

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN CROATIA



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By: Marko Kovacic

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Context and principles of national youth policy	2
1.1 Context of national youth policy	2
1.2. Principles of national youth policy	3
2. Statistics on young people	4
3. Actors and Structures	6
3.1 Public authorities	6
3.1.1 National public authorities	6
3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field	7
3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field	7
3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field	8
3.3.1 Youth Councils	8
3.3.2 Youth NGOs	8
3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?	9
4. Legislation	11
5. National Policy Programmes on youth	14
6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth	15
7. European Dimension of youth policy	15
7.1 Council of Europe	15
7.2 European Union	16
7.2.1 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level	16
8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Croatia	17

1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Young people are in a specific transitional period in which the disproportion of psychophysical and social maturity is characteristic: they are no longer protected as children, and they still do not have all the possibilities and opportunities available to adults. Such situation makes them one of the most vulnerable segments of the population, which requires a special relation of the society towards their interests, problems, needs and life perspectives.

In conceiving any national policy it is certainly important to respect the fact that young people are not a homogenous social group. Croatian youth significantly differs by social background, conditions of family and wider socialization, educational accomplishments, socio-professional status, lifestyles, life aspirations, political views, behaviour patterns, etc. The existing differentiations, therefore, require a national policy that will encompass the interests and needs of different (sub)groups of young people and that will ensure equally good life prospects for everyone. In Croatia young people are defined as those people between 15 and 30-years.

In addition, “one-third of Croatia’s population is below thirty years of age and knows only the post-socialist transition phase, characterized in the 1990s by great instability and insecurity. Not only was the period between Croatia’s independence and 1995 marked by war, but the change of system led to an increase in social differences, new inequalities of opportunity and, above all, significant economic insecurity. Restructuring of the economy and extensive privatization were accompanied by persistent unemployment and increasing social marginalization. Only in the years of relatively high growth rates in the period between 2000 and 2008 was there a tendency towards normalization. But this period of prosperity that began with the new millennium was too short to allow the collective traumas and insecurities of the 1990s to be overcome. Since 2008 Croatia has been swept up in the vortex of the international financial crisis. Rapidly increasing unemployment in recent years has aroused concern among young people about their future, as well as a growing feeling that they have no prospects”. (Ilisin et. al., 2013)

Research insights in the world and in Croatia until today have shown that the transition of young people into the so-called world of adults is becoming more complex and longer-lasting. Institutionalized education lasts longer, contemporary technological changes ask for more qualified and flexible workforce, and economic developments cyclically cause an increase in unemployment, which mainly affects youth. The abovementioned processes result also in a slower entrance into the so-called world of work, i.e. slower socioeconomic independence, which forces young people to stay in dependent position. Difficult inclusion into the professional work contributes to the prolongation of establishing of their own families, and, therefore, in Croatia, as in the majority of

European countries, young people enter their first marriage at later and later age, and consequently, they get children later. Although all rights are granted to them upon reaching the age of majority, at the same time apathy to engage and suppression of young people from decision-making positions take place, so their interests in the political arena are more or less successfully mediated by adults. Later and later overtaking of permanent social roles and exclusion or insufficient inclusion of youth in economic, political and social processes have as their consequence the insufficient social integration of the young generation. This means that young people's potentials, as the most vital, most flexible and potentially most innovative and most creative segment of contemporary society, remain insufficiently used.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Despite the negative demographic trends, research shows that there are approximately 20% of young people in the overall Croatian population (Ilisin et al., 2013). Those young people are, as argument goes, heterogeneous in terms of social and political values, professional and educational aspirations and social opportunities. The same findings suggest that unemployment, increasing poverty and job insecurity are the biggest problems for the young generation of today. Further to this, police, judiciary and civil society organizations enjoy the largest share of trust in institutions, while at the same time young people have least trust in government and political parties. Additionally, one other research (Bagic, 2011) has revealed that young people in Croatia possess remotely low political competence and do not understand some of essentials of democratic political system (for instance, only 31% of respondents knew what political legitimacy is and only 44% of respondents know how ministers are being elected). In addition, Croatia's youth unemployment rate is one of the highest in the EU (in September 2015 it was 45.10% according to [Eurostat](#)).

There are lots of actors and sufficient amount of normative acts (the most relevant of them will be presented further in this report), however, their impact is questionable. Currently, Croatian youth sector is undergoing many changes. After the parliamentary elections in 2011, Croatia got, for the first time, a ministry, which in its name has the term "youth", which was a sign that young people are going to be taken as a serious stakeholder in society. The winner of the elections (so-called Kukuriku coalition composed of Social Democratic Party, Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats, Istrian Democratic Assembly and Croatian Party of Pensioners), in their pre-election manifesto Plan 21, stipulated the importance of youth policy, emphasizing the triangle - school, job, apartment as the backbone of their vision of youth policy together with the strong involvement of young people in society is one of the vital national interests (Plan 21). One would expect that youth problems would start resolving with such a dedicated government, but that does not correspond to reality that much. Overlapping jurisdictions, problems with implementation of guidelines, lack of

educated and informed professionals in bodies that deal with youth and deficit of the actual political will are the reason why Croatian youth policy is still underdeveloped.

For instance, in the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, at this moment, there are six persons working in the Youth Department, responsible for the overall youth policy supervision in Croatia. According to calculations¹, in order for the Ministry to be able to function, it is required to have 8 officials in the Youth Policy Department. Shortage of people influences inability to cope with a complex matter of youth policy. Additionally, there is a gap between so-called street level bureaucracy and officials with real political power. While youth department officials understand and try to advance youth policy, this becomes difficult due to general lack of political will about youth issues among political elite.

In Croatia there are four subcategories of young people, namely high school students, university students, unemployed youth and employed youth. For this cohort, people between 15 and 30, National Youth Strategy 2014-2017 stipulates objectives, measures and indicators that make Croatian youth policy framework.

In general, the Croatian youth policy meets European principles: cross-sectorality, participation of various actors, evidence based approach and topic it covers (participation, youth culture, youth mobility, volunteering). Due to lack of capacities, true political will to put young people on the political agenda and massive problems with policy implementation, above mentioned problems are still present.

2. Statistics on young people

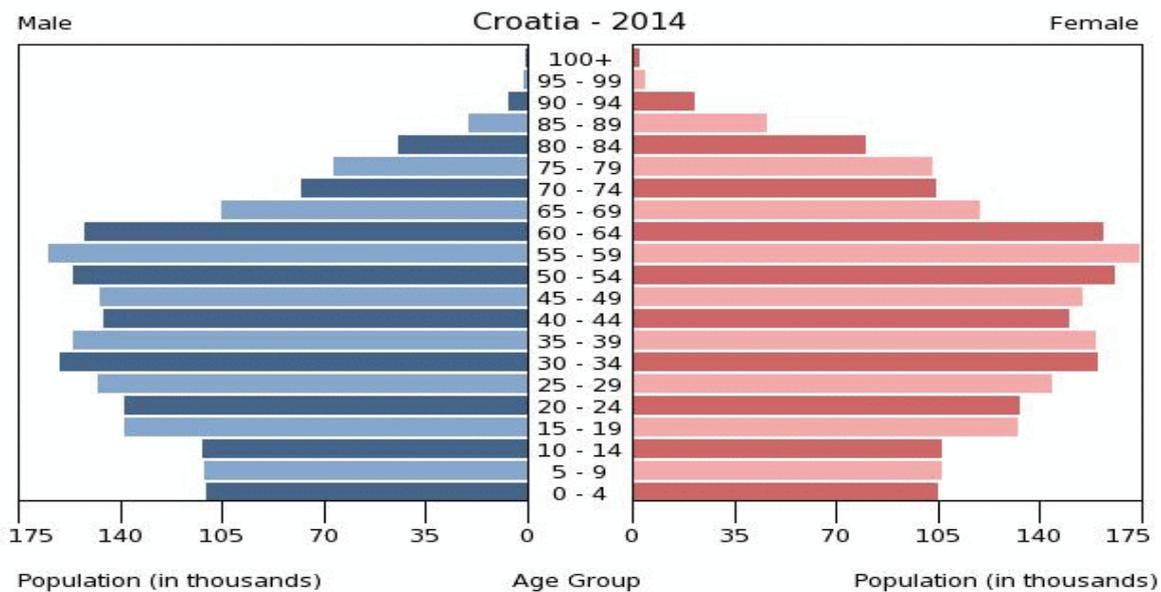
According to the last census held in spring of 2011, Croatia had 739.461 young people aged 15-29 years (17.3% of the population, 18,6% of population of Croatia is between 14 and 30), of which 505.835 young people aged 15-24 years (11.8% of the population). Those data should be coupled with information that the ratio of youth in Croatia has been decreasing for decades now. In 1953 the ratio of young people in the population was 27,7%, while in 2001 there was 898.734 (20,3%) of young people. Size of the group of young people will be greatly reduced through the next decade, given that the census showed only 652.428 children aged 0-14 years.

According to Index mundi, Croatia demographic related to young people looks as follows.

Age structure:

¹ <https://vlada.gov.hr/UserDocsImages//Sjednice/2015/241%20sjednica%20Vlade//241%20-%2019.pdf>

- 0-14 years: 14.5% (male 332,079/female 314,842)
- 15-24 years: 12.1% (male 275,957/female 263,796)
- 25-54 years: 41.1% (male 910,591/female 928,434)
- 55-64 years: 14.5% (male 315,791/female 334,017)
- 65 years and over: 17.8% (male 320,898/female 474,129) (2014 est.)



Sex ratio:

- at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female
- 0-14 years: 1.06 male(s)/female
- 15-24 years: 1.05 male(s)/female
- 25-54 years: 0.98 male(s)/female
- 55-64 years: 0.93 male(s)/female
- 65 years and over: 0.66 male(s)/female
- total population: 0.93 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 27.9

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education): total: 15 years (male: 14 years; female: 15 years).

For more statistics on youth unemployment rate please visit this [link](#).

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

Minister: [Bernardica Juretić](#)), Minister of Social Policy and Youth, Deputy Prime Minister

Duration of mandate: Assumed office January 2016 – January 2020

Youth Department in the Ministry

The main orientation on youth issues of the Youth Department, according to the web site of the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is as follows.

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, in order to raise the quality of life for youth and to achieve long-term commitment to create social, educational, cultural, material and other conditions for the permanent benefit of youth and their active, full and responsible participation in society, drafts laws, strategies and other documents, creates public policy for youth and implements measures in accordance with national regulations and documents.

In this regard, the Department of Youth within the Ministry for Social Policy and Youth:

- monitors the implementation of the Youth Advisory Boards Act;
- implements measures, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the National Program for young people;
- performs administrative tasks for the Youth Council of the Croatian Government;
- develops cooperation between competent national authorities, organized young people, young people, local and territorial (regional) governments and institutions to work with young people in particular taking into account the development and implementation of a structured dialogue;
- collaborates with professional and research institutions and civil society organizations in the country and abroad, regarding the improvement of the position of young people in society;
- assesses, monitors and evaluates the implementation of programs and projects of youth organizations and youth, especially youth clubs and regional info-center for young people;
- conducts expert analysis and research, monitors their implementation and proposes new legislation to create a legal, institutional, organizational and personnel requirements for the economic empowerment of youth;
- promotes national, family and cultural values among young people and, to that end, has been implementing programs, conferences, activities and campaigns;
- cooperates with the EU institutions, the Council of Europe and other international organizations in the field of youth policy and participates in their work.

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries: [Ministry of Education, Science and Sports](#), [Ministry of Public Administration](#), [Ministry of Labour and Pension System](#)

Offices: Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Office for Human Rights and National Minorities Issues, Office for Gender Equality, Association of Cities of the Republic of Croatia, Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia, Association of Counties of Republic of Croatia, Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Name: The Committee on the Family, Youth and Sports

name of president / chair: [Milinović, Darko](#)

Role and competence: The Committee on the Family, Youth and Sports shall establish and monitor the implementation of policy, and in process of enacting legislation and other regulations it shall have the rights and duties of the competent working body in matters pertaining to:

- marriage, the family and guardianship, and special protection of children,
- motherhood and youth,
- the quality life of youth and their participation in all societal activities,
- protection of children and adolescents from all forms of addiction,
- occupational safety for women,
- family planning and demographic renewal,
- sports.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

NA

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

The basic units of regional self-government are the counties (“županija” in Croatian). The present administrative territorial division of the country was introduced in 1997, when the 1992 division was changed. Smaller administrative territorial units within counties are cities/towns in urban areas, and municipalities in other areas. According to the 2006 Act, Croatia has 127 towns/cities and 429 municipalities. In all those local public authorities there are offices (executive governing bodies) dealing with youth. In some cases, there are separate offices (however, they are mostly merged

with education) but in most of them, there is a general office for social affairs where youth issues is one of the work areas.

Each of the administrative units (counties, municipalities and towns) is obliged to have a Youth Advisory Board. [Youth Advisory Board Act](#).

3.2 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1 Youth Councils

Croatian Youth Network (CYN) is an alliance of 73 youth organizations acting as the National Youth Council in the Republic of Croatia. CYN is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan association founded in December 2002. It advocates and promotes interests and positions of young people following the principles of tolerance and understanding, and by respecting young peoples' rights and needs. Even though Croatia does not have an adopted Youth Act, CYN is not considered to be official national youth council despite it is a European Youth Forum member and all youth stakeholders perceive it as the national youth council.

CYN is democratic, representative and inclusive, and has national and international recognition as such. It gathers national and local non-governmental youth organizations in the Republic of Croatia which have voluntarily joined the Network.

Mission: Croatian Youth Network develops public youth policies through informing, advocating, thematic networking, international cooperation, supporting youth organizations and building partnerships with government institutions.

Vision: Active young citizens involved in creating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth policies in the Republic of Croatia.

Contact person: Nikola Bukovic, Secretary General (nikolab@mmh.hr)

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

In Croatia there are very few youth centres, and they are generally governed by youth CSOs. The other model is a youth centre founded by the local authorities. Since there are no available data on youth centres and the work it is being done there, one cannot conclude on their effectiveness.

[Forum for Freedom in Education](#) - The mission of Forum for Freedom in Education is to implement contemporary and quality education programs and to impact the public policies, always in its activities guided by the principals of fairness, non-violence, open communication, life-long learning and critical thinking. By comparing and harmonizing the education in Croatia with the education standards of the contemporary democratic societies, the Forum is advocating for the right to

choose education that creates a self-actualized person as well as the right of equal access to it. Contact: Eli Pijaca Plavska, executive director (epijaca@fso.hr).

[Youth Initiative for Human Rights](#) - The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (hereinafter YIHR) is a regional network of non-governmental organizations with programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. Mandate: Dealing with the past, addressing its legacy in the present, and learning its lessons to build a better future; Support victims of human rights violations and contribute strategically to establishing an institutional framework to prevent [the repetition of massive] systematic human rights violations in the future; Develop capacity and cooperation among young people to lead and drive the creation of peaceful societies in which civic values and human rights are fully respected.

Contact: Mario Mazic, Director of Programs (mario@yih.org)

[Volunteer Centre Osijek](#) - an organisation dedicated to the development of volunteerism, as well as to structuring continuous support for volunteers and organisations in need. The centre is in Osijek, the capital of the eastern Croatian region of Slavonija and Baranja. It was founded in December 2005 on the International Day of Volunteers. The Volunteer Centre Osijek envisions a society where citizens are motivated to make positive changes in their communities and thus contribute to the quality of their lives in a quicker, more efficient, and yet more human way. Its mission is to involve citizens in community life through civil society development and organized volunteer work in the region.

Contact: Nikoleta Poljak, program director (nikoleta@vcos.hr)

One of the relevant policy actors within the education and youth policy in Croatia is GOOD Initiative. Organizations gathered under the umbrella of GOOD Initiative for systematic and quality introduction of civic education in schools advocate towards the Government of the Republic of Croatia to ensure quality introduction and implementation of content and methods aiming at development of civic competences of pupils as active and responsible citizens. The main reason for gathering was the frustration with lack of any kind of structured civic education (or similar content) in formal schooling system although advocacy efforts existed for 15 years (mostly individual and of smaller groups). Today - 40 CSOs from all-around Croatia are part of it.

It also has a coordination body that consists of 8 CSOs and cooperates with educational experts and academics.

Activities:

- Analysing formal education strategic documents and programs
- Commenting education strategies and capacities and discussing / suggesting improvements
- Developing the Initiative advocacy document

- Gathering support of CSOs, experts and academics
- Advocating towards Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency
- Constantly following the developments in education sector and reacting (suggestions and recommendations)
- Consulting with experts
- Organising round tables and consultations with stakeholders
- Participating in different inter-sector bodies and councils (through CSO and Initiative members)

Contact: www.goo.hr

<https://www.facebook.com/gradanski/?fref=ts>

info@goo.hr

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

Most of the other relevant organizations in the youth field are member of the Croatian Youth Network (CYS), the most relevant non-institutional actor in the youth policy. Apart from CYS, there are several individuals with expertise in certain area of youth studies.

Youth researchers are mostly seated at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb within the Center for Youth and Gender Studies.

- **Vlasta Ilisin** (vlasta@idi.hr): youth sociology, political sociology, youth and politics, leisure time and youth, youth and media. Principal researcher.
- **Dunja Potocnik** (dunja@idi.hr): youth employment, social stratification, sociology of profession, youth and new technologies. Pool of European Youth Researchers member.
- **Anja Gvozdanic** (anja@idi.hr): sociology of youth, social capital, social trust and civility
- **Marko Kovacic** (marko@idi.hr): civil society, youth policy: youth participation and youth work. European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP) Correspondent.
- **Bojana Culum** (bculum@ffri.hr) - University of Rijeka, Department of Education Science. Youth work, education.
- **Vedrana Sajic Vrkas** (vedrana.spajicvrkas@xnet.hr) University of Zagreb, Department of Pedagogy - civic education
- **Marko Mustapic** (Marko.Mustapic@pilar.hr) Institute Ivo Pilar -students,
- **Benjamin Perasovic** (Benjamin.Perasovic@pilar.hr) Institute Ivo Pilar – youth subcultures

- **Nikola Baketa** (baketa.nikola@gmail.com) University of Zagreb – higher education, civic education
- **Berto Salaj** (bsalaj@fpzq.hr) - political education, social capital, civic education, populism

Experts on youth (civil society)

- **Emina Buzinkic** (emina.buzinkic@cms.hr) – Centre for Peace Studies
- **Martina Horvat** (martina@gong.hr) – GONG: youth with fewer possibilities, civic education
- **Suncana Kusturin** (suncana.kusturin@gmail.com) – Association Play: prevention and treatment of behavioral disorders
- **Anamarija Soco** (anamarija@mmh.hr) - CYN, youth work
- **Visnja Pavlovic** (vpavlovic@fso.hr) - Forum for freedom in Education; youth work
- **Diana Kovacic** (Diana@zmergo.hr) - Zmergo; Youth information
- **Sanja Vukovic Colic** (vukovar@proni.hr) - Proni Centre for Social Education; youth information, youth work
- **Goran Jelenic** (vukovar@proni.hr) - Proni Centre for Social Education; youth information, youth work
- **Darko Cop** (darko@infozona.hr) - Infozona; youth information, youth work
- **Katarina Pavic** (Katarina@clubture.hr) - Clubture; youth culture

4. Legislation

In the Croatian Constitution young people are mentioned twice, firstly when the proclaimed state undertakes the responsibility to assure an enabling environment for youth welfare, and secondly when stipulating special protection at work.

Article 63

The state shall protect maternity, children and **youth**, and shall create social, cultural, educational, material and other conditions promoting the achievement of the right to a suitable life.

Article 65

Everyone shall have the duty to protect children and infirm persons.

Children shall not be employed before reaching the age specified by law, nor shall they be forced or allowed to do any work that is harmful to their health or morality.

Young people, mothers and disabled persons shall be entitled to special protection at work.

In addition, there are several legislative acts relevant for young people

In 2013 there was a governmental intention to pass the Youth act which would stipulate and regulate the youth sector. An analysis of Croatian youth policy has been made, working expert group was formed and started to draft the text, however due to the lack of consensus among actors (civil society, academic community and government) the process was stopped without the output in terms of legislative text.

[Youth Advisory Boards Act](#). Adopted on 21 March 2014.

Goal of Youth Advisory Boards Act is to enhance the participation of young people in public affairs of their interest, active engagement of young people in public life and their informed participation at the local level in Croatia (NN 41/14).

Its members are young representatives in the municipality/city assembly or council. This entity within the regional/ local representative body of local authorities is responsible for the preparation of acts and decisions of the assembly or the council relating to young people (e.g. drafting of local youth action programme). (Buzinkic, 2011)

Apart from the Youth Advisory Boards Act, there are several acts that marginally cover the area of youth policy, namely Act on Volunteering, Act on Student Councils and other Students Associations, Act on Education in Elementary and High Schools, Act on Vocational Education, Act on Science and Higher Education, Act on Civil Society Organizations, local and regional youth programs.

In addition, two following normative acts have an influence on the youth sector in Croatia. *Government's Decision on Youth Council establishing* stipulates the roles and jurisdictions of National Youth council while [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan \(in English\)](#) proposes measures and their implementation to decreasing youth unemployment.

According to [Organization for Youth Education & Development \(OYED\)](#) there were several relevant documents in the realm of youth policy in between 1991 and 2014:

2013- 2014 [Youth Guarantee Program](#) (EU)

The idea behind this new initiative is for each country to implement a comprehensive scheme, involving government authorities, academic institutions and other stakeholders, which would ensure young people receive job offers - or offers of apprenticeships or vocational education or training - within four months of registering as unemployed.

2012 *Employment Promotion Act*

The government adopted the Employment Promotion Act, which expanded the subsidies to occupations in the private sector.

2009 – 2013 *The Youth Program (new National Youth Program - Nacionalni Program za mlade od 2009. Do 2013.godine)*

Is an update of the original with measures and activities specifically for 2009-2013. It focuses on many of the same areas: Education, Social policy, Health, and Participation.

2003 *National Youth Action Program (Nacionalni Program Djelovanja za Mlade)*

It aimed to create the conditions for the improved development and wellbeing of youth. Its strategic goals included:

- improving legislation on youth;
- defining and providing clarity on public bodies on their obligations in relation to youth;
- including as many young people as possible in the decision making;
- creating conditions that reduce emigration and promote a return to Croatia.

1991 *National Report Croatia: Children's rights policy*

The Republic of Croatia, as a legal successor of the former SFRY, incorporated the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its legal system by notification of succession.

The Convention entered into force in Croatia on 8 October 1991. Under Article 140 of the Croatian Constitution, it is part of the domestic legal order of the Republic of Croatia and has a legal force superior to that law.

In order to ensure a greater efficiency in taking joint actions by state bodies and institutions, the Government of the Republic of Croatia established a national co-ordinating body (Council for Children). The Council for Children is entrusted with the promotion of children's rights, but not with the drafting of reports about the application of the Convention.

The basic task of the Council is to ensure permanent monitoring of the implementation of the National Programme of Action for Children in the Republic of Croatia.

Regional and local legislation on youth

According to the National Youth Strategy, every municipality, county and every town should have their own local/regional youth program.

At this point the main focus of national youth policy is **regulation of youth work**. In fall 2015, the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth established an expert working group consisting of governmental officials, civil society professionals and academic experts with the goal to assess and analyse the situation regarding youth work in Croatia to propose steps for its recognition. This measure, stipulated in the actual National Youth Program is considered to be one of two most important undertakings in youth policy (the other one is the funding of the youth sector). At the time

of writing this report, an expert working group is applying for the European Social Fund's grant to fund a comprehensive research on youth work, campaign for recognition of youth work, educational activities and the process of education of youth workers.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

Two previous national youth programs aimed to create the conditions for the improved development and well-being of youth. Its strategic goals include:

- Improving legislation on youth;
- Defining and providing clarity to public bodies on their obligations in relation to youth;
- Including as many young people as possible in decision-making;
- Creating conditions that reduce emigration and promote a return to Croatia.

It also sets out a plan for implementation and financing.

The latest National Youth Program 2014-2017 is drastically shorter and more realistic than previous versions. It has seven priority areas, 19 objectives, 40 measures and 118 tasks. In comparison with the National Youth Program 2009-2013 where there was also 7 priority areas, 52 objectives and 53 measures (see table 1), this version seems much more realistic.

Table 1 – Overview of priority areas and objectives

Priority area	Objectives
Education, professional training and long-life learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active citizenship and non-violence • Youth work • Competitiveness in the labour market
Employment and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour market integration
Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polyvalent advisory centres • Health education
Active participation of young people in society and politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling environment for youth organizations • Youth in the decision-making process • Quality and availability of volunteer programs
Youth in the European and global context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for active participation • Mobility and better representation in IGOs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More cultural content in the formal

Youth and culture	<p>education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More accessible cultural content • Financial support for culture • Sustainability and stability of places where culture can be exercised • Analytical support
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6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level: In the State Budget for 2015, 8.269.436,00 HRK was allocated for the activity “Youth Policy”. This amount includes state budget and lottery funds.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

Please describe how Council of Europe programmes or activities are implemented at the national level.

In accordance with the recommendation and guidelines of the Council of Europe, aiming at proactive activity on the Internet and in the community, the Ministry of Social Policy and the Youth established a National Board for the implementation at the national level of the Council of Europe Campaign “No Hate Speech Movement”. The general aim of the Campaign was to inform and raise awareness of the public, especially children and the youth, about human rights and negative effects of hate speech. Young people had a key role in the Campaign and they proactively worked on the Internet to raise awareness of the meaning of hate speech and the consequences of such unacceptable ways of expression. The campaign at the national level started in January 2014 and still lasts, according to the action plan of activities.

Ms. **Morana Makovec**, head of the Youth Department at the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is a member of the [European Steering Committee on Youth \(CDEJ\)](#).

Mr. **Marko Boko** was elected to the mandate of the Advisory Council on Youth of Council of Europe.

Croatia does not contribute to the European Youth Foundation.

7.2 European Union.

[The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes](#) is the National Agency responsible for the implementation of the [Erasmus+ programme](#) in Croatia. Apart from implementing the Programme,

by selecting the applications - project proposals, sub-contracting and financing, and monitoring the realization of projects, the Agency also promotes the Programme and assists applicants and beneficiaries in their process of creating a project idea and running the project. Republic of Croatia is a full participant to the Programme.

The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes is also responsible for the implementation of the following networks and initiatives:

- [Europass](#)
- [Eurodesk](#)
- [Euraxess](#)
- [Euroguidance](#)
- [CEEPUS](#)
- [Bilateral scholarships](#)

With Croatia joining the EU, **structured dialogue with young people started** to be implemented in our country, and the National Working Group for structured dialogue with young people is in charge for its implementation. Members of the National Working Group are officials from the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, and representatives from the Croatian Youth Network and Association of Youth Information Centres in Croatia. Youth empowerment was the last topic in the focus of this process (July 2014-December 2015).

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

There is no specific national strategy for following up on the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018). However, the EU Youth Strategy, as well as deriving European Union Work Plans for Youth are taken into account while planning national measures and activities. In this way some of the priorities at EU level are also reflected in certain national priorities. This can be seen through measures within strategic documents such as the National Programme for Youth 2014-2017 and the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan.

In addition, Croatia participates in different activities in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy and EU Work Plans for Youth. For example, regarding the structured dialogue with youth, consultations are carried out on the national level and youth delegates are prepared for high-quality participation at the EU Youth Conferences.

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has also established cooperation with relevant institutions while drafting National report on cooperation in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy, as a contribution to the EU Youth Report 2015. This was the first report that Croatia has submitted as an EU Member State, although Croatia has also participated in the previous reporting phase by submitting the national report for the EU Youth Report 2012, as a candidate country.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Croatia

[Croatian Youth Network](#)

[Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes](#)

[Institute for Social Research](#), Centre for Youth and Gender Studies (marko@idi.hr)

[Youth in time of Crisis](#) – the most comprehensive research report on young people in Croatia in English conducted (in 2013) by the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

[Youth Guarantee in Croatia](#) (by the Croatian Youth Network).

[Factsheet – Croatian youth policy](#)