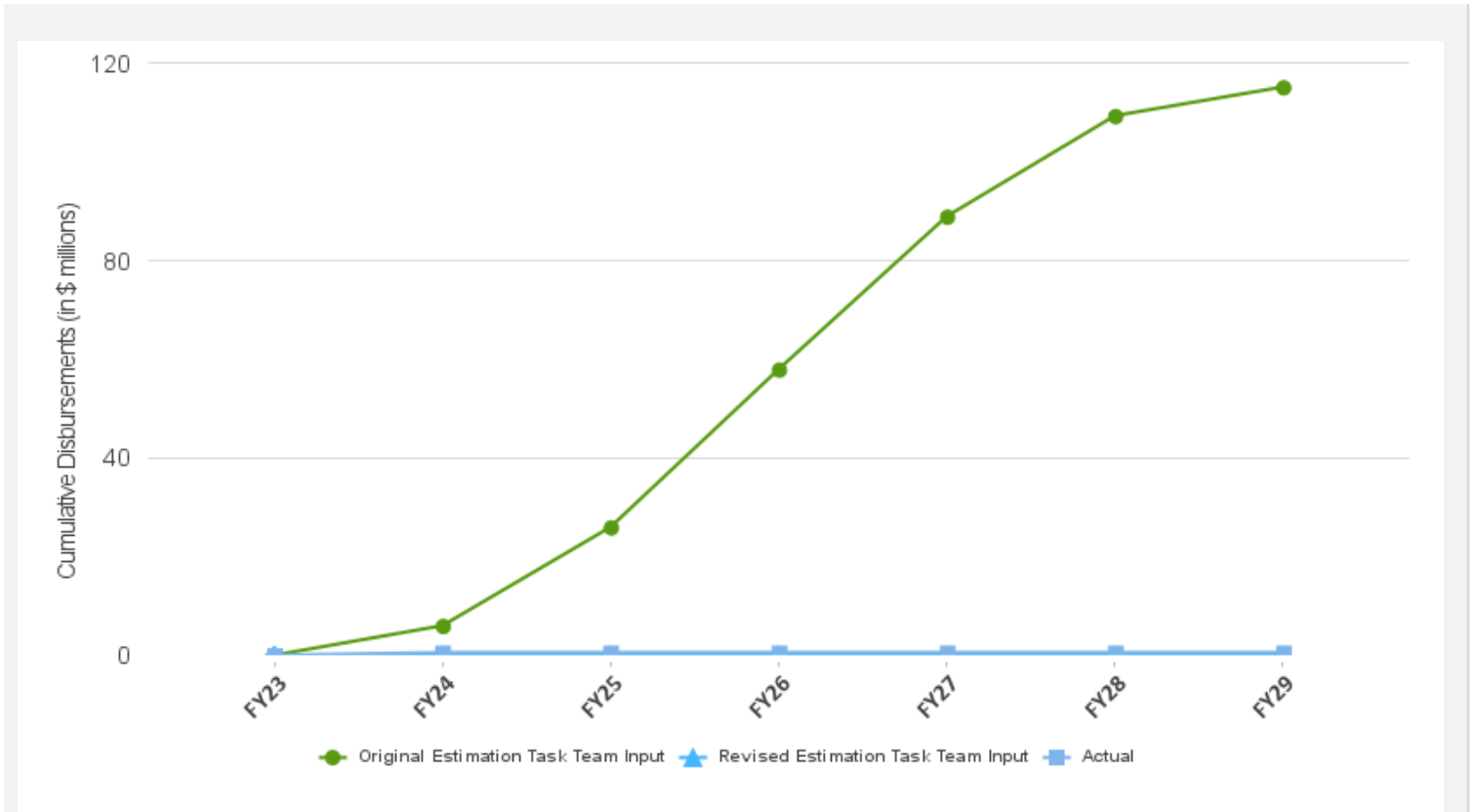


Number of research centers receiving grants for professionalization (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	14-Apr-2024	0.00	14-Apr-2024	15.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of research centers supported with grants to professionalize the management of research infrastructure.					
Grievances addressed within the stipulated service standards (Percentage) (Percentage)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	10-Oct-2023			100.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the value of funding directly matched to (1) pre-commercial R&D, (2) Challenge program, and (3) Synergies program.					
Number of consultations meetings organized (Number)	0.00	Mar/2023	0.00	14-Apr-2024	0.00	14-Apr-2024	5.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of stakeholder meetings organized to consult aspects of project implementation and provide feedback on actions how these have been improved based on feedback.					
Share of beneficiaries who report satisfaction with the Project's engagement process (Percentage)	0.00		0.00				70.00	
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the number of questionnaire or survey respondents (beneficiaries) that indicate they are satisfied or highly satisfied with the project's engagement process divided by the total number of respondents.					
Percentage of female applicants for grants (Percentage)	23.00	Mar/2023	23.00	10-Oct-2023			30.00	Jun/2028
	Comments on achieving targets		The indicator measures the percentage of female applicants to research and innovation programs supported by the project's gender outreach activities.					



7. DATA ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 Cumulative Disbursements



7.2 Disbursements (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
IBRD-95580	Effective	116.40	116.40	0.00	0.55	115.85	0.47%

7.3 Key Dates (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Orig. Closing	Rev. Closing
IBRD-95580	Effective	22-Jun-2023	28-Jun-2023	24-Oct-2023	29-Dec-2028	29-Dec-2028

8. KEY DATES



Key Events	Planned	Actual
Approval	22-Jun-2023	22-Jun-2023
Effectiveness	24-Oct-2023	24-Oct-2023
Mid-Term Review No. 01	29-Jun-2026	
Operation Closing/Cancellation	29-Dec-2028	

9. RESTRUCTURING HISTORY

10. ASSOCIATED OPERATION(S)

There are no associated operations