

CROATIA



Country profile

Capital: Zagreb

Principal cities: Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Zadar

Official language(s): Croatian

Other language(s): Serbian

Population: 4.4 million (2004)

GDP per capita PPP: 12,191 int'l \$ (2004)

Currency: Kuna (HRK)

Labour force activity rate (pop. aged 15-64): 64.2% (2005)

Higher Education in Croatia

The higher education system in the Republic of Croatia is currently undergoing comprehensive reform in order to harmonise with the European Higher Education Area and with the Bologna process, embarked upon by Croatia in 2001.

The restructuring of 1st and 2nd cycle programmes was completed in July 2005, and the first generation of students enrolled in restructured programmes in the academic year 2005/06. Postgraduate (doctoral) programmes have been in the process of accreditation. The accreditation of higher education institutions is also planned for the forthcoming period.

At the moment, there are 21 higher education institutions in Croatia: 7 universities (encompassing 74 faculties, art and teacher academies), 12 public polytechnics, 2 public schools of professional higher education, 1 private polytechnic and 17 private schools of professional education.

New legislation governing scientific activity and higher education has established a mixed system, that supports both specialist education—offered in polytechnics, independent professional higher education institutions, and universities—and the academic education provided by universities. The legislation accords equal status to private and public higher education institutions, and provides for the funding of public universities, polytechnics and independent professional higher education institutions from the state budget (although other sources of funding may also be developed). State funding takes the form of lump sums, which are allocated among individual higher education institutions and to individual items on the basis of capacities, course costs, and evaluation-based quality assessment. Private higher education institutions may also be financed from the state budget, in accordance with National Council for Higher Education regulations. The legislative provisions for funding of higher education was implemented as of 1 January 2006.

The Act on Recognition of Foreign Educational Qualifications has also been adopted, amended and implemented. Several new institutions and offices have been set up, such as the Agency for Science and Higher

Education, the National ENIC/NARIC Office and the Quality Assurance Department. Offices for international cooperation already established at universities.

Strategic goals in Croatia are to evolve into a knowledge-based society as the basis for ensuring prosperity and to bring economic development up to the standards of the developed countries of the world. In order to realise this goal, Croatia has begun to promote education intensively, placing particular emphasis on higher education.

Years of compulsory education:
8

Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 and 6)¹: 38.7 (2003)

Number of higher education institutions: 21 public; 18 private
Bologna signatory country since: 2001

For further information, contact the National Tempus Office at
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<http://www.azvo.hr>

¹ The country's total enrolment in tertiary education (regardless of age), as a percentage of the population in the official age group corresponding to this level of education

TEMPUS in Croatia

Participation of Croatia in Tempus

In its efforts to integrate more closely in the EHEA, Croatia has been continuously encouraged and supported by international institutions, organisations, and associations. Partnerships covering a range of activities have been developed through the European Commission, the European University Association, and the Danube Rectors' Conference, as well as with some EU member states on a bilateral basis. In this context the contribution of Tempus has been acknowledged to be highly significant. Tempus has provided substantial input to higher education development in Croatia since 2001. Although all state universities participate in Tempus projects, no projects targeting the polytechnics or professional higher education institutions have as yet been funded.

Study programmes updated since 2000 cover the fields of agriculture, the food sciences, the applied sciences, technology, architecture, urban and regional planning, civil engineering, earthquake engineering, economics, the applied sciences, education and teacher training, energy efficiency, European studies, international relations, law, geology, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies, management and business administration, medical technology, pharmacy, the social sciences, tourism and leisure, and translation and interpreting. Lifelong learning courses have been developed in the fields of law, justice, public services training, education, teacher training, and civil society.

Tempus has also supported the development of university strategic plans, international relations, university management and services, library management systems, quality assurance systems, credit systems, university-industry links, open and distance learning, legal education, career guidance, as also other Bologna-related initiatives.

Impact of Tempus in Croatia

Tempus has contributed to harmonising higher education in terms of unifying curricula, with 91% of higher education institutions stating that over half their curricula are in line with the Bologna criteria as a result of Tempus.

All institutions apply quality assurance to teaching, and half of the institutions state that Tempus has influenced this process. Tempus has provided an excellent opportunity to improve quality assurance in universities, and is perceived, in fact, as achieving more than national education authorities. The establishment of the Croatian Agency for Quality Assurance, for example, was based on a Tempus project.

New teaching methods are being gradually introduced and work is now also commencing on student assessment methods, with institutions receiving support through Tempus generally making greater progress.

Tempus has had a strong impact on the internationalisation of faculties, with many Tempus projects having developed into partnership agreements.

Tempus has been instrumental in supporting universities and faculties in the significant progress that has been made in reforming higher education and implementing the Bologna process. The programme is timely in that it closely reflects the real needs and objectives of the universities. The achievements of Tempus include: unification of curricula, development of strategic approaches to staff development, improved cooperation between universities and ministries, improved quality management and assessment systems, detection of weak points in the Croatian higher education system and university governance, reinforcement of (or structural change in) relationships between rectorates, central administration and faculties, modernisation of teaching approaches, and the development of international relations services.

Participation in Tempus since: 2000

Number of JEPs: 68
Number of IMGs: 65
Number of SCMs: 20

Total budget allocated:
€ 25 million

Total budget allocated to staff and students mobility in JEPs and SCMs:

€ 6.816 million (2000-2006)

Total budget allocated to IMGs:
€ 152,986 (2000-2006)

- Unified curricula
- Quality assurance
- Internationalisation
- Legislation