

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Croatia



Last updated: February 2011

By: Sandra Car

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Youth participation in Croatia _____	2
2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Croatia _____	3
2.1. Participation in elections _____	3
2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies _____	4
3. Youth participation in civil society _____	5
3.1 Membership in NGOs _____	5
3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level _____	5
4. Learning to participate _____	8
4.1 The formal education system _____	8
4.2 Non formal education _____	8
5. Youth information in Croatia _____	9
5.1 The structure of youth information _____	9
5.2. The youth information services _____	9
5.3. Topics of youth information _____	11
5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information _____	11
6. Informal ways of young people's participation _____	12
7. Sources of information _____	13

1. Youth participation in Croatia

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society?

National Youth Program from 2009 till 2013 (pdf document enclosed)

The law on Youth Advisory Boards (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/297305.html>)

- If so: how is the concept of youth participation defined?

According to The Law on Youth Advisory Boards organized forms of youth can participate in counseling processes on regional and local level.

Through Youth Advisory Boards, Youth Councils, Youth Parliaments, Youth associations, associations for youth and national youth associations.

- What are the measures envisaged to promote different forms of participation on local, regional and national level?

1. Implementation of professional and public discussion about the interest of young persons for different forms of political participation, especially for voting at local elections at the age of 16

2. Encouraging young persons to actively participate in the society

- Promotion of implementation of the Law on youth Advisory Boards
- To encourage drafting of regional and local youth programs and ensure accessibility of regional and local youth programs to wider public on a webpage
- To designate a responsible operative persons in ministries and offices of the Government to be a commissioner for youth and cooperate with youth civil society organizations and organizations for youth
- To encourage education of commissioners for youth
- To encourage celebration of the International Youth Day

3. Full inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in the implementation of European community 'Youth in action' program

4. Providing encouragement to activities of youth associations and associations for youth in the Republic of Croatia

5. To initiate premises allocation for use of associations for youth and youth associations

6. To support scientific researches about young people

7. Stimulation of volunteer work among youth.

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups? (please tick) No.

- females
- males
- migrants
- young people with fewer opportunities
- young people in specific regions
- minorities (which):
- certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which):
- other:

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in [Croatia]

Please describe the rules of representative democracy related to young people answering the questions below:

- Is voting compulsory in your country? Y/N.

It is a right, not an obligation.

- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections?

European ¹ :		National:	18	Regional:	18	local	18
-------------------------	--	-----------	----	-----------	----	-------	----

- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

Croatian citizenship, 18 years of age, full legal capacity.

- What are the legal requirements for being a candidate in elections ?

Croatian citizenship, 18 years of age, full legal capacity.

2.1. Participation in elections: Data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years old) on European (for EU-countries only) and national level.. If detailed data on young people is not available please provide the general turnout of all voters and describe the young voter's participation

	Participation in European elections in % of people with the right to vote			Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population						
13 – 30 year olds						
16 – 19 year olds ²						
20 – 24 year olds						
25 – 30 year olds						

1 If applicable

2 If applicable

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies. Additional data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

Please provide the number (in total and by gender) of young people under the age of 30 who are members of the national parliament. Please provide the total number of parliamentarians on national level.

	MP ≥ 30		All MP	
Women	No data	%	32	20,9 %
Men	No data	%	121	79,1 %
Total	No data	%	153	100 %

Source: Women and men in Croatia 2010 (chapter on Political power, pg. 57).
Zagreb: Republic of Croatia, Central Bureau of Statistics. (www.dzs.hr)

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1. Membership in NGOs. Data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

Please give the percentage of young people aged 13 to 30 (if possible in total and gender) who are members in non-governmental organisations (including political and youth NGOs) and if possible for youth NGOs. Please provide the same data for political parties as well. For comparison, please provide the same data for the whole population.

	NGOs, including political NGOs and youth NGOs			Youth NGOs			Political parties		
	Total	female	male	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population									
13 – 30 year olds									
16 – 19 year olds									
20 – 24 year olds									
25 – 30 year olds									

3.2. Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Please give a picture of how young people can/do participate in formally recognized ways in civic society/policy in your country by answering to the following questions:

which types of youth participation structures exist in your country and which group of young people these structure do represent

Youth Councils, Youth Advisory Boards, Youth Parliaments, Youth associations, associations for youth and national youth associations., Youth of the political parties.

Youth Councils. A youth council represents a form of youth self-organization on a voluntary basis through connecting, i.e. networking of various youth associations and associations for youth that exist on a local (city, county) level. The main role of youth councils is representation of youth organizations' interests to local authorities and participation in the process of creating, implementing, monitoring the policy for youth and its evaluation. The council's legitimacy in representing interests arises from its membership. Therefore, it is particularly important that as many youth organizations as possible, existing in a certain area, participate in its work. In Croatia, in the last few years, the practice of establishing youth councils by the Croatian Youth Network was developed. They bring together youth organizations on regional or local levels (youth associations and associations for youth, youth clubs, student councils and student associations, informal initiatives and youth branches of political parties) which have joined irrespective of their program designation and organizational structure. Until now, according to this model, 6 county councils and one city youth council were established. The problem that existing councils face is the fact that, according to effective regulations, it is not possible to register them as legal entities, as (according to the Law on Associations) members of association unions may be other associations, and the youth branches of political parties do not have the legal status of associations or an independent legal personality.

Youth parliaments are non-governmental organizations or the projects of nongovernmental organizations, schools or local authorities the main purpose of which is education of young persons on democratic citizenship and an increase in the level of their participation in society through membership in bodies structured as parliaments. In the Republic of Croatia, several organizations with the title of youth parliaments are active: National Youth Parliaments Association uniting fifteen local youth parliaments and city student councils (the project of the European Home Slavonski Brod); European Youth Parliament (organization active within the “European Youth Parliament” project by the German Heinz Schwarzkopf foundation). This form is very useful as it enables youth to practice dialogue and democratic procedures from the early age. However, according to their structure and programs, youth parliaments in Croatia are in no way a form of youth representation.

Youth advisory boards. In February 2007, the Croatian Parliament adopted the Law on Youth Advisory Boards. These are the bodies acting with local or regional administrations, formed of young persons. Their members, following the propositions by registered youth associations, are elected by the representative body of the local or regional self-administration. The primary role of youth advisory boards is counseling local and regional representative bodies on issues of interest to youth. In this sense, youth advisory boards are advisory bodies with local or regional authorities. The implementation of the Law on Youth Advisory Boards is the responsibility of local and regional self-administration. However, as on one hand the Law does not determine sanctions for non-implementation, and on the other hand, the manner of electing members is not precise enough, numerous local and regional units have not established youth advisory boards yet because organized forms of youth make it difficult to establish Advisory Boards in small communities.

In 2010 by the Ministry of Family, Veteran’s Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity a Working group for drafting proposals of necessary amendments to the Law on Advisory Boards was established. Its activities are as follows:

- 2.1.2. To draft proposals of necessary amendments to the Law.
- 2.1.3. To issue the interpretation of the Law as regards the foundation, election of members and activity of Youth Advisory Boards and draft instruction for the implementation of the Law on Youth Advisory Boards,
- both within the Measure 2: Encouraging young persons to actively participate in the society, which is a part of area 5. Active participation of young people in society, of the National Youth Program from 2009 till 2013.

Youth associations, associations for youth and national youth associations. Youth associations and associations for youth are not formally defined, in this way not differing from other associations registered in accordance with the Law on Associations. However, in planning and implementing youth policy, and programs, projects and activities directed to young people, youth associations are generally considered to be the associations whose membership is mainly under 29 years of age, and associations for youth whose foundation goals or a significant portion of work program is directed to programs and projects for youth under 29 years of age. National youth associations are generally considered to be those associations which act on the state level, have branches on a larger area or represent union of associations of the same designation (for example, Scout Association of Croatia, Croatian Youth Hostel Association, Croatian Youth Music Society, Croatian Academic Union, Union of Associations Klubture, Union of Youth Information Centers, etc.). Simultaneously, in the last ten years or so, the work of youth on the level of associations related to Catholic Church or other religious organizations has strengthened significantly, and their networking was also noticed, as well as the need for their appreciation as partners in discussions on issues relating to youth.

National Pupils' Council is the highest body of elementary and high school pupils on national level. It is a representative body of all pupils in the Republic of Croatia and an advisory body of the Ministry of science, education and sports. The National Pupils' Council has 21 member – one from each county. (<http://nvurh.skole.hr/nvurh>)

County Pupils' Councils (21)

School Pupils' Councils (one in each school)

what is the degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures (please fill in the table below): No data on percentages.

type of youth participation structure	% of local structures			% of regional structures			% of national structures		
	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information
	Municipal Advisory Boards City Advisory Boards City of Zagreb Advisory Boards			County youth Advisory Boards			Youth Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/306087.html), www.mobms.hr , savjetzamlade@mobms.hr		
.....									

4. Learning to participate

4.1 The formal education system

Please describe existing mechanisms within the system of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

Politics and Economy classes in High schools (1 year program in Gymnasiums).

Are there teacher trainings programmes at the national and/or regional level on this topic?

Projects by GONG (non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to actively participate in political processes), training teachers to perform workshops in their schools ('I vote for the first time' (<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=139>) and 'European Class' workshops (<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=150>)).

Additional data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

4.2 Non formal education

Please describe five to ten existing examples of actions/programmes/activities at national or regional level, outside the formal education system, aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

Programmes/activities organized by GONG (non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to actively participate in political processes):

Printed materials: How to advocate?; How to start the civil society organization?; Finnaly 18 etc. (<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=176>)

4-5) Workshops: 'I vote for the first time' (<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=139>) and 'European Class' (<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=150>)

6) Visits: Open Parliament – visiting the Parliament (also from GONG)

(<http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=146>)

Additional data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

5. Youth information in Croatia

5.1 The structure of youth information

Please describe how youth information is organised in your country answering the following questions.

- Do youth information points / centres exist? **Y/N**
- Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? **Y/N**

Association of youth information centers Croatia (<http://www.icm.com.hr/>)

- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? **Y/N**.

If yes, where?

There are four regional info-centers: in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek.

- Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? If yes, name the network.

European Youth Portal, ERYCA, Youth Forum Jeunesse

The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (http://www.mobilnost.hr/index_en.php) is also responsible for the implementation of: [Europass](#), [Eurodesk](#), [Euraxess](#), [Euroguidance](#) and [Erasmus Mundus](#).

5.2. The youth information services

Please provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information point/centre. Data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

*Is there an online national youth information system? **Y/N**.*

If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

There is no online national youth information system but there are many institutions on national level providing information for youth, such as:

- Ministry of the Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity (<http://www.mobms.hr/>)
- The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (http://www.mobilnost.hr/index_en.php)
- Croatian Youth Network (http://www.mmh.hr/en/index.php?page=info&cat_id=71)

*Are there any online regional youth information systems? **Y/N***

If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

- PRONI Centre for social education (<http://www.proni.hr/>)
- Info zona (<http://split.com.hr/zona/>)
- Info portal UMKI (<http://www.umki.hr/portal/>)
- Association Zamisli – Regional Info-centar Zagreb (<http://www.icm-zg.info>)

They cover topics within the eight areas of action appointed by The National Youth Program from 2009 till 2013:

1. Education and informatization,
2. Employment and entrepreneurship,
3. Social policy,
4. Healthcare and reproductive health,
5. Active participation of young people in society,
6. Youth and civil society,
7. Youth culture and leisure time, and
8. Mobility, informing and counselling.

Family centers:

- Obiteljski centar Bjelovarsko-bilogorske županije (<http://www.oc-bbz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-dnz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Grada Zagreba (<http://www.ocgz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Istarske županije (<http://www.ociz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Karlovačke županije (<http://www.oc-karlovac.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Koprivničko-križevačke županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentarkc.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Krapinsko-zagorske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-kzz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Požeško-slavonske županije (<http://www.ocpozega.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Primorsko-goranske županije (<http://www.oc-pgz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Sisačko-moslavačke županije (<http://www.ocsmz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Splitsko-dalmatinske županije (<http://obiteljskicentar-sdz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Šibensko-kninske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-sibenik.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Varaždinske županije (<http://www.ocvz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Virovitičko-podravske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Vukovarsko-srijemske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-vsyz.hr>)

-existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information of young people in your country (e.g. magazines, folders/brochures). Data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

5.3. Topics of youth information

In relation to the structures of youth information you mentioned above, what are the main contents of information delivered to young people?

- career guidance
- studies and scholarships
- jobs and training
- general health matters
- relationships and sexuality
- social security benefits
- rights of young people
- consumer rights
- European opportunities for young people
- youth activities and exchanges
- Other (please explain)

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

How do young people participate in the national/regional system of youth information?

Data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

6. Informal ways of young people's participation

Please describe informal ways used by young people to make their voices heard in society in your country.

Organized actions by NGOs, youth bands, Facebook groups etc.

Please describe alternative ways of youth participation connected to the use of online technologies answering the following questions:

Top down approach (e.g. online consultations): in which occasion?

No data.

Bottom up approach (e.g. organised actions through social networks and the internet): in which occasion?

Students' veto to eliminate school fees via Facebook

(<http://www.facebook.com/prosvjedi#!/prosvjedi>)

Veto gainst national matriculation organized via forums, e-mails and Facebook

(<http://www.moh.hr/hr/mladi-su-buducnost/prosvjedima-protiv-drzavne-mature/>)

'I want youth centre' veto in Slavonski Brod via Facebook (<http://www.sbonline.net/vijesti/mladi-slavonskog-broda-putem-facebook-a-najavljuju-masovne-prosvjede-3006>)

Veto against cabinet classes via Facebook

(<http://www.facebook.com/prosvjedi#!/group.php?gid=131474041925>)

Facebook veto to postpone the high school classes due to the high summer temperatures in Split

(<http://www.index.hr/vijesti/clanak/splitski-srednjoskolci-preko-facebook-a-organizirali-prosvjed-kojim-traze-prekid-nastave-zbog-velikih-vrucina/401790.aspx>)

7. Sources of information

Association of youth information centers Croatia (<http://www.icm.com.hr/>)

Association Zamisli – Regional Info-centar Zagreb (<http://www.icm-zg.info>)

Croatian Youth Network (http://www.mmh.hr/en/index.php?page=info&cat_id=71)

Family centers:

- Obiteljski centar Bjelovarsko-bilogorske županije (<http://www.oc-bbz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-dnz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Grada Zagreba (<http://www.ocgz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Istarske županije (<http://www.ociz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Karlovačke županije (<http://www.oc-karlovac.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Koprivničko-križevačke županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentarkc.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Krapinsko-zagorske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-kzz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Požeško-slavonske županije (<http://www.ocpozega.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Primorsko-goranske županije (<http://www.oc-pgz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Sisačko-moslavačke županije (<http://www.ocsmz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Splitsko-dalmatinske županije (<http://obiteljskicentar-sdz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Šibensko-kninske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-sibenik.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Varaždinske županije (<http://www.ocvz.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Virovitičko-podravске županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar.hr>)
- Obiteljski centar Vukovarsko-srijemske županije (<http://www.obiteljskicentar-vs-z.hr>)

GONG - non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to actively participate in political processes (<http://www.gong.hr/cpage.aspx?Page=default.aspx&PageID=2>)

Info portal UMKI (<http://www.umki.hr/portal/>)

Info zona (<http://split.com.hr/zona/>)

Ministry of Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity (www.mobms.hr)

National Youth Program from 2009 till 2013 (pdf document enclosed)

PRONI Centre for social education (<http://www.proni.hr/>)

The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (http://www.mobilnost.hr/index_en.php)

The law on Youth Advisory Boards (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/297305.html>)

The National Pupils' Council (<http://nvurh.skole.hr/nvurh>)

Women and men in Croatia 2010. Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia (www.dzs.hr)

Youth Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/306087.html>)