



Perspective on Youth Work Developments

CROATIA FACT SHEET

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) plays a key role in launching the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) as a strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide basic information about the perspective on youth work developments in a specific country. All information has been gathered from national contact points, reports or country sheets and profiles available online. The purpose of this fact sheet is to stimulate discussion before, at and after the 3rd EYWC among the members of the national delegations. This information is a suggestion only and a starting point for further development by the delegation when planning actions for implementation of the EYWA.

FACTS

Youth work as a recognised occupation: NO

Legislative framework for youth work: NO

Main youth work actors: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.)

- State office for demography and youth
- youth organisations
- national agency of Erasmus+
- research institutions.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

Life-long learning program "Youth in Contemporary Society" chosen at University of Rijeka is the most promising LLP programme for developing further strategic collaboration with the YUFE alliance (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) in the field of supporting life-long learning programmes for non-academic communities. The national youth council – Croatian Youth Network is implementing a long lasting non-formal education training courses for youth workers.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great number of youth organisations;• Strong academic community in the field of youth studies and youth work – lots of research;• Academic program on youth with a strong emphasis on youth work;• Strong support of the National Erasmus + Agency for the development of youth work;• Big success in development of local youth work through the Europe Goes Local project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No normative/legal framework;• Youth worker not recognised (and consequently not regulated) as a profession;• No political will to set relevant youth work related issues (high) on the (political) agenda;• great differences in resources and possibilities related to urban-rural context;• Local authorities poorly acquainted with knowledge and skills for creating, managing and monitoring local youth programmes or structural dialogue;• Project based funding that brings a lot of uncertainty and makes many youth work related activities unsustainable;• Scarce opportunities for education/professional development of youth workers.

SUPPORT NEEDED

- Increasing the visibility and impact of youth work and better promote it towards the relevant stakeholders at the national level;
- Bringing politicians and bureaucracy close to youth organisations of any profile in order to make it more accessible and tangible, and reduce bureaucracy;
- Increasing funds/set up institutional funding schemes that could sustain youth-work related programmes/activities.

GREATEST NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Strengthening the common ground of youth work (through co-operation between different institutions and stakeholders, between different levels and with other sectors).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

Youth wiki youth work chapter: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/10-youth-work-croatia>

EKCYP country sheet on youth work: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262610/Croatia_YW-Country+sheet.pdf/2589137d-2f1f-6e6c-9768-086033c109eb