

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

CROATIA

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	<p>Zakon o savjetima mladih - Law on Youth Advisory Boards (LYAB), adopted in 2007 (Official Gazzete, No. 23/07).</p> <p>According to the LYAB their members, following the propositions of organized forms of youth, are elected by the representative body of the local or regional self-administration. The primary role of youth advisory boards is counseling local and regional representative bodies on issues of interest to youth. The implementation of the LYAB is the responsibility of local and regional self-administration. However, as on one hand the Law does not determine sanctions for failure in implementation, and on the other hand, the manner of electing members is not precise enough, numerous local and regional units have not established Youth Advisory Boards yet because of the lack of organized forms of youth in small communities. Also, according to the opinion of Croatian Youth Network (CYN) youth advisory boards are not established because of the lack of clear procedures and obligations prescribed when opening calls for members of youth advisory boards therefore many youth organizations are not even familiar with such calls nor with the existence of youth advisory boards. Secondly, the Ministry has neglected in the previous period education and training of employees within bodies of local and regional governments on the purpose of youth advisory boards and the type of support they should provide for its effective functioning.</p>
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	No
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2007_02_23_869.html

4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	<p>National Program on Youth from Year 2009 to 2013 (NPY) adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 82/09) with the general goal of improving the activities of the state administration bodies and public institutions which contribute to improving the quality of the lives of young people. There are 7 areas of action determined (education and informatisation, employment and entrepreneurship, social policy, healthcare and reproductive health, active participation of young people in society, youth culture and leisure time, mobility, informing and counselling), with specified goals which should be achieved through the implementation of 53 measures and 157 implementing activities, relating to young people aged 15 to 30. For each measure and activity the NPY also defines collaborators for their implementation, required funding and indicators of implementation. For the purposes of implementation and monitoring of the NPY, competent authorities (12) appointed coordinators for its implementation. Briefing forms for the implementation during the elapsed year and Implementation Plan for the following year are adopted every year. According to opinion of CYN, budget specification in NPY makes it difficult to estimate the exact effects of the measures as it shows only source of funding but explains little about their amounts, also indicators of implementation are often quite ambiguous and should be able to measure not only outputs but also outcomes and</p>
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	<p>The NYP is not the only document for national youth policy. The Government also adopted several strategies that influence the framework, such as the National Programme for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the National Programme for Prevention of Behavioural Disorders in Children and Youth, National Program for the Alliance of Civilizations, National Program to Prevent Violence among Children and Youth, National Drug Control Strategy in the Republic of Croatia and Action Plan on Combating Drug Abuse, National Strategy for prevention of addiction of children and young people in education and social welfare system etc. However, more horizontal coordination is required between existing policies.</p>

<p>6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>National Program for Youth from Year 2009 to 2013 was adopted on 2nd of July 2009, and its priorities were set up prior to adoption of EU Youth Strategy. However, most of the priorities are in line with EU Youth Strategy (education and informatization, employment and entrepreneurship, social policy, healthcare and reproductive health, active participation of young people in society, youth culture and leisure time, mobility, informing and counseling) except youth and the world.</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>Most of the local programs on youth are in line with national policy for youth and therefore are partly in line with EU Youth Strategy. However, the CYN believes that in most cases such compatibility of local and regional youth policies with the national policy has negative effects on their quality. Namely, most of the local and regional youth action plans (where existent) follow national priorities and even specific measures, clearly ignoring limitations in competencies of local and regional governments and specific needs of young people from their town/municipality/county. Consequently, that leads to numerous problems in implementation which makes local success stories in the field of youth policy rather rare phenomena within the Croatian context.</p>
<p>8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>

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Please specify your answer.	Due to lack of financial resources in the past time such research were not conducted, but we plan to run such a research in 2012 and it will be the basis for new youth strategy in the Republic of Croatia.
9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?	YES, such cooperation has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	There is such cooperation within Advisory Board for Youth of the Government of the Republic of Croatia where 3 members are representatives of research community; such cooperation also exists through participation in different ad-hoc working groups (working groups on assessing projects of youth NGOs, drafting laws and strategies, etc.), but more institutionalized and regular cooperation should be established.
10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?	YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	Advisory Board for Youth of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (ABYGRC) within which four (4) members are representatives of Youth CSOs and CSOs for Youth, 9 representatives of the Government (Ministries and Government Offices) and 3 representatives of research community. In accordance with the Decision on Foundation of the ABYGRC (Official Gazette, 111/2003, 23/2004, 120/2005, 21/2008, 132/2009 and 119/2010) ABYGRC participates in the coordination of implementation and evaluation of the NPY and, accordingly, in harmonization and monitoring of the implementation of the NPY. For the purposes of implementation and monitoring of the NPY, competent authorities (12) for the implementation of measures in NPY appointed coordinators for the measures implementation and they meet twice a year. Also in September 2011 coordinators were guests at the 11th session of ABYGRC.

<p>11. Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.</p>	<p>YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>The European Commission has approved to the Hungary Network Against Poverty, under the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - Progress, the funding for the project "Entry Adult Life Network (ALEN) - Activation and Empowerment of Young People in disadvantaged situations. ". Leading organizations responsible for implementing the project are Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network (coordinator), current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (former Ministry of Health and Social Welfare), Department for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Serbia, Austrian Network Against Poverty, and CSOs "Play", "Birch" and "Children First". According to CYN, another relevant granting scheme targeting specifically young people has been carried out during 2010, namely: "Youth in the Labour Market", within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). This initiative included three groups of activities: a) grants for NGOs aiming to improve position of young people in the labour market; b) survey fostering better understanding of young people's position in the labour market; c) development of new youth tailored services (such as job clubs).</p>
<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>NO, the Government is not planning to set up such a strategy.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>See answer to question No.13.</p>

<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>Within Youth in Action programme, the participation in which is a part of NPY, a study about the position of youthworkers has been initiated, with the goal of defining competences needed for quality youth work, current methods in acquiring these competences, as well as challenges of being a youthworker. Upon its completion and public announcement of its results, further steps will be taken and will include an attempt to professionalize the position of youthworkers.</p>
<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>Lack of human and financial resources.</p>
<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>Data about the EU Youth Strategy were available via current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth - (note: former Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, unless hereinafter specified differently within brackets) website; EU Youth Strategy was also communicated to relevant stakeholders during Ministry's participation in different round tables, conferences and gatherings. Additionally, within Youth in Action programme, the participation in which is a part of NPY, thematic seminars are organized, which also include spreading information about EU youth strategies to stakeholders.</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>No, but progress report on implementation of NPY is adopted by the Croatian Government for year 2009 and 2010 and is available via Government of Republic of Croatia web site after its adoption (August 2010 and 2011) and via current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (late 2010 and August 2011) and currently data collection is in progress in order to draft progress report on year 2011. According to opinion of CYN more has to be done in this area as NYP implementation report for the 2006 - 2008 period was published as a single document and not in the form of consecutive annual reports. Also, the last report for 2010 adopted by the Government was made public in late 2011 thus preventing timely reaction of the youth sector to possible gaps in implementation. Additionally, the quality of the reports, in our opinion, is unsatisfactory: 1) not all implementing bodies provided data on implementation, 2) it is difficult to link a number of actions stated in the report with the original document and 3) reports lack adequate evaluation and clear recommendations how to improve implementation in deficit areas and measures.</p>

17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth invited Croatian Youth Network (acting as Croatian Youth Council) to get included into the process of drafting the report and they accepted it.

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship

18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Croatian Employment Service's Measures targeted at young first-time jobseekers help increase their employability and gain necessary work experience which increases their chances in the labor market. Two measures targeted directly at young unemployed persons are co-financing the first employment of young persons without work experience and occupational training without commencing employment. By providing work experience, these measures increase flexicurity of young persons in the labour market. According to the opinion of CYN, the measures mentioned above focused on first entrants, do not improve the position of numerous young people who lost their jobs during the crisis. Many of them received a lot of flexibility, and ultimately, no security. Additionally, the second of the above mentioned measures is limited to a narrow group of vocations, namely those which include licencing exam as a precondition for admission into professional ranks (such as pharmacy, law and etc.).
19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The foundations for the development of the Croatian Qualifications Framework were developed in year 2010, but work on CROQF, as an important instrument of the education system, continues. In year 2012 a legal framework for the development and implementation of the CROQF will be adopted. By CROQF we are achieving better coordination and integration of all stakeholders in the qualifications system and are at the same time drawing attention to labor market needs, the needs of individuals and society. Furthermore, levels of qualifications are established in accordance with the prescribed descriptors of learning outcomes and the legal basis for linking the level of CROQF and the levels of EQF and QF-EHEA. The reform includes, besides the implementation of access to learning outcomes, transparent criteria and procedures for verification, validation and entry into the Register of CROQF. Vocational opportunities were promoted as a part of the promotional campaign for Leonardo da Vinci programme and for EVS by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes.</p>
<p>20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The first Vocational Guidance Counseling Centre in Croatia was established in 1931; in the period between 1957 and 1960 Career Guidance Centers for youth were opened in most of the towns with the aim to provide counseling for youth and adults choosing or changing their careers. Croatian Employment Service is being recognized as the main stakeholder of the systematic organized LLCG services in Croatia (source: ETF, CEDEFOP 2009). LLCG at CES includes informing, counseling and monitoring of professional development and is provided to a wide range of clients. Once a year, CES conducts Survey on Vocational Intentions of Primary and Secondary School Students in order to identify the trends in the students' vocational intentions, which are forwarded to stakeholders in the field of education and employment on County and national level. In pre-school, primary and secondary schools the issues concerning LLCG are included in different subjects as one of the activities of the school counselors. In 2007, through project Tempus, integrated models of LLCG services for university students were developed. Since then more LLCG centers have been set up as well as a LLCG center for students with disabilities at the University of Zagreb. Activities of the civil and private sectors are rising, individually and in cooperation with the public sector. Presence of various web portals with updated information on higher education, scholarships and more in Croatia and abroad is notable</p>
<p>21.To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Young persons without work experience are one of the target groups identified by the Joint Assessment of the Employment Policy Priorities in Croatia. For this reason, active labor market policy measures of Croatian Employment Service from the National Employment Promotion Plan are focused on young first-time jobseekers. Measures targeted at young first-time jobseekers help increase their employability and gain necessary work experience which increases their chances in the labor market. Two measures targeted directly at young unemployed persons are Co-financing the first employment of young persons without work experience (subsidy for employment) and Occupational training without commencing employment, a measure targeted at those young persons without work experience who are legally obliged to take licensing/state exam. According to the Law on Vocational Training, in vocational education knowledge gaining skills and abilities is conducted through lectures and exercises that are performed in an institution of vocational education and/or the employer's premises where practical work and exercises must meet safety requirements and other regulations. Additionally, please see opinion of CYN in question No. 18.</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Reconciliation of family and work life includes measures to achieve greater employment of working-age population, especially women, through the implementation of flexible forms of work regulated by labor legislation for the purpose of reconciliation of family and work life, greater gender equality in child rearing which all contributes to a better compatibility of family and professional challenges. According to the Law on Maternity and Parental Benefits, mother and father of the child, adoptive parent, guardian, foster parent or other person to whom a minor child has been entrusted with the care and upbringing, by a decision of the competent authorities, has the right to time allowances (they allow exemption from the labor and time required for the care of a child), and financial support (salary compensation, fees, financial aid and one-time financial aid for newborn babies). It is important to note that through the coordination and interconnection regulations in the field of maternity and parental support, labor and employment and safety at work, this support system has shown some positive developments. But despite this, work in half-time by users of the rights to the Law on Maternity and Parental Benefits has not yet reached a significant positive response, in contrast to the increasing number of fathers in the use of maternity and parental leave in the year 2010.

23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Within the National Employment Promotion Plan the Croatian Employment Service is providing subsidy for self-employment in the amount of 50% annual gross salary cost for those unemployed persons who develop a business plan. Young persons who have been unemployed for at least 6 months can also be included in this measure. National Coordination of E4E (Education for Entrepreneurship) is advisory body of the Croatian Government, established in 2007 and its members are partners in the field of economy, education and employment - Chambres, Ministries, associations and CES. Coordination is directed to monitor and propose measures for the development of education and entrepreneurial learning, to develop a unique system of entrepreneurial education as one of the 8 key competences of the EU. One of the tasks is also continuous development of Strategy of Entrepreneurial Learning, its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. National Coordination E4E cooperates with the Regional Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning for the countries of Southeast Europe (SEECEL). The Croatian Government has adopted The Strategy of Entrepreneurial Learning 2010 - 2014 in June 2010. The CES conducts series of activities through the Action Plan aimed at developing entrepreneurial competences of unemployed young people. Group career counseling is performed for the purpose of improving active job seeking skills (2011 - 32.845 persons included in 4.162 workshops, including 24 workshops for self-empl

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship

The National Curriculum Framework (2011) gives great importance to entrepreneurship, as intercurricular topic, obligatory in all subjects. In addition, education and entrepreneurship education is implemented through cooperative work of students in schools that were established. There are currently 304 student cooperatives, mostly in elementary schools. According to the Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools (2008) the students' cooperative may be established as a form of extra-curricular activities, but they were also opened earlier. In addition, in collaboration with civil society organizations, projects are carried out aiming to teach entrepreneurship. Representatives of CES participated in numerous debates and round tables on the development of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills. There was a professional group to inform the students of final year of secondary schools on career choices, with content indicating the need for lifelong learning and education for entrepreneurship; workshops were organized for students of high school seniors on the development of professional careers, emphasizing the need for lifelong learning and training for entrepreneurship as a key competence in the selection of future profession. Agency for Education has developed a module: Project Citizen and learning for entrepreneurship within the learning and teaching of human rights and democratic citizenship, which is carried out and also training of staff in education system.

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

On youth participation

24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The right of young people to participate in society is established in NPY and through the LYAB. Participation of youth in decision making processes in the Republic of Croatia is organized through Youth Advisory Boards, Advisory Board for Youth of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (ABYGRC) within which four (4) members are representatives of Youth CSOs and CSOs for Youth (see also question No. 10.), Youth Councils and Parliaments, CSO for youth and youth CSO; youth are involved in a selection committee, which selects projects by youth CSOs that will receive financial grants from the government, youth are members of independent commissions or expert groups in order to explore a specific issue or advise the Government on a certain policy area (i.e. Working Group on Drafting Amendments to the LYAB). In order to improve youth participation responsible operative persons in Ministries and Offices of the Government as commissioners for youth was designated, also celebration of the International Youth Day, participation in 'Youth in Action', activities of youth CSO and CSO for youth and volunteer work of youth are supported. According to opinion of CYN, the Government has not taken any significant policy initiatives/steps, except forming the ABYGRC, in establishing dialogue with youth and youth organizations. Also, although the involvement of youth representatives in selection committees does exist, transparent public criteria for recruiting members should be establish

25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Code on Consultation with the Interested Public in the Procedures for Adopting Laws, Regulations and Acts ("Official Gazette" No. 140/09) enacted in 2009. The main objective of the Code is to facilitate the interaction with citizens and representatives of the interested public in the democratic process and encourage more active participation of citizens in public life. The implementation of the Code is obligatory to all public administration and is used also in consultation and information of youth. Also, each state administration body appointed a coordinator for counseling processes. However, no specific activities on youth participation, information and counseling were taken. Also, according to the opinion of CYN no clear policy framework for supporting the development of youth organizations nor clear criteria for financing exist. Such framework was drafted by the CYN together with the Governmental Office for NGO Cooperation and National Foundation for Civil Society Development but has never been adopted by the Government as there was no legal basis for its adoption.</p>
<p>26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Different Ministries and local administration bodies are providing grants for youth CSOs, i.e. current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth during year 2010 and 2011 ensured financial support for 228 projects for youth in total amount of 10.985.075,00 kunas. Ministry of Science, Education and Sports also encourages and assists systematically the implementation of projects initiated by civil society and youth organizations in the implementation of informal/non-institutional care and education of young people (and children), since the mid nineties. The Law on Youth Advisory Boards, adopted in 2007, is also allowing youth CSOs and other organized youth to participate in counseling processes to the regional and local representative bodies (See question No. 24). However, more institutionalized support should be offered to national and local youth councils and recognition of their role in society.</p>

27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	No special activities were organized in order to promote participation in representative democracy, youth organization and other civil society organizations.
28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth during 2010 and 2011 co-financed 4 regional information centers for youth (Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek - http://www.proni.hr/ ; http://split.com.hr/zona/ ; http://www.umki.hr/portal/ ; http://www.icm-zg.info) which were providing different information for youth through their web pages and social networks in order, among other things, to deepen participation of young people. Also, in order to improve quality of work of information centres in Republic of Croatia, Association of Youth Information Centers (http://www.icm.com.hr/) was established and it is a member of ERYICA. In addition to this, each student in Croatia has been provided with access to the Internet since all schools and dormitories are connected to CARNet and equipped with at least one classroom and computer equipment. However, according to the opinion of CYN this support does not meet the existing needs due to the fact that a number of smaller youth (info) centres carry out systematic information activities but there are no granting opportunities to support their work.
29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?	NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In the year 2011 Draft Curriculum of Civic Education was prepared and it integrated education for active participation of children and young people in school life, local communities and the Croatian and European society. Since 1999 there has been a National Programme of Education for Human Rights adopted by the Croatian Government and it has enabled the development of best practices linking school and community to analyze and solve real social problems by implementing the method of Project Citizen. Also there are Politics and Economy classes in High schools (1 year program in secondary schools). Additionally, there is a projects by GONG (nonparty citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to actively participate in political processes), training teachers to perform workshops in their schools ('I vote for the first time' (http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=139) and 'European Class' workshops (http://www.gong.hr/page.aspx?PageID=150)).</p>
<p>30. to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Youth in Action programme, is offering opportunities for developing projects in this field. Until 2008 national youth conferences were organized as well. Additional activities are planned for the year 2012.</p>
<p>Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Within the International Year of Youth (August 2010 to August 2011) financial grant was approved to the National Youth Council (Mreža mladih Hrvatske/Croatian Youth Network) to conduct several activities where we want to highlight structured dialoge in youth unemployment and "Youth Award" dedicated to awarding of active youth.</p>

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

<p>31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>By adopting the Law on Volunteering in year 2007, in particular Article 17 which specifies "transnationality of volunteering", the legal conditions and opportunities for greater mobility of young volunteers in the country and abroad have been created. Also, by investing funds in participation in the biggest EU programme for youth, Youth in Action, the Government increased to a large extent the possibilities for participating in voluntary activities for young people. In addition to this, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport established a task force for removing barriers in mobility and adopted Action plan for removing barriers and enhancing the international mobility in education from 2010 to 2012.</p>
<p>32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In addition to the Law on Volunteering, Volunteer Ethics Code, adopted in 2008, has contributed to increasing awareness about the various possibilities of young volunteers. The Code of Ethics in paragraph 6 which elaborates "intercultural learning and exchange," indicates that volunteering provides opportunities to learn from others and sharing experiences between countries, regions and cultures. It was also pointed out that the cooperation with people of different backgrounds contribute to reducing prejudice and stereotyping and strengthening tolerance in an international context. In addition, different conferences, round tables, media campaigns and other activities were organized continuously by current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth in cooperation with domestic and international partners to promote opportunities and benefits of volunteering, especially through European Year of Volunteering. On this occasion, examples of best practices of EU member states and methods for volunteer work, in particular for the acquisition of new knowledge and skills as forms of informal and formal learning, were presented. Also, Agency for Mobility and EU Programs organized different public awareness' raising activities especially through European Week. Awareness of the opportunities for young volunteers was raised by promoting the EU programme Youth in Action and its European Voluntary Service.</p>
<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Regional Volunteer Centers as strategic partners of current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth have developed quality standards for volunteer centers in Croatia with the purpose of promoting and developing voluntary activities. Current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth in cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Science and Sport and the academic community held a round table on the evaluation of volunteer work in higher education in the Republic of Croatia because of the need for systematic evaluation of voluntary work within the institutions of higher education. On this occasion, formation of a national initiative at the university level, through which it will share examples of best practices and elaborate models applicable to individual colleges was supported. National Awards for Volunteering, as the highest awards for volunteer work in the last two years have been given to youth organizations - the Association of Youth Selce and the Association of Zora from Čakovec. The aim was to promote the contribution of the mobility of young volunteers in Croatia and the European Union, its impact on social development and the impact of volunteering on the personal development of volunteers.</p>
<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Cross border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organizations was again a part of the information and promotion campaign of Youth in Action programme in Croatia. Also, on 10 May, 2011 started the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Croatian Government and the Government of Canada on Youth Mobility. The Memorandum facilitates to Croatian and Canadian citizens aged 18-35 years obtaining temporary work permits enabling them to travel and work in Canada or Croatia and there were several activities in promotion of the Memorandum.</p>
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Strategic partners of current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth - Regional Volunteer Centers have launched an initiative for "Inclusive Volunteering" – the integration of socially excluded groups, including the youth, through volunteer work. Specific governmental measures will be discussed during drafting of the National Programme, which is underway. A member of a working group for drafting of the National Programme is also a representative of the Croatian Youth Network. People with fewer opportunities were specifically targeted within the information and promotion campaign of Youth in Action programme in Croatia.</p>
<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Development Programme of Regional Volunteer Centers, co-sponsored by current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth promotes activities of the European Voluntary Service and the international exchange of volunteers and the use of standards and tools that support these activities. Current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Croatia jointly promote the 2011 - European Year of Volunteering and the values carried by the volunteer experience in the context of the European Union. Youthpass document, recognizing skills acquired during participation in a YIA project is issued for projects funded under Youth in Action. Europass document - mobility - is in the preparatory phase for being used for recognition of skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning and will be in use in 2012. Also, according to data from CYN, within the framework of National Employment Promotion Plan 2011 - 2012 the Croatian Network of Volunteer Centres in collaboration with the Croatian Employment Service is carrying out measure aiming to: a) educate employees of the CES about legal framework on volunteering in Croatia and competencies gained through volunteering; b) establish info points on volunteering within CES local and regional services.</p>
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In late 2008 current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has launched a program to encourage volunteerism in services of intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the quality of life of older people to actively participate and to connect the various age groups. Pilot programs have so far implemented 38 local and regional governments which organized various activities in partnership with civil society organizations, schools and individuals in the daycare centres for elderly to enrich offer of social services in the community aimed at the elderly. Young volunteers have participated in activities and information services, promotion and teaching of new skills, then preserving the physical mobility of elderly persons, the application of healthy lifestyles, cultural events and tourist attractions, nurturing traditional heritage and other activities. Also, current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth was included since Year 2009 in the European initiative on the public celebration of European Day of Solidarity between Generations - 29 April, encouraging collaboration and joint projects of solidarity and volunteering of various age groups, especially the linking of young and old. So far we have marked the European Day of Solidarity with the regional and local volunteer centers, international organizations and local governments. European platform for the elderly - AGE published the Croatian activities.

<p>Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is a central government body responsible for the overall development of volunteering in Croatia. To date, the policy development of volunteerism and volunteer infrastructure engaged strategic partners - regional volunteer centers with which the current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth in 2009 concluded a three-year program of collaboration and co-financing. Four civil society organizations that have covered four large Croatian regions are: Volunteer Centre Osijek, Zagreb Volunteer Center, Association for Civil Society Development SMART - Volunteer Center Rijeka, and MI Association - Volunteer Center of Split. Activities in which they have been involved in the previous period are promoting the value of volunteering, sharing information on supply and demand of volunteer work, education on managing volunteers, and educating citizens about volunteering, providing information and advice to the organizers of the volunteering and advocacy and representation of measures and policies essential for the development of volunteering in Croatia and the European Union. Croatia joined the EU countries in celebrating the European Year of Volunteering 2011. For this purpose, the Government established a Commission to mark the European Year of Volunteering as an inter-ministerial, professional and coordinating body of the Croatian Government with the task of preparation of the celebration of the Year. The aim of the Commission was to sensitize and raise public awareness about the importance and value of volunteering and active citizen participation. The Commission developed a calendar of the most important national activities in Croatia, which was published on the official website of the current Ministry of</p>
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SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

<p>38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Measures to prevent early abandonment of education were carried out long ago. Non-formal education programs are numerous, and are implemented in folk education, centers/schools for learning foreign languages, hiking and sports clubs, cultural centers, CSOs, and religious communities.</p>

39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The Croatian Qualifications Framework (CROQF) is an important precondition for the regulation of Croatian lifelong learning system. The CROQF is based on the Croatian educational tradition, the current condition and the level of development of society, the labour market needs, of the individual and society as a whole. It is in line with the European Qualifications Framework. The aim of the CROQF is to link together the learning outcomes achieved in all educational institutions and enable their referencing within Croatian as well as in international mobility. In order to support the development of CROQF, several IPA-funding projects took place lately: "Further development of CROQF", "Access to Education by Students with Disabilities", "Strengthening institutional framework for the development of the VET occupational standards/qualifications & curricula", „Regional Network of Local Learning Institutions”, etc. A draft proposal of the Croatian Qualifications Framework (2011) is currently in consultative phase with stakeholders. Since 2008., due to the determination of the Trades and Crafts Law („Official Gazette“, Number 199/03, 30/04, 136/04, 22/05, 44/06, 5/08, 27/08 and 77/09) the ministry responsible for the development of entrepreneurship and crafts is conducting recognition of foreign qualifications on acquired master craftsman and it's individual parts in order to access employment or craft in the Republic of Croatia.
40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Government has financed participation in the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action programme which promote and fund learning mobility for young people. Within regular promotional and information activities undertaken in the scope of implementing Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action programme young people are informed about the possibilities. Despite the fact that number of mobility scheme grants have been opened for youth in Croatia (mostly through provision of EU funds) it is view of CYN that these funding opportunities still do not meet the target set by the question (providing learning mobility for all young people). Young people from all marginalized groups, such as Roma, young people who are beneficiaries of different welfare services and generally, young people of lower social status are rarely included in these granting schemes.</p>
<p>41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In cooperation with volunteer centres and regional information centres for youth, activities aimed at raising public awarness of the value of non-formal learning will be implemented.</p>
<p>Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>The CYN expresses dissatisfaction with the quality of reporting in the area of Education and Training they believe that input provided throughout this section are vague and lacking content, making it difficult to provide reasonable review.</p>

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

<p>42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The NPY stressed the necessity for the specific healthcare and reproductive health protection. The Action Plan for Protection against and Reduction of Overweight stressed the physical activity as an important issue in prevention against overweight and acquiring the healthy lifestyle. The Plan and Programme of the Healthcare Measures (2006) stressed the role of the health sector in the prevention and early recognition of the developmental disturbances which might be prevented by the healthy nutrition and regular physical activities. It is important to stress that in Croatia specific comprehensive preventive programme of the children and youth health is applied at the national level and financed as compulsory regular part of the health care by basic health insurance. According to the opinion of CYN, any tangible change that comes with implementation yet remains to be seen in practice. Namely, during 2011 Working Group coordinated by the Ministry of Health produced a document which defined framework for establishing youth-friendly clinics for young people in the field of sexual and reproductive health.</p>
<p>43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The intersectoral collaboration between schools and health professionals is regularly undertaken through the activities of the school and adolescent medicine. It is encouraged that youth workers and sport clubs collaborate with the educational system, but there is no systematic approach to the issue. Health, safety and environmental protection is one of the themes in the National Curriculum Framework (2011). Its implementation in all schools ensures the development of a positive and responsible attitude of pupils towards their health and the health of others. It includes all aspects of health: physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students are encouraged to adopt permanently a healthy lifestyle - healthy and balanced diet, proper hygiene practices, regular and adequate physical activity and responsible attitude towards themselves, others and partner relationships, sexuality transmitted diseases and other. Attention was paid earlier, within certain subjects, to health and physical activities like proper nutrition and hygiene habits. Proper diet, hygienic habits and physical activity are nurtured in the sports clubs/societies.</p>

44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?	NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	There is no regular collaboration between health professionals and youth workers and youth leaders, but mutual activities have been undertaken in different areas. For example, in the creation of the Proposal for Youth Friendly Health Services for Reproductive Health, which was proposed by the Working group appointed by the Ministry of Health, the representatives of the youth organizations and civil society were actively involved. Also, please see opinion of CYN in question No. 42.
45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Peer-to-peer health education has been implemented through different health promoting project and is considered to be an important “added value” in the programme implementation. However, according to the meta-analyses done by some Croatia researchers, peer-to-peer education could be considered as an additional tool to the other education methods and not implemented exclusively. Also, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has been awarding grants to CSOs carrying out projects fostering peer to peer education in the field of prevention of various forms of addiction (in 2010 - 103 project in total amount of 5.167.011 HRK and in 2011 - 71 projects in total amount of 4.618.064 HRK (including youth clubs)).
46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Some steps have been taken but they are not regularly undertaken throughout all health sector. For example, the representatives of the youth organizations and civil society were actively involved in the creation of the Proposal for Youth Friendly Health Services for Reproductive Health.

<p>Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Young people and their health and wellbeing is on the highest priority in the Croatian policy documents in different sectors and several measures aiming at the areas mentioned in the questionnaire have been undertaken even before 2010. Croatian concept of health in young people covers physical capacity, psychological functioning, social relationships and environmental potentials involving health, social welfare, employment, civil society and other contextual factors.</p>
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C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

<p>47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has been supporting youth clubs from 2005 (see question No. 56.). Since 2011 within sources allocated to youth clubs the salary for youth club coordinator has been provided. According to the opinion of CYN, the Government insofar failed to provide any type of strategy for the development of youth work. They emphasize four crucial problems. Firstly, youth work development is not adequately coordinated with social inclusion policies. Secondly, the state has not developed adequate standards of youth work within existing youth clubs and centres. Thirdly, these youth services are inadequately funded to effectively meet the existing needs. This is especially reflected in the fact that only a number of youth clubs and 4 regional info-centres are eligible for support by the Minsitry whereas youth centres that carry out general youth work are completely left out from the framework of the NYP. Finally, the state has failed to recognize youth work as a specific profession thus hampering its further development.</p>
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<p>48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>National policies/strategies and plans have a common goal - the social inclusion of all citizens, including young people, especially certain social groups: young people with developmental difficulties and/or with disabilities, the Roma minority, or those fewer financial possibilities. NPY also includes measures aiming at linking education and employment and their social inclusion. According to the opinion of CYN, until current moment results are rather questionable. Namely, unemployment benefits are not available to young people without previous working experience, and generally very low, focusing only on basic needs of their beneficiaries. Moreover, Croatian authorities have until now failed in creating a system which should monitor dynamics within the youth NEET group. Thus, there are no concrete and reliable data how many young people “drop out” through the systems' social protection net.</p>
<p>49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In Croatia, intercultural learning is an integral part of the Civic Education and the National Education Programme for Human Rights (NEPHR) from year 1999. According to the National Curriculum Framework, civic education is involved gradually in all levels of education and the formal and informal forms of lifelong learning. It has been incorporated in the curricula of primary and secondary schools as well as cross-curricular, optional and compulsory subjects and is a key competence for lifelong learning. During the last decade the inter-culturalism increased in the Croatian educational system in relation to European integration processes, Croatian Accession to EU integrated Lifelong Learning Programme (Integrated European Programme for Life Long Learning), exchange of students and teachers, and international mobility. In order to incorporate and develop properly the European principle of reciprocity, respect, recognition, understanding and intercultural dialogue in the educational system, Croatia drafted a new module within the civil education: module for the development of identity and interculturality. Special section refers to evolve identity and inter-Croatian and ethnic minorities' need for a peaceful and prosperous life in Croatia, and interculturality as a universal human competence necessary for living in the European and global society.</p>

50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	All services deriving from the Social Welfare Act are available to homeless people. In 2010 there were 10 shelters for homeless people, with a total capacity of 314 places, the founders of which are cities and CSOs. In 2011 one more was opened. From 392 homeless people recorded in 2010, 10-15% were young people. Large cities and towns county seats are also offering different forms of material assistance and support (meals in public kitchens, temporary shelters, accommodation for persons receiving assistance for the maintenance of social housing, subsidies for the payment of certain social expenses, etc.). From year 2011 projects Adult Life-Entry Network Activation and Empowerment of Young People in disadvantaged Situations (peer training, training of mentors, direct support to young people), Contact (improving life skills), Stanko (providing young people with free accommodation for 4 months, volunteer opportunities, free advice and assistance in finding a job) aimed at young people in and post residential care services are implemented. According to Social Welfare Act the users of permanent care (youth without adequate parental care), who enroll in full time study, are eligible for monthly financial support amounting to HRK 2,000. Also, according to the Law on Socially Stimulated Housing Construction, the priority to purchase flats belongs to citizens who would buy the first flat this way.
51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Social Welfare Act regulates different new social services, for 48 projects aiming at the development and expansion of social services network current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (former Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - MHSW) will also allocate HRK 21.5 ml. to CSOs from year 2010 to 2013 In order to encourage initiatives aimed at strengthening the respect for diversity and social integration of youth from socially marginalized groups, current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth co-financed projects aimed at young people with disabilities. Also, different projects were conducted by current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (former MHSW): Improving the quality of implementation of alternative sanctions and educational measures for young people with behavioral disorders, training for trainers of cognitive and social skills “Tools for you”, “Assessment, planning and reporting in execution of juvenile alternative sanctions”, improving the network of community services for the implementation of corrective measures and alternative sanctions through the introduction of “ART” training control of aggression, “Halt” programme and small creative socialization group - learning non-aggressive behavior and conflict resolution and healthy lifestyles of young people. In order to provide social services to youth without adequate parental care there are 32 residential communities (flats) with capacity of 89 places.</p>
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Regarding special support to young families, the National Population Policy prescribes measures aimed at providing support to all families. Young families (young parents) are listed in Measure 7 area A; current holder: Ministry of Work and Pensions. According to the report for year 2010, based on the National Programme for Employment Promotion for 2009 and 2010 the Croatian Employment Service encouraged the employment of young unemployed parents and single parents and parents of children with developmental difficulties. According to that in year 2010, 578 persons were financed through the employment of young parents (compared with 42 in 2009.), 31 single parents (compared to 47 in the previous year), and a parent of children with developmental difficulties (compared to the same number in 2009). As regards the other measures we can point out area B System of family support. Upon entry into force of the Law on Maternity and Parental Benefits on 1 January, 2009 an additional step towards creating firmer basis for further strengthening the family in Croatia was made, promoting fertility and better reconciliation of family and work life. Also according to The amendments from 2011 further strengthening of the protection of motherhood was achieved.</p>
<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Enclosed - the Law on Maternity and Parental Benefits and JIM</p>

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Ministry of Culture supports the development of the creativity of young people and their innovative capacity to empower artistic expression through tendering: a) new dramatic works, b) new musical works; c) the promotion of literary creativity; d) the issuance of new literary works. Also, through publishing and supporting the publication of news that disseminate information on sustainable development, youth were provided with wider access to cultural offerings and art scene. Participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union Framework Programme "Culture 2007-2013" encouraged young professionals in the field of culture to take part in all cultural activities, with special emphasis on intercultural dialogue, the mobility of cultural operators and cultural products.

55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Digitizing Croatian independent and art cinema, which implies the use of digital technology in production, distribution and exhibition of the film possibility of using new technologies is implemented with the aim to empower creativity and innovation of young people. The project "Entrepreneurship in culture" of the Ministry of Culture and current Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Craft, as a project of a non-refundable aid of small value, encourages entrepreneurship in culture as well as the promotion of cultural industries and entrepreneurial projects in all areas of cultural activity. With this project, young people are provided with accessibility to new technologies that encourages their creative development in all cultural activities.

<p>56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has been co-financing youth CSOs projects of youth clubs which are offering organization of leisure time. Youth club is considered to be a public space for the organization of leisure time of youth in the community in which it is based, providing a daily programme/activities/services for young people (at least 5 days or 30 hours per week), its activities are covering at least 3 different areas of interest of young people, providing services to young people, most of the programs are created and implemented by youth, the programme is aimed at non-formal education and support of the development of voluntary activities of young people. The project provides an opportunity for young people to organize their own leisure time, and a manager or person responsible for the club is also between 15 and 30 years old. Youth club cooperates with local governments, either by providing space for a club without charge, co-financing activities of the club or otherwise. In year 2010 and 2011, 77 projects of youth clubs were co-financed in total amount of HRK 3,511.064.00. Also, the Ministry of Culture is planning to intensify future cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports in all common areas of action which will affect the design of meaningful leisure time of youth, especially in the field of arts' education.</p>
<p>57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture strongly supports the organization of workshops, training, seminars and round tables (as from 2009, 172 have been co-financed) in all cultural activities with common goal of continuous development of knowledge and skills and their efficient implementation.</p>

<p>Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>It is important to highlight the entry into force of the Act on Foundation "New culture" (Official gazette, No. 90/11) in July 2011 aimed at promoting and developing civil society in Republic of Croatia in the field of contemporary art and culture. The role of the Foundation in providing technical and financial support to civil society in culture that encourage artistic creativity, cultural and youth activities, which further supports the creativity of young people. The Ministry of Culture is also continuously co-financing participation of young artists in international competitions and events, and, since year 2009, 105 have been co-financed. Since year 2009 the Ministry of Culture allocated HRK 16,443,731.09 for youth programs. According to the opinion of CYN, it is also important to stress that the Kultura Nova Foundation has grown completely from the grassroots effort of civil society organizations who have been advocating for this reforming measure in Croatian cultural policy. It is still to be known what funds will be allocated to the Kultura Nova. The adoption of the law has been well-received by the public, whereas it remains to be seen how the Foundation will function in the upcoming period.</p>
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E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

<p>58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Political, legal and professional requirements for the implementation of human rights education and sustainable development have been developed since 1999 when the Croatian Government adopted the first National Programme of Education for Human Rights. The implementation of such education is based on numerous national programs, strategies and action plans adopted by the Government and the Croatian Parliament. In the past ten years there were different modules and projects of concrete application of education for human rights developed based on interactive methods of teaching and learning, and projects to connect schools and local communities, including European and global dimension: • The module of education for peace and nonviolent conflict resolution, • The basics of democracy: government, justice, responsibility, privacy, • Project Citizen and Learning for Entrepreneurship, • Act in the classroom and simulation trials, • The development of identity and interculturality, • Volunteering learning of and development of Social Solidarity, • Human values and humanitarian law, • Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, • Elimination of prejudice to national minorities and ethnic minorities to the majority, • Module protection and promotion of gender equality, • The module education for Consumer Protection. The Croatian Parliament adopted National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia in 2009. In 2011 the Action Plan on Education for Sustai</p>
<p>59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Activities in this field are conducted through the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ratified in the Republic of Croatia in 2007); and through enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act. Additional measures will be foreseen in the Environmental Action Plan currently under development by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection according to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia. By financing participation in Youth in Action programme, the Government also encourages exchanging views among policy makers and young people, through specific actions of the programme intended for this particular purpose. However, Croatia still has not established a UN youth participation programme (UN Youth Delegates Programme) and according to the opinion of CYN the Government does not support the participation of young people in international UN fora. However, some steps have been made in this respect (consultations of the youth sector with the Office of the President).</p>
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection issues continuously various educational publications such as UNEP 'Tool kit on sustainable consumption and production', adapts UNEP 'Youth Xchange' brochure, etc. which raise awareness and enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns among young people. Additional measures in this field will be foreseen in the Sustainable Production and Consumption Action Plan, currently under development by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection as one of the implementation instruments for the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia.</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Again, by funding the participation of Croatia in the Youth in Action programme, cooperation with countries outside Europe has been intensified in respect to education and volunteering activities. Also, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has a bilateral arrangement with the Government of Canada - Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic Croatia and the Government of Canada on the mobility of young people, from 10 May 2011. The Programme within the agreement is named International Experience Canada. Through International Experience Canada, a person can apply for a temporary work permit to travel and work in Canada for up to one year. International Experience Canada enables Croatian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 to: stay in Canada for up to one year, work legally in Canada and experience another culture. According to the opinion of CYN, the Youth in Action programme does offer opportunities to volunteering activities in countries outside Europe. However, they will not be fully available to young people in Croatia until the full accession of Croatia to the EU.</p>
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>School, county and state festivals of projects of democratic citizenship and human rights, and festivals of simulated trials in collaboration of the school and judicial systems take place regularly since year 2000. All this is organized with the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, the Ombudsman for Children's Rights, the Office of Human Rights of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, judges of the Croatian Constitutional Court, County Court in Zagreb, representatives of CSOs and other partners. The festivals are, from the school to county and the state level, attended by over 1,000 students annually. Additionally, development cooperation activities were promoted via participation in the Youth in Action programme.</p>
<p>Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>According to the opinion of CYN, it should be mentioned that Croatian youth policy does not incorporate any measures or recommendations on global issues. The only document that connects Croatian youth with global issues (media, migration, education) is the National Programme on Alliance of Civilizations.</p>

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Structured dialogue with youth is very important for development of democracy, enhancing participation of youth in society etc. In line with this, current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, within International Year of Youth, co-financed a project of Croatian Youth Network (national youth council) on structured dialogue on youth unemployment. The project is carried out through focus groups in eight cities in the Republic of Croatia and on-line consultations. The results of the process of structured dialogue will be presented to decision makers on the conference in May/June 2012. It is important to note that most of the work in carrying out structured dialogue in Croatia was the responsibility and the initiative of the Croatian Youth Network. The Ministry did partially fund the action within the framework of the National Employment Plan (this measure was integrated into that public document mostly due to CYN's advocacy efforts). However, the CYN employed mostly its capacities and those of its member organizations. Related to the following question: National Working Group for the Structured Dialogue was established, but also within the framework of the project carried out by the CYN. It should be noted that Ministry has delegated one representative in the Working Group (together with other relevant public entities, research institutions and public bodies) and that engagement of their representative has so far has been rather proactive and helpful.</p>
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>No</p>

Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here	The Croatain Youth Network did establish the National Working Group and has been coordinating its work.
65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?	No
If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Please refer to the question No. 64.
66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?	No
Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Republic of Croatia has not established a National Working Group.
67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?	No

If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group? No

If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth? No

Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Republic of Croatia has not established a National Working Group, but representatives of competent ministries and institutions are members of National Working Group established by Croatian Youth Network.

70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?	No, we do not have any current plans for a follow-up
Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Republic of Croatia is starting implementation of the structured dialogue in this area, therefore the follow-up is planned for some future period. According to the opinion of Croatian Youth Network, the Government should be more adequately prepared to take timely initiative in this field, bearing in mind that the draft of final report of the consultation process will be completed and presented in May/June 2012 to take conclusions and recommendations from this process into account when amending measures of employment and social policies targeting young people.
71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer	Structured dialogue with youth is very important for development of democracy, enhancing participation of youth in society etc. In line with this, current Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, within International Year of Youth, co-financed a project of Croatian Youth Network (national youth council) on structured dialogue on youth unemployment.
72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?	No
If your answer is NO please elaborate	

73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?	The project mentioned in question No. 71. is carried out through focus groups in eight cities in the Republic of Croatia (Knin, Rijeka, Split, Zagreb, Osijek, Pula, Karlovac and Slatina) and on-line consultations. The results of the process of structured dialogue will be presented to decision makers on the conference in May/June 2012.
If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	
74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?	Yes
If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	
75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer.	Because it is enhancing participation of youth in society, and is adjusting actions implemented by the Government to the needs of youth in this specific area.
76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer.	It is offering space for open discussion between youth and decision makers, it enables all of them to exchange experience and examples of best practices from different countries, and also giving opportunity to influence European youth policy.

77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

In coming period we will work on development of the Structured dialogue

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1

In the early 2000's the ministry responsible for the development of entrepreneurship and crafts started to implement the project for young entrepreneurs with the aim of larger and more easily inclusion of young people in entrepreneurship. It was one of the incentive measures for small and medium sized entrepreneurs with the inclusion of young entrepreneurs taken by Government in order to promote and improve entrepreneurship in the Republic of Croatia. Other incentive measures in the field of sustainable development taken by the ministry responsible for the development of entrepreneurship and crafts are projects such as „Education for entrepreneurship“ and „Strengthening the competitiveness of SME's“. In this field the Ministry is cooperating with the Croatian Agency for Small Business. In the early 2000's the ministry responsible for the development of entrepreneurship and crafts started with implementation of the projects which aimed to facilitate entry and progress of future craftsmen within the labour market (the Ministry is cooperating with the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts and small and medium enterprises to award scholarships to trainees in crafts for which there is a market demand, and providing incentives to craftsmen and companies who are providing practical training for students).

Presentation of good practice # 2

CES - Croatian Employment Service, Central Office implemented the project „European experience in tourism management” funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme. The project was implemented in cooperation with the partner Vitalis GmbH. The main objective of the project was to support the participants in enhancing their knowledge and skills and obtaining work experience through practical training in the tourism and hospitality sector in Germany. The project targeted young people available for employment (age group 18-25) who were first time job seekers, have limited work experience and were registered as unemployed in the CES. The project "Network for development of youth entrepreneurship", funded by the CBC Programme Slovenia - Croatia with the participation of CES Regional, the main applicant PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities from Maribor and project partners Employment Service of Slovenia (Maribor, Celje and Sevnica), CES Regional Offices Krapina, Čakovec, and Varaždin and Zagorje Development Agency also started on 1st of April 2011 and will last for 24 months. General project objective is to establish a consistent environment for entrepreneurship, strengthening inter-regional youth participation and to contribute to greater economic growth and competitiveness of cross-border region.

Presentation of good practice # 3

In 2010 the Croatian Government has adopted the Regulation of the Analysis and Forecasting on Qualifications Needed on the Labour Market. Croatian Employment Service (CES) makes annual Recommendations for enrolment policy - to increase or decrease the number of pupils and students in certain educational programs as well as scholarships. To improve matching between supply and demand, CES has also recognized the importance of developing the instruments that classify skills and competences and enable these to be related to qualifications, occupations and job vacancies. It is in line with ESCO - the European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy - multilingual classification of occupations, skills, competences and qualifications. The first steps have been taken in order to develop such instruments.