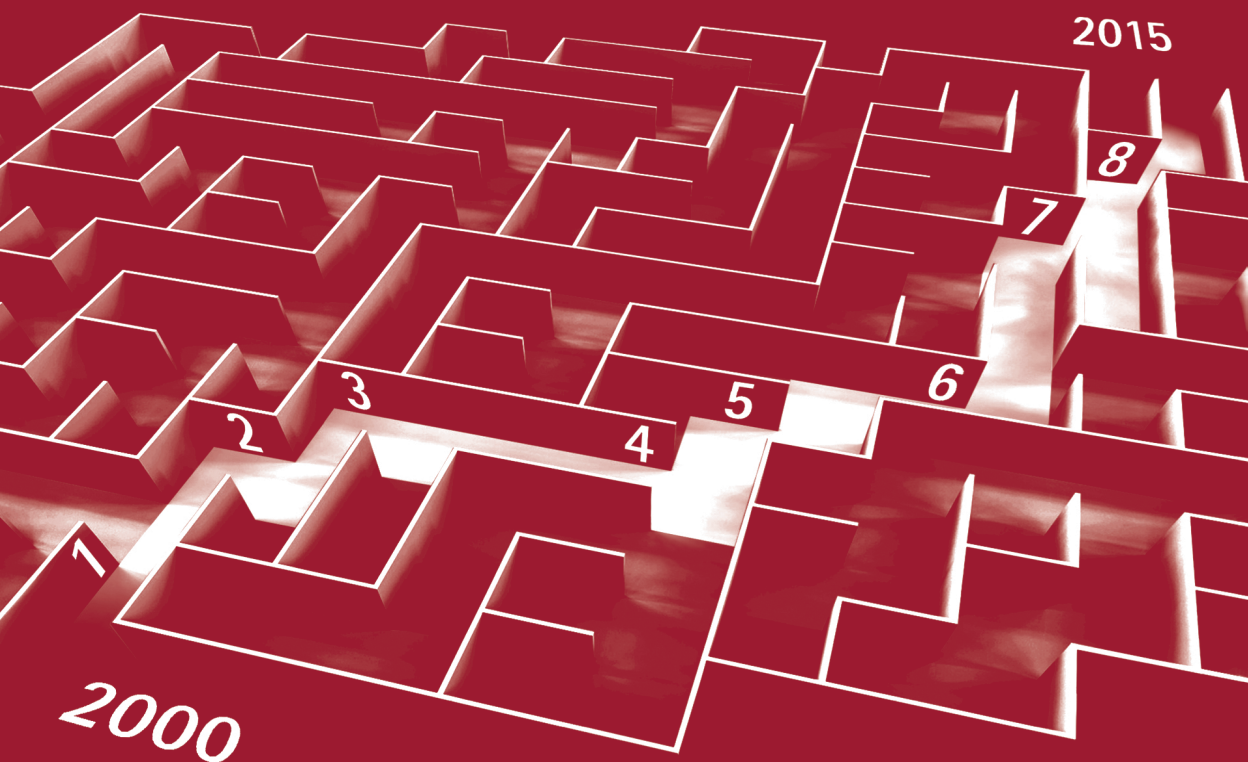


**PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**



**DURING THE PERIOD FROM  
AUGUST 2004 TO DECEMBER 2005**

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## Foreword

In mid-2003, the Republic of Croatia began actively to implement the Millennium Declaration by defining the Millennium Development Goals at national level. The result of the mutual cooperation of the representatives of line ministries and other state administration bodies, NGOs, a number of experts, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia was the drawing up in July 2004 of a National Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Goals set out in the UN Millennium Declaration. This document was called the First National Millennium Development Goals Report.

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at national level in Croatia will be made possible through the integration of the Millennium Development Goals and their Targets into national policy strategies and priorities related to Croatian accession to the EU, and through the harmonisation of national priorities with global goals. As an EU accession country, the Republic of Croatia has been given the opportunity to monitor its progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through regular reports, and thus build a clearer picture of the current social conditions and trends in the country, which is very useful on the eve of joining the EU.

In front of you is the First Report on Progress towards the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Croatia for 2005. In comparison with the 2004 National Report of the Republic of Croatia, this Report contains clearly defined statistical indicators which will be used to monitor the progress made in achieving the Millennium Goals up to 2015. These indicators have been aligned with the statistical monitoring and measurement systems that Croatia will implement in the long term.

In cooperation with civil society, the Republic of Croatia is planning to draw up a number of additional national progress reports of the progress made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the end 2015.



MSc. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović  
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration





MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1  
**ERADICATE RELATIVE POVERTY**



<b>Target 1:</b> In the period between 2001 and 2015 reduce by half the number of people living in relative poverty	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> At-risk-of-poverty rate (according to the Household Budget Survey) <sup>1</sup>	18.2%	16.7%
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> The percentage of the long-term unemployed persons aged 15 to 74 <sup>2</sup> (people unemployed for 12 months or more, as a proportion of the total unemployed, according to the Labour Force Survey)	39.4 % (102,500 people) <sup>3</sup>	38.3% (95,500 people)
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> The percentage of very long-term unemployed aged 15 to 74 (people unemployed for 24 months or more, as a proportion of the total unemployed, according to the Labour Force Survey)	45.9 % (122.107 people) <sup>4</sup>	41.5% (103.701 people)
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> The rate of the very long-term unemployed aged 15 to 74 (the percentage of those unemployed for 24 months or more, as a proportion of the total active population, according to the Labour Force Survey)	6.8 % (122.107 people) <sup>5</sup>	5.8% (103.701 people)

<sup>1</sup> Source: Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) Communication, "Poverty Indicators from 2002 to 2004", No. 13.2.2 of 7 July 2005. The CBS usually expresses poverty rates in Croatia with income in kind. Without income in kind, the at-risk-of-poverty-rate is 21.9% for 2002 and 18.8% for 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Laeken indicators are calculated for the unemployed in the age group of 15 do 74.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, 2002 and 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, 2002 and 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, 2002 and 2004.

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

## 1.1. Poverty

The at-risk-of-poverty threshold<sup>6</sup> – defined in relative terms – amounted to HRK 43,499.05 per year (for two adults with two children) in 2004 and HRK 39,681.35 in 2003. The percentage of persons living in households with a net equivalent income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold was 16.7% in 2004 and 16.9 in 2003. In 2004, the at-risk-of-poverty rate was higher among women (18.1%), and the highest for elderly persons aged 65 or over (29.5%). The at-risk-of-poverty rate is also higher among single parents with one or more dependent children, reaching 21.0% in 2004, and among families with three or more children, reaching 24.2%<sup>8</sup>.

Social welfare system plays an important role in reducing poverty and in mitigating its consequences. In social welfare system, the poor as well as other socially vulnerable groups like children, people with handicaps, the elderly, victims of violence, people with dependency problems, etc. qualify for various types of state-provided assistance. Social assistance targeting the poorest is a social right that can be realized by single people and families which lack adequate subsistence means according to the Social Welfare Law<sup>9</sup>. The amount of assistance is the percentage taken from the base amount of 400 kunas and depends on the family structure in relation to the age, working ability, health, number of parents who work, etc.

In 2003, 4.7% of people realized some type of financial assistance<sup>10</sup>, 2.7% of which receive basic subsistence (52,656 single people and families or 121,515 people in total). In 2004, the number of basic subsistence recipients slightly decreased (52,513 single people and families or 120,916 people in total), which equals to 2.7% of the entire population.

## 1.2. Unemployment

According to the data from the Labour Force Survey, in 2003 there were 256,000 unemployed persons in the Republic of Croatia, which is 3.8% less than in 2002 when a total of 266,000 unemployed was recorded. The total unemployment rate was 14.3% in 2003, which is 0.5% percentage points less than in 2002. This rate was 15.8% for women and 13.1% for men.

<sup>6</sup> Poverty indicators in the Republic of Croatia are calculated from the data collected through a statistical survey of household spending for 2002, 2003 and 2004. The Eurostat methodology "Laeken indicators, Detailed calculation methodology", Luxembourg, 2003, was used for the calculation of poverty indicators in the Republic of Croatia.

<sup>7</sup> With income in kind.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, "Poverty Indicators from 2002 to 2004", No. 13.2.2 of 7 July 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Official Gazette Nos. 73/93, 27/01, 59/01, 82/01 and 103/03.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Annual Statistical Report, August 2005.

According to the most recent data from the Labour Force Survey, there were 222,000 unemployed people in Croatia in the second half of 2005, which is 9.8% less than in the second half of 2004. The total unemployment rate was 12.3% in the second half of 2005, which is 1.5 percentage points lower than in the second half of 2004. The unemployment rate for women was 14.0%, and for men 11.0%.

According to the data from the Croatian Employment Agency, the average number of unemployed in Croatia in the first five months of 2005 was 1% higher than in the same period of the previous year. At the end of this period, in May, there were 308,311 registered unemployed persons, which is 1% less than in the same month of 2004. The dynamics of the decrease in female unemployment at the end of 2002 and during 2003 was slower in relation to total unemployment. The consequence of such developments is a continuous increase in the percentage of women among registered unemployed persons. Thus, the percentage of women among the total number of unemployed persons in 2002 was 54.6%, while in 2003 it was 57.7%. In the first half of 2004, the percentage of unemployed women increased to 58.3%.

There is a noticeable unfavourable trend related to the increase in female unemployment, which results from several factors:

- difficulties concerning the employment of women with more children (employers are reluctant to employ such women because they expect them to be frequently absent from work on account of their children);
- rates for babysitting are too high compared with salaries;
- unavailability of kindergartens and nurseries due to full capacities and long waiting lists.

### 1.2.1. Long-term unemployment

Long-term unemployment has particularly unfavourable multiple consequences both for the individual and for the development of society in general. According to the Labour Force Survey, in the second half of 2003 there were 38,000 (14.5%) persons waiting for employment for in duration of 12 - 23 months out of the total number of unemployed persons, while 117,000 (45.1%) persons were waiting for employment for 24 months or longer. As many as 59.6% of all unemployed persons were suffering from long-term unemployment (lasting for more than a year).

Low-skilled workers (with uncompleted and completed basic education) spend the longest time waiting for work. There is also a clear connection between the duration of unemployment and the possibility of finding employment. The longer a person is unemployed, the more probable it is that he or she will remain unemployed. The causes of long-term unemployment are as follows:

- low level of employability due to inadequate education and lack of experience;
- reluctance of employers to employ long-term unemployed persons because their long-term unemployment reveals a lack of motivation and other undesirable personality traits;

## ERADICATE RELATIVE POVERTY

- passive attitude towards looking for employment and reluctance to accept offered jobs (which are often low paid);
- reluctance to accept a possible change in the present lifestyle - the unemployed fear change because they are afraid that they might end up being worse off;
- in individual cases, the unemployed receive other forms of unregistered payment ( by working in the unofficial economy or on small farms).

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Poverty

Within the framework of the Pre-accession Strategy of the European Union (EU) for the Republic of Croatia, two important activities were initiated in 2005 in the field of employment and social inclusion. The result of these activities should be the preparation of the Joint Assessment of Employment Policy Priorities (JAP) and the Joint Inclusion Memorandum (JIM). The purpose of these documents is to prepare for full participation in the initiated methods of coordination in the Republic of Croatia's accession process to the EU.

JAP is one of the evaluation documents of a candidate country, defining the employment policy and the reorganisation of institutions in accordance with the requirements of the European Employment Strategy and the implementing mechanisms of the European Social Fund. JIM is a document whose goal is the preparation of a country for the full application of open coordination methods in the field of social inclusion from the day of accession into the EU. This represents the first step in the application of EU social goals in the fight against poverty and social exclusion through the national policy, taking into account the specificities of each candidate country.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted in 2002 the Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion as a result of internal and external incentives. The programme defines the main activities and measures that need to be implemented in order to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and specifies the deadlines and bodies responsible for the implementation of individual measures. The amendments to the Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion were drawn up at the end of 2003, but the document was not submitted to the Government of the Republic of Croatia for adoption. According to information currently available to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, some measures from the Programme have been successfully implemented, while others were only partially applied. The drawing up of the Joint Memorandum on Social Inclusion and of the Joint Assessment of the Employment Policy Priorities will provide guidelines for the Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in compliance with the social and economic changes that have taken place in the meantime.

## 2.2. Long-term unemployment

At its session of 10 January 2002, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Employment Promotion Programme. The implementation of the measures for the promotion of employment started on 1 March 2002; these measures were implemented by the Croatian Employment Agency. The programme consisted of 6 categories of measures aiming to employ certain groups of employment seekers. The target groups were the following:

- A) unemployed persons with tertiary education qualifications, up to 27 years of age;
- B) unemployed, low-skilled persons, and those with no work experience who have been on the Agency's register for at least six months;
- C) unemployed persons who have been on the Agency's register for at least 30 days, with the exception of persons from other groups;
- D) unemployed persons, including women over 45 years of age and men over 50 years of age, who have been on the Agency's register for at least 6 months;
- E) unemployed persons, disabled persons and persons with a low employability factor;
- F) unemployed persons, Croatian war veterans, children and spouses of killed and missing Croatian war veterans who have been on the Agency's register for at least 30 days.

Falling within a target group is not exclusive to the long-term unemployed and although they are not specified as a target group, they may certainly be included under one of the measures. One example is measure C2 "Education activities" - in which participation is conditioned by previous employment of only 30 days. It may be said that the Programme as a whole allows for the participation of the majority of the unemployed.

This Programme was cancelled in August 2005 and the inter-sectoral working group was given the deadline of September 2005 to draw up programmes for the realisation of the implementation measures of the National Employment Action Plan for 2006. These measures were to be harmonised with the action plans and projections of the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for 2006. The previous Employment Promotion Programme drew on a large number of entrepreneurs and had a stimulating influence on the development plans for small and medium-sized enterprises.

In December 2004 the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Employment Action Plan (NEAP) for 2005-2008, based on the guidelines of the European Employment Strategy. Annual employment plans will be prepared on the basis of the NEAP. In addition to other target groups, the NEAP in particular mentions the long-term unemployed and measures aiming to decrease the percentage of the long-term unemployed, as well as steps to prevent people from becoming long-term unemployed. Those measures were categorised in three groups:

## ERADICATE RELATIVE POVERTY

### I Key measures:

- a) The Croatian Employment Agency (CEA) will establish a transparent and integrated system of efficient work with the unemployed for the whole period that they are on the Agency's register;
- b) An active employment policy will focus on long-term unemployment (more than 12 months) and especially on those individuals that are likely to become long-term unemployed;
- c) The active employment policy will include the following: education and training in job seeking, including programmes for writing CVs, preparing for interviews and similar events, and the acquisition of basic skills, including personal presentation, literacy, team work and the like;
- d) The active employment policy will be integrated into the processes of the Croatian Employment Agency in order to activate the unemployed. This means that advisors from the CEA will involve persons who have been unemployed for more than six months, and others unemployed for more than twelve months, into the existing measures of the active employment policy in order to prevent them from becoming long-term unemployed;
- e) Suitable techniques will be introduced to evaluate the effect of the implementation of individual measures of the active employment policy;
- f) A stable model will be created for the financing of active employment measures.

### II. Particularly desirable measures:

- a) The Croatian Employment Agency will re-examine its organisational structure in order to put its entire available staff to the best possible use and will improve the IT system by introducing additional technological capacities;
- b) Depending on the available means, the active employment policy will be extended to include:
  - obligatory seminars providing training in job seeking for all adults who have been unemployed for more than 12 months;
  - co-financing of the employment of persons over 25 years of age who have been unemployed for more than 12 months;
  - education and training of the unemployed in the acquisition of skills required for the labour market.
- c) The concept of "Workfare" (i.e. work instead of social welfare) will be implemented as a pilot project in a small number of places for persons who have been registered unemployed for a number of years, and are at the same time using welfare benefits.



III. Desirable measures:

- a) The Croatian Employment Agency will introduce specially trained advisors to provide additional assistance to unemployed young people threatened by long-term unemployment, and will familiarise them with all the available opportunities.

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. Poverty

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, as the coordinator of the Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, collected data during 2003 from all the bodies responsible for the implementation of activities. It is clear from these data that: certain programmes and measures have been implemented in accordance with the deadlines; new programmes have been introduced; some short-term activities were proposed as long-term measures; and some measures were either not implemented or did not achieve their goal. Since changes in the social and political life have occurred in the meantime, leading in turn to changes in the activities within the Programme for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the whole Programme needs to be revised.

It may be concluded from the reports submitted by the responsible bodies, (i.e. the coordinators of the measures, the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and the National Institute for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Youth - now part of the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity) that the measures aimed at harmonising the legislation have yielded results. In the period between 2002 and 2003, the issue of the institution of the minimum salary was resolved by law, the Act on the Insurance of Employees' Claims in the Event of Bankruptcy of the Employer was adopted (thus protecting claims), the issue of the payment of salaries and the manner of payment was regulated (by amendments to the Labour Act), and criminal liability for the non-fulfilment of obligations towards the employee has been established. In the area concerning the provision of more programmes and additional training for adults, a programme for the basic education of adults was drawn up.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, as the coordinator of measures aimed at developing prevention programmes for the purpose of health education and to limit the spread of disease (in order to improve the quality of life of groups at risk and the poor), participated in, and supported a number of prevention programmes in 2002 and 2003 such as: Say YES to non-smoking, Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer, Stop AIDS, Women's Health, A Healthy Child in a Healthy Environment, the Prevention Programme for Disabled Persons and a number of other activities. Certain programmes have been initiated as public health projects with which the public is familiar,

## ERADICATE RELATIVE POVERTY

and the analyses conducted so far show a positive trend. Other programmes have been included into national programmes and strategies, and non-governmental organisations have been involved in the implementation of these programmes which, in coordination with state administration bodies, have a very important role in the strengthening and promotion of health and prevention of disease.

Member states of the World Health Organisation adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in 1980. Croatia endorsed that Code on 14 May 1992 at the session of the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation by voting for the Resolution on infant nutrition. A Draft Proposal of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding was drawn up in 1999 in Croatia but it never passed parliamentary procedure. Efforts in the education of health workers and mothers on the importance of breastfeeding need to be continued with the same intensity.

### 3.2. Long-term unemployment

Passive and active employment measures on the labour market, as well as more flexible labour legislation, have had a positive impact on employment. During 2001, after a period of ten years' stagnation, a significant increase in the number of notified job openings was recorded, and there was an upward trend in employment. The danger that always exists in flexible labour markets is mostly related to the large number of poorly paid jobs with low productivity, which could give rise to a non-typical class of employed poor people. This problem is more apparent in Croatia, since there is a considerable amount of employment in the unofficial (grey) economy.

The current measures have done very little in terms of improving the qualifications and skills of the unemployed. Long-term unemployment is more evident among elderly workers. They have limited knowledge and skills which are often outdated, some have no education at all, and most have no experience in seeking and finding employment. The active employment policy measures should focus on adjusting the qualification structure of the labour force to the demand for labour, and, in cooperation with employers, more significant efforts should be directed towards training, additionally qualifying, and re-qualifying those groups that face most difficulties in finding employment. Special attention should be paid to mothers with more children and mothers who have children with special needs, since their long-term unemployment is caused by many obstacles in finding employment.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2  
**GUARANTEED EDUCATION FOR ALL**



<b>Target 1: Harmonisation of education with the European Community – the Bologna process</b>	<b>2002 / 2003</b>	<b>2003 / 2004</b>	<b>2004 / 2005</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> Share of enrolled students (% of the relevant age group <sup>11</sup> )			
– Pre-school education (age group 3–6 years)	44.9	46.0	48.4
– Basic education (age group 7–14 years)	95.0	95.5	96.2
– Upper secondary education (age group 15–18 years)	83.3	84.5	84.8
Grammar school <sup>12</sup>	25.8	26.0	26.2
Vocational school <sup>13</sup>	74.2	74.0	73.8
– Tertiary education (age group 19–25 years)	37.8	39.4	42.2
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> Mobility of students and teachers			
– Share of foreign students <sup>14</sup> in total number of students	2.3	2.7	2.7
– Number of Croatian students studying abroad	Research not conducted	Research not conducted	Research not conducted
– Number of foreign students studying in Croatia	2638	3214	3433
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> Introduction of the credits system (ECTS)			
– Number of institutions of higher education that have introduced ECTS	5	7	10
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> The reform of the curriculum in accordance with the needs of modern society and the economic development of Croatia			
– Number of courses harmonised with the Bologna Declaration	0	3	5
<b>Indicator 1e.</b> Guarantee of educational quality			
– Number of accreditations issued to institutions of higher education	25	32	40

<sup>11</sup> The relevant age group is calculated on the basis of the population estimate in the middle of the year.

<sup>12</sup> Share of the total number of pupils attending upper secondary education.

<sup>13</sup> Share of the total number of pupils attending upper secondary education.

<sup>14</sup> Students with residence outside the Republic of Croatia are considered as foreign students.

## GUARANTEED EDUCATION FOR ALL

<b>Indicator 1f.</b> Introduction of "diploma supplements" (i.e. additions to diplomas) for the purpose of the promotion of employment - Number of institutions of higher education that have introduced the "diploma supplement"	2	4	6
<b>Indicator 1g.</b> Introduction of self-regulation of tertiary education - Number of integrated universities <sup>15</sup>	0	1	2 <sup>16</sup>
<b>Target 2:</b> Acquisition of basic skills for successful inclusion into work, the economy and modern knowledge-based technology. Systematic introduction of the classification of education.	2002 / 2003	2003 / 2004	2004 / 2005
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> Implementation of regional innovation development - Number of newly founded institutions of higher education	0	3	5
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> Introduction of external evaluation into the whole educational system <sup>17</sup>	0	0	150 programmes in upper secondary education; 835 programmes in tertiary education
<b>Indicator 2c.</b> Implementation of reforms in vocational education - Number of upper secondary schools that have introduced new programmes adjusted to the labour market	0	0	Data available in 2006

<sup>15</sup> Integrated universities are universities acting in a unified and harmonised manner in particular in relation to academic issues, financial transactions and investments, establishment of priorities in science and research and in relation to international cooperation.

<sup>16</sup> Integrated universities exist in Zadar and Dubrovnik.

<sup>17</sup> Upper secondary education and tertiary education programmes were evaluated in 2005, and the whole education system will be evaluated as of 2006.

<b>Indicator 2d.</b> Introduction of the concept of lifelong learning:			
- Implementation of the national strategy for adult education	no	no	yes
- Implementation of the Adult Education Act	no	no	yes
- Implementation of the Action Plan on Adult Education	no	no	yes
- Conducting a survey on adult education	no	no	pilot research planned for 2006
- Implementation of the Law on Gender Equality	no	yes	yes
<b>Target 3: Organisation of services</b>	<b>2002 / 2003</b>	<b>2003 / 2004</b>	<b>2004 / 2005</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> Coverage of children in kindergartens (age group 1-6 years)	31.1%	32.2%	33.7%
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Adoption of educational standards			Data available in 2006
- Number of schools involved in the Croatian National Educational Standard (CNES)			
<b>Indicator 3c.</b> Total allocations for education from GDP	4.52%	4.67%	
- Preschool	0.43%	0.43%	
- Basic	2.11%	2.14%	
- Upper secondary	1.02 %	1.08 %	Data available in 2006
- Tertiary	0.89 %	0.86 %	
<b>Indicator 3d.</b> Organisation of education in basic <sup>18</sup> and upper secondary schools			
- Basic schools working in one shift	50.9%	50.8%	24.25% <sup>19</sup>
- Basic schools working in two shifts	46.4%	46.4%	68.34%
- Basic schools working in three shifts	2.6%	2.8%	6.21%
- Upper basic schools working in one shift	Research not conducted	Research not conducted	23.7%
- Upper basic schools working in two shifts	Research not conducted	Research not conducted	76.3%

<sup>18</sup> Each territorially separate unit (regional school) is considered to be a school.

<sup>19</sup> Source of data for the cell: the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

## 1.1. The harmonisation of education with the European Community – the Bologna process

It is planned to increase the coverage of children of pre-school age to 60% by 2010, which is in accordance with the European trend, that is, 98% attending the pre-school programme (one year before starting basic education). It should be stressed that the basic education of members of national minorities is regulated by the Act on the Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities which provides for three models – education in the minority language, bilingual education, and the fostering of language and culture.

The second priority of Target 1 relates to the education and in-service training of pre-school teachers, expert advisors and principals that will be trained to work in kindergartens. The Croatian National Educational Standard (CNES) opens the process of improving the quality of education by broadening the opportunities in school practice for initiatives and creativity by teachers. In the school year 2005/2006, 5% of basic schools will be included in CNES, and after this initial period all basic schools will use the CNES and the new curriculum. CNES is an integral part of the strategic document called the Development Plan for Pedagogic and Educational System for 2005–2010., which was adopted by the Croatian government in June 2005 and which received strong support by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) in the amount of 68.7 million Euros. Four priority areas include: improvement of classroom activity, improvement of monitoring and assessment of the system, strengthening of leadership, and advocating for regional development and innovation. The project also introduces the mandatory final exam.

In order to improve education and training, links should be created with the projects and activities of the Council of Europe in the field of education and training, such as: Education for Democratic Citizenship, European Studies for Democratic Citizens, Connections and Exchange among Schools, Europe at School and the In-Service Training Programme for Teachers. Attention should also be drawn to the environmental protection policy which develops techniques for environmental protection and ecological innovation.

Pursuant to Article 116 of the Science and Higher Education Act<sup>20</sup>, courses at institutions of higher education are organised pursuant to the Bologna Process. This process of organisation will be completed and implemented pursuant to the provisions of this Act at the latest by the academic year 2005/2006. New study programmes are accompanied by a single system of three cycles of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses (specialist and doctoral levels) and the ECTS credit system (European Credit Transfer System).

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<sup>20</sup> Official Gazette Nos. 123/03, 105/04, 174/04



## 1.2. Successful inclusion into work, the economy and modern technology

Target 2: Systematic introduction of the classification of knowledge aims at:

- Modernisation of curricula and upper secondary vocational education, their harmonisation with labour market needs, the reduction of a large number of unneeded professions and the drawing up of curricula for new professions according to the requirements of the labour market;
- Establishing an educational standard to serve as a basis for the equipping of schools and standardisation of equipment, textbooks and other literature;
- Establishing the form and methodology for testing the needs of the economy, the development of entrepreneurship and the labour market and the capacity of the tertiary education system to satisfy economic needs and to create the basis for the adoption of relevant decisions on entry quotas and the popularisation of individualised study programmes.

Specialised courses organised at institutions of higher education provide students with an appropriate level of knowledge and skills to allow them to pursue professions, and educate them to be included directly in the labour process. In this way, in-service training becomes one of the important forms of vocational training.

Lifelong learning is related to international cooperation, as seen in the example of the project within the CARDS programme termed "Lifelong Learning of Civil Engineers and Preparedness to Join the European Economic Area". The body responsible for the implementation of the project is the University of J.J.Strossmayer in Osijek. Pursuant to Article 76 of the Science and Higher Education Act<sup>21</sup>, institutions of higher education may establish different vocational training programmes taking into account the concept of lifelong education and training. Such a programme is not considered to be a university course within the meaning of this Act, but, irrespective of this, the institution of higher education issues a special certificate to the participant after the termination of the vocational training programme.

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<sup>21</sup> Official Gazette Nos. 123/03,

### 1.3. Organisation of services

In the 2004/2005 school year, there were a total of 1,190 kindergartens<sup>22</sup> and other legal persons in the Republic of Croatia, which carry out pre-school programmes. There were 1,089 kindergartens among which 904 were founded by the Republic of Croatia and local units of self-government, 132 were founded by other domestic or legal persons (libraries, play schools, hospitals and similar establishments) and 53 were founded by religious communities or parishes. One hundred and one pre-school units were founded within other legal entities including 88 at basic schools, 3 at play-rooms and 10 at other institutions and organisations (related to health, social, cultural, sports). Within the framework of Target 3, efforts are made to:

- include and increase the participation of the Roma population in the process of acquiring tertiary education;
- ensure and facilitate the acquiring of tertiary education by young people without parental care;
- provide financial support for tertiary education for the young by means of state scholarships, accommodation in student residences, and food in student restaurants for regular students. The right to state scholarships is exercised by 9,349 regular students, including 3,501 new scholarship holders in 2005;
- increase the coverage of children in pre-school institutions to 60%;
- allow young people to enrol directly in an institution of higher education provided they achieve the minimum test score. Institutions of higher education must establish a procedure for the selection of persons who qualify for enrolment, guaranteeing equality for all persons regardless of race, skin colour, gender, language, religion, political or other affiliation, national or social origin, property, birth, social position, disability, sexual orientation, and age;
- provide education in all types of courses and fields of tertiary education, as well as student training, depending on the type of course, and organise assistance for the easier inclusion in different types of courses and fields of tertiary education;
- encourage participants to complete courses by offering opportunities for employment in cooperation with economic subjects and the public sector in compliance with the needs of the labour market;
- determine the activities where students and pupils may occasionally be employed (through the Student Employment Service) by prescribing an obligatory part of the income on the basis of paid tax for the purpose of financing cultural and independent activities within the framework of student centres and pupils' residences;
- devise a model to improve the quality of cultural and independent activities within the framework of student centres.

<sup>22</sup> Each territorially separate unit (regional kindergarten) is considered as a kindergarten.

Regular expenditure for all educational levels, except for tertiary education, as a part of total public expenditure for those levels of education, amounts to 95%. Investments in new school buildings and reconstruction amounted to 0.28% in 2004. Funds to the amount of HRK 71,092,015 have been planned in the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia<sup>23</sup> for the development of the tertiary education system as part of the implementation of the Bologna process, more precisely, for the National Agency for Science and Tertiary Education and the "Lump-Sum" project - the introduction of a new manner of financing tertiary education and of new work places in the system of tertiary education. The amount of HRK 500,000 was planned for the "Lump Sum" project for 2005, which should be allocated from the total amount.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

The priority of the Croatian Millennium Goal 2 is to improve the quality and efficiency of basic education and to develop in students the necessary knowledge and skills for personal development, as well as to facilitate the completion of basic education, while encouraging the continuation of education, regardless of students' abilities, gender, religious, national and/or regional affiliation and socio-economic status. Consequently, the following development goals have been defined:

- increasing the number of enrolled students and the percentage of those completing education;
- implementing the project entitled "Decade of Literacy in Croatia (2003-1012)" that will establish a system of measures and resources leading to the attainment of an international goal - a reduction in the percentage and number of illiterate persons;
- increase the number of basic schools that organise teaching in one shift, and abolish teaching in three shifts;
- implement a special programme of early foreign language instruction beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of basic school, and an elective second foreign language course beginning with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade of basic school, both of which will provide pupils with higher quality education and training required for participation in the European Community;
- the introduction of IT into educational institutions and processes (all teachers should acquire a basic level of computer literacy);
- develop the curriculum, teaching methods and didactic equipment consistent to the maximum extent with different learning models;
- develop the concept of individualised teaching based on the needs, prior knowledge, abilities and interests of the students.

<sup>23</sup> Official Gazette No. 171/04.

## GUARANTEED EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Croatian Rectors' Conference provided the action plan and invited the participation of all institutions of higher education, the Council of Croatian Institutions of Higher Professional Education, the Ministry of Science Education and Sports, the National Council for Higher Education (NVO), the Agency for Science and Higher Education, and the National Committee for the Implementation and Follow-Up of the Bologna Process in the Academic Year 2004/2005. The Statute and other general regulations of institutions of higher education and other scientific research organisations have been harmonised with the Science and Higher Education Act of 31 March 2005. The Science and Higher Education Funding Council and the Ethics Committee have also been established.

The ENIC/NARIC Office was established as part of the Agency for Science and Higher Education. The Office is part of the European network of ENIC/NARIC Centres and in 2005 the employees of this Office began study trips to the European ENIC/NARIC Centres for the purpose of better organising their activities and to familiarise themselves with the structure of foreign tertiary education, the organisation and competences of key bodies with special regard to the work of the ENIC/NARIC offices and of the Agency for Quality Assurance in those countries.

The national ENIC/NARIC<sup>24</sup> Office is a reporting centre on academic mobility and on the recognition of qualifications and is a member of the European Network of National Information Centres. The Office forms part of the Agency for Science and Higher Education and has so far received more than 500 requests for professional and academic recognition of foreign higher education qualifications (FHEQ), out of which 475 requests have already been processed by experts and submitted to the Commission of the Rectors' Conference for evaluation. Positive Decisions on the recognition of FHEQ were issued for 214 claims. The Office cooperates daily with the consultants working on the CARDS project entitled "Higher Education Mobility" implemented by the Ministry since September 2004.

The first national website dedicated to scholarships available to Croatian citizens studying abroad or at home was started in 2004. The main goal of the website is to collect in one place all the information on scholarship programmes available to Croatian citizens. In this way, the website will enable access to information on scholarship programmes to a larger number of people, better use and transparency of scholarship programmes, and, finally, it will contribute to an increase in academic mobility and in the democratisation of tertiary education in Croatia. The website will contain a list of open scholarship competitions, the archives of past competitions for scholarship programmes, the experiences of scholarship holders, information and sources necessary in the process of applying for individual scholarships, useful links and interactive elements such as forums or chat. The long-term goal of the project is the creation of a regional website for scholarship programmes in South and Southeast Europe.

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<sup>24</sup> European Network of Information Centres and the National Academic Recognition Information Centres

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. The harmonisation of education with the European Community – the Bologna process

The target is to establish recognition and validity for study programmes at institutions of higher education for the new academic year of 2005/2006. By the end of the year, the ENIC/NARIC Office should conduct an analysis of foreign tertiary education systems from which foreign higher education qualifications arrive in Croatia and for which recognition is requested. The next challenge is to implement the activities planned for the period 2005-2010, which include:

- implementation of the Action Plan for the Roma for the five-year period from 2005 to 2010.
- implementation of the Plan for the Development of the Educational System from 2005 to 2010.
- implementation of the Pre-Economic Programme for the period until 2007.
- preparation of reports on education and training at the request of the European Commission as of 2010.

### 3.2. Successful integration into work, the economy and modern technology

The following is recommended within the framework of Target 2:

- increase budgetary and extra-budgetary expenditure for education with the aim of achieving the rate of allocations provided in developed European countries;
- ensure greater expertise and efficiency of teachers, and base the employment system on advancement and expertise;
- intensify the learning of foreign languages through specialised teaching;
- draw up a curriculum and a programme for professional and in-service training of teachers based on professional-theoretical and practical subjects.

### 3.3. Organisation of services

The decentralisation of education management will be achieved by devolving decision-making to schools and local education authorities. The work on drawing up national pedagogical standards for basic and upper secondary schools and of standards for the creation of a network of schools is currently under way. By the end of 2006, a pilot project of the system for the self-evaluation of educational institutions needs to be prepared, and its implementation should start in early 2007. The financing of science and tertiary education pursuant to the provisions of the Science and Higher Education Act will be initiated on 1 January 2006 (the "Lump Sum" project). In this way, the proportion of GDP allocated to education would be increased from 4.4% to 4.9% by 2010. The regular expenditure for quality education, including salaries, as a share of public expenditure for education, would amount to at least 13% by the year 2010. All the constituent parts of universities should participate in a unified and harmonised manner in all academic issues, in financial transactions and investments, in the establishment of science and research priorities and in international cooperation.

MILLIENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3  
**GENDER EQUALITY AND  
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**





<b>Target 1: Encourage gender sensitive education in the educational curricula and programmes</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> Regular annual textbook alignment procedure implemented (alignment of textbooks with Law on Gender Equality and textbook standard in order to eliminate gender stereotypes)	no	no	no
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> Share of female students entering informatics, technical programmes and natural sciences (university level) <sup>25</sup>	26.7%	27.3%	Data not yet available
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> The number of programmes and seminars on gender equality for pre-school teachers and teachers <sup>26</sup>	Research not conducted	5	4
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> Number of gender sensitive courses at faculties financed from the State budget <sup>27</sup>	Research not conducted	14	14
<b>Target 2: Increase the participation of women in the political decision-making process</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> The number of women in the Croatian Parliament	34 (22.52 %)	33 (21.71 %)	32 (21.1%)
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> The number of women in the Croatian Government (female ministers)	4 (21.70 %)	4 (28.57 %)	4 (31%)
<b>Indicator 2c.</b> The percentage of women on electoral lists for the election of members of representative bodies of local and regional self-government units	Research not conducted	19.24 %	20.1%
<b>Indicator 2d.</b> The percentage of women in the representative bodies of local and regional self-government units <sup>28</sup>	9.6 %	11.1%	12.9%
<b>Indicator 2e.</b> Does the Election Act contain provisions on gender equality?	yes	yes	yes

<sup>25</sup> Source: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

<sup>26</sup> Source: Institute for schooling ([www.zavod.skolstvo.htnet.hr](http://www.zavod.skolstvo.htnet.hr)).

<sup>27</sup> Source: Universities in Zagreb, Split, Osijek and Rijeka.

<sup>28</sup> The indicator includes the members of the city quarters in the City of Zagreb.

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<b>Target 3: Empower women economically</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> Percentage of unemployed women	16.6 %	15.7 %	13.9 %
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Share of women in total unemployment	54.6%	58.3%	59.3%
<b>Indicator 3c.</b> Percentage of women in the total number of self-employed persons <sup>29</sup>	32.2 %	38.9 %	40.7 %
<b>Indicator 3d.</b> Long-term unemployment of women (more than 3 years) <sup>30</sup>	53.9%	53.7 %	51.6%
<b>Indicator 3e.</b> At-risk-of-poverty rate, women	women + 0,9	women + 3,0	Data not yet available
<b>Target 4: Suppression of all kinds of violence against women</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 4a.</b> Is the education of competent state bodies and services on violence against women being carried out?	yes	yes	yes
<b>Indicator 4b.</b> The number of shelters for victims of violence	7	12	13
<b>Indicator 4c.</b> The number of counselling centres for victims of violence	Research not conducted	31	32
<b>Target 5: Improve the management of statistical data</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 5a.</b> Are gender-related statistical data in the area of social statistics being published?	yes	yes	yes
<b>Target 6: Strengthen media support for gender equality</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 6a.</b> The number of gender sensitive programmes on public television	Research not conducted	Research not conducted	Research not conducted

<sup>29</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics (in 2005 the total of 354.000 of which 144.000 women).

<sup>30</sup> ibid

<b>Indicator 6b.</b> Establish an annual award for a gender-sensitive media work	yes	yes	yes
<b>Indicator 6c.</b> Does the Media Act contain provisions on gender equality?	no	yes	yes

<b>Target 7: Harmonise private and professional life</b>	<b>2002 / 2003</b>	<b>2004 / 2005</b>	<b>2005 / 2006</b>
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<b>Indicator 7a.</b> The number of kindergartens <sup>31</sup>	1067	1089	1106
<b>Indicator 7b.</b> The number of legal subjects implementing programmes of pre-school education in basic schools and associations	Research not conducted	101	99
<b>Indicator 7c.</b> The number of kindergartens in which children stay for 8 or more hours	884	875 (2003/2004)	Data not yet available
<b>Indicator 7d.</b> The number of children staying in kindergartens for 8 or more hours	66,606	67,375	68,009
<b>Indicator 7e.</b> The number of basic schools with extended stay	Research not conducted	185	Data not yet available
<b>Indicator 7f.</b> The number of pupils in basic schools included in extended stay	7,830	9,160 (2003/2004)	10,136
<b>Indicator 7g.</b> The number of men on paternity leave	402 (0.58 %)	444 (0.63%)	438 (0.66%)

<b>Target 8: Strengthen institutional mechanisms <sup>32</sup></b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
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<b>Indicator 8a.</b> The number of country commissions for gender equality at local level	-	9 (2003)	20
<b>Indicator 8b.</b> The number (and the rate of increase) of persons employed at the Office for Gender Equality	-	4	5 (25%)

<sup>31</sup> The source of data is the Central Bureau of Statistics. Each territorially separate unit (district kindergarten) is considered a kindergarten.

<sup>32</sup> The Office for Gender Equality was established in 2004.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

<b>Indicator 8c.</b> The budget (and the rate of increase) of the Office for Gender Equality	-	1,531,290	1,943,260 (26.9 %)
<b>Indicator 8d.</b> The number of persons (and the rate of increase) employed in the Office of the Ombudsman for Gender Equality	-	10	10 (0%)
<b>Indicator 8e.</b> The budget (and the rate of increase) of the Office of the Ombudsman for Gender Equality	-	2,006,079	2,525,405 (25.89%)
<b>Target 9: Strengthen civil society</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 9a.</b> Number of projects/programmes of NGO active on gender equality issues and financed from the state budget and lottery <sup>33</sup>	Research not conducted	77	71
<b>Indicator 9b.</b> Percentage of funds earmarked for projects promoting gender equality in the total amount of funds assigned to civil society	Research not conducted	2.6% (2,983,532.00 kn)	2.2% (2,961,365.30 kn)

<sup>33</sup> Source of information: State Office for NGOs: "Report on financing of NGOs from the state budget and lottery". The term project/programme refers to institutional support to NGOs, magazines, books, manifestations and purchase of copy rights.<sup>34</sup> Source: The Croatian National Institute of Public Health.

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

In the last few years institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the policy of gender equality have been established at national and local level while legislative amendments have been introduced to remove all types of discrimination against women. The main indicators of the unequal position of women in society are the following: women constitute more than half of the total number of unemployed; the existence of various types of employment discrimination; the insufficient representation of women in the process of political decision making; the frequency of domestic violence against women.

In the field of educational content, stereotypes still exist in relation to gender roles, and for this reason it has been under consideration to introduce special measures aiming at greater visibility of gender equality in curricula, programmes and textbooks. The systematic encouragement of training of educational personnel in the field of gender equality is also necessary, and non-governmental organisations for women are also becoming involved in this process. In accordance to the Lisbon Declaration, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports adopted the goals - to be achieved by 2010 - of increasing the number of graduates in the areas of mathematics, science and technology with special emphasis of increasing the number of women in these professions. Although women's studies are not yet an integral part of university courses, the trend has been increasing towards recognising the importance of these courses and in the introduction of gender-sensitive courses at individual faculties. Even in other faculties, the topics on gender equality have been appearing while many university professors participate in scientific projects related to gender equality. The percentage of women among teachers at institutions of higher education increased from 37.25% in 2002 to 39.32% in 2004. Concerning the Master's level, the share of women with this degree increased from 39.55% to 46.98% in the same period, although the percentage of women who achieved a PhD degree fell somewhat (from 48.09% in 2002 to 42.02% in 2004).

Women are still not sufficiently represented in the executive branch of power at national and local level. The percentage of women is significantly smaller in local representative and executive bodies in relation to their representation in the Parliament and in the Croatian Government. Still, there has been a significant gradual increase of women among political representatives, although the dynamics of the increase is not satisfactory. For example, the increase in the total number of female councillors after the May 2005 local elections was just 1.1% in comparison with the year 2001.

The unemployment rate for women has increased. Employed women constitute the majority of those employed in low paid jobs, while there have been no significant changes in their percentage among entrepreneurs. The representation of women in supervisory boards in the public sector is also very low. On the other hand, the share of women in the total number of self-employed persons has increased. Ministries, local communities and other institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations, have been conducting programmes for the strengthening of entrepreneurship among women and for the economic empowerment of single mothers.

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With the adoption of the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence for 2005 - 2007, the state has adopted a series of measures for the suppression of different forms of violence against women, including the provision of the structure, organisation and education of a sufficient number of experts in competent state bodies to deal with this issue. Work to increase the number of shelters and legal counselling centres for women has also been planned. The Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity, in cooperation with institutions and citizens' associations, has been implementing programmes of psychological and sociological counselling and providing other forms of assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Further work on the more efficient collection, processing and publication of gender specific statistical data is necessary in order to create the preconditions for the implementation of a large number of measures that rely on precise and systematic data. The Central Bureau of Statistics has begun to publish the average monthly gross-net salaries of the employed, disaggregated by gender since 2005.

The media play a very important role in the shaping of public opinion, and in that manner influence the creation and maintenance of gender stereotypes. The media image of a woman corresponds neither to the actual position of women in society nor to her multiple roles, and the media often, although they are legally obligated to promote concepts of gender equality, do not abide by the prescribed legal provisions. According to the Media Act, which was harmonised with the Gender Equality Act in 2004, the media are obliged to encourage the production of, and to publish programme contents aimed at developing awareness of the equality of women and men. The advertising of contents where women and men are publicly shown and represented in an offensive, humiliating or degrading manner is prohibited.

The process of the harmonisation of private and professional life does not help eliminate inequality in the social position of men and women. Less than 1% of men take paternity leave, although there has been a small increase in relation to 2004. Also, there are insufficient educational institutions and other social institutions whose provision is able to satisfy the interests of the family. However, it needs to be said here that the overall economic situation in the country largely affects the implementation of social policy measures.

In relation to the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, work on the introduction of measures for the strengthening and networking of institutional mechanisms at national and local levels is already planned. The Office for Gender Equality, as the basic institutional mechanism for the promotion and monitoring of gender equality, needs to be strengthened, both financially and in relation to human resources.

In the process of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, an important role is played by non-governmental institutions which sensitise the public by advocating public policies and which participate in proposing and/or resolving certain problems. The realisation of the gender equality policy necessarily includes cooperation with non-governmental organisations and their quality partnership with state administration and local self-government bodies.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

The Government Office for Gender Equality has drawn up, in cooperation with other state administration bodies and non-governmental organisations, the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality from 2006 to 2010, which will be submitted for adoption by the Government of the Republic of Croatia to the Croatian Parliament. The new national policy will be based on the Millennium Development Targets, and, as an act of political will of the Croatian state, it will contain the defined programme-related tasks of individual state administration bodies aimed at the realisation and strengthening of the policy of gender equality and at the empowerment of women. In addition to the national action plan, the implementation of a number of different activities has been planned or is already under way.

In order to achieve further progress in the elimination of gender stereotypes at all levels of education, the Office for Gender Equality will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. In addition, the possibility to monitor the work of the Textbook Council in relation to the introduction of gender-sensitive education will be considered. The Office will in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Institute for Schooling and the newly established Agency for Professional Education - initiate the creation of a database on the exact number of programmes and seminars on gender equality for teachers, the number of gender-sensitive courses at faculties, and other statistical data on the position of women in education and science. The drafting of the new Act on Textbooks is underway, and it will be used as the basis for the adoption of a new textbook standard by means of which the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports intends to give more attention to the gender-sensitive policy.

Activities directed towards increasing the participation of women in the process of political decision-making will include different actions aimed at continuing the raising of public awareness about the poor representation of women in politics, analysing and publishing data on the share of women in representative and executive bodies, supporting the initiatives of women's non-governmental organisations, and considering the manner of exerting influence on amendments to electoral legislation as well as the Political Parties Act.

In the area of the economic empowerment of women, i.e. the general improvement of women's position in the labour market, the implementation of various programmes defined by the conclusions of the Economic and Social Council (a tripartite body comprising representatives of the Government, the Trade Unions and employers, in addition to local and regional self-government units) has been planned, including programmes for the promotion of self-employment and female entrepreneurship, the programme for the promotion of home services and care for the old and the disabled, the introduction of targeted programmes for single mothers within the framework of the National Employment Action Plan, the establishment of real working conditions for women by means of inspection and continuous monitoring of the movements of the female work force in

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the labour market, as well as better statistical management of data. The Office for Gender Equality began preparations for empirical research on unemployed women for the purpose of identifying discrimination in their search for employment. In 2004/2005 the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship implemented a project entitled "Female Entrepreneurship".

The measures and all the planned activities for the suppression of all forms of violence against women have been defined in the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence for the period between 2005 and 2007. They include short-term and long-term measures that will be implemented by state administration bodies, local and regional self-government units and non-governmental organisations. Within the framework of short-term measures, there is an analysis of laws sanctioning domestic violence, the drafting of a proposal for amendments to the Act on Protection against Domestic Violence, the drawing up of the programme for the education of employees in educational institutions and of all those working on the implementation of laws that sanction domestic violence, the drafting of a proposal for the promotion of the operation of existing shelters and the opening of new ones, and the printing of a promotional leaflet for victims, as well as other measures. The main authority competent for the implementation of the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence is the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity.

In the field of improving the management of statistical data, the Central Bureau of Statistics is seen as the main authority competent for the implementation of the task of systematic statistical monitoring and gathering of indicators important for gaining an insight into differences between genders in the social security and labour systems. The printing of a publication containing all gender disaggregated statistical data is planned.

Systematic research of overall media space should be conducted for the purpose of measuring media support in the area of gender equality by means of gender-sensitive programmes on public television and in the overall media space. Since, on the basis of the adopted Action Plan for the Promotion and Establishment of Gender Equality, Croatian Radio and Television (HTV) has committed itself to broadcasting programme contents that will promote the raising of awareness about the equality of men and women, the Office for Gender Equality will request from HTV data on the total number of gender-sensitive programmes.

With the aim of harmonising private and professional life, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and local authorities have been implementing projects related to the education of pre-school children geared towards the opening of new kindergartens and the expansion of existing ones, the stimulation of larger companies to organise pre-school education programmes close to the parents' place of work, and towards obliging municipalities, towns and counties to envisage localities for the building of pre-school institutions, paying special attention to the fact that the working hours of kindergartens have to be adjusted to parents' working hours. Until 2010, the goal is to increase the number of children entering preschool programmes from current 43% to 60% as well as to increase the coverage from current 96% to 98%. Up to 900 children should be covered by newly opened programmes by the end of 2006.



In 2004, county commissions for gender equality have been founded in almost every Croatian county, and the establishment of these bodies at the level of towns is also on the increase, which signifies the direct implementation of the Target 8 - "Strengthening of institutional mechanisms". Education and the networking of the commission's work have been conducted continuously, and the elaboration of the normative regulation of their role and authority within the units of local government is being prepared. Further organisational, personnel and financial strengthening of institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the gender equality policy is necessary.

Within the framework of strengthening civil society, systematic cooperation between non-governmental organisations dealing with the protection and promotion of women's human rights on the one hand, and state administration bodies in the area of gender equality on the other hand, is underway, and partner relations on common projects are being established. The projects of non-governmental organisations receive financial support from the ministries, government offices for gender equality, human rights and national minorities and the Civil Society Development Foundation. In 2004 the Office for Gender Equality financially supported 6 and in 2005, 13 projects conducted by non-governmental organisations. On the basis of the 2005 public competition, the Office for Human Rights financed projects/programmes from 10 non-governmental organisations dealing with the protection and advocacy of human rights, especially the trafficking of women and children, education for Roma women, and the like.

### 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to achieve all the mentioned targets, and in this way make de facto, and not only de iure significant progress in the attainment of gender equality, institutional mechanisms competent for the implementation of the national strategic plan on the national and local level need to be strengthened. The Office for Gender Equality needs to be provided with funds for the planned implementation of concrete programmes and research, and at least 6 employees must be employed in the next two years. The gender equality coordinators in state administration bodies have to be able to exercise their authority more efficiently in order to implement regulations and tasks in the field of improving gender equality and in harmonising legislation. At the local level, premises and funds need to be provided from the budgets of local government bodies for the commissions for gender equality.

It is a constant challenge to find ways to achieve equality in the executive branch and, as the basic criterion of democratic action, to exert influence on how political decisions are adopted. In this sense, further adjustment of legislation needs to be considered and continued efforts should be made to undertake activities geared towards raising the awareness of the general public, and, in particular, of political parties in relation to this issue.

A permanent task is the more efficient implementation of the Gender Equality Act, additional laws against discrimination, and other regulations and national strategies aimed at finding ways to strengthen the overall social position of women.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4  
**REDUCE NEWBORN AND  
CHILD MORTALITY**



Target 1: Reduce the rate of perinatal and infant mortality	2002	2004	2005
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> <sup>34</sup> Still-birth rate (PT ≥500g)	5.6 ‰	5.3‰	5.4‰
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> Early neonatal mortality rate (PT ≥500g)	3.7 ‰	3.4‰	3.4‰
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> Perinatal death rate per 1000 total births (birth weight ≥500g)	9.3 ‰	8.7‰	8.8‰
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> Perinatal death rate per 1000 total births (birth weight ≥1000g)	6.9 ‰	5.8‰	6.4‰
<b>Indicator 1e.</b> Infant mortality rate/1,000 live births	7.0 ‰	6.1‰	Data is being collected
Target 2: Improve antenatal care	2002	2004	2005
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> <sup>35</sup> Number of clinical examinations during pregnancy (the optimum number of examinations during a normal pregnancy is 10)			
0 examinations:	770 <sup>36</sup> (1.95%)	1,041 (2.6%)	1,523 (3.62%)
1-2 examinations:	859 (2.18%);	669 (1.66%)	663 (1.58%)
3-5 examinations:	4,005 (10.16%);	2,973 (7.39%)	2,748 (6.54%)
6-8 examinations:	12,025 (30.50%);	11,296 (28.09%)	11,217 (26.68%)
≥9 examinations:	20,904 (53.02%);	23,500 (58.44%)	25,372 (60.34%)
unknown number of checks	861 (2.18%)	734(1.83%)	525(1.25%)
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> The number of ultrasound scans during pregnancy (the optimum number of scans in a normal pregnancy is 3)			
0 scans:	939 (2.38%)	1,425 (3.54%)	1,791 (4.26%)
1 scan:	972 (2.47%)	658(1.64%)	629(1.5%)
2 scans:	3,337 (8.46%)	2,401 (5.97%)	1,953 (4.64%)
3 scans:	7,389 (18.74%)	6,238 (15.51%)	5,400 (12.84%)
4-5 scans:	16,620 (42.16%)	16,925 (42.09%)	18,114 (43.08%)
≥6 scans:	9,078 (23.03%)	11,808(29.36%)	13,510(32.13%)
unknown number of scans	1,089 (2.76%)	758(1.88%)	651(1.55%)

<sup>34</sup>Source of data: questionnaires from maternity hospitals on births and perinatal deaths according to birth weight and duration of gestation from 2002 until 2003. Data processed by: Croatian Institute of Public Health.

<sup>35</sup>Sources of data: 2a-2c\* individual birth reports from health institutions in the Republic of Croatia from 2002 until 2003. Data processed by the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

<sup>36</sup>770 childbearing women or 1.95% of the total number of childbearing women.

## REDUCE NEWBORN AND CHILD MORTALITY

<b>Indicator 2c.</b> Time of first antenatal examination (the optimum time for the first check is up to the 8th week of pregnancy, and from the 9th until the 12th week of pregnancy)			
1-8 weeks	11,819 (29.98%)	12,929 (32.15%)	13,982(33.25%)
9-12 weeks	13,499 (34.24%)	15,617 (38.84%)	16,542 (39.34%)
13-16 weeks	5,440 (13.80%)	4,104(10.21%)	4,390(10.44%)
17-21 week	2,517 (6.38%)	1,684 (4.19%)	1,799 (4.28%)
22-30 weeks	1,370 (3.48%)	1,079 (2.68%)	1,117 (2.66%)
31-35 weeks	299 (0.76%)	307 (0.76%)	325(0.77%)
36-41 week	143 (0.36%)	104(0.26%)	117(0.28%)
≥ 42 weeks	1 (0.01%)	2 (0.0%)	1(0.0%)
unknown duration of pregnancy at the time first examination	4,336 (11.00%)	4,387 (10.91%)	3,775(8.98%)
<b>Indicator 2d.</b> <sup>37</sup> The number of nurse visits at home during pregnancy (the optimum number of nurse visits at home is 2)			
- per pregnant woman	0.84 visits	0.70 visits	-
- per woman after having given birth	3.3 visits	3.35 visits	-
<b>Target 3: Improve postnatal care</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> The number of specialisations in neonatology approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The optimum number is 10 per year.			
- the number of specialisations in neonatology per year	0	0	
- the number of faeto-maternal specialisations	2	1	
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Dynamics of procurement of capital medical equipment (the optimum is 15% per year of the total necessary equipment)	Not achieved as planned	Not achieved as planned	
<b>Indicator 3c.</b> The number of new specialisations in paediatrics for primary health care per year	9	22	

<sup>37</sup> Reports from the activities of visiting nurses in the period between 2002 and 2003.

<b>Target 4:</b> Reduce the number of "avoidable deaths", i.e. deaths that occur from perinatal causes which may be avoided and the evaluation of perinatal and child deaths at national and county (regional) levels	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 4a.</b> The trends of perinatal mortality and its components (early neonatal mortality and foetal mortality) and child deaths at national and county (regional) levels in the last 5 years	Data being collected	Data being collected	
<b>Indicators 4b.</b> <sup>38</sup> The number and share of causes of infant deaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contagious and parasitic diseases</li> <li>- tumours</li> <li>- blood diseases and blood vessel diseases and certain immune system diseases</li> <li>- endocrine diseases, alimentary and metabolic diseases</li> <li>- nervous system diseases</li> <li>- circulation system diseases</li> <li>- respiratory system diseases</li> <li>- digestive system diseases</li> <li>- certain conditions occurring in the perinatal period</li> <li>- congenital malformations, deformities and chromosome abnormalities</li> <li>- symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory test results not classified elsewhere</li> <li>- injuries, poisonings and some other consequences of external causes</li> <li>- total</li> </ul>	3 (1.1%) 1 (0.4%)  4(1.4%)  1 (0.4%) 7 (2.5%) 0 1 (0.4%) 0 163 (57.7%)  83 (29.4%)  15 (5.3%)  4 (1.4%) 282	2 (0.8%) 3 (1.2%)  1 (0.4%)  4 (1.6%) 1 (0.4%) 2 (0.8 %) 5 (2.0%) 0 136 (55.5%)  75 (30.6%)  8 (3.3%)  8 (3.3%) 245	

<sup>38</sup> Sources of data: documents of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 2003 (form DEM-2/02 and DEM-2/03); Croatian Health-Statistical Chronicle, 2003.

## REDUCE NEWBORN AND CHILD MORTALITY

<b>Target 5: Reduce the child mortality rate</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 5a.</b> Specific child mortality rate for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- infants</li> <li>- children from 1 to 4 years</li> <li>- children from 5 to 9 years</li> <li>- children from 10 to 14 years</li> <li>- children from 15 to 19 years</li> </ul>	7.0/1,000 27.86/100,000 14.48/100,000 10.42/100,000 48.89/100,000	6.1/1,000 25.80/100,000 12.45/100,000 14.35/100,000 49.91/100,000	
<b>Indicator 5b.</b> Leading causes of violent death in children (structure)	See table 1, Annex 1	See table 1, Annex 1	
<b>Target 6: Reduce the deaths caused by accidents and evaluate the implementation of prevention programmes for the purpose of reducing accident-caused deaths of children at national and county (regional) levels</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Pokazatelj 6a.</b> Trendovi smrtnosti djece i mladih na nacionalnoj i županijskim (regionalnim) razinama	Data being collected	See table 2, Annex 1	
<b>Pokazatelj 6b.</b> Broj nasilnih smrti djece	141	157	



# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

According to birth registrations, there were 40,210 births in Croatian maternity hospitals in 2004 with a total of 40,687 children born (out of which there were 40,469 live births and 218 still-births, and a foetal mortality rate of 5.4‰). In addition to 218 still-births, 137 children died in the first 7 days after birth (the early neonatal mortality rate was 3.4‰), and the total number of perinatal deaths was 355 (379 in 2002). Since reporting on still-births with a birth weight below 1000 grams did not form part of obligatory perinatal mortality statistics until 2001, reports will not be reliable for another few years until new regulations are actually put into practice.

The indicator of perinatal mortality in relation to births of children with a birth weight over 1,000 grams is used exclusively for the purposes of international comparison. There were 235 infants who died perinatally (out of a total of 353 perinatal deaths of birth weight above 500 grams and according to the World Health Organisation's definition and weight criteria), and the perinatal mortality rate for children born with a birth weight  $\geq 1000$  grams was 5.8‰ (Table 1), while the perinatal mortality rate for children of all weight groups (with a birth weight  $\geq 500$  grams) amounted to 8.7‰.

During 2004, in maternity hospitals in Croatia there were 38,436 (94.98%) children born with a birth weight over 2,500 grams, and 1,979 (4.89%) children with a birth weight under 2,500 grams, and there were 0.13% of newborns with an unknown birth weight (World Health Organisation's definition used for weight and length of pregnancy criteria). Among the children born with a low birth weight there were 124 children registered with a birth weight up to 1,000 grams (0.3%), 183 children with a birth weight of 1,000-1,499 grams (0.45%), 390 children with a birth weight of 1,500-1,999 grams (0.96%), and 1,282 children with a birth weight of 2,000-2,499 grams (3.2%). While children with a low birth weight make up a very small share of the total number of born children (5.1%), they prevail among those who die perinatally with a share of 73.5% (261/355).

The causes of infant deaths in Croatia do not differ from the causes of infant deaths in developed countries. A total of 245 infants died in Croatia in 2004 (mortality rate 6.1/1,000 live births). The most frequent causes of infant death are certain pathological conditions related to pregnancy or delivery (55.5%), congenital anomalies (30.6%), and injuries, poisonings, and some other consequences of external causes as well as the sudden infant death syndrome (3.3%), which indicate that all other causes make up only 7.3% of the total mortality of infants. What prevails among the individual causes of infant deaths in Croatia, as is the case in the countries of the EU, are the consequences of immaturity due to premature birth, or serious malformations and malformation syndromes. Of the total number of deceased infants, 23.7% died on the first day of their life, which is more than the number of children who died in the postneonatal period (24.9%). A total of 75.1% of deceased infants died in the period from birth until the 27th day of life, while 24.9% of children died in the postneonatal period (the period between 28 and 364 days of life).

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Antenatal care

Antenatal care is carried out through primary health care of women for each holder of basic health insurance. The average number of examinations per pregnant woman has been increased in the observed period from 6 to 7 examinations. The drawing up of a new Programme of Health Care Measures is underway, and this will increase the care standard (to 10 clinical and 3 ultrasound examinations per pregnant woman) in relation to the current programme (6–8 clinical examinations and 2 ultrasound scans). It is necessary to introduce an incentive payment model, and to provide special incentives for preventive examinations and examinations of pregnant women. The number of beds for mothers transported to higher-level centres will try to be increased by a redistribution of the number of beds within and among institutions, and accordingly, the number of beds for newborns (31 beds are lacking in third-level centres).

### 2.2. Care in the home

There are sufficient active polyvalent visiting nurses (one visiting nurse per population of 5,100). The standard number of nurse visits to a pregnant woman, to women after having given birth and to the newborn is set by the programme of health care measures. The financing is satisfactory. The cost per inhabitant is HRK 25.21, which amounts to HRK 128,593.49 annually per visiting nurse.

### 2.3. Health and educational work

Childbirth classes and newborn care classes are organised in 17 health institutions in Croatia. The classes are fee-paying in two of these institutions, while they are free of charge in the others. It is advisable to organise classes in all maternity hospitals and health institutions along with a standardised, uniform national programme for parents. Teachers of these classes need to be trained beforehand. Training in schools also needs to be provided subsequently.

## 2.4. Regionalisation

The drawing up of a categorisation of hospitals is underway, and the regional organisation of perinatal health care on the basis of a familiar programme would form a constituent part of this project. Within the framework of activities of "two-way transport", transport needs to be organised in the whole country in accordance with professional recommendations and, after the proposed organisation, necessary staff, equipment and funds need to be determined.

## 2.5. Equipment and personnel

There is a lack of 28 specialists in foetomaternal medicine in Croatia, as well as 71 primary health care gynaecologists, 86 primary health care paediatricians and 18 neonatologists, which amount to a total of 157 out-of-hospital and 46 hospital specialists. There were no specialisations in foetomaternal medicine or neonatology approved in 2003. The specialisation in paediatrics lasts for 5 years, in gynaecology for 4.5 years, while narrow specialisation in foetomaternal medicine is 2 years long, and 3 years are needed for specialisation in neonatology.

## 2.6. Reporting and processing of data

The reporting of perinatal births and deaths is compulsory in Croatia for the purposes of vital and health statistics. These two systems differ in the data processing methodology and in the manner in which the state of affairs is presented, since health statistics classifies all data on perinatally deceased children on the basis of the instructions of the World Health Organisation, in relation to weight groups at birth (children born  $\geq 500$  grams of birth weight for the purposes of national statistics, and children born at  $\geq 1000$  grams of birth weight for the purposes of international comparison). At the same time, the data on perinatally deceased children are entered into matrices of the born and of the dead for the purposes of life statistics regardless of birth weight in the case of live births, and from 22 weeks of gestation in the case of still-births. The introduction of IT into the health system is underway and will result in the harmonisation of the IT programmes in maternity hospitals (36 maternity hospitals) with those of the Croatian National Institute of Public Health, according to the reporting standards prescribed by the Croatian National Institute of Public Health.

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. Antenatal care

There are still about 9.1% of pregnancies that are not sufficiently supervised (1-2 examinations and 3-5 examinations) and 2.6% of pregnancies that are totally unsupervised (0 examinations in a pregnancy). Of particular importance for the reduction of this problem is the provision of education in family planning and reproductive health, in particular for the adolescent school-going population and pregnant women. Better communication, that is, an exchange of information among the health services of primary health care (the gynaecologist and visiting nurse service), would also contribute to the greater coverage of pregnant women whose pregnancy is insufficiently supervised. The participation of parents in the care for prematurely born children in intensive care units will also try to be increased by stimulating early "skin to skin" contact, early breastfeeding, and the possibility of regular visits.

### 3.2. Care in the home

The main problems are the inconsistent measures and actions of visiting nurses in the health care of pregnant women, of women who have given birth, and of newborns. The training of visiting nurses needs to be organised in all regional centres (Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Osijek) on the basis of a common programme (preparation of training packages and workshops with the aim of adopting standard work guidelines). The necessary funds amount to HRK 300,000 per course per year. Communication with all gynaecologists providing health care to women in the area covered by a visiting nurse needs to be improved (special funds are not envisaged).

### 3.3. Health and educational work

The quality and content of courses are very different and uneven, and in the majority of cases based on the enthusiasm of individuals without institutional support. The content of the courses needs to be harmonised by means of an expert association, i.e. the Croatian Society for Perinatal Medicine and the Commission for Perinatal Care of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. For this purpose, it is particularly important to provide funds for the financing of the course at a national level (about HRK 300,000 per year per course) and for the training of instructors (HRK 50,000 per course). Special emphasis needs to be placed on the education of society on breastfeeding, thus achieving all the positive effects that it has for the health of women and children. The education of medical staff on patients' rights (women in the postpartum period) to choose and decide on medical procedures during childbirth needs to be carried out, which is in accordance with the Act on the Protection of Patients' Rights. In this way, the patient would be given the opportunity to make health-related decisions.

### 3.4. Regionalisation

The problem of regionalisation lies in the fact that there are no personnel or material preconditions for regional organisation. Related to this, there is no national strategy for a transport model with special staff and equipment that may be organised at the national level within the framework of the transport of all other patients or on the basis of a model that each third-level institution has its own organised transport. Therefore, the regionalisation of perinatal care should be carried out, and staff, equipment and funds for "two-way transport" need to be provided.

### 3.5. Equipment and personnel

A certain amount of funds needs to be secured for the financing of personnel and equipment in the next five-year period. An attempt should be made to provide part of the funds for planned employees and equipment lacking in intensive care units and in newborn intensive care units from the European Union pre-accession funds and the loans of the European Council Development Bank.

### 3.6. Reporting and processing of data

The evaluation of results varies in quality and is insufficient in some institutions, while it is far better at the national level. There is no possibility to express the reporting costs (filling in individual birth report forms and, if necessary, perinatal death reports, entering data in institutes of public health, controlling the accuracy and completeness of data and processing, analysing and preparing reports for individual maternity hospitals and counties, and for the country as a whole). These activities are conducted partially in hospitals (maternity hospitals, neonatology and paediatrics departments) and partly in county institutes and in the Croatian Institute of Public Health. Where maternity hospitals already have programmes for the entry of data, the existing standard of computer entries on childbirths needs to be applied in order to achieve a better quality of reporting, and, where there are no programmes, the application of a uniform programme needs to be ensured for the entry and processing of data. It is recommended that funds be secured for software support in maternity hospitals for the purpose of seeing the real picture in such hospitals, rather than data that refer to the year before or two years before the current event. Funds also need to be provided for the preparation of a computer programme at the national level, which will then be distributed to maternity hospitals for use free of charge, while the maintenance of the programme needs to be paid for within the framework of regular hospital costs submitted to the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance (HZZO). About HRK 300,000 needs to be provided annually for the preparation of the programme, and about HRK 10,000 per maternity hospital for the regular maintenance of the programme, and another HRK 100,000 for the preparation of methodological instructions and for the training of users. Finally, commissions for the analysis of perinatal mortality and infant and child mortality need to be established at local levels.

### 3.7. Analysis of child deaths at the local level

The establishment of Commissions for the analysis of perinatal mortality and infant and child mortality at local levels is also under consideration.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5  
**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**





<b>Target 1: Maintain maternal mortality at a low level</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	9.97	7.44
<b>Target 2: Maintain and improve reproductive health</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> Percentage of women covered by preventive examinations within health care (per 1,000 women in the age group 15 to 49)	285.5	377.4
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> Percentage of pregnant women with >9 antenatal examinations	53.02%	58.4%
<b>Target 3: Further reduction in the percentage of interrupted pregnancies, in particular in adolescents</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> Percentage of interrupted pregnancies according to age and type of interruption	11.1‰	9.5‰
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Percentage of interrupted pregnancies in total pregnancies according to type of interruption	51.6%	50.9 %
Legally induced interruptions of pregnancy	7.8%	7.7%
- <19 years	35.6%	34.7%
- from 20 to 29 years	44.3%	42.4%
- from 30 to 39 years	11.0%	10.4%
- >40 years	1.2%	4.8%
- unknown age		
<b>Indicator 3c.</b> Percentage of miscarriages in total pregnancy interruptions	19.3%	17.5%
<b>Indicator 3d.</b> Other kinds of interruptions in pregnancies (mola etc.)	29.1 %	31.6 %

## IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target 4: Reduce mortality resulting from the most frequent causes of death in women in fertile age groups	2002	2004
<b>Indicator 4a.</b> Total mortality rate per 100,00 women in fertile age group	84.24	84.26
<b>Indicator 4b.</b> Percentage of mortalities resulting from the most frequent causes of death in women of fertile age according to MKB diseases (per 100,000 women of fertile age)		
- tumours	38.7	37.7
- injuries, poisonings and other consequences of external causes	15.5	16.6
- circulation system diseases	13.9	14.2

**Note:** Rates are calculated on the basis of the estimate for the number of inhabitants for 2004. (mid-year)

## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

Maternal mortality has been low in Croatia for many years and occurs only in exceptional cases. From complications during pregnancy, birth or in the period after birth, four women died in 2004 and three women died in 2003.

In 2004, there were 10,288 interruptions of pregnancy reported, which shows an additional fall in relation to the previous year (6.5% less than the year before). Legally induced interruptions of pregnancy have the highest share (50.9%) in the total structure. There were 17.5% spontaneous interruptions recorded, which is somewhat lower than the year before. Other types of interruption of pregnancy (extrauterine pregnancy, Mola hydatiosa, other abnormal results of conception, other abortions, unspecified abortions) amounted to 31.6% of the total. The number of these types of abortions was somewhat lower than the year before. Among women having abortions on request, the percentage of young women (up to 19 years of age) decreased from 8.3% in 2003 to 7.7%. Among women whose pregnancy was interrupted, the majority are between 35 and 39 years of age (42.4%). Among women requesting an interruption of pregnancy, the majority are women who already have two children (36.8%), thus confirming the fact that interruption of pregnancy is still employed as a means of contraception.

The total number of preventive examinations in primary health care of women amounted to 308,357 (285.5/1,000 women of fertile age) in 2002, and in 2004 it increased to 407,684 (a rate of 377.4/1000 women of fertile age). There were 415,957 Pap smear tests made in 2002, and 418,748 tests in 2003 (a rate of 387.7/1,000 women of fertile age) and in 2004 there were 425,035 (a rate of 393.5/1000 žena fertile dobi). In 2002, in women's primary health care, there were an average of 6 examinations per pregnant woman, and in 2003 the number of examinations was 7.

Given the fact that maternal mortality in Croatia is low, other causes of mortality which curtail the birth rate should be taken into account. The percentage of deceased women of fertile age among the total number of deceased women is low, amounting to 3.7% in 2002, and 3.5% in 2003, while the mortality rate is 85/100,000 of women in the 15–49 age group. Among these mortalities, in 2002 the majority were deaths caused by tumours (45.9%), 18.3% were deaths caused by injuries and accidents, and 16.5% deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases. From an observation of five-year-age categories starting with 15 and ending with 34-year-olds, it can be concluded that the main causes of death are injuries and accidents, while in the age group of 35 to 44-year-olds the main cause of death is tumours, which remain the leading cause of death for the age group 45–49 as well. Among malignant diseases in the mortality structure, the most frequent are breast cancer and cancers of the cervix and uterus. For all these reasons, the attention of public health care should be focused on prevention of injuries and accidents and the most frequent sites of cancer.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

Maternal mortality is currently maintained at a low level thanks to the existing mechanisms of antenatal, natal and postnatal care defined by the protection standard, i.e. the Programme of Health Care Measures. The means for implementation are defined under the targets of Millennium Development Goal 4.

Maintaining and improving reproductive health is achieved by means of educational courses on family planning and maintenance of reproductive health as defined by the Programme of Health Care Measures for School Children and Youth. These activities also include the establishment of counselling centres (at least one in each county) for youth and women, a standardised national programme, as well as courses on pregnancy, held as part of special measures referred to in the targets of Millennium Development Goal 4.

A reduction in the number of interrupted pregnancies, especially in adolescent girls, can be achieved by means of the above-mentioned measure. A reduction in mortality resulting from the most frequent causes of death of women of fertile age may be implemented by means of the existing prevention programmes and newly suggested measures correlated with most recent medical discoveries, as well as by means of preventive programmes in the local community (recommendation to local communities to implement a programme related to specific malignancies, for example the procurement of mammography equipment and the running of mammography exams for the prevention purposes for the most frequently occurring malignancies in women – breast cancer- and the recommendation to draw up the programme for the prevention of injuries).

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some local communities have initiated certain actions, within the framework of their health care programmes, for the purpose of preventing breast cancer and similar illnesses (the purchase of mammographs, financially insured examinations of women, and so on). These programmes have been unequally developed in the state and depend on the financial means and interests of local communities. The quality of work of counselling centres for the maintenance and improvement of reproductive health is diverse and unequal.

Through primary health care at the level of the health care system, sufficient mammographs should be ensured for the purpose of the prevention of breast cancer. Their distribution should also be ensured depending on the needs at the local level. The implementation of measures for the prevention of cervical cancer has been organised through primary health care. Preventive programmes and programmes for the reduction of the number of deaths caused by injuries have still not been developed at the national level, and programmes in the area of specific causes of death (e.g. traffic accidents) are very rare. They need to be developed in a multidisciplinary manner taking into account the specific cause of death. Funds amounting to HRK 300,000 per centre per year need to be secured for the work of counselling centres to maintain and improve reproductive health at the national level.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6  
**COMBAT HIV/AIDS,  
TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES**



<b>Target 1: Maintain HIV/AIDS infection in the Republic of Croatia at the current level</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> <sup>39</sup> Rate of incidence of HIV infection per million inhabitants	9.7	14.1
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> Percentage of young people between 15 to 25 years of age familiar with the ways in which HIV infection is spread (target 90%)	Research not conducted	38% (2005) <sup>40</sup>
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> Percentage of the population of HIV infected addicts enrolled in some form of health care (target 70%)	Data not collected	71.13% <sup>41</sup>
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> Introduction of new regulations concerning the rights of HIV positive persons	Regulation expected in 2004	Act on the Protection of Patient Rights <sup>42</sup>
<b>Target 2: Decrease the level of prevalence of tuberculosis</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> Rate of incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 inhabitants	33	26.0
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> Introduction of supervision during therapy	no	yes
<b>Indicator 2c.</b> Percentage of sick persons cured of tuberculosis	Data not collected	70 (2004)
<b>Target 3: Reduce the mortality rate from chronic non-contagious diseases in the age group 0–64</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> Cardiovascular disease mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants	96.82	96.76 (2003)
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Mortality rate from malignant tumours per 100,000 inhabitants	108.7	105.1 (2003)

<sup>39</sup> Source: The Croatian National Institute of Public Health.

<sup>40</sup> Preliminary data from the study: "Aids and the Young", 2005, A. Štulhofer, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb

<sup>41</sup> Along with the estimate that there are 10,000 or more drug users in the Republic Croatia.

<sup>42</sup> The Act entered into force on 11 December 2004 (Official Gazette 169/2004). The drawing up of an overview of the existing situation in relation to legislation concerning HIV positive persons is underway, including the guidelines for the improvement of their position.

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

## 1.1. HIV/AIDS

The reporting of cases of HIV/AIDS infection in Croatia is obligatory. According to the data from the Register for HIV/AIDS kept at the Croatian National Institute of Public Health in Zagreb, there were 239 registered cases of AIDS in the period from 1985 to December 2005, out of which 127 persons died. In the same period, there were another 314 persons registered as HIV positive without symptoms of AIDS. The prevalent manner of HIV transmission in Croatia is sexual encounter, in the first place among men who have sexual relations with other men (MSM) (40.0%). Although the incidence of HIV is low in Croatia, the disconcerting fact is that the share of this group in the total number of infected persons remains constant, in contrast to the significant fall in the number of those infected among the MSM population in the countries of Western Europe and other countries where a decrease in the number of infected persons has been recorded. Although immigration has a major influence on HIV epidemiology in this population, and in part probably also prostitution, this segment of the population is not sufficiently familiar with the given problem. Studies of the factors increasing the risk of this population should be continued in order to properly direct preventive activities. Transmission through heterosexual contact amounts to 40.7% of the total number of HIV positive cases. The dominant population are men who most frequently became infected abroad, and their female sexual partners at home. Although epidemiological research shows a clear risk-based substratification in the group of heterosexual men who live or have stayed for a longer time abroad, additional research is necessary to precisely direct preventative activities.

The risk of HIV infection is not high among the population of intravenous drug users in Croatia (1%), but populations within the groups of drug users with high risk behaviours are coming to the surface. Further research and targeted prevention in these groups is necessary. The growing number of drug users, and, connected with this, the inclusion of other groups with different customs, habits and of a different social status, threaten to increase the number of HIV positive persons in Croatia.



## 1.2. Tuberculosis

The frequency of tuberculosis is gradually decreasing after a period when incidence remained constant during and after war. The situation in 2005 was similar to the previous year, with a rate of incidence in 2004 of 26.0 per 100,000 inhabitants. The age distribution of those suffering from tuberculosis in Croatia corresponds to the distribution in developed countries. The highest mortality occurs in the oldest age range.

## 1.3. Chronic diseases

Chronic non-contagious diseases continue to be a priority health problem in the Republic of Croatia. They are the leading cause of death and hospital treatment. At the top of the scale of causes of death in 2003 are cardiovascular diseases, reaching 53.0%. Then come tumours with a share of 23.8%, injuries and poisonings (5.4%), respiratory system diseases (5.1%) and digestive system diseases (4.5%). Among the reasons for hospital treatment in 2003, the most frequent were tumours, with a share of 13.6%, then cardiovascular diseases with an almost equal share (13.5%), then digestive system diseases (9.4%), injuries and poisonings (8.3%), respiratory system diseases (8.5%), and urinary and sexual organ diseases (7.1%).

The total number of newly diagnosed patients suffering from invasive cancer<sup>43</sup> was 19,616, of which 10,710 were men, and 8,906 women. The incidence rate amounted to 422.1/100,000, that is, a rate of 501.4 for men and 387.0 for women. The ratio between men and women was 55:45. The number of persons that died from cancer in Croatia in 2002 amounted to 12,077, of whom 7,079 were men, and 4,998 women. The mortality rate was 272.2 per 100,000 people, that is, 331.4 for men and 217.2 for women. The ratio between men and women is 59:41 which still reflects a high mortality from trachea, bronchial and lung cancer, the leading cancer sites in men.

The five most frequent cancer sites constitute a total of 55% of new cases of cancer in men: trachea, bronchia, and lungs (22%), prostate (11%), colon (5%), rectum, the rectosigmoid junction and anus (7%), and stomach (7%). The five most frequent cancer sites in women are the following: breast (23%), colon (7%), trachea, bronchia and lungs (6%), rectum, the rectosigmoid junction and anus (6%) and body of the uterus (6%), which account for 48% of all new cases of cancer. All together, cancers of the colon, rectum, rectosigmoid junction and anus have an incidence of 15% in men and 13% in women.

<sup>43</sup> Codes C00-C97 MKB, without skin cancer - code C44.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. HIV/AIDS

The Croatian National Programme for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS has been in existence since 1993, and is based on the Programme for the Suppression and Prevention of AIDS in Croatia which was drawn up in 1986. Taking into account new knowledge about the strategy for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and on the basis of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the UN General Assembly in June 2001, the Croatian National Programme for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS is being revised. The National Programme for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention measures.

### 2.2 Tuberculosis

The Instruction for the Suppression and Prevention of Tuberculosis (1998) prescribed measures for the suppression and prevention of tuberculosis consisting of prevention, detection, diagnostics and treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis, keeping records of those at risk, the sick and the treated, and evaluating and monitoring the measures implemented. The goals of the implementation of measures for the suppression and prevention of tuberculosis are the following:

- detect at least 70% of all patients carrying bacillus tuberculosis;
- successfully treat at least 85% of the patients detected with bacillus tuberculosis;
- accelerate the decline in the incidence rate of tuberculosis, bearing in mind that 10 sick persons per 100,000 inhabitants is an acceptable number;
- introduce programmes of supervised, combined and standardised therapy recommended by the World Health Organisation (DOTS programme).

### 2.3. Chronic diseases

The Croatian Institute of Public Health has prepared, in cooperation with professional associations, a proposal for the new Plan and Programme of Health Care Measures, which still needs to undergo further procedure. It contains measures and primary, secondary and tertiary prevention procedures, as well as procedures for health promotion, whose goal, in addition to improving health, is to reduce the prevalence of risk factors. National Programmes for the Prevention of Malignant Breast and Cervical Cancer are being drawn up, and in the field of mental health measures have been taken to increase the focus on the protection of mental health in the community.

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. HIV/AIDS

The Croatian Millennium Goal 6 is to ensure a low level of HIV infection and of AIDS. Preventing the spread of HIV in populations with risk behaviour includes the following:

- stopping the transmission of HIV among drug users by primary prevention and programmes of harm reduction;
- reducing the risk of infection being transmitted among heterosexual men and women who have spent a long time abroad or far from their family or their sexual partners;
- reducing the risk of infection being transmitted among those engaged in prostitution, and the elimination of conditions for the occurrence and spread of prostitution in the country;
- reducing to the maximum extent the risk of transmission of HIV from mother to child
- preventing HIV transmission by blood or blood derivatives and immunobiological preparations, and continuing measures against noncomial (hospital) infections.

Preventing the spread of HIV among the sexually active population includes the following:

- reducing risk behaviour among the sexually active Croatian population by means of special educational programmes aimed at individual subgroups;
- ensuring further non-transmission of HIV infection among adolescents;
- education of the entire population, which will contribute to the greater acquisition of the values and way of life that reduce the risk of HIV infection and enables full co-habitation by the healthy, the infected and the sick.

The specific goals of the National Programme for the Prevention of AIDS are the following:

- strengthening of national capacities to follow the progress of the infection, to analyse the epidemiological situation and monitor high-risk groups, to develop and apply efficient programmes for the prevention of HIV and to implement and evaluate such programmes;
- increasing the amount of voluntary counselling and testing to ensure timely consultation and to prevent the spread of the disease;
- providing optimum care for HIV infected persons, developing preventative activities for HIV infected persons, and fighting against stigmatisation and discrimination;
- applying standard protective measures for the purpose of reducing to a maximum extent HIV transmission and other agents transferred by blood.

### 3.2. Tuberculosis

The goal is to continue reducing the incidence of tuberculosis in Croatia through the application of systematic complex measures, and to provide necessary treatment and care to those suffering from tuberculosis. Some of the most important groups of measures and procedures, described in detail in the Instructions for the Prevention and Suppression of Tuberculosis (within the framework of the National Programme), are the following:

- monitoring and analysing the number of people suffering from tuberculosis;
- obligatory vaccination;
- early detection of the source and routes of spread;
- counter-epidemic interventions including chemoprophylaxis;
- diagnostics and treatment of the sick;
- evaluation of the outcomes of treatment;
- increased care for particularly high-risk population groups;
- health education and awareness raising.

We expect that the application of the above-mentioned measures will contribute to the continuation of the positive trend of reducing the occurrence of tuberculosis in the Republic of Croatia.

### 3.3. Chronic diseases

Chronic diseases that require most attention in Croatia are cardiovascular and malignant diseases. In addition to the implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases (2001), the next challenge for Croatia is the drafting of the Action Plan. The goals of the National Programme are the following:

- reducing mortality from coronary diseases and miocardic infarct up to the age of 64;
- early detection and treatment of hypertension;
- early detection and treatment of hyperlipidemia;
- reducing the number of smokers, in particular among the young;
- reducing the number of overweight persons in the population;
- improving the diet in accordance with the Croatian Alimentary Policy;
- increasing the number of those who regularly engage in physical activity.

For the purpose of preventing malignant diseases, Croatia is planning to continue the implementation of the National Programme (2001) whose goals are the following:

- education of the population on harmful living habits and recognition of early signs
- malignant diseases according to the European codex against cancer;
- reducing mortality from breast cancer by means of implementing an organised early detection programme;
- reducing mortality from colon cancer by means of implementing an organised early detection programme;
- reducing the incidence of cervical cancer by means of implementing an organised early detection programme;

COMBAT HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7  
**ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**





Target 1: Integration of sustainable development principles into national policy and programmes and halt the loss of "environmental resources"	2002	2004
Indicator 1a. Forest and forestland surface	2,485,611 ha <sup>44</sup> (2003)	Data unavailable for 2004. <sup>45</sup>
Indicator 1b. The proportion of forests and forest area in the total surface of the mainland part of state territory	43.5%	43.5%
Indicator 1c. Surfaces of protected parts of nature	5,978.01 km <sup>2</sup>	5,978.01 km <sup>2</sup>
Indicator 1d. Proportion of protected parts of nature in the total surface of state territory	6.81%	6.81%
Indicator 1e. Data on the category of surface waters (rivers and lakes)	76% of stations on categorised parts of the waterway	76% of stations on categorised parts of the waterway
Indicator 1f. Data on the quality of surface waters (rivers and lakes)	II and III type <sup>46</sup> III and IV type <sup>47</sup>	II and III type III and IV type
Indicator 1g. Data on the quality of the coastal sea	95%	95% <sup>48</sup>
Indicator 1h. Quality of sea beaches	100% <sup>49</sup>	100%

<sup>44</sup> Data from the "National Forestry Policy and Strategy" adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia in 2003.

<sup>45</sup> At the end of 2003 and pursuant to the activities from the "National Policy and Strategy for Forestry", the "Inventory of Forests in the RC" project has started and it should provide actual information on forests on the basis of internationally recognised parameters.

<sup>46</sup> Water quality is evaluated on the basis of the border values of indicators for the oxygen regime, nutrients and biology. Waters are then classified into types I, II, III, IV and V in accordance with the mentioned criteria.

<sup>47</sup> The evaluation of water quality according to microbiological criteria.

<sup>48</sup> The quality of the coastal sea is tested at 55 points along the Adriatic.

The tested parameters are the following: oxygen, temperature, salinity, transparency, nutrients, chlorophyll. The quality evaluation is determined on the basis of the Trophic index (TRIX) indicators for eutrophication. The Trophic index is internationally accepted in the Mediterranean, and the sea is classified by grades ranging from 0 to 8 (0-4 very good; 4-5 good; 5-6 moderately good; 6-8 bad).

The coastal sea in Croatia (over 95%) is evaluated as very good according to TRIX.

<sup>49</sup> The quality of 100% means that the value fulfils the binding criteria. All the tested beaches, that is, all the taken samples, satisfy the border values of the binding criteria for microbiological parameters prescribed by Directive 76/160/EEC on bathing water: total coliform below 10.000/100ml; faecal streptococci below 2000/100ml. Croatia has its own national regulation governing water quality (subordinate legislation D Regulation on the Standards for Sea Quality at Beaches Official Gazette 33/96) in which the criteria for microbiological parameters are harmonised with the recommended criteria of the EU Directive, meaning: total coliform level under 500/100 ml; faecal chloriform under 100/100 ml; faecal streptococci under 100/100 ml.

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<b>Target 2:</b> Reduce the number of the population without adequate water supply and drainage	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> Proportion of the population connected to the public water supply system	76%	76%
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> Proportion of the population connected to the public drainage system with adequate purification of waste waters	15%	15%
<b>Target 3:</b> Improve waste management and reduce the quantity of waste in the Republic of Croatia	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Indicator 3a.</b> Proportion of disposed waste in relation to total waste management in the Republic of Croatia	89% <sup>50</sup>	95% <sup>51</sup>
<b>Indicator 3b.</b> Proportion of the population covered by communal waste collection	80%	80%

<sup>50</sup> Data taken from a statistical study; Report on Waste Burning, Composting and Dumping for 2002. Central Bureau of Statistics.<sup>51</sup> Official Gazette 70/2005.

<sup>51</sup> Data from the CBS's statistical research: Annual Report on Waste (2004).

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION

## 1.1. Integration of sustainable development principles into national policy and programmes

### 1.1.1. Forests and forestland

The forests of the Republic of Croatia play an economic, ecological and social function and have a significant influence on the quality of life. The wealth of the Republic of Croatia consists of a great variety of habitats (the Adriatic Sea, pre-mountainous areas and the Pannonian Plain) and of more than 60 different forest communities. Some forests have been internationally recognised since 95% of the forest area is natural in its composition, and because of its great diversity of plant varieties and animal species.

The certificate awarded to the Republic Croatia by the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council - an international non-governmental association based in Oaxaca, Mexico), which grants to individual organisations permission to issue certificates, proves that the forest is managed in accordance with strict ecological, social and economic standards. The certification for 2 million hectares of forests managed by Croatian Forests proves that Croatia is oriented towards the sustainable management of forest resources.

### 1.1.2. Protected natural values

According to the Nature Protection Act, (all previous as well as the current one) up to 6.8% of the total state territory (mainland + sea), or 10% of the mainland (without the sea) is protected. The Nature Protection<sup>52</sup> Act defines nine categories of space protection - national park, nature park, regional park, strict reserve, special reserve, natural monument, protected landscape, park-forest, and horticultural monument. The majority of protected areas belong to nature parks (about three quarters) and national parks (about one sixth) whose protection falls under state jurisdiction. The structure of national and nature parks best illustrates the diversity. Three national parks are situated on islands - Kornati, Brijuni and Mljet, including the pertaining sea, two illustrate Karst hydrography and morphology - Plitvice Lakes and Krka, while three represent mountain areas - Risnjak, Sjeverni Velebit and Paklenica. Among nature parks there are six mountain parks - Medvednica, Biokovo, Celebit, Učka, Papuk and Žumberak, one is an island park -Telašćica, two represent the biological diversity of diluvial plain areas - Kopački rit and Lonjsko polje, and one protects the largest natural lake in Croatia - Vransko lake near Pakoštane. Plitvice lakes have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Velebit is on UNESCO's list of biosphere reserves, and four areas are on the Ramsar Convention list - Kopački rit, Lonjsko polje, the delta of Neretva, and Crna Mlaka.

<sup>52</sup> Official Gazette, 70/2005.

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The management of national and nature parks is based on expert and scientific knowledge. They are under the competence of the Ministry of Culture, or more precisely, the Nature Protection Directorate, and are managed by public institutions. The allocation of space is determined by spatial plans. Spatial plans for some protected areas still have not been made (for 2 national parks and 8 nature parks). Pursuant to the Nature Protection Act, a management plan needs to be prepared for each area.

In the period between 1991 and 2001, the surface of protected areas increased by 1,192 km<sup>2</sup>. Croatia has been conducting other activities for the purpose of maintaining biological diversity, including the drawing up of the National Ecological Network. The proposal of the National Ecological Network (the State Institute for Nature Protection, May 2005) is to include about 44% of the territory and 70% of the sea of the Republic of Croatia and to consist of areas important for species, habitats endangered at the European and national level, and protection zones around them and the corridors interconnecting them.

The key indicators of biological diversity have been grouped into ecological systems (habitat types), families (types and subtypes) and genetic diversity, and show the situation and the impact and response from society. Croatia has chosen ten such indicators, and it is to be expected that the relevant data will be collected regularly, and that a system will be established to monitor the situation in nature. It is important to emphasise here that Croatia still does not have a national programme for the preparation of an inventory of biological diversity.

### 1.1.3. Surface waters – rivers and lakes

The testing of water quality in the Republic of Croatia is carried out in order to provide constant information on the quality status of surface and underground waters so that adequate measures for water protection may be planned and undertaken. The goal of water quality monitoring is to evaluate the general ecological function of waters and to establish conditions of use for specific purposes.

According to the main groups of indicators in the period between 2001 and 2003, surface waters in the Republic of Croatia are mostly of quality type II and III, with the exception of some microbiological indicators which show they are of quality type III and IV. The recorded discrepancies from the planned type, i.e. the quality of water, are most obvious in small waterways with diminished capacity for biological autopurification. Out of a total number of stations, 76% are situated on categorised waterways or parts of waterways.

#### 1.1.4. Coastal sea

The basis for the assessment of coastal sea quality consists of five standard parameters: water transparency, oxygen saturation, dissolved inorganic nitrogen (and phosphorus) and chlorophyll at 20 selected stations. The coastal sea has been classified on the basis of the tropic index<sup>53</sup>.

For the most part, the tropic index was between 2 and 4 in 2003, which corresponds to a very good ecological situation, i.e. to the oligotrophic degree of eutrophication (a sea of unchanged quality in relation to eutrophication). By way of exception, at three measuring stations the tropic index according to the median annual values of the measured parameters was classified as mezotrophic (Bakarski bay - OC15, Vranjčki basin - OC7 and Šibenik Canal - OC9), and during the summer months it reached an eutrophic degree of eutrophication.

#### 1.1.5. Sea beaches

The Regulation on the Standards for Sea Quality at Beaches<sup>54</sup> defines the criteria for sampling and the methods of testing and assessing the quality of sea water at beaches. The Regulation defines the standards and sea water quality monitoring at beaches. County assemblies are obliged, pursuant to the Regulation, to organise the monitoring of sea water quality, the preparation of maps, and they must provide for certain financial means in their budget mostly collected from income from concession fees. A single programme application was created for the purpose of implementing the Regulation, into which data are entered by the county public health institutes after each survey, and adequate cartographic images were prepared where all sea beaches were entered.

The testing of the sanitary quality of the sea water at beaches is carried out in the first place for the purpose of protecting the health of bathers and for the health education of the public. The results of the testing are used for the purpose of advertising the sea and the sea environment to tourists, which is of particular importance for the development of tourism at the local and national level. The results are published on the websites of county institutes and of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and by means of the mass media, and are forwarded to Munich, the seat of the headquarters of the German automobile organisation ADAC, for the purpose of informing European tourists.

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<sup>53</sup> Median annual value in the surface layer from 0 to 10m, according to Yamada et al., 1980; Chiaudani et al., 1982; Unep 1994.

<sup>54</sup> Official Gazette 33/96.

## 1.2. Water supply and drainage

The water supply of populated areas and industry in the Republic Croatia is organised through regional and local systems. The average rate of water supply to the population of the Republic of Croatia from public water supply systems is 76% (2002), out of which 86% of the population is well supplied in the Adriatic Basin, while in the Black Sea Basin the rate is about 71%. The rate of water supply from the public supply system to the population differs in individual parts of Croatia. All urban centres have an integrated public water supply system, and citizens who are not connected live mostly in isolated, smaller villages and suburban areas close to large urban centres. The problems are most obvious in tourist areas because of the particularly significant needs in the summer period and because of the limited summer capacities of local water resources. The remaining population (24%) that is not connected to the public water supply system is supplied mostly through what is termed local waterways, or individually from their own wells, tanks and by similar means.

Underground water is mostly used for the purpose of public water supply in the Republic of Croatia, accounting for 90% of the total water supply, while the remaining 10% comes from surface water. On average, about 46% of water is lost from public water supply systems (2002), and the losses are the consequence of decrepit systems, poor current maintenance and investment, the installation of low-quality materials, unrecorded water use, and similar occurrences.

## 1.3. Waste management<sup>55</sup>

Unsustainable communal waste management has been a significant problem in Croatia for decades, and the waste mostly ends up in landfills, thus exerting a harmful effect on health, space and the environment. The balance of the quantity and composition of communal waste is not sufficiently precise and the problem connected with predicting quantities may cause difficulties in the planning of necessary capacities. Regulations are not adequately respected, and communal fees are not sufficient to cover the expenses. There are also no efficient instruments for waste management in the business and public sectors, natural and legal persons do not know enough about the need to sort and appropriately dispose of waste, local and regional self-government units are not suitably stimulated to work together on the common resolution of problems on the regional level, etc.

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<sup>55</sup> Source of data: The Waste Management Strategy of the RC (Official Gazette, no. 130/05).

At the session on 14 October 2005, Croatian parliament adopted the Strategy of Waste Management for the Republic of Croatia<sup>56</sup>. On the basis of this strategy, the Government will produce the Plan for Waste Management for the Republic of Croatia to serve as an implementation document for next four years. The adoption of the Strategy and the Plan for Waste Management is particularly important due to changes they will initiate, gradually solving existing problems and guiding the Republic of Croatia during the development of sustainable waste management.

The Strategy, and the Waste Management Plan as its implementing document, constitutes part of the continuous waste management planning conducted at all levels, from the national to the local level, and it also appears as a segment in other sectors (for example, water management, mining, veterinary medicine, the health system, spatial planning, construction, etc.).

Starting from the assessment of the current state and the vision of a suitable waste management system, this Strategy defines the goals, and proposes measures for their gradual achievement until 2025. It is conceived as a long-term document. The Strategy includes the continuous monitoring of the realisation of the set goals, and, if necessary, it may be revised and amended.

The Strategy regulates the management of different types of waste in the territory of the Republic of Croatia from its appearance until final disposal, with the main aim being the realisation and maintenance of a total waste management system. The waste management system will be organised according to modern European standards and requirements, with the purpose of maximum avoidance, that is, maximal reduction of the creation of waste, lowering the negative influence of waste on human health, the environment and climate, and harmonising total waste management with the principles of sustainable development.

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<sup>56</sup> Official Gazette 130/2005.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Integration of sustainable development principles into the national policy and programmes

#### 2.1.1. Forests and forestland

With the aim of the permanent management of forest biocenoses, taking into account assumed international obligations, the need has arisen to develop new inventory models. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management invited a public tender for the drawing up of the preliminary and operative concept of the national inventory of forest resources in the Republic of Croatia. The aim is to define the methodology for the collection of data on the surface and spatial distribution of specific forest types, and of data on quality and quantity, including the possibility of gaining an insight into valuable information for the industry, etc.

#### 2.1.2. Protected natural values

In May 2005 the Croatian Parliament adopted a new Environmental Protection Act<sup>57</sup> regulating the system for the protection and total preservation of nature and its constituent parts. The Act has been partially harmonised with the provisions of international conventions in the area of environmental protection to which the Republic of Croatia is a party and with the relevant EU regulations. Complete harmonisation will be realised by the adoption of relevant bylaws. The new Act<sup>58</sup> does not differ conceptually from the 2003 Nature Protection Act. The main difference is reflected in the fact that the new Act requires much fewer bylaws in order to be implemented, when compared to the 2003 Act. In addition, the part of the Act that regulates the handling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) is extracted from the Nature Protection Act and is treated now as a separate Act on GMO<sup>59</sup>. The use of natural goods is implemented on the basis of management plans, as well as environmental planning documents, taking into account biological and landscape diversity.

The State Institute of Environmental Protection has initiated the establishment of the Information System for Nature Protection which includes the processing of data collected through the programmes of monitoring biological diversity. For the purpose of preparing the Report on Environmental Protection prepared by the Environmental Agency and of reports on the situation in nature prepared by the State Institute of Environmental Protection during 2005, the indicators of biological diversity have been processed and the following data collected. The data related to inventorisation and monitoring in national parks and nature parks have also been collected. The State Institute of Environmental Protection has prepared expert bases for the protection of new areas, among which the priority in 2005 is to proclaim the Lastovo archipelagos as a nature park.

<sup>57</sup> Official Gazette 70/2005.

<sup>58</sup> Official Gazette, 162/2003.

<sup>59</sup> Official Gazette, 70/2005.



### 2.1.3. Surface waters (rivers and lakes)

The monitoring of water quality is implemented on the basis of annual monitoring programmes harmonised with the Convention on the Protection of the River Danube in the Danube river basin, and, with regard to the Adriatic river basin, with the Convention on the Protection of the Adriatic from Pollution, that is, with the Protocol concerning the protection of the Adriatic Sea from Mainland Pollution. The criteria for the testing of water quality have been established by the National Plan for Water Protection<sup>60</sup>, the Regulation on Water Classification<sup>61</sup> and the Regulation on Dangerous Substances in Water<sup>62</sup>. Quality evaluation is based on the Regulation on Water Classification according to which the waters are grouped into 5 groups depending on the border values.

### 2.1.4. Coastal sea and sea beaches

The quality of the coastal sea is tested within the framework of several scientific projects and programmes implemented by a number of state institutions pursuant to the laws in force. The monitoring of the pollution of the coastal sea from the mainland arriving through rivers and point and dispersed sources of pollution from the mainland is under the competence of water management.

The protection of Adriatic coast (1,780 long) and 1,185 islands is a development priority due to ecological and economic reasons. The Project of Protection from polluted waters in the coastal area was conceived with the purpose to maintain and protect the quality of water and sea, to control pollution by municipal waste waters, to improve the quality of water in the coastal area, encourage ecologically sound economic growth (tourism, foreign investment) and to improve municipal service in collection, drainage, purification and disposition of municipal waste water in the coastal area. The project is financed by the 40-million Euro loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It will be implemented over the long-term period (10 years). Phase I and the implementation of two out of 47 sub- projects begun in Opatija and Zadar in 2003.

The testing of the quality of sea water detects sources of pollution on the basis of which priorities for rehabilitation is determined, the need for the construction of sewage systems indicated and the functioning of the existing systems established. The programme for the monitoring of the sanitary quality of sea water is conducted from 1 May until the end of the bathing season, that is, until the end of September. The sea samples are taken from beaches every 15 days, 10 times during the bathing season. Bathing water complies with the standard prescribed if the values of bacteriological indicators are not above the borderline values prescribed by the Regulation. Bathing water does not comply with the standard prescribed if more than 20% of the analysed samples are above the borderline values and if the numerical value surpasses the established values by more than 100%.

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<sup>60</sup> Official Gazette 8/99.

<sup>61</sup> Official Gazette 77/98.

<sup>62</sup> Official Gazette 78/98.

## 2.2. Water supply and drainage

The main goal of water supply is to provide drinking water to all inhabitants in compliance with the sanitary-hygienic standards corresponding to social and economic conditions. Within the framework of the planned measures and activities during the next 15 years, the following is provided for:

- further development of public water supply systems, with an increase in the rate of the population who are well supplied from 85 to 90%;
- to ensure the necessary water quality for all users (if necessary, by water processing);
- to reduce water loss to a level of 15–20%;
- to gradually connect local water supply lines and other individual modes of water supply (wells, tanks and similar means) with the public water supply system, thus establishing suitable quality control of water;
- to implement measures of rationalising water consumption, in particular in tourist areas and on the islands;
- to improve the management of the public water supply system by the introduction of distribution areas as technologically and economically sustainable units;
- inclusion into regional systems;
- gradual introduction of an economic price of water.

## 2.3. Waste management

The total system of waste management is based on the hierarchical concept of AED (Avoidance - Evaluation - Disposal) and includes the following more significant procedures: the avoidance of waste and reduction of hazard, collection and transportation of waste, and, finally, the disposal of the remaining waste. Two groups of measures are defined in order to achieve the set goals - general and specific measures - and their implementation represents a continuation of the already initiated activities. The general measures include:

- inclusion of waste management among the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- research and establishment of the actual state of waste management;
- improvement of the IT system and waste reporting;
- harmonisation of waste regulations with EU regulations;
- development of education on, and changing awareness about, waste,
- institutional capacity building;
- contribution to employment in Croatia.

The following activities related to specific measures have been undertaken in the Republic of Croatia:

- rehabilitation of 163 landfills in cooperation with the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency;
- drawing up the ISPA Environmental Strategy - pre-accession assistance,
- preparation of a waste database as part of an environmental information system under the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. The integration of sustainable development principles into the national policy and programme

#### 3.1.1. Forests and forestland

One of the most significant problems occurring in forest management of the Republic of Croatia, as one of the particularities of the country, is the existence of landmines in forests and forestland. According to the official data of Croatian Forests, about 162,160 ha of forests and forestland are not covered by forest management due to landmine pollution. This figure is probably higher due to the fact that this surface area does not include privately owned land covered with landmines, as well as surfaces covered with landmines which are managed or administered by other institutions. It is estimated that about 10% of the total surface area of forests and forestland in the Republic of Croatia is covered with landmines.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Demining Centre (CDC) have not classified the demining of forests and forestland among their priorities, and the demining is now almost exclusively financed from the funds of the Croatian Forests, the company that manages state-owned forests and forestland.

Forest fires or, more precisely, open-space fires destroy dozens of hectares of state- and privately-owned forests, especially on the coast and on the islands. This significantly harms the preservation of soil from erosion, biological diversity and other generally useful functions of the forests that are a priority in this area.

For the purpose of the construction of infrastructural objects, which in the last few years have mostly been motorways, certain forest and forestland surfaces have been excluded from management and from the forest-economic area. If necessary measures are not implemented, this trend could have an impact on the total forest coverage of the Republic of Croatia. It should be emphasised that all spatial capital interventions have a direct effect on the state of the forests, lead to increased erosion, forest degradation, changes in microclimate and also have an impact on water courses.

### 3.1.2. Protected parts of nature

The Nature Protection Act<sup>63</sup> prescribes the obligatory inclusion of measures and conditions for nature protection into natural goods management plans and into physical planning documents and plans for the management/administration of protected areas. It is the very inclusion of the above-mentioned measures and conditions of nature protection into sectoral documents (agriculture, forestry, water management, fisheries, hunting, energy, etc.) and their implementation that represent the greatest challenge in the forthcoming period. For the purpose of the total protection of all components of biological diversity and to ensure the conditions for their sustainable application, the national programme for an inventory of biological diversity will be established. The activities aimed at educating and informing the public about the need for nature protection will be continued. For the purpose of the effective implementation of the Act, a series of implementing regulations (regulations and rulebooks) will be adopted, and the nature protection service will be institutionally and administratively strengthened at the state and local levels.

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<sup>63</sup> Official Gazette 70/2005.

## 3.2. Water supply and drainage

Within the framework of the planned measures and activities to be realised during the next 15 years, it has been estimated that the building, reconstruction and completion of the public drainage system and the purification of waste waters is the priority task, since public interest and significant social "sensitivity" are in question. Out of a total of 1,014 public drainage and waste waters purification systems, the planned activities will include the following:

- 100% public drainage and waste water purification systems for populations of more than 15,000;
- about 77% public drainage and waste water purification systems for populations of 10,000 to 15,000;
- about 70% public drainage and waste water purification systems for populations of 2,000 to 10,000.

In this way, connection to public drainage and waste water purification systems would be increased to about 60% of the total population (that is, 2,660,000 people).

## 3.3. Waste management

The rehabilitation of landfills and old loadings is a very challenging and costly task which is only just beginning in Croatia. More intensive activities on the systematic rehabilitation of the existing landfills were initiated in 2004 in parallel with the commencement of activities of the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency. Starting from an analysis of the present condition, general EU principles in waste management, and the situation in Croatia, the following strategic goals of waste management have been defined:

- avoiding and reducing the quantity of waste at source and of discarded waste, along with the use of waste as a source of material and energy;
- developing infrastructure for total waste management system, that is, AED;
- reducing the risk from waste;
- contributing to employment in Croatia;
- education of management structures, experts and the public in the area of the resolving the problem of the waste management system.

**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES**

Achieving the above-mentioned goals is planned for the period between 2005 and 2025. A certain number of programmes and strategic and technical instructions need to be developed and implemented in order to achieve the defined waste management goals. Taking into account the currently relatively low coverage of the cost of damage caused by waste in the Republic of Croatia, planning is necessary for a continuous gradual increase in compensation for damage caused by waste, pegged at a level higher than the rate of inflation, with compensation being linked as closely as possible to the quantity and harmfulness of waste according to the principle of "the polluter pays". In future, the possibility for units of local self-government, as well as the state, to introduce other forms of compensation will be exploited (compensation to real-estate owners, a system of deposits for packaging and the like). The adoption of the Strategy and the Plan for Waste Management is of particular importance in the Republic of Croatia because these instruments can be used to initiate change that will gradually resolve the existing problems, improve the system, and direct the Republic of Croatia towards sustainable waste management.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8  
**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT**





<b>Target 1:</b> In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for suitable and productive work of the young – decrease the unemployment of the young	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Indicator 1a.</b> Unemployment rate for persons aged: – 15 to 24 years <sup>64</sup> – 25 to 29 years <sup>65</sup>	35.5 19.9	33.4 18.6
<b>Indicator 1b.</b> Number of entrepreneurs and craftsmen aged: – 15 to 24 years – 25 to 29 years	((4,000)) ((7,000)) <sup>66</sup>	((2,000)) ((7,000))
<b>Indicator 1c.</b> Existence of a programme for the stimulation of youth employment	no	yes
<b>Indicator 1d.</b> The number of persons employed through measures of an active employment policy aged: – 15 to 24 years – 25 to 29 years	7,517 4,858	8,872 6,441
<b>Target 2:</b> In cooperation with the private sector, collect data on the advantages brought by new technology, in particular information and communication technology		
<b>Indicator 2a.</b> <sup>67</sup> 1. Number of primary fixed telephone lines 2. Number of primary mobile telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	1,685,000 37.97	1,676,000 37.77
<b>Indicator 2b.</b> 1. Mobile phone penetration 2. Mobile phone penetration per 100 inhabitants	2,340,000 52.73	2,842,000 64.05

<sup>64</sup> For indicators 1a, 1b and 1c, the 15–24 age group is used for the purpose of comparison with other countries.

<sup>65</sup> For indicators 1a, 1b and 1c, the 25 to 29 age group is more appropriate for Croatia and a more accurate indicator of youth unemployment.

<sup>66</sup> Double brackets indicate inaccurate estimation.

<sup>67</sup> The list of original indicators was supplemented by indicators (2a.1, 2a.2, 2b.1., 2b.2, 2d.2, 2d.3) collected by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The sources of data are: Central Bureau of Statistics (indicators 2a.1, 2a.2, 2b.1 i 2b.2), GFK Centre for Market Research (indicators 2c, 2d.1, 2d.2 i 2d.3), IDC Croatia (indicators 2d.4, 2d.5, 2e.1 i 2e.2).

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

<b>Indicator 2c.</b>		
1. Number of households with a personal computer	27%	47%
<b>Indicator 2d.</b>		
1. Number of households with internet connection	19%	28%
2. Number of internet users	650,390	1,215,000
3. Number of internet users per 100 inhabitants	14.66	27.38
4. Number of broadband users of internet	1,000	26,538
5. Number of broadband users of internet per 100 inhabitants	0.02	0.60
<b>Indicator 2e.</b>		
1. IT spending <sup>68</sup> (mil \$)	461.7	74.6
2. IT spending, \$ per capita	104.05	167.12

<sup>68</sup> The „IT spending“ indicator is more appropriate for Croatia than the indicator „Share of contribution of IT companies to GDP“. Companies in information and technology business are the pillar of the 21-century development. Vigilant monitoring of this indicator could guide the drafting of practical programs and initiatives assisting the entrance of the modern technological private sector in Croatian economy.

# 1. CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS

## 1.1. Youth unemployment

According to the data from the Labour Force Survey, the rate of youth unemployment has decreased over the last two years. The average unemployment rate of persons aged 15 to 24 decreased from 35.5% in 2002 to 33.4% in 2004. This is a continuation of the decreasing trend in the unemployment rate of young people, which after a certain time is showing the effect of increasing economic growth in the period between 2000 and 2002. However, the slowing of economic growth in 2003 and 2004 will probably lead to a discontinuation of this trend in 2005 and 2006. Moreover, the unemployment rate for persons aged 25 to 29 had already increased in 2004, rising to 18.7%. Moreover, the average number of young entrepreneurs and craftsmen decreased in 2004, as well as the registered employment of young people. The number of persons aged 15 to 29 employed from the register of the Croatian Employment Agency decreased from 96,870 in 2002 to 80,294 in 2003, and then to 76,511 in 2004. However, the economic growth in 2005 brought along the increase in youth employment – the number of employed youth of the indicated age increased to 78,111. The slowing of economic growth, therefore, has a negative effect on the position of the young in the economy and on the labour market.

## 1.2. Introduction of information and communication technology

The exploitation of the advantages brought by new technologies is essential in the development of the knowledge economy and society in which all people have equal access to information. By monitoring informatisation indicators, it was revealed that Croatians increasingly utilize new technologies, both in everyday life and in business processes. The reason for this may be found in market liberalisation, increased competition and the implementation of numerous informatisation-stimulating initiatives. For instance, the implementation of the e-Hrvatska programme during 2004 and 2005 led to the application of new and reorganisation of the existing technologies in the public administration. The results of implementation in 2004 show progress in the area of the creation of the infrastructural prerequisites for the complete introduction of IT into state administration bodies and significant progress in the area of developing services and content. The ICT spending and the value of ICT market show that the growth in this sector is still largely influenced by state investments. Data on ICT spending in Croatia show that there is a much greater portion of mobile phone users as compared to the users of fixed lines and the Internet, which places Croatia among the countries with medium developed information economy.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Youth unemployment

The Croatian Employment Agency implemented the Employment Promotion Programme from March 2002 to August 2005. The following groups of measures were devoted in particular to youth employment: A - "From college to work", B - "From classroom to workshop", and C - "Through learning to work for all". In addition, the Croatian Employment Agency has been implementing a series of activities related to mediation at employment and in providing vocational information and counselling to the young. Within the framework of the Employment Promotion Programme, there were 11,207 persons aged 15 to 29 employed in 2002, and in 2003 that number increased to 14,523, and then decreased to 13,682 in 2004. The proposition for the new active employment policy measures in accordance with the National Employment Action Plan is currently being drafted, and it will follow the guidelines of the European Employment Strategy. The National Employment Action Plan pays special attention to measures for the prevention or reduction of long-term unemployment of young people. It needs to be mentioned that professional assistance for the drawing up of the National Employment Action Plan was provided by a British expert whose work was financed by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of the Great Britain.

In addition to the measures for the stimulation of youth employment, programmes, i.e. projects for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, were implemented in 2003 and 2004 as parts of the activities of the Ministry of the Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship. In 2005, the Ministry continued stimulating youth employment within the framework of the project entitled "Entrepreneurship of targeted groups".

### 2.2. Introduction of information and communication technology

The implementation of projects within the framework of the Programme e-Croatia (e-Government, e-Justice System, e-Health System, e-Education, e-Business) prompted the adoption of a new concept of work enabling the use of new technologies in state administration (HITRO.HR). In addition, a great deal of attention has been paid to the security aspect, and the drawing up of the National Programme for Information Security in the Republic of Croatia was initiated in 2004. This defines the goals of information security at the level of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the necessary mutual coordination of all factors of information security. It is a document created by experts from state administration, the academic community and security services, and has been drawn up in accordance with the methods used by the EU and NATO.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Regulation on the scope, content and holder of the job of certification of electronic signatures for state administration bodies in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Signature Act. This Regulation was a necessary precondition for the use of the electronic signature in state administration business transactions. The need to adopt an act on electronic documents was established in the domain of the use of electronic documents and of their legal acceptance in business. A needs analysis and the introduction of the European Union *acquis communautaire* in the field of legal regulations on the use of electronic documents were initiated in 2004, and the Proposal on the Electronic Document Act was drawn up.

The National Council for the Information Society as an advisory body to the Republic of Croatia was established in 2005 and will allow representatives of the economic and academic community to participate in the drafting of strategic documents connected with the development of an information society. Based on the Protection of Personal Information Act, The Agency for the Protection of Personal Information was established. Also, the Agency for support to informatization systems and information technology was established, covering the key information systems in Croatia and the City of Zagreb. This Agency develops application services and maintains information databases required for the modern functioning of electronically supported administration.

At the end of 2004 the Programme of the One Stop Shop (HITRO HR) was implemented. The programme emphasises and promotes the concept of the simplified provision of services to business subjects and citizens in one place in the shortest time and with the lowest expenses possible. The implementation of the programme will be carried out through a series of projects covering groups of connected services, which had previously been provided by different competent bodies, in order to speed up and simplify the procedures for providing services to business subjects and citizens. The first such project is precisely the service of registering a limited liability company. In May 2005 and as an additional stimulation to electronic administration, the Government of Croatia instructed the administration bodies to display on their respective websites all official forms which are required to be submitted by citizens in administrative procedures.

The project of the e-Justice System is aimed at the digitalisation of the land registry system has been successfully implemented and enables a land registry certificate to be obtained over the Internet. Within the project of the e-Health System, the project of introducing smart cards into the health care system has been initiated. The introduction of IT into the educational system should lead to the introduction of e-Learning wherever possible. The project of the Information System of Institutions of Higher Education (ISIHE) was developed and introduced in about ten institutions of higher education, and the process of its implementation into another thirty institutions is beginning. The information system of student residences has been functioning properly. The Giga CARNet project has also been introduced and the equipment and networking of educational and science institutions and student residences has been continued. The achievement of the curriculum for basic and upper secondary school teachers has been continued through the application of information technologies based on the ECDL system, as well as the project for the development of the teachers' portal, and IT

has been introduced as an obligatory subject in school. The project to equip schools with computers entitled "Each school needs a networked computer laboratory" terminated in 2002. A total of 1,300 schools were equipped. The equipping of schools with computer laboratories will be continued in 2005 on the basis of new criteria. The project for the equipping of school libraries with computers resulted in the equipping of 300 school libraries. The project to equip student halls of residence with computers continued throughout 2005. The project to equip upper secondary schools with a multimedia computer package resulted in the equipping of 350 upper secondary schools. In 2005, this project aimed at equipping basic schools with a multimedia computer package.

Computerization programs are also carried out in cultural institutions, and they include: computer equipment, development of national information systems and projects in the field of culture, computerization of cultural institutions and associations and development of cultural information database. The priority among the criteria for the support of computerization of cultural institutions in 2005 was given to museums and galleries, namely to the selection and procurement of software for processing of museum holdings (M++) as the basic prerequisite for computerization and internetization in the Republic of Croatia and its central institutions engaged in restoration and archival activities.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia maintains and develops web portal Culturenet.hr as part of the regular activities of the Administration for Cultural Development and Cultural Policy and the Department for Planning of Cultural Development. The CultureNet project, within the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, aims to integrate available information sources on Croatian culture (organizations, associations, institutions, projects, etc.), to encourage their elaboration and to enable cultural workers to find information they are interested in as well as to find partners for their projects in one place. The purpose of CultureNet is to improve cultural cooperation both within Croatia and internationally, as well as to contribute to better communication among Croatian cultural institutions, between institutions and artists, and between all of those and the cultural community. The portal aims to integrate all cultural resources in Croatia, national and private, profit and non-profit, mainstream and alternative.

## 3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1. Youth unemployment

A decrease in youth unemployment is a great social challenge which requires efficient measures. Since young people, although facing some specific problems and difficulties in finding employment, to a great extent share the fate of other participants in the labour market, measures for a significant increase in overall employment need to be adopted. It is not recommended to adopt measures to increase the employment rate of young people at the expense of other population groups. It would be very desirable to creatively adopt and develop the joint measures to increase economic growth and employment proposed by the European Commission. During the elaboration and implementation of concrete measures, current circumstances in the Croatian labour market will be taken into account and priorities and schedules determined. Priority in the implementation will be given to efficient measures to increase the total demand for work in order to remove involuntary unemployment as one of the greatest social problems, not only for the young, but for society as a whole. Only after the emergence of signs of a serious shortage of labour will more attention be paid to implement measures to increase the labour supply and eventually to amend its structure. Such an order for the implementation of measures may contribute significantly to their efficiency.

### 3.2. Introduction of information and communication technology

The State budget for 2005 as well as 2006 plans to increase the investment in ICT. In 2005, HRK 832 million was planned for projects related to the introduction of IT, while in 2006, this amount was increased by 20% (HRK 1,142 billion).

The Central State Office for e-Croatia has completed all the preparations to use, in addition to budget funds, as many financial resources as possible from the pre-accession funds of the EU to implement the projects related to introducing IT into public administration. The Republic of Croatia has become a member of the European Commission IDABC<sup>69</sup> programme, through which it will share electronic services among European public administration, business partners and citizens. In the area of e-services, only 3.5% are available on the Internet in Croatia. It is planned that by the end of 2005, the majority of existing services and basic information related to public administration will be provided on websites, as well as the forms that have to be completed and used in the further procedure. In first place, services will be developed at state level, and then during the following

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<sup>69</sup> Interoperable Delivery of European e-Government Services to Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens.

period connections will be made to local self-government. Local self-government (municipalities and counties) will be connected to the computer network of state administration bodies that will link state administration offices and ministries by the end of 2005. The computer network will immediately bring benefits through its e-mail service, common Internet access and technologies that enable civil servants to work together every day. However, the real advantage of these measures will achieve full expression through the application of the document exchange system in order to ensure more transparency.

In order to achieve an integral system of science and technology, business cooperation between public scientific institutes and private investments in science will be developed, as is the case with the Institute for IT innovations (I 3) which, in cooperation with the Ruđer Bošković Institute, will soon begin to work on the development and sale of Croatian know-how in the field of information technology. All that will lead to the establishment of small and medium-sized firms based on knowledge. From almost 240 technology projects financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, aimed at directing the outcomes of scientific research towards the economy, about 30 knowledge-based firms have opened. Within the framework of the initiated development of the Croatian innovation system, the economy has been showing increasing interest in cooperation with science. An integrated and systematic approach to science and education with clearly defined national interests is essential for the development of every society, including Croatian society.

Providing that in the following years the implementation of the existing initiatives will be continued toward the utilization of existing resources, the further development of ICT market (i.e. mobile phones, telecommunication services, electronic-based business processes) is envisioned. Croatia has plenty of potential which, if transformed into comparative advantage, can bring Croatia closer to the information economies such as Estonia, Slovenia and other developed EU countries.

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<sup>63</sup> Official Gazette 70/2005.



## ANNEX 1



Table 1: Main causes of violent child deaths in Croatia in 2002 and 2003

Causes of death	2002						2004					
	0 yr.	1-4 yr.	5-9 yr.	10-14 yr.	15-19 yr.	Total	0 yr.	1-4 yr.	5-9 yr.	10-14 yr.	15-19 yr.	Total
Traffic accidents	0	3	6	10	54	73	3	10	11	9	69	102
Drowning	0	1	3	1	3	8	0	3	1	3	2	9
Suffocation	2	1	0	0	2	5	3	1	1	0	1	6
Falls	0	0	1	1	3	5	1	2	0	1	0	4
Electricity	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	2
Burns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poisonings	1	0	1	0	4	6	0	0	0	1	7	8
Weapons/explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Other accidents	0	5	2	0	4	11	0	1	0	1	1	3
Total accidents	3	10	14	12	72	111	8	17	13	17	81	136
Suicides	0	0	0	0	24	24	0	0	0	4	16	20
Murders	1	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	1
Event with unspecified intent	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complications of medical care	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total violent deaths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>157</b>

Source of data: State Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, 2002 and 2004. Data processing: Croatian Institute of Public Health

It is clear from Table 1 that, among the main causes of violent deaths of children below 14 years of age, traffic accidents are by far the most frequent cause of child mortality. The number of such cases is increasing. A positive step towards the reduction of this rate was made in August 2004 through the introduction of the law for child seats to be used in vehicles when transporting children up to 5 years of age, and through the implementation of the educational campaigns of non-governmental organisations in cooperation with state institutions on the role played by child car seats in reducing the number of deaths and crash-related injuries in children. The legislation on unsupervised driving in traffic for young drivers was changed as well in order to decrease the number of traffic accidents caused by young drivers without driving experience.

Table 2: Child and youth deaths disaggregated by national and county level in 2003 and 2004

	2003						2004					
	Age					Total	Age					Total
	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19		0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	
Republic of Croatia	251	42	38	49	150	530	245	44	31	37	130	487
Zagrebačka	16	1	3	5	10	35	14	2	3	3	12	34
Krapinsko-zagorska	4	1	2	1	4	12	5	2	-	1	2	10
Sisačko-moslavačka	9	2	1	1	4	17	12	2	-	2	4	20
Karlovačka	9	-	-	2	6	17	2	1	1	-	4	8
Varaždinska	10	-	-	2	5	17	7	2	2	1	3	15
Koprivničko-križevačka	5	1	2	1	7	16	7	1	1	-	3	12
Bjelovarsko-bilogorska	3	1	2	2	2	10	8	1	2	3	5	19
Primorsko-goranska	14	4	1	3	11	33	19	-	1	2	10	32
Ličko-senjska	3	1	-	-	3	7	2	2	-	-	4	8
Virovitičko-podravska	5	1	3	1	2	12	12	1	1	3	8	25
Požeško-slavonska	10	1	2	2	2	17	7	1	-	1	-	9
Brodsko-posavska	17	4	2	-	6	29	7	1	2	-	4	14
Zadarska	4	1	-	2	3	10	5	3	3	-	4	15
Osječko-baranjska	23	2	1	6	14	46	17	3	5	5	13	43
Šibensko-kninska	4	2	2	1	3	12	7	-	1	1	8	17
Vukovarsko-srijemska	12	2	1	3	2	20	17	5	1	2	5	30
Splitsko-dalmatinska	19	7	2	4	16	48	21	7	4	2	17	51
Istarska županija	11	1	2	2	6	22	14	-	-	5	7	26
Dubrovačko-neretvanska	8	1	4	1	4	18	2	2	-	1	2	7
Medimurska	13	-	-	2	6	21	9	2	1	-	1	13
The city of Zagreb	52	9	8	8	34	111	51	6	3	5	14	79

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

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