



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Perspectives and Possibilities in Inclusive Education as a Result of Croatian Membership in the European Union

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OPERATIONAL PROGRAM EFFICIENT HUMAN RESOURCES 2014-2020

- By becoming a member of the European Union, Croatia gained the possibility of securing additional funding from European Structural & Investment Funds; for inclusive education primarily using **the funds from the European Social Fund**.

- **Operational Program Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020** - developed by Croatian ministries, including the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

- **The process:**
- each EU member state must choose the priorities by analyzing the situation in certain sectors and determine the priorities
- the European Commission - prepares a series of analytical bases for the country (the position paper), negotiates with the country about the desired investments etc.
- the Commission also determines the *ex-ante* conditions which need to be fulfilled before or shortly after the implementation of the operational program (OP) has started



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OPERATIONAL PROGRAM EFFICIENT HUMAN RESOURCES 2014-2020

- **Main goals** are in line with the goals of **the Europe 2020** strategy and are aimed at:
 - 1) the development of education and lifelong learning
 - 2) reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10%
 - 3) at least 40% of 30-40-year-olds completing third level education

- **The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports** has the role of **Intermediate body level 1** for the priority axis **“Education and lifelong learning”**, thematic objective **“Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning”** which includes three investment priorities with its related specific objectives



FIRST INVESTMENT PRIORITY

- encompasses **tertiary education and science**

- **the aim:** improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, **especially for disadvantaged groups**

- **specific objectives:**
 - 1) improving quality, relevance and efficiency of higher education
 - 2) increasing tertiary attainment rates
 - 3) improving the environment for Croatian researchers



FIRST INVESTMENT PRIORITY

- **ESF funds** will be used for:
 - the implementation of the Croatian Qualification Framework at higher education level
 - the development of structured work experiences and practical training in study programs
 - the development and equipping of competence centers within higher education institutions
 - the development of internal and external systems for quality insurance (this will secure **the development of quality education for all**)
 - **increasing the scope of direct support to students from lower socio-economic backgrounds to help them access and successfully complete their studies**



SECOND INVESTMENT PRIORITY

- **the aim:**
 - enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings
 - upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce
 - promoting flexible learning pathways through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

- **specific objectives:**
 - 1) **improving access to education for disadvantaged students at pre-tertiary level**
 - 2) promoting access to lifelong learning, through upgrading key competences of students as well as the use of ICT (information technologies) in teaching and learning and
 - 3) improving adult education system and upgrading skills and competences of adult learners



SECOND INVESTMENT PRIORITY

- 1) Within **the first specific objective** planned interventions are related to:
 - co-financing **the cost of the involvement of children with a socio-economically disadvantaged background in pre-school education**
 - targeted **support to Roma students at the pre-tertiary level** in the following fields: preschool activities, teaching of Croatian language for Roma children in early childhood, assistance aimed to facilitate higher inclusion of Roma children in after school activities at the level of primary education
 - **systematic introduction of pedagogical assistants for students with disabilities to school settings** in order to establish an integrated system of support for children and students with disabilities and improve their educational achievement



SECOND INVESTMENT PRIORITY

2) Within the **second specific objective** planned interventions are related to:

- development of online resources and integration of ICT in teaching, which will secure innovative teaching and learning practices, in order to support student-centered learning, critical thinking and collaborative learning
- teacher training, technical and educational support

3) Within the **third specific objective** planned interventions are related to:

- development and implementation of adult education programs in line with the Croatian Qualification Framework and in the fields which are of strategic importance for Croatia
- measures to create partnerships of adult learning institutions with employers and local communities



THIRD INVESTMENT PRIORITY

- **the aim:**
 - improving the labor market relevance of education and training systems
 - facilitating the transition from education to work
 - strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment development of work based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes

- **specific objective:**
 - modernizing VET provision and improving its quality in order to increase employability of students and their entry into further education



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- **Target groups** in all three investment priorities:
 - students and adult learners of all age groups
 - teachers and school employees
 - academic staff
 - professionals working in education and public institutions responsible for research and development of education



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European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

<https://www.european-agency.org/>



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Thank you for your attention!

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