

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 16 OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CROATIA

TO

**the list of issues (E/C.12/Q/CRO/1) to be taken up in connection with the consideration
of the initial report of Croatia
concerning the rights
referred to in articles 1-15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights (E/1990/5/Add.46)**

HR/CESCR/NONE/2001/3

A. Country and people

1. The latest census in Croatia was conducted in May 2001, so the newest population data are still not completely sorted out and cannot be submitted yet. With regard to other data requested, by the end of the current year the State Institute of Statistics will have completed the 2000 data. For the time being, we submit the 1999 data and non-complete 2000 data (tables in Enclosure 1).

General legal framework for the protection of human rights

2. The Government of the Republic of Croatia has launched integral National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Republic of Croatia. The preparation of the National Programme involves all bodies of the central government, judiciary, national committees, commissions and councils for particular human rights issues, county coordinations for human rights, NGOs, religious communities, associations of ethnic minorities, trade unions, and university experts.

It is expected that the National Programme will be completed by the end of the year 2001. The national policy for the promotion of equality is in the procedure of being adopted by the Croatian Parliament.

3. Application of the Covenant before the Croatian courts

Pursuant to Article 134 of the Croatian Constitution, ratified and published international treaties are directly implemented by the Croatian courts.

As an example, in its decision of 15 July 1998, No. U-I-262/1998; and U-I-322/1998, the Constitutional Court provides:

“Furthermore, the Constitutional Court finds that the provision of Article 16, para. 1 of the Law on the Establishment of the Public Postal and Telecommunications Company does not comply with the said provisions of Article 8 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These provisions are part of the national legal system of the Republic of Croatia and according to Article 134 of the Constitution in their legal power they prevail over national laws...

Non-compliance of the provisions of Article 16, para. 1 of the Law on the Establishment of the Public Postal and Telecommunications Company with the said provisions of international law also violates the principle of the rule of law under Article 3 of the Constitution as a fundamental value of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia”.

4. The Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette Nos. 65/91, 27/92, 34/92 – revised text, 68/95 and 51/2000) used to regulate the position of national minorities in Croatia under the conditions prevailing at a time when the position of some national minorities was inadequately defined in the light of the fact that the Republic of Croatia was in the process of becoming an independent State.

The passage of the Constitutional Law on Temporary Inapplicability of Some Provisions of Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 68/95) made the position of national minorities non-transparent. It was assessed at the time that the ethnic

composition was essentially changed, so a provision of the representational share of national minorities in the Croatian Parliament and at local government level was suspended. Thus the political representation of national minorities was reduced to a minimum and the principle of proportional representation was abandoned in relation to minorities with a share in population exceeding 8%. Also, it was assumed at the time when the said Constitutional Law on Temporary Inapplicability was passed that a census would soon take place and provide a basis for a new integral Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

The assumed international obligations and the need to eliminate the effects of the Constitutional Law on Temporary Inapplicability required urgent amendments to the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, which was done in May 2000 (Official Gazette No. 51/2000). When passing these amendments the Croatian Parliament requested the Government to draft a new integral Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

Meanwhile Constitutional Amendments have been adopted introducing some significant novelties in respect of national minorities. Thus Article 15, para. 2 of the Constitution now explicitly provides that the basic issues concerning minority rights are to be regulated under a Constitutional Law. Besides, Article 15, para. 3 of the Constitution provides a possibility within the electoral system for the members of national minorities to gain a special right, in addition to the general voting right, to elect their own representatives to the Croatian Parliament.

Anyway, it necessary to completely abandon the previous concept of the Constitutional Law now that Croatia is in a position basically different from that in which she was at the time when the Constitutional Law was passed. Besides, the position of national minorities is now largely defined both in national legislation and through international documents binding on Croatia, as well as through institutions that the Croatian citizens now have access to.

All the reforms made since the passage of the Constitutional Law require its integral rethinking as well as new solutions which will suit the reached degree of democratization and pave the way to real participation of national minorities in all segments and thus contribute to the creation of an open multicultural society.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

5. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia guarantees equality to the members of all ethnic minorities. The Constitution also provides that equality and protection of ethnic minorities' rights shall be regulated by Constitutional Law. Members of ethnic minorities are constitutionally guaranteed the freedom to express their ethnic affiliation, free use of their language and script, and cultural autonomy.

On the basis of the constitutional provision, full protection of the rights of the members of national minorities is guaranteed by the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and on the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities.

The provisions of the Constitutional Law prohibit any actions, instigation to, organisation or supporting of activities that could threaten the existence of an ethnic and national community or minority, provoke inter-ethnic hatred, lead to discrimination or the position of inequality.

This Law particularly protects the following rights of ethnic minorities: the right to comprehensive development, the right to develop relation with the mother nation, protection from any activity that can or could threaten their existence, identity, culture and religion, the right to public and private use of language and script and education, equal access to public offices, and access to media. The Constitutional Law also provides that units of local self-government can provide for the official use of two or more languages and scripts depending on the number of members of ethnic minorities, and in the municipalities where the members of an ethnic minority make up the majority of the local population, the language and script of such minority are in use along with the Croatian language and the Latin script. The Law guarantees the freedom of possession and use of signs and symbols of ethnic minorities, freedom to organise information and publishing activity in the language and script of national minority, freedom to establish cultural and other societies for the preservation of ethnic and cultural identity, protection of monuments and the whole of the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities, as well as education in the language and script of ethnic minorities. Members of ethnic minorities are provided a number of seats in the Parliament and the bodies of local self-government.

The Law also prescribes that the Republic of Croatia, in order to enable the best possible exercise of human rights and the rights of ethnic and national communities or minorities, shall cooperate and consult, directly or through mixed committees, with the governments and institutions of the interested states. To this end, the Republic of Croatia has signed agreements with Italy and Hungary, respectively, concerning the protection of the Croatian minority in these two countries, and the protection of the Italian or the Hungarian minorities, respectively, in the Republic of Croatia.

In order to secure the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutional Law, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has set up an Office for Ethnic Minorities.

The Office performs professional and other duties related to the implementation of the adopted policy of equality of ethnic minorities living in the Republic of Croatia, as well as to their rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Constitutional Law, proposes measures for the exercise of such rights, prepares proposals for providing funds for the exercise of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the members of national minorities, forwards proposals and gives opinions with regard to the financing of specific needs of the members of national minorities and their associations, and performs other duties.

From early September 1991 on, the professional staff of the Office was being put together to collect information from the bodies and institutions involved in the ethnic minorities issues. Simultaneously, all representatives of ethnic minorities and their organisations were informed about the jurisdiction and area of work of the Office.

Upon Croatia's gaining independence (1991), the following ethnic minorities had the status of ethnic minorities with organised institutions and associations: Italians, Czechs and Slovaks, Hungarians, Ruthenians, Ukrainians. The Jewish folklore society Miroslav Šalom Freiburger, the Serb cultural society Prosvjeta, Germans and Austrians.

In 1992, the Slovenes, Romanies, Macedonians, Bosniaks, Montenegrins and Albanians got organised. Today, most ethnic minorities have one central association, and the Hungarians, Serbs, Bosniaks, Germans and Romanies have two or more associations. The Government of the Republic of Croatia, having set up the Office for Ethnic Minorities, gradually installed the model for the exercise of ethnic rights by the members of ethnic minorities that ensures their identity preservation and development (ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious) both individually and collectively. The model includes the exercise of ethnic rights through authorised, regular institutions of the Republic of Croatia, professionally and administratively responsible for individual areas of social life for all citizens - Croats and members of ethnic minorities alike. Such model provides protection to and development of the cultural and ethnic identity of national minorities and their integration in the Croatian society.

Ethnic rights that cannot be secured through the activities of regular institutions are secured by funding cultural programmes of various NGOs and institutions of ethnic minorities, thus providing additional protection from assimilation.

The exercise of ethnic rights is secured for the members of ethnic minorities by organising, funding, coordinating and supervising it through:

- the Ministry of Education and Sport in the field of education,
- the Ministry of Culture in the field of libraries, setting up, equipping and operating of central libraries for the ethnic minorities, and in the field of activities of museums and archives and preservation of cultural heritage,
- the Ministry of Science and Technology in the field of social research,
- the National Broadcasting Company in the field of access to electronic media,
- the Office for Ethnic Minorities in the field of information (various printed publications), publishing, cultural amateurism, cultural manifestations, programmes that follow from bilateral agreements, and the special Programme for the Romanies.

At the proposal of the Office for Ethnic Minorities, the programmes of some thirty associations of ethnic minorities are financed from the national every year.

Italians - the Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports ethnic programmes of four NGOs of the Italian ethnic minority: Italian Union, EDIT Publishers, Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj, and the Italian Drama in Rijeka. The activities of these associations and institutions are financed by the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia 80:20, except for the Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj financed 70:30.

The Italian Union is the central association of the members of the Italian ethnic minority, established in Rijeka in 1943, and they conduct their activities in three cultural societies: Fratelanza from Rijeka, Marko Garbin from Rovinj, and Lino Mariani from Pula, as well as through 40 communities of the Italians in: Opatija, Labin, Buje, Cres, Novigrad, Krasica, Vodnjan, Fažana, Rijeka, Galijana, Livade, Grožnjan, Lovran, Mali Lošinj, Momjan, Baderna, Motovun, Vrsar, Poreč, Buzet, Pazin, Badljevin, Pula, Rovinj, Savudrija, Babica, Umag, Labinci, Šišan, Šterna, Zrnje, Split, Tar, Bale, Brtonigla, Nova Vas, Višnjan, Vižinada, Zadar, and Kutina.

EDIT Publishers from Rijeka publishes the following printed publications for the members of the Italian ethnic minority in the Republic of Croatia, in Slovenia and for the subscribers in Italy (on the basis of cooperation between the Italian Union from Rijeka and the Popular University in Trieste): daily newspaper La Voce del Popolo that first appeared back in 1944, children's magazine Arcobaleno established in 1948 as Il Pioniere, Panorama magazine established in 1952, literary quarterly La Battana established in 1964, and pedagogical review Scuola Nostra that appears annually. Another field of activity of EDIT is publishing textbooks in Italian language for schools.

Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj conducts historical, sociological and cultural research. The Government of the Republic of Croatia co-finances 70% of the wages of 10 employees. The Centre has been active for 30 years now, and its library has the status of depository library of the Council of Europe since 1966, with more than 90,000 titles.

Italian Drama is a professional theatre of the members of the Italian ethnic minority with the Ivan Zajc National Theatre in Rijeka, and it includes opera, ballet and drama.

Croatia and Italy have signed the Agreement on the Protection of the Croatian Minority in Italy and of the Italian Minority in Croatia, so programmes concerning the Italian ethnic minority that follow from the bilateral agreement are also financed along with the usual programmes in the field of information, publishing, non-professional cultural activities and cultural events.

Czechs - The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports ethnic programmes of two NGOs of the Czech minority: the Union of the Czechs in the Republic of Croatia, and the Jednota Publishers from Daruvar.

The Union was established in 1944 as the Union of the Czechs and Slovaks, and was active as a single organisation for the Czech and Slovak ethnic minorities until 1992. When their respective mother states dissociated, the Union also split into two ethnic associations, so that from June 1992 on the Union of the Czechs gathers the members of the Czech ethnic minority.

The Union includes 22 cultural societies: Daruvar, Èeska obec Bjelovar, Daruvarski Brestovac, Dežanovac, Doljani, Hercegovac, Gornji Daruvar, Ivanovo Selo, Jazvenik, Kaptol, Konèanica, Ljudevit selo, Veliki and Mali Zdenci, Meduriæ, Prekopakra, Zagreb, Golubinjak, Karlovac-Šibovac, Donji Sređani, Rijeka, Lipovac, Slavonski Brod.

The Czech ethnic minority has its own publishing house, Jednota, established in 1946, with a seat in Daruvar, that publishes the weekly Jednota, the monthly Detsky koutek, and two annual publications Èesky lidovy kalendar and Prehled. The publications programme includes, on the average, two projects per year.

Slovaks - The Slovak ethnic minority separated from the Union of the Czechs and Slovaks in 1992 and registered their own NGO, the Slovak Central Cultural Association, with its seat in Našice.

The Association changed its name to the Union of Slovaks in 1998. They are organised in four folklore societies: Ivan Brnjik Slovak from Jelisavci, Braæa Banas from Josipovci, Franjo Strapaè from Markovac Našièki, and Ludovit Štur from Ilok, and singing, drama, language and dance groups in the branches in Našice, Jurjevac, Zagreb, Rijeka, Soljani, Lipovljani, Osijek and Međuriæ.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports the Slovak ethnic minority programmes in the fields of information, publishing, cultural non-professional activities and events. The Slovaks publish their monthly Pramen.

Hungarians - The Hungarian ethnic minority established their association in 1949. It promoted and developed the cultural identity of Hungarians in the Republic of Croatia. The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports two NGOs of the Hungarians: Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia from Osijek, and the Union of Hungarian Associations from Zagreb.

The Democratic Union of Hungarians from Osijek was established in 1993 to promote non-professional cultural activities and events, and it gathers several Hungarian cultural associations, with a publishing programme in Hungarian. Since 1996, it publishes the weekly Uj Magyar Kepes Ujsag, the monthly Horvatorszagi Magyarsag, children's magazine Barkoca and the annual publication Rovotkak, as well as one or two fiction or history books per year.

The Union of Hungarian Associations from Zagreb gathers several folklore societies and attempts in revival of the traditional association that ceased in late 1990s.

The relations within the Hungarian ethnic minority were bad even before that, particularly between the leaders of interest group, and the war only added to these misunderstandings.

Croatia and Hungary signed the agreement on the protection of the Croatian minority in Hungary and of the Hungarian minority in Croatia, so programmes concerning the Hungarian ethnic minority that follow from the bilateral agreement are also financed along with the usual programmes in the field of information, publishing, non-professional cultural activities and cultural events.

Ruthenians and Ukrainians - The Ruthenian and Ukrainian ethnic minority are organised in the Union of Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the Republic of Croatia that was established in 1968, with its seat in Vukovar. The Union celebrated its 30th Anniversary by returning to the reintegrated area of the Republic of Croatia - the Croatian Danube Region.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports the programmes in the fields of information, publishing, non-professional cultural activities and events.

The information programme includes the publishing of the quarterly Nova dumka, a bi-annual magazine Vjenèiæ, as well as two works per year one of which is the Almanac and the other is usually related to a celebration of an anniversary.

The Ruthenian and Ukrainian ethnic minority has nine traditional cultural societies, some already 30 years old: Osif Kostelnik from Vukovar, Jakim Hardi from Petrovci, Jakim Golja from Mikleuševci, Ruthenian and Ukrainian Society from Zagreb, Karpati from Lipovljani, the folklore societies of the Ruthenians and Ukrainians from Osijek and Vinkovci, Ukrajina from Slavonski Brod, and Andrej Pelili from Šumèæa.

Serbs - The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports various ethnic programme of several NGOs of the Serb ethnic minority: Serb Cultural Society of Prosvjeta from Zagreb, Serb Democratic Forum from Zagreb, Joint Municipal Council from Vukovar, and the Serb Popular Council from Zagreb. There used to be several other associations that eventually joined one of the existing associations or ceased to work.

The central and the longest-standing association of the Serb ethnic minority is the Serb Cultural Society *Prosvjeta* from Zagreb, established in 1944. This Society promotes and fosters the cultural identity of the Serbs through programmes of non-professional cultural activities and events divided into 24 sub-committees and 15 cultural societies. The oldest among them is the singing society Javor from Vukovar.

Prosvjeta publishes a bi-monthly *Prosvjeta*, the children's monthly *Bijela pèela*, and three annual publications: SCC *Prosvjeta* Yearbook, SCC *Prosvjeta* Calendar, and *Artefacts*. They also publish about ten books of poetry, literature and history of Serbs in the Republic of Croatia each year.

The Serb Democratic Forum from Zagreb was established in 1994 and publishes its monthly *Identitet*, mostly aimed at the returnees.

The Joint Municipal Council was established on 29 August 1997, with its seat in Vukovar, Borovo Naselje - Worker's House, and it is registered as an association. The Council is an association that coordinates the interests of the Serb ethnic community in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srijem, in areas of the Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem counties, respectively.

The Government financially supports the programmes of professional assistance in the civil confidence building process to promote mutual understanding and confidence by way of the dialogue through the institutions of the system.

In 1998, an Agreement between the Office for Ethnic Minorities, the international community and the Joint Municipal Council was concluded to finance programmes in the amount of:

- 1,600,000 HRK in the year 1998
- 1,400,000 HRK in the year 1999
- 1,100,000 HRK in the year 2000
- 1,000,000 HRK in the year 2001

According to the report of the Joint Municipal Council, this association has 20 employees.

The Serb Popular Council, established on 9 April 1999 with its head office in Zagreb, is the roof organisation of the Serb ethnic minority that jointly publish the weekly *Novosti*.

Members of the ethnic minorities of the **Germans and Austrians** have 5 associations: Union of Germans and Austrians - Head Office in Osijek, Union of Germans in Croatia, German Ethnic Community, Union of Austrians in Croatia, and the Popular Union of Germans in Croatia. Last year, the Union of Germans, German Ethnic Community and the Union of Austrians in Croatia formed a joint roof organisation, the Union of German and Austrian Associations, in Osijek, leaving it open to other associations to join in.

An important role in the promotion and maintenance of the German and Austrian identity plays the bi-monthly *Deutsches Wort*.

The above-mentioned associations organise folklore and cultural events with the singing choirs from Vukovar, Pakrac and Osijek, and with the *Agram* dance group. Each year, there is a scientific seminar on the Germans and Austrians in the Croatian Cultural Circle.

Jews - The Government of the Republic of Croatia financially supports the programmes of the Jewish Community and the Cultural Society Miroslav Šalom Freiburger from Zagreb, as well as the singing choir Lira.

The Jewish Community gathers the most members of the Jewish ethnic minority, organises various information, publishing, educational and cultural activities, with the publications of Ha-kol, Novi Omanut and the magazine Voice, and they publish two books each year.

Most cultural activities are conducted by the cultural society Miroslav Šalom Freiburger and the singing choir Lira. Within MŠF, there is also the dance group Or Šemeš and the band Žozeri that present traditional Jewish dances and songs. The singing choir Lira has been active for more than 40 years now, particularly taking care of the musical heritage of the Croatian Jews.

Slovenes - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported ethnic programmes of three cultural associations of the Slovenes that are active within the Union of Slovene Associations in the Republic of Croatia: Cultural and Educational Society Slovenski dom in Zagreb, Cultural and Educational Society Bazovica in Rijeka, Cultural and Educational Society Triglav in Split. These associations organise their folklore and cultural activities in mixed singing choirs, exhibitions and celebrations of anniversaries of historical events or personalities.

They publish the bulletin Planika and the magazine Novi odmevi that appears every four months.

Albanians - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financial supported the programmes of information, non-professional cultural activity and the programme of cultural events of the Albanian NGO called the Union of Albanians in the Republic of Croatia, with its seat in Zagreb.

The Union publishes a monthly information paper Informatori, as well as one book per year.

Beside the Union of the Albanians in the Republic of Croatia, there is also the Albanian cultural society Shkendija from Zagreb that fosters the Albanian folklore and music through its folklore, drama and music sections.

The Union of the Albanians in the Republic of Croatia organises exhibitions and anniversaries concerning the life and work of outstanding Albanian personalities important for the preservation of their cultural, religious and linguistic identity.

Bosniaks - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported the non-professional cultural activities of the cultural society Preporod that changed its name in 1996 to Cultural Society of the Bosniaks in Croatia Preporod, Zagreb. Since 1998, financial support has been rendered to the non-professional cultural activity of the Bosniak Ethnic Community in Zagreb. These associations engage in the affirmation of the cultural identity of the Bosniaks on the territory of the Republic of Croatia by studying the historical, literary, artistic and social development of the Bosniaks, they cooperate with the authorities and cultural and scientific institutions and organise exhibitions, cultural and artistic events, round tables etc.

The Cultural Society of the Bosniaks in Croatia, Preporod, publishes the bi-monthly Behar, 10 issues of the magazine Behar Journal, and a semi-annual magazine for children

Jasmin, plus three fiction books a year. There are also the non-professional folklore groups: singing choir Bulbul, folklore group Preporod, and theatre group Preporod.

The Bosniak Ethnic Community of Croatia primarily publishes two books per year and, like the Cultural Society of the Bosniaks in Croatia Preporod, organises cultural events.

Romanies - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported the information, non-professional cultural activities and events of the following Romanies' associations: Union of Associations of the Romanies of Croatia from Virovitica, and the Union of the Romanies of Croatia from Zagreb that is active since 1997.

These associations publish two papers, *Romengo Akharipe* and *Romengo Æææipi*, one in Baiasa and Croatian, and one in Cacipi and Croatian.

To date, 19 Romanies' associations have been registered at national level, of which 14 in the City of Zagreb, while others are active locally.

Since 1998, the Government of the Republic of Croatia also financially supports the Special Programme for the Romanies, because it proved that numerous Romanies' associations can initiate but cannot effect solution to the complex issues relating to the life of the Romanies population. For this reason, the authorities, in cooperation with Romanies' associations, funded a specific programme and began to prepare a National Programme for the Romanies.

Special Programme for the Romanies

The Government of the Republic of Croatia allocated HRK 406,728 from the national budget for the Programme of inclusion of the Romanies' children in the system of education of the Republic of Croatia. These funds helped the Ministry of Education and Sport organise two seminars for the Romany teaching assistants, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to organise two seminars for the Romany social welfare mediators. This way, a systematic process of assistance to the Romany population began by including the Romanies themselves in the processes of education and social welfare. Besides, installation of potable water plumbing in the Romany settlement of Lonèarevo near Metekovec (Èakovec area) was also financed.

In 1999, a sum of HRK 840,000 was allocated for the funding of the Special Programme for the Romanies.

In the Koprivnica-Krževci County, an amount of HRK 250,000 was allocated for connecting low-voltage electricity cable at the Romany settlement near Drnje, and the County undertook to spend another HRK 250,000 to tidy up this settlement.

In the Sisak-Moslavina County, an amount of HRK 150,000 was allocated to tidy up the Romanies settlement at Capraška poljana in Sisak.

In the City of Zagreb, an amount of HRK 30,000 was allocated from the national budget for the preparation of an urban development project for the Romanies settlements (Struge, Kozari putevi and Plinarsko naselje), as well as HRK 80,000 for the cleaning of the mentioned Romanies settlements, under the condition that the City of Zagreb should allocate the necessary additional funds from its budget.

An amount of HRK 230,000 was remitted to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to assist the Romanies settlements in the City of Zagreb.

For the completion of the Romanies kindergarten in Novska, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was allocated HRK 100,000.

For the funding of the Special Programme for the Romanies in 2000, an amount of HRK 920,000 was allocated.

The Međimurje County was allocated HRK 150,000 as participation in the completion of the Romanies' settlements.

The City of Zagreb was allocated HRK 100,000 for the preparation of the project for a Romany settlement.

The Sisak-Moslavina County was allocated HRK 150,000 for the introduction of electricity and other service installations in the Romanies settlements of Capraška poljana and Palanjki.

The Varaždin County was remitted an amount of up to HRK 200,000 for the reconstruction of the Romany settlement near Strmec Podravski.

The Koprivnica-Križevci County was remitted an amount of HRK 100,000 for the completion of the settlement at Drnje.

The Ministry of Education and Sport was remitted an amount of HRK 70,000 for scholarships to be granted to Romanies' pupils and students.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was remitted an amount of HRK 80,000 for the accommodation of the Romanies pupils in boarding homes.

The Municipality of Grubišno polje was remitted HRK 70,000 for the construction of street sewage at the Romanies settlement of Stalovica (Bjelovar-Bilogora County). For the funding of the Special Programme for the Romanies in 2001, an amount of HRK 1,034,000 was allocated.

Montenegrins - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported the programmes of information, non-professional cultural activities and events of the non-governmental organisation of the Montenegrins, the Ethnic Community of the Montenegrins of Croatia in Zagreb.

The Montenegrins in the Republic of Croatia promote their cultural activities through their cultural societies and the Community who promote the tradition and achievements of the Montenegrins, particularly those who with their work partake of the Croatian culture.

The Ethnic Community of Montegrins of Croatia publishes a bimonthly Facta Montenegrina and, from this year on, the monthly Crnogorski glasnik, as well as two books per year. The Community organises art exhibitions in Zagreb, Rijeka, Varaždin, Rovinj and Koprivnica, and celebrates important anniversaries through eight associations.

Macedonians - Since 1992, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported the programmes of information, publishing, non-professional cultural activities and events of the Union of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia.

The Union publishes a quarterly Makedonski glas in the Macedonian, as well as one book per year.

They also organise exhibitions, concerts by folklore groups and bands through five Macedonian cultural societies: MKD Ilinden in Rijeka, MKD Krste Misirkov in Zagreb, MKD Braæa Miladinovci in Osijek, MKD Makedonija in Split, and MKD Koèò Racin in Pula.

The Croatian state encourages cooperation between the members of different ethnic, linguistic, cultural and other communities. One example is the cooperation among the associations of various ethnic minorities in the preparation of the musical and theatrical event

titled Cultural Activity of Ethnic Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, held on 24 January 1998, on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 7th Anniversary of the international recognition of the Republic of Croatia. In 1998, the associations of ethnic minorities held their central cultural events on the occasion of the same anniversaries, and in this members of various ethnic minorities took part. Folklore and music of the ethnic minorities were presented, as well as an exhibition showing the publishing activities of ethnic minorities together with the catalogue for the period from 1991 to 1997. In the course of the year each ethnic minority organised celebrations of the above mentioned anniversaries, with the presentation of their own cultural activities, respectively. The same event was organised in 1999 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe and the third Anniversary of Croatia's admission to this European organisation. In the year 2000, there was an exhibition titled Traditional Musical Instruments of Ethnic Minorities on the occasion of celebrating the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms, and the European i.e. World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance. This year, the 4th event of the Cultural Presentation of Ethnic Minorities in the Republic of Croatia is also scheduled as a part of the campaign of sensibilisation to the promotion of multiethnic society and democratic citizenship (Link Diversity) and on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the international recognition of Croatia.

The Office for Ethnic Minorities cooperates well with international institutions, particularly with the Council of Europe. A seminar on the Role of Minority NGOs in the Exercise of the Rights of Ethnic Minorities was held within the Joint Programme of the European Commission (PHARE) and the Council of Europe in Zagreb on 10th and 11th June 1999. The seminar was attended by 10 European countries with a total of sixty participants. In the year 2000, the Council of Europe entrusted the Office for Ethnic Minorities with the organisation of two seminars: Minorities - Bridge between Cultures, (Opatija, 18-19 May 2000), and the Round Table on Integration (26-27 June 2000). Within the Stability Pact, there was a seminar on the Legal Aspects of the Rights of Ethnic Minorities (4-5 December 2000) attended by 14 European countries and a total of 110 representatives of ethnic minorities and Governments of individual countries. A book is being prepared that will include the seminar report together with numerous documents on the rights of ethnic minorities. This year, three seminars organised by the Council of Europe have been scheduled, of which the seminar on Romanies for civil servants has already taken place in Zagreb on 8-9 June. The second seminar on Romanies will take place in July, under participation of the Romanies' associations. Late this year, a seminar will be held in which representatives of the Council of Europe, state authorities and the Romanies' associations will take part.

The cultural heritage of ethnic minorities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, within integral protection of cultural heritage of the Republic of Croatia.

Museums and ethnographic collections are important institutions for collecting, preserving and presenting the cultural heritage and identity of the members of ethnic minorities. In the museums of the Republic of Croatia there is a rich collection of insufficiently explored ethnographic material relating to ethnic minorities, and associations of ethnic minorities themselves have important collections, while others are organised independently.

In the area that was occupied during the Independence War, cultural heritage had been damaged and neglected, and funds had to be invested in its reconstruction. The following collections were destroyed and have been renewed: ethnographic collection in Ivanovo Selo, permanently transferred into the ownership of the Museum of the City of Bjelovar by the Union of Czechs in September 1995; ethnographic collection of the Hungarian minority in Hrastin, and the ethnographic collection of the Ruthenians-Ukrainians in Petrovci (owned by the Museum of the City of Vukovar).

Members of the Serb ethnic minority have a centuries old sacral facility, Gomirje monastery, in Gorski kotar, whose reconstruction and revitalisation is professionally conducted by the Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Karlovac. For the protection of the cultural heritage of the Serbs, the Government of the Republic of Croatia allocated HRK 200,000 to the Ministry of Culture and the Association of Serb Organisations for the reconstruction of the Gomirje monastery. In 1998, the Government of the Republic of Croatia provided additional HRK 110,000 for refurbishing the library and the archive of the Gomirje monastery.

Members of the Jewish ethnic minority have a considerable number of the works of art and artistic craftsmanship, mostly sacral objects from the 19th and early 20th century, in the building of the Jewish Community Centre in Zagreb. There is also the beginning of the permanent gallery of paintings and sculptures relating to Jewish themes or created by Jewish artists.

In 1997, the Government of the Republic of Croatia allocated USD 292,331 to cover the cost of the court proceedings in New York concerning the return of the art treasure of the Jewish Community Centre in Dubrovnik. In 1998, the proceedings were completed and the treasure returned to the Jewish Community Centre in Dubrovnik.

In readjusting the 1998 national budget, the Republic of Croatia provided HRK 1,200,000 for the programme of reconstruction of cultural institutions of ethnic minorities in the areas affected by the war, of which HRK 163,000 to the Czechs, HRK 376,000 to the Ruthenians and Ukrainians, and HRK 661,000 to the Hungarians.

In 1999, the allocated funds for the programme of reconstruction of the cultural institutions of the national minorities amounted to HRK 260,000 for the Hungarians, HRK 50,000 for the Slovaks, HRK 250,000 for the Serbs, and HRK 70,000 for the Jews to adapt the Jewish cemetery in Virovitica.

Libraries of ethnic minorities

The model of central libraries for ethnic minorities in the Republic of Croatia has been in place since 1990. It enables the members of ethnic minorities in our country to use books, information, videos, musical recordings and any other data, in the language of their respective minorities, within the system of the Croatian public libraries.

This model began with books in Hungarian in Beli Manastir, to be followed by the exchange of books between the libraries that needed books in Croatian for Croats in Hungary i.e. the books in Hungarian for the Hungarians in Croatia. Then Petar Preradoviæ library in Bjelovar followed suit with books for the members of the Czech minority, because the cultural societies of Èeska beseda from Daruvar and Zagreb had sizeable collections of books, and their members

wanted, beside the tradition of reading and preserving books, to have better organisation in the library and quicker access to the material, as well as modern materials from the home state of their people.

Pursuant to the decision of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the exercise and funding of the exercise of ethnic minorities' rights in the Republic of Croatia, the National and University Library has organised the following libraries in accordance with the central libraries model:

For the members of the ethnic minority of the Italians - the Central Library of the Italians (5500 books) at the City of Pula Library and Reading Room. The library organises meetings with writers, publishes the bulletin with information on newly acquired books and cooperates with the libraries and cultural institutions of the Italian Republic. A considerable number of books can be found at the Italian communities. The Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj has its own library with 87,000 books. In October 1995, the library of the Centre became depository library of the Council of Europe.

For the members of the Czech ethnic minority - the Central Library of the Czechs at the Petar Preradović Popular Library in Bjelovar cooperates with the Czech libraries in the network of Daruvar, Dežanovac and Zagreb. The library has 4200 books and permanent columns in the local newspapers and on the Bjelovar Radio Station. It organises literary recitals and in 1997 it actively participated in the event titled the Month of Croatian Book as well as in the spring seminary for school librarians in Crikvenica. The library has 6500 books in Daruvar, and Eeska beseda in Zagreb has 7000 books.

For the members of the ethnic minority of Hungarians: Central Library of the Hungarians relocated from Baranja to the City and University of Osijek Library. This library is to return to Beli Manastir. It has 27000 titles of the books recorded, and data are being gathered on the books in the places affected by the war.

The Union of Hungarians in Croatia donated books to the elementary schools where Hungarian is taught or where there is bilingual teaching.

The Hungarian cultural society Nepkor has a library with 2235 books.

The Hungarian cultural society Ady Endre in Zagreb has a library with about 2500 books in Hungarian. According to the estimates of the Hungarian Department of the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, these books are very valuable. A computer record of the books is being prepared.

The Democratic Union of Hungarians of Croatia in Osijek has about 2000 books from the donation of the Republic of Hungary that have not been included in the catalogue yet. In Rijeka, the Union has a library with about 1000 books obtained through donation from Hungary.

For the members of the ethnic minority of Ruthenians-Ukrainians - the Central Library is located at the Ante Starčević Library of the City of Zagreb (temporarily, until they return to Vukovar). The library began to work with about 750 books. In 1997, they organised several literary recitals.

The central library of the Slovenes is located in the City of Karlovac Library of Ivan Goran Kovačić, and it has 2033 books. They publish a bulletin with newly acquired books and have duly celebrated the Day of the Slovene Book. They cooperate with the libraries in Novo Mesto and Ljubljana. The cultural and educational society Slovenski dom in Zagreb has a library with about 5500 books i.e. 4200 titles. Most of the books are in Slovene, but there are some in Croatia, Serbian, German, French and other languages.

The Serb Cultural Society Prosvjeta provides, in cooperation with the National and University Library, premises for the Central Library and Reading Room for the members of the Serb ethnic minority. It has 12,600 books. In 1997, a pilot project for the settlements with the majority of Serb population in Gomirje, Moravice, Jasenak and Drežnica was launched. Two exhibitions and five lectures were organised in cooperation with the Serbian and Montenegrin Literatures Department of the Faculty of Philosophy, as well as two book presentations.

For the development of the library network for the members of the Serb ethnic minority, the Government of the Republic of Croatia allocated additional HRK 100,000 to the National and University Library and the Union of Serb Organisations in 1997.

The Central Library for the Albanians is in the Bogdan Ogrizoviæ Library and Reading Room in Zagreb. It has 680 books listed in its catalogue. In cooperation with the National and University Library they organised an exhibition of books about Mother Theresa in 1997.

For the national minority of Slovaks there are Slovak libraries within elementary schools with teaching in Slovak: Ivan Brnjik Slovak in Jelisavac, Dora Pejaèeviæ in Našice, Josip Kozarac in Josipovac.

The books for these libraries are obtained and supplemented by donations from the Slovak Republic through the mediation of the Central Slovak Cultural Association in Našice that owns a substantial collection of books. The organisation of the Central Library of the Slovaks at the Croatian Popular Library and Reading Room in Našice is underway.

For the members of the ethnic minorities of the Germans and Austrians, there is the Austrian Reading Room at the City and University of Osijek Library, with 5648 books. The reading room has 142 users, and the most demand is for the fiction and professional Austrian literature. Two exhibitions were organised. The German Ethnic Union in Osijek has about 950 books but lacks space for a library. The setting up of a library of the Association of Austrians in Croatia from Zagreb, with 350 books, is underway.

For the members of the Jewish ethnic minority there is a library with the Jewish Community Centre in Zagreb with 18,000 books, old and current periodicals, an archive with 5000 documents and the beginning of the collections of the non-literary materials (videotapes, audiotapes). The library of the Jewish Community Centre in Zagreb is the only Jewish library in Croatia. More than 10 titles of the current Jewish periodicals come from Israel and the world. Within the library, there is a special collection of Hebraeicae. Cro-lists and review of the whole stock is underway. One part of the library is reference library Lavoslav Šik with the oldest book titled Šuhan Aruh (Table Laid) by Jozef Car, printed in 1564-1567.

The cultural society of Bosniaks in Croatia, Preporod, has a library with more than 3000 books that grows from year to year. This year, about 150 new and old books and Bosniak magazines have been purchased. The library offers Croatian and Bosniak daily newspapers and weekly magazines.

The Union of Macedonians in the Republic of Croatia obtained a number of books from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia but has not organised a library for the members of the Macedonian ethnic minority.

The National and University Library has purchased a large collection of books - school reading - for the School in Zagreb attended by the children of the members of the Romanies ethnic community.

The stock at all these libraries varies, but all libraries increase their stock mostly in two ways: through donations (Governments, other libraries, associations, individuals from mother countries and Croatia), and through the funding by the Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities via the National and University Library.

The activities and programmes of these central libraries of the ethnic minorities differ and are meant for all ages of the users: publishing bulletins with newly acquired books, lending to and exhibitions at other places, activities with the youngest, school reading in the native tongue, celebrating traditions and customs of mother nations, meetings with writers and other artists etc.

Members of ethnic minorities who do not have their central libraries currently use the libraries at their associations.

Central library is organised for the members of those ethnic minorities that according to the 1991 census numbered at least 5000 persons, with the professional care and funds provided from the national budget of the Republic of Croatia.

The Ministry of Science and Technology provides funds for the projects of social research in ethnic minorities. The proposed projects are evaluated by the experts of the Ministry of Science and Technology pursuant to the Rules that are used to evaluate all projects within the National Scientific and Research Project. To date, Serb, Hungarian, Romanies', German and Austrian projects have been funded.

6. Pursuant to the Secondary Education Act, all pupils after they finish the elementary school enrol in the secondary schools under the same conditions. The pupils are enrolled on the basis of the decision on the Enrolment of Pupils in Secondary Schools, and on the basis of the Decision on the Elements and Criteria for the Selection of Candidates to be Enrolled in the 1st Grade of Secondary Schools in a given school year.

The pupils are only listed with regard to their performance and results in competitions and the additional elements prescribed by the Decision, and the pupils are required to submit adequate documentation.

The lists created per type of secondary school can be called eligibility lists following solely from the performance of the pupil, and cannot in any respect be called or considered discriminatory.

Article 3: Equal rights for women and men

7. The share of women in leading positions in public offices is shown in the tables below.

WOMEN IN LEADING POSITIONS IN PUBLIC SERVICES - SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY LEVEL	TOTAL	WOMEN	%
UNIVERSITIES	13	2	15.38
POLYTECHNICS	4	1	25.00
FACULTIES	220	41	18.64
ACADEMIES	13	0	0.00
TRAINING COLLEGES	25	10	40.00
TOTAL	275	54	19.64

PUBLIC INSTITUTES	TOTAL	WOMEN	%
	36	9	25.00

OTHER SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS	TOTAL	WOMEN	%
CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS	2	0	0.00
NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY	3	1	33.33
LEXICOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE	2	0	0.00
CARNET	3	2	66.67
UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER	2	1	50.00
TOTAL	323	67	20.74

In the Government of the Republic of Croatia there are three women, one of them a Deputy Prime Minister, and two are Ministers.

Among the top officials (deputy ministers, assistant ministers and secretaries of the ministries) women account for 31.56% (45 women out of 144 officials). Five out of 17 Deputy Ministers are women (29.41%), 11 out of 17 Secretaries of Ministries are women (64.7%), and 29 out of 120 Assistant Ministers (24.1%) are women.

Article 6: Right to work**8 and 10. Implementation of the measures of active employment policy:**

MEASURE 1 - Co-financing employment of younger persons (up to 30 years of age) with no previous work experience

The Croatian Employment Bureau co-financed 42% of the labour costs for a 12-month period, under the condition that the employed person had to remain employed twice as long. In case of the employment of registered unemployed persons with the legal obligation to internship, the co-financing obligation and the obligation to keep the person employed are determined by the legally prescribed duration of internship of max. 24 months.

In the implementation of Measure 1 in the period from 23 April 1998 until 31 August 2000, the employment of 7540 persons without previous work experience was co-financed.

MEASURE 2 - Co-financing first employment or training

Employment of young persons registered as unemployed is co-financed within Measure 2 through introductory employment or training programmes by subsidising the contributions on the wages gross amount for 12 months, provided that the employer keeps such employee at work for twice as long.

By implementing Measure 2 from 23 April 1998 to 31 August 2000, the employment of 7431 persons was co-financed.

MEASURE 3 – Co-financing programmes for professional training, re-training and additional training.

In order to provide workforce for the occupations that are in high demand on the market, and to reduce the number of unemployed persons, the National Employment Agency conducted programmes for professional training, re-training and additional training for designated and non-designated employers. These training activities may be conducted with employers who change to new production programmes or higher technology in order to preserve the existing jobs and avoid that employees who no longer meet the requirements of the new job should become unemployed.

The above mentioned training activities included 3119 persons from 23 April 1998 to 31 August 2000.

MEASURE 4 – Co-financing of employment of demobilised war veterans, and of the children and spouses of the missing and killed veterans.

This measure included all unemployed veterans, unemployed children and spouses of the killed and missing veterans. The National Employment Agency co-financed 70% of the gross wage

amount and contributions on gross wage in the first year of business operation, and 50% of such amounts in the second year of business operation.

The co-financing through Measure 4 included 3457 persons from 23 April 1998 to 31 August 2000.

Number of persons included in the active employment policy measures from 23 April to 31 August 2000.

MEASURE	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED
MEASURE 1	7540
MEASURE 2	7431
MEASURE 3	3119
MEASURE 4	3457
TOTAL	21547

Funds invested in the active employment policy measures from 23 April to 31 August 2000.

MEASURE	AMOUNT SPENT (IN HRK)
MEASURE 1	92,404,175.61
MEASURE 2	74,009,224.03
MEASURE 3	22,308,747.14
MEASURE 4	118,880,510.70
TOTAL	307,602,657.48

9. From January to June 2001, the National Employment Bureau noted an average of 380,797 unemployed persons per month, which is 8.1% more than in the same period last year. From this number, 101,763 persons (26.7%) were looking for a job for the first time, which is 4.3% more than last year. There were 202,386 (53.1%) unemployed women, that is 9.5 % more than in the same period last year.

The trends in the unemployment noted per individual months can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Unemployment figures noted for the period from January to June 2000 and 2001.

Month	2000	2001	Index 01/00	Chain Index	Women 2000	% Women 2000	Women 2001	% Women 2001	Women Index	Chain Index
JAN	350,707	386,168	110.1	102.6	183,562	52.3	203,860	52.8	111.1	101.9
FEB	355,272	388,861	109.5	100.7	186,854	52.6	205,396	52.8	109.9	100.8
MAR	357,711	388,747	108.7	100.0	187,738	52.5	206,454	53.1	110.0	100.5
APR	356,226	382,771	107.5	98.5	187,028	52.5	204,098	53.3	109.1	98.9
MAY	350,996	373,352	106.4	97.5	184,308	52.5	199,522	53.4	108.3	97.8
JUN	342,098	34,879	106.7	97.7	179,247	52.4	194,983	53.4	108.8	97.7
AVER.	352,168	380,796	108.1	99.5	184,790	52.5	202,386	53.1	109.5	99.6

Thus, in the period under scrutiny, the highest number of the unemployed noted by the National Employment Bureau was in February (388,861), and the lowest number was noted in June (364,879), which means that the unemployment trends were normal i.e. with seasonal oscillations. The unemployment in our country usually reaches its peak in the winter because of the "slump" in the industries that employ the largest number of seasonal workers – primarily hotels and restaurants, construction business, agriculture, as well as some processing industry branches. The lowest unemployment is noted in the summer owing to the increased seasonal employment. Normally, the largest number of unemployed is noted in March (this year, it was one month earlier), and the lowest in June.

In the period from January to June 2001, the average unemployment figures included: 14,747 persons with university education (3.8%), 11,908 persons with college education (3.1%), 91,622 persons with secondary level education (24.1%), 131,148 skilled and highly skilled workers (34.8%), 58,578 semi-skilled and low-skilled workers (15.1%) and 72,794 unskilled workers (19.1%). Compared to the same period of the year 2000, the largest increase in unemployment was noted for semi-skilled workers (13.3%), while the lowest increase was noted for unskilled workers (4.0%).

In the period under scrutiny, the unemployed population included a monthly average of 33,465 (or 8.8%) persons who became unemployed because their employers ceased to operate. Compared to the same period in 2000, their number went up by 31.7%. In terms of qualifications, the highest relative increase in this group of the unemployed was noted for the persons with university education (42.2%), and the lowest with unskilled workers (20.5%).

In the first quarter of the current year, the National Employment Bureau noted an average of 72,253 persons on the dole per month (or 19.0% of the total number of the unemployed), which is 17.2% more than in the same period last year.

Unemployed and disabled

In June 2001, the National Employment Bureau noted 8937 unemployed persons with disability, which is by 172 persons (or 1.9%) less than in late 2000. Note that the total unemployment simultaneously went down by 3.1%. Of the total number of the unemployed, the disabled account for 2.4%.

Disabled persons are a specially vulnerable group within the population discussed. Here are some statistical data on the unemployed disabled persons.

Total number of unemployed and of unemployed disabled persons noted with the National Employment Bureau in 2000 and 2001¹

Year	Unemployed total	Unemployed disabled total	Disabled veterans	Military disabled	Categorised youth	Occupat. Disabled	Other disabled
December 2000	376,613	9109	870	188	3579	386	4086
June 2001	364,879	8937	805	169	3445	375	4143
Index 2001/00	96.9	98.1	92.5	89.9	96.3	97.2	101.4

¹Data are summed up every six months so we have the data for December 2000 and June 2001.

Although in the year 2001 the number of the unemployed disabled persons was reduced, this reduction is not the same in all disability categories. It is encouraging that there was a more than average reduction in the number of the unemployed disabled veterans (7.5%). There was also more than average reduction in the number of the unemployed occupational disabled persons, military disabled and categorised youth, while the number of other unemployed disabled persons went up by 1.4%.

We could say that the year 2001 was not a good one when it comes to the employment of disabled persons and the persons who are more difficult to employ in general. The basic reason for this is the general employment situation (too few jobs, large number of job seekers).

11. Within the programme of active employment policy measures, in May 1999 the National Employment Bureau, for the first time in our country, implemented a completely new programme – employment through public works. This was motivated by the fact that the development processes under the circumstances of market economy caused both a soaring unemployment and the changes in the structure of the working population. The labour offer enabled the employers to substitute younger, better-educated and healthier employees for their current ones. One consequence of this was the change in the structure of registered unemployed persons: the share of older workers with lower qualifications and health conditions was rising... In short, employment offices noted more and more persons who are difficult to employ. For this reason, the National Employment Bureau thought it was necessary to propose a public works programme for such groups of the unemployed that without such programme would be very difficult to include in the labour market.

This measure, however, is more of a socio-psychological than economic nature compared with other measures implemented by the Bureau. Here we have socially useful work usually initiated by the local community, that must primarily be non-profit and non-competitive with regard to the available businesses in the area. On the other hand, this form of employment is meant for such groups of the unemployed who currently have no other employment opportunities, who are looking for a job a long time, who cannot be included in other programmes of the labour market, and who are not eligible for an early retirement. Besides the older workers, we have younger persons here who did not continue their education after the elementary school, or who dropped out of the secondary school and have no occupation, as well as persons with no knowledge and skills necessary for the first or renewed employment. Generally speaking, this form of employment is meant for the persons who are the most vulnerable on the labour market i.e. those who are the most difficult to employ.

In late 1998 and early 1999, the National Employment Bureau, in initiating public works programme, contacted potential employers: representatives of the local administration and self-government, institutions and associations involved in social welfare and others.

On the basis of the contacts established with the potential employers, branch offices of the National Employment Agency began to receive applications for funding the labour costs for the

workers participating in the public works programme. The table below shows implemented public works programme with the number of the employed workers and expenditure per counties.

Public works programme: agreements concluded
per counties in 1999 and 2000

County	Number of Programmes	Number of Workers	Expenditure
Zagreb	4	29	180,068.18
Krapina-Zagorje	2	4	42,620.24
Sisak-Moslavina	5	55	535,101.06
Karlovac	8	125	1,169,871.77
Varaždin	22	289	2,901,208.56
Koprivnica-Križevci	4	49	494,332.93
Bjelovar-Bilogora	9	85	941,507.01
Primorje-Gorski kotar	2	16	271,376.13
Lika-Senj	1	5	83,082.10
Virovitica-Podravina	3	14	124,286.22
Požega-Slavonia	2	16	143,878.78
Brod-Posavina	10	136	1,205,778.82
Zadar	11	156	2,378,330.57
Osijek-Baranja	11	175	712,732.63
Šibenik-Knin	20	341	2,943,312.93
Vukovar-Srijem	26	545	5,539,897.56
Split-Dalmatia	39	393	3,928,795.86
Istria	2	13	182,039.12
Dubrovnik-Neretva	4	57	680,778.49
Međimurje	20	135	1,304,884.42
City of Zagreb*	1	3	
Republic of Croatia	206	2641	25,763,883.38

* Expenditure figures included in the data for the County of Zagreb

So, the most agreements on the realisation of public works programmes were concluded in Split-Dalmatia (39), Vukovar-Srijem (26) and Varaždin Counties (22).

In the years 1999 and 2000, the most workers were employed in the Vukovar-Srijem (545), Split-Dalmatia (393), Šibenik-Knin (341) and Varaždin Counties (289). The most expenditure was noted in the Vukovar-Srijem County (HRK 5,539,897.56).

Finally, note that the experts of the National Employment Bureau found that this programme has achieved its goal. Although no large number of workers were employed and the general unemployment was not substantially reduced, this programme helped employ the workers from the groups that need the help of the system the most: long-term unemployed, older workers, workers without qualifications, persons of lower social and economic status etc.

Article 7: Right to just and favourable working conditions

12. As mentioned in the Report on the Implementation of the Pact, the autonomy of parties and the freedom to arrange the working conditions are the basic principles of the work relations in the Republic of Croatia. Paragraph 59 of the Report explains the method for determining the lowest salary, as well as other methods for the Government to influence the provision of guaranteed minimum rights from work relation, e.g. determining the lowest basis for the payment of the pension contributions. Such provision concerning the minimum salary was necessary because it had not been determined as provided in article 242 of the Labour Act. This provision prescribed that if the salaries were not determined by a collective agreement within two years from the beginning of the enforcement of the Act, the Government might - at the proposal of the person who pursuant to the provisions of the Act may be a party to a collective agreement determine the minimum salary amount as stipulated by the Act.

The Act provided the following criteria for determining the minimum salary amount:

1. needs of the employee and his family, general level of salaries in the Republic of Croatia, cost of living, level of social contributions, living standard of other social groups, and
2. economic factors, including the needs of economic development, level of productivity, and the necessary achievement and maintaining of a high level of employment.

The Act prescribes that the Government shall ensure timely adjustment of the lowest salary to the cost of living and other aforementioned factors, under the conditions determined by the Government at the proposal of the Economic and Social Council.

The Government shall decide on the lowest salary amount on the basis of the opinion of the Economic and Social Council.

No person who may be a party to a collective agreement did request, within the period stipulated by the Act, that the lowest salary amount be determined. The most recent amendments to the Labour Act, in agreement with the representative associations of employees and employers, altered the provision of Article 242 of the Labour Act to provide that "if the salaries have not been regulated by a collective agreement or if the collective agreement does not apply to a substantial number of employees, but no longer than by late 2002, the Government may, at the proposal of the person that pursuant to the provisions of the Act may be a party of a collective agreement, determine the lowest salary amount under the conditions determined by the Act". Thus the determining of the lowest salary is yet again left within the autonomy of the parties, simultaneously opening the possibility for the Government to determine the lowest salary by the end of the year 2000, at the proposal of any of the parties under the conditions provides in Article 242 of the Act.

It is important to note that the issue of salaries in the Republic of Croatia is quite well covered by collective agreements, and the purpose of this mechanism of Government determining the salary is actually to provide a solution when there are no sufficient mechanisms to determine the salaries, like collective agreements, which results in the Government passing a decision on the lowest salary.

13. The whole scope of procedures for concluding, amending and terminating collective agreements, and for concluding and terminating individual employment contracts is regulated by the Labour Act.

Pursuant to the civil law concept of work relation, the work relation is based on employment contract resulting from the agreement of the contracting parties (employer and employee) on the essentials of the employment contract.

Employment contract is based on the principle of the freedom of arranging the rights and duties between the contracting parties. The provisions of the Labour Act determining the terms for concluding, form, duration and content of employment contracts as a basis for their validity make a minimum of the binding provisions that enable individualisation of the employment contracts. Thus the general provisions of the Labour Act stipulating the duty of the employer and the employee to abide by the provisions of the Labour Act and other laws, treaties concluded and ratified in accordance with the Constitution and published, other regulations, collective agreements, and Rules relating to the work relation, point to the limits of the contracting parties to dispose with their rights in concluding employment contract.

It can be seen from the provisions of the Labour Act that the collective agreements system is based on both voluntary membership in associations that can be parties to a collective agreement, and on voluntary conclusion of collective agreements. The Act obliges the parties to collective bargaining, to negotiate in good faith on the issues that can be the subject of collective agreement.

Collective agreement regulates the rights and duties of the parties to such agreement, and it can contain legal rules that regulate the conclusion, content and termination of work relation, employees' council, social security, and other issues arising from work relation or in connection with it.

Legal rules contained in collective agreement are applied directly and obligatorily to all persons to whom, pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the collective agreement applies.

Although freedom to arrange the agreement is the basic postulate, it is limited in the way that no working conditions worse than the minimum prescribed by the Act can be agreed, unless a law explicitly authorises the parties to the collective agreement otherwise. The Labour Act prescribes that "if a right from work relation is differently regulated by the employment contract, work rules, agreement between the employees' council and the employer, collective agreement or law, the regulation that is the most favourable for the employee shall apply, unless the Labour Act or other law provides otherwise".

15. The information of the National Inspectorate on injuries at work categorised by economic sector for a period of the last five years, are based on the number of injuries at work recorded during the inspections on the occasion of death, group or severe injuries at work, pursuant to the provisions of Article 60 para 1 of the National Inspectorate Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No.76/99). The data are presented in tables.

**AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYERS
INSPECTED FOR INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK
IN 1996**

No.	Field of activity	Number of individual injuries employees	of severe of	Number of injuries sustained by two or more employees/number of injured employees	Number of deaths at work	Number of accidents at work
1	2	3		4	5	6
1	Industry and mining	236		7/18	14	4
2	Agriculture and fishing	8		0	2	0
3	Forestry	44		1/2	4	0
4	Water management	3		0	0	0
5	Construction	81		5/10	13	1
6	Traffic and telecommunications	34		0	0	1
7	Trade	17		0	1	1
8	Hotels and restaurants	7		0	0	0
9	Crafts and personal services	21		0	4	0
10	Housing and community services	7		1/4	0	0
11	Financial, technical and business services	2		0	0	0
12	Education, science, culture and information	4		0	0	0
13	Health care and social welfare	4		0	0	0
14	Other social activities	1		0	0	1
	TOTAL	473		14/34	38	9

**AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYERS
INSPECTED FOR INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK
IN 1997**

No.	Field of activity	Number of individual injuries	of severe of	Number of injuries sustained by two or more employees/number of injured employees	Number of deaths at work	Number of accidents at work
1	2	3		4	5	6
1	Industry and mining	290		7/11	8	2
2	Agriculture and fishing	14				
3	Forestry	40				
4	Water management	6				
5	Construction	93		3/7	12	3
6	Traffic and telecommunications	25			3	1
7	Trade	17				
8	Hotels and restaurants	11		1/5	1	
9	Crafts and personal services	26			3	2
10	Housing and community services	7			1	
11	Financial, technical and business services					
12	Education, science, culture and information	5				
13	Health care and social welfare	4				
14	Other social activities	3				1
	TOTAL	541		11/23	30	9

**AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYERS
INSPECTED FOR INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK
IN 1998**

No.	Field of activity	Number of individual injuries	of severe of	Number of injuries sustained by two or more employees/number of injured employees	Number of deaths at work	Number of accidents at work
1	2	3	4	5	6	6
1	Industry and mining	274		8/19	6	5
2	Agriculture and fishing	17		0	2	0
3	Forestry	53		0	10	0
4	Water management	2		1/3	1	0
5	Construction	112		2/4	15	2
6	Traffic and telecommunications	31		1/2	1	1
7	Trade	17		1/2	1	0
8	Hotels and restaurants	6		1/2	1	2
9	Crafts and personal services	28		0	4	0
10	Housing and community services	12		0	0	0
11	Financial, technical and business services	0		0	0	0
12	Education, science, culture and information	6		0	0	0
13	Health care and social welfare	3		0	0	0
14	Other social activities	3		0	1	0
	TOTAL	564		14/32	42	11

**AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYERS
INSPECTED FOR INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK
IN 1999**

No.	Field of activity	Number of individual injuries employees	of severe of	Number of injuries sustained by two or more employees/number of injured employees	Number of deaths at work	Number of accidents at work
1	2	3		4	5	6
1	Industry and mining	284		9/32	3	9
2	Agriculture and fishing	14				
3	Forestry	51				
4	Water management	6				
5	Construction	125		8/20	12	3
6	Traffic and telecommunications	40				
7	Trade	17				
8	Hotels and restaurants	9			1	2
9	Crafts and personal services	29			1	1
10	Housing and community services	8				
11	Financial, technical and business services	3		1/2		
12	Education, science, culture and information	5				
13	Health care and social welfare	3				
14	Other social activities	3				1
	TOTAL	597		18/54	20	27

**AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYERS
INSPECTED FOR INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK
IN 2000**

No.	Field of activity	Number of individual severe injuries of employees	Number of injuries sustained by two or more employees/number of injured employees	Number of deaths at work	Number of accidents at work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	90		9	3
2	Fishing	3			
3	Mining	2			
4	Manufacturing	287	7/15	4	3
5	Electricity, gas and water supply	36	3/8	2	5
6	Construction	122	3/9	9	2
7	Trade; repair of motor vehicles and household goods	29	2/5	1	1
8	Hotels and restaurants	11		1	1
9	Transport, storage and communications	51	1/2	3	3
10	Financial mediation	4			
11	Real estate, renting and business activities	3			
12	Public administration, defence; compulsory social security	3	1/2		
13	Education	1			
14	Health and social work	8			
15	Other community, social and personal service activities	7			
16	Private households with employees				
17	Extraterritorial organisations and bodies				
	TOTAL	657	17/41	29	18

Number of occupational accidents and fatal accidents by economic sector and rate per 100,000 employees, Croatia 1999 (from the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance)

Economic sector	Total	Rate per 100,000 employees in sector	Accidents solely at work	Rate per 100,000 employees in sector	No. of fatal accidents	Rate per 100,000 employees in sector
Total	22,814	1753.90	18,846	1448.84	32	2.46
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1130	3098.52	1040	2851.74	1	2.74
Fishing	32	2120.61	30	1988.07	0	0.00
Mining and quarrying	155	4549.46	141	4.138,54	0	0.00
Manufacturing	8145	2989.69	7335	2605.99	6	2.13
Electricity, gas and water supply	749	2730.09	619	2256.24	2	7.29
Construction	2529	3438.90	2340	3.181.90	6	8.16
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicl., motorcycles and personal and household goods	1412	916.42	1105	717.17	1	0.65
Hotels and restaurants	443	1.179.10	370	984.8	0	0.00
Transport, storage and communications	2.097	2,422.40	1761	2.034.26	3	3.47
Financial mediation	315	1015.60	143	461.05	0	0.00
Real estate, renting and business activities	485	861.87	358	636.18	1	1.78
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	2.511	1967.08	1917	1501.75	8	6.27
Education	532	663.42	323	402.79	1	1.25
Health and social work	1.288	1738.75	822	1109.67	3	4.05
Other community, social and personal service activities	702	2267.81	525	1696.01	0	0.00
Private households with employees	13		12		0	
Extraterritorial organisations and bodies	6	2439.02	5	2032.52	0	0.00

Article 8: Trade union rights

16. According to the information from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and its Register concerning associations active in two or more counties, there are 202 trade unions, 33

associations of employers, 25 higher-level trade union associations and 2 higher-level associations of employers.

According to the information from the county offices entrusted with labour affairs on a single county level, there are another 303 trade unions (as of 21 March 2001). The table below shows the data on a county by county basis.

1.	Trade unions active in a single county (registered with County Offices for Labour, Health Care and Social Policy)	
	Zagreb	1
	Krapina-Zagorje	1
	Sisak-Moslavina	0
	Karlovac	3
	Varaždin	8
	Koprivnica-Križevci	2
	Bjelovar-Bilogora	26
	Primorje-Gorski kotar	29
	Lika-Senj	1
	Virovitica-Podravina	20
	Požega-Slavonia	0
	Brod-Posavina	2
	Zadar	11
	Osijek-Baranja	34
	Šibenik-Knin	12
	Vukovar-Srijem	3
	Split-Dalmatia	80
	Istria	1
	Dubrovnik-Neretva	42
	Međimurje	1
	City of Zagreb	26
	TOTAL	303

Detailed information on legislation and practice in the Republic of Croatia concerning the freedom of association can be found in regular bi-annual reports to the International Labour Organisation on the implementation of the 1998 Convention to which Croatia is a party.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Labour Act, employees' associations are trade unions and higher-level associations. Trade unions can be established by a minimum of ten natural persons who are of age and possess business capacity. Higher-level associations, i.e. trade union

associations or other forms of associations, are established by trade unions in order to link their interests at a higher level. The same distinction applies to the employers' associations and the higher-level employers' associations.

The number of women in trade unions is not precisely known. According to the information of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Croatia, the biggest trade union organisation, women account for 48% of their members (source: Discrimination against Women in Croatia, ICFTU CEE Woman's Network, Zagreb, December 2000). Of course, the number of women in individual trade unions of the Association of Independent Trade Unions of Croatia varies. Thus, women account for 74.9% of the Textiles, Footwear, Leather and Rubber Trade Union of Croatia, and even 77.9% of the Independent Trade Union of Employees in Health Care, Pension Insurance and Social Welfare. Women head 6 united trade unions, of which two with predominantly male membership (National Trade Union of Forestry; and National Trade Union of Small Businesses, Services and Foreign Representation Offices).

17. In the Republic of Croatia there no record is kept of the number of strikes. According to unofficial sources, in the last two years there have been about 20 strikes.

Article 9: Right to social security

18. The measures for the social protection of the population are implemented through the social welfare system. Within the social welfare system, the persons in need are entitled to:

1. Livelihood assistance
2. Personal disability benefit
3. Supplemental payment for assistance and care
4. Salary payment to a parent of a severely disabled child who is on vacation or works half-time until the child reaches the age of seven
5. Single payment assistance
6. Assistance for the personal needs of a beneficiary of permanent accommodation in a social welfare home and host family
7. Food assistance
8. Clothing and footwear assistance
9. Covering the heating fuel costs
10. Covering the funeral costs
11. Free textbooks for children accommodated in a social welfare home or with host family
12. Training for independent work and life
13. Assistance and care at home
14. Accommodation of children and youth in host families or social welfare homes
15. Accommodation of adult and elderly persons in social welfare homes or host family

In the year 2000, a total of HRK 1,399,319,516 was spent for funding the above rights.

Article 10. Protection of families, mothers and children

19. Extra-marital community has become a constitutional category pursuant to Art. 61 para 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia providing that marriage and legal relations within wedlock, **out-of-wedlock community and family** are regulated by law.

The Family Act of the Republic of Croatia recognises the effects of out-of wedlock community only provided that it is a living community of a single woman and a single man.

The effects of out-of wedlock community apply to the obligation to support the unmarried partner and to the assets acquired during such community.

The law provides that the unmarried partner who meets the legal requirements as a supported person has the right to be supported by the other unmarried partner if the of out-of wedlock community of a man and woman, which lasted for a longer time, ceases. Court may set a time limit to this obligation, extend it, and decide on discontinuing the support under certain legally prescribed conditions.

The issue of property relations in an of out-of wedlock community is regulated by the Family Act in the same manner as property relations between persons who are married, that is the Family Act provides that of out-of wedlock community that lasted for a longer time creates effects in terms of property relations to which the provisions of the Law on the Property Relations of Married Couples appropriately apply.

Children born out of wedlock are equal, in terms of their right to parental care and other rights arising from the relationship between parents and children, to the children born to married couples.

The Social Welfare Act, Art. 2 para 2 provides equal status of out-of wedlock community with regard to the exercise of social welfare rights, so that the provisions of this Act applying to married couples also apply to of out-of wedlock community.

20. The first to act in combating violence against women were women's NGOs in the Republic of Croatia. The Commission of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Gender Equality began its work by adopting the first National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality. In order to establish all requirements for joint action of the authorities and the non-governmental sector, the Commission organised, with the assistance of the Council of Europe, the national event titled Together vs. Violence Against Women, and with it began a comprehensive analysis of the depth of the problem and the linking together of various factors, institutional and non-institutional, in actions directed at combating violence against women. Priorities were determined, including legislation amendment, sensibilisation of the whole society, setting up a firm network of institutions, education about peaceful settlement of conflicts, and media campaign. One special necessity were shelters for the victims of domestic violence. The Republic of Croatia does not have shelters for the victims of domestic violence in which mothers and their children could be accommodated. The Government's policy is not to open such shelters itself, but law has opened the possibility for legal entities and natural persons to establish public institution for social welfare – home for children and adults, victims of domestic violence.

One such institution has been established in Rijeka (St. Anne Home, Caritas of the Rijeka Archdiocese) and the establishment of such institutions in two Croatian towns (Rovinj, Osijek) is underway. Negotiations with some associations are going on. To date, there was just one single shelter in Zagreb (Autonomous Women's House) and one shelter/counselling, where women can only stay for a week, and the capacity is very limited (SOS Phone and Women's Help NOW), not nearly sufficient for the whole of Croatia.

The Government's Commission for Gender Equality and the Office for Associations co-financed special programmes of the NGOs relating to combating violence against women, and women's shelters were granted special assistance.

In the process of amendment of the family and criminal legislation, in consultations with women's NGOs engaging in the protection of female victims of violence, an appropriate though still insufficient legislative framework has been created to enable more efficient combating of violence against women. The process of legislation amendment is an ongoing process, and the follow-up is seen in the new 2001-2005 National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

Pursuant to the National Policy, it is estimated that the Government of the Republic of Croatia will have prepared comprehensive Policy for Combating Violence against Women by the end of the year 2002. Until such policy is in place and simultaneously with its implementation, special measures will be implemented, too. The Government of the Republic of Croatia will thus continue to review laws that sanction violence against women and ensure consistent enforcement of such laws, and undertake continuous education of all persons involved in law enforcement, offering services and support in case of violence against women.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia will allocate funds from the national budget, beginning with the year 2002, to financially assist the NGOs that care for women who are victims of violence. In order to better understand and sensibilise persons who first come into contact with women and children who are victims of violence, the Ministry of the Interior will have prepared, by the end of the year 2003, an analysis of the situation and training of the police officers with regard to sensibilisation to the issue of violence against women, and they will check whether it is possible to set up special police units for dealing with and processing cases of violence against women, particularly domestic violence. The Ministry of the Interior will also prepare a research into the attitudes and expectations of women when it comes to the proceeding of the police following various criminal offences against women.

The National Policy also foresees that the Commission for Gender Equality will, having analysed the current situation in the Croatian judiciary, give recommendations as to the establishment of family courts.

21. In the Republic of Croatia there is good cooperation with international organisations active in the field of prevention of exploitation and accommodation and return to the country of domicile of sexually exploited women or preventing trafficking in women. The cooperation in this respect is particularly good with IOM, ICMC, UNHCR.

In connection with the issue of trafficking and its occurrence in the Republic of Croatia, there is a public opinion poll and research (to be completed in September 2001) that will provide

the basic indicators of the characteristics of this occurrence and its existence in the Republic of Croatia.

The available indicators show that the Republic of Croatia is a country of transit, and cases of sexual exploitation of women – mostly younger foreigners of age - by the persons belonging to the international criminal milieu – foreigners – have sporadically occurred.

For the implementation of the initiative for combating trading in people and trafficking, mostly concerning women, a Coordinator has been appointed in the Republic of Croatia (Božena Katanec, Ministry of the Interior) and a Deputy Coordinator (Marija Koren Mrazoviæ, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare). Currently, the appointment of the members of the Steering Committee (representatives of ministries and top officials) is underway. The preparation of the National Action Plan is also underway. In order to sensibilise the public, a seminar was held to present the indicators of the public opinion poll concerning prostitution of foreigners in the Republic of Croatia. At a seminar in Stubièke Toplice in May 2001, there was an exchange of professional experience with those who combat trafficking in people and sexual exploitation of women from the neighbouring countries in the Balkans and West Europe. This helped analyse the occurrence and international routes in order to sensibilise the public in the Republic of Croatia to this problem i.e. to prepare a high-quality and efficient National Action Plan. The Action Plan will include the following areas:

- prevention
- timely detection and training of border police in recognising such cases
- efficient legislation
- accommodation of the victim and return
- training of professional personnel from all fields and their linking together/coordination.

In November 2001, a ministerial conference of the Balkan and West European countries it to take place, hosted by the Republic of Croatia.

With regard to the legislation of the Republic of Croatia, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Croatia regulates protection of women victims of all age groups.

In the protection of women victims of all age groups particular importance is attached to the criminal offence labelled **racial and other discrimination** (article 174). The provision of Article 174 of the Criminal Code prescribes a punishment of six months to five years for anyone who, on the basis of difference in race, gender, colour, nationality of ethnic origin **violates basic human rights and freedoms recognised by the international community**. This incrimination of abuse of difference in gender has been introduced in the new Criminal Code in conformity with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1965 International Convention on Abolishing all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 1966 International Pact on Civil and Political Rights, the 1979 Convention on Abolishing all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Under the criminal offence **labelled establishment of slavery and transportation of slaves** (Art. 175), the legislator gathered all modes of the crime relating to slavery and practices similar to slavery, as well as forced and compulsory work of adult persons, children and minors.

Paragraph 2 of the regulation mentioned **includes incrimination of selling children** for adoption, exploitation of child labour and organ harvesting, as well as other forms of sales.

Special importance for women victims is attached to the **crime of international prostitution** (Article 178). The basic form of incrimination of this offence provides punishment of 3 months to 3 years for anyone who lures, induces or encourages another to gainfully provide sexual services in a state other than the one in which such person is resident or whose national such person is.

Aggravated form of this crime is when the perpetrator uses force or threatens to use force or deceives a person and forces or induces the person to come to another state.

The gravest form of the crime is when the aforementioned illegal activities have been committed against a child or minor.

The sanctioning of this crime is based on numerous international sources made uniform in the 1949 Convention on Combating and Abolishing Trafficking in People and Prostitution of Others.

Pursuant to the Social Welfare Act, foreign nationals permanently residing in Croatia are guaranteed the social welfare rights provided, in respect of such persons, by the Social Welfare Act and treaties.

However, a person who finds himself or herself in the Republic of Croatia in such circumstances that he or she needs assistance, will be able to provisionally exercise some of the social welfare rights under the conditions stipulated by this Act.

Such assistance can be counselling, help to overcome particular difficulties, single handout to meet the basic needs.

A vagrant child without the supervision of his or her parents, or an adult found outside of the place of his or her permanent or temporary residence who cannot provide for himself or herself or is stricken by other adversities, shall be provisionally rendered care until his or her return to his or her family or country of domicile.

Provisional accommodation in the cases such as described above can be provided to foreign nationals and to persons without citizenship who do not reside in Croatia.

A person is provisionally accommodated pursuant to a decision issued by the Social Welfare Centre.

It follows that in the Republic of Croatia we have legal basis for acting in the interest of children (Family Act) and to protect and assist the persons trafficked - minors, younger adults and mothers with small children (Social Welfare Act).

Article 11. Right to adequate living standard

22. Since 1995, the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Building (formerly the Ministry of Reconstruction and Development) plans, organises, manages and supervises the reconstruction of the housing units destroyed or damaged in the war, primarily with funds from the national budget. The scope of reconstruction works depends on the damage and number of the household members, and the funds spent on the reconstruction are treated as grants. The rebuilt houses are even furnished.

In all reconstruction models to date, about 106,500 family houses or flats damaged or destroyed in the war have been rebuilt. The plans for the year 2001 include 12,860 family houses and flats of all damage categories. Of this number, about 7960 housing units will be reconstructed to enable the return of about 23,000 displaced persons. Besides, in the year 2001 the reconstruction

of about 4200 family houses (4th to 6th level of damage) and 700 damaged flats in apartment buildings began. The completion of the reconstruction of these houses and flats is scheduled for the end of the year 2002.

According to estimates, another 20,000 housing units will have to be repaired until the completion of the reconstruction programme.

Since 1997, the Programme for Building Housing for the victims of the war has been implemented under the auspices of the Ministry for Public Works, Reconstruction and Building since 1997, and this way about 3000 flats have been built by the end of the year 2000, for which about HRD 1 billion was spent.

23. The accommodation of the homeless i.e. the persons currently without a place to stay lies within the competence of the units of self-government and the Red Cross of Croatia. There is no institution on the national level that systematically engages in this, and there are no figures concerning the homeless in the Republic of Croatia. The units of local self-government and the Red Cross provide accommodation and food to all persons in need, though in some cases such persons are not without permanent residence but for some reason or other do not live in the place of their residence. According to the records of the police in Croatia, the number of persons without registered residence, i.e. a home, is neglectable. It follows that in Croatia there are no persons that could be categorised as homeless. This is why social services in implementing social welfare measures can offer no figures concerning the persons who could be considered homeless.

24. In Zagreb and other major cities, water purification systems are planned, and their construction will depend on the funding available.

		Projects for the protection of water and sea from pollution and contamination that are currently at different stages of implementation, according to Croatian	
		PLACE (systems/facilities at different stages of realisation)	Programme
●	1	Zagreb	EBRD, BOT
	2	Split/Solin	EBRD, IBRD (MEIP - Municipal Environmental Infrastructure Investment Programme)
	3	Pula	EBRD (MEIP - Municipal Environmental Infrastructure Investment Programme)
	4	Vinkovci	IBRD Eastern Slavonia Reconstruction Project
●	1	Sisak	Cooperation with Japan
	2	Kutina	
	3	Karlovac-Duga Resa	
	4	Vrbovec	
	5	Dugo Selo	
●	1	Opatija	Cooperation with Sweden
	2	Zadar	
●	1	Milna	New projects of the World Bank - in preparation PROTECTION OF WATERS AND SEA AT THE ADRIATIC COAST
	2	Grad Korčula	
	3	Vela Luka	
	4	Hvar	
	5	Brna	
	6	Povlja	
	7	Trpanj	
	8	Mali Ston Bay	
	9	Orebia	
	10	Jelsa-Stariograd-Vrbosko	

11	Opuzen
12	Metković
13	Cavtat + Župa Dubrovačka
14	Preko
15	Dubrovnik
16	Sušuraj
17	Biograd n/m
18	Blato
19	Dugopolje
20	Slivno
21	Novi Vinodolski
22	Grobnik (municipality of Ćavle)
23	Municipality of Jelenje
24	Municipality of Dobrinj
25	Omišalj
26	Krk
27	Baška
28	Crikvenica
29	Bakar
30	Malinska

■	OS/01	Beli Manastir	Projects included in the Proposal for Donor Conference within the framework of the National Environmental Action Plan - Water Management
	OS/02	Južna Baranja	
	OS/03	Osijek	
	RI/01	Brijuni	
	RI/02	Āabar	
	RI/03	Cres	
	RI/04	Rijeka	
	RI/05	Pazin	
	SA/01	Bjelovar	
	SA/02	Daruvar	
	SA/03	Slavonski Brod	
	SA/04	Požega	
	SA/05	Nova Gradiška	
	SA/06	Plitvice	
	ST/01	Vodice	
	ST/02	Drniš	
	ST/03	Knin	
	ST/04	Skradin	
	ST/05	Vrlika	
	ST/06	Gradac	
	ST/07	Slano	
	ZG/01	Samobor	
	ZG/02	Velika Gorica	
	ZG/03	Sesvete	
ZG/04	Zaprešić		

One of the activities within the competence of *Hrvatske vode* (national agency for water management on national and local levels) is utilisation of water, determination of the water resources, control of water reserves, coordination of water utilisation plans adopted by other agencies and control of their implementation, undertaking of other measures for dedicated and economic utilisation of water resources.

Pursuant to the Water Management Financing Act, the charge for the use of water is one of the sources for the financing of the water management, and it is paid to the account of *Hrvatske vode*. These funds are dedicated and pursuant to the above Act are to be used for: collecting data and keeping record on water supplies and their utilisation, control of water supplies and undertaking measures for their economic utilisation, prospecting and construction of water supply facilities (water intake, potable water purification facilities, water reservoirs and master pipelines), all for the purpose of increasing public water supply services coverage and raising the quality of water supply.

The measures undertaken by *Hrvatske vode* and the measures that are currently being implemented in the critical areas, that is in the areas devastated in the war, are oriented towards investment in the reconstruction and repair of water supply systems and development of water supply network in the low coverage areas. From 1996 to 2000, the investment in water supply by *Hrvatske vode* totalled HRK 1,910,850,000 (about USD 283 million).

Article 12: Right to physical and mental health

25. Share of the cost of the compulsory health insurance in GDP from 1996 to 2000.

Year	GDP (1)	Cost of compulsory health insurance (3)	% of GDP (5)
1996	107,980,600	8,459,643	7.8
1997	123,811,000	8,657,400	6.9
1998	138,392,000	10,967,012	7.9
1999	143,500,000	11,844,123	8.2
2000	157,000,000 (2)	12,352,215 (4)	7.7
		14,020,881	8.9

(1) Source: Monthly Statistics of the Ministry of Finance, 61/2000

(2) Estimate

(3) Source: Financial Reports of HZZO (National Health Insurance Institute) for 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000

(4) Expenditures exc. the loan from Zagrebačka banka (HRK 1,668,666,761)

(5) The costs of compulsory health insurance provided by HZZO include the right to health care and pecuniary reimbursements and assistance.

Pecuniary reimbursements make up 15% of the expenditures.

With all this in mind, the share of the costs of health care proper in GDP was:

1996	6.60%	
1997	5.90%	
1998	6.70%	
1999	7.0%	
2000	6.50%	7.60%

26. In 1999, there were 44,807 births of which 45,277 live births in Croatia. Compared to 1998, this was a decrease by 5%. Of the live births, 44,818 were given by mothers resident in Croatia, and 459 by mothers resident outside of Croatia.

These figures from the hospitals reflect the work of their maternity wards and differ from the figures of the National Institute of Statistics that, in accordance with UN and EUROSTAT methodology, only count children whose mothers are resident in Croatia and have not been absent from Croatia more than one year, as well as children whose mothers are not resident in Croatia but have lived in Croatia for more than one year. According to this source, there were 45,179 live births in Croatia in 1999.

The trend of less births in younger age groups (under 20) and more births in the age group over 35 (characteristic of industrial countries) can also be followed in Croatia. With regard to the mother's age, the most births were given in the age group between 25-29 years (92 births per

1000 women), followed by the age group between 20-24 years (78 births per 1000 women), and the age group between 30-34 years (60 births per 1000 women).

The most births were first births (41%), followed by second births (32%), third or subsequent births (22%). Compared to 1998, only the first birth figures noted an increase by 8%, while the second, third and subsequent births noted lower figures.

There is a rising trend in C-section births in Croatia, like in other transition and Western countries. Year after year, this rising trend has been noted, but in 1999 the number of C-section procedures per 1000 live births was somewhat smaller than in 1998. In 1999, there were 5231 C-section procedures, which makes 11.7% of the total number of births.

Of a total of 44,807 births, 44,203 were given to one child (98.6%). Twins were born in 583 births (1.3%), while 19 births resulted in triplets and 2 births resulted in quadruplets.

The share of the liveborn with the weight of 2500 grams at birth was 94.1% in 1999, and in this we do not differ from West European countries. The most children were born with the weight of 3000-3500 grams at birth (16,604 or 36.7%). In 1999, 2662 (5.9%) of low-weight children (less than 2500 grams) were born, and their share has been constant for year now (5-6%)

Maternal mortality in Croatia includes only sporadic cases. In 1999, 5 women died due to complications during the pregnancy, while giving birth or after the birth (11.06/100,000 live births).

STILL BIRTHS BY MOTHER'S AGE

	Total	Mother's age									Unknown
		Under 15	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 and over	
		1995									
1996											
1997											
1998 ¹⁾											
1999 ¹⁾											

INFANT DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

1995			1996			1997			1998 ¹⁾			1999 ¹⁾			Age
Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
449	262	187	433	252	181	457	272	185	388	222	166	350	183	167	Total
112	61	51	86	53	33	94	55	39	81	46	35	83	48	35	Under 1 day
135	87	48	148	77	71	145	90	55	114	68	46	118	70	48	1 - 6 days
49	31	18	44	23	21	53	34	19	51	32	19	38	23	15	1 day
43	31	12	36	18	18	33	17	16	31	19	12	27	17	10	2 days
17	11	6	24	12	12	24	17	7	12	7	5	20	9	11	3 days
12	5	7	23	12	11	18	14	4	8	4	4	9	5	4	4 days
9	5	4	13	6	7	10	5	5	5	2	3	12	10	2	5 days

5	4	1	8	6	2	7	3	4	7	4	3	12	6	6	6 days
52	33	19	79	55	24	82	51	31	76	48	28	60	24	36	7 - 27 days
30	18	12	47	35	12	43	27	16	41	27	14	38	14	24	7 - 13 days
16	10	6	10	6	4	23	16	7	21	14	7	15	5	10	14 - 20 days
6	5	1	22	14	8	16	8	8	14	7	7	7	5	2	21 - 27 days
38	25	13	27	15	12	30	14	16	23	12	11	21	11	10	28 days - less than 2 months
112	56	56	93	52	41	106	62	44	94	48	46	68	30	38	2 - 11 months
27	18	9	23	15	8	32	15	17	22	12	10	20	10	10	2 months
20	8	12	20	12	8	24	18	6	15	7	8	12	2	10	3 months
19	10	9	15	8	7	13	4	9	9	5	4	5	4	1	4 months
7	3	4	8	5	3	6	6	-	9	7	2	6	3	3	5 months
13	7	6	6	2	4	7	4	3	11	5	6	10	5	5	6 months
5	3	2	4	3	1	9	5	4	8	4	4	1	-	1	7 months
7	2	5	5	2	3	3	3	-	4	1	3	4	1	3	8 months
5	2	3	3	2	1	4	2	2	1	-	1	2	1	1	9 months
5	2	3	7	2	5	4	3	1	7	3	4	4	2	2	10 months
4	1	3	2	1	1	4	2	2	8	4	4	4	2	2	11 months

INFANT DEATHS BY MOTHER'S AGE

	Total	Mother's age									Unknown
		Under 20 years	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 and over		
1995	449	31	94	98	77	35	8	1	-	105	
1996	433	18	81	112	70	42	8	-	-	102	
1997	457	20	70	122	62	32	15	-	-	136	
1998 ¹⁾	388	19	61	55	51	31	7	1	-	163	
1999 ¹⁾	350	9	45	56	49	26	8	-	-	157	

27. Practical results of cooperation with the World Health Organisation and the World Bank in the field of public health are reflected in the National Heart Protection Programme, and the Public Health Care project.

The common goals of these projects are:

- development of strategy for permanent monitoring of the health of the population and estimating risk factors and behaviour suspect of developing cardiovascular diseases;
- development of strategy for permanent primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of cardiovascular diseases;

- development of strategy for permanent education and training of medical staff in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and their complications.

The main goals of the National Heart Protection Programme are:

1. Determining risk factors and behaviour suspect of developing cardiovascular diseases (CVD),
2. Determining target risk factors for the National Heart Protection Programme,
3. Determining target groups of the National Heart Protection Programme
4. Determining approach for each of the target risk factors and target groups, respectively,
5. Guidelines for screening, diagnostics and treatment of the coronary heart disease: evaluation of available guidelines, developing new ones,
6. Developing and distribution of materials; improving the availability of the materials,
7. Developing programmes for permanent medical education and training of medical staff for the prevention and treatment of CVD.
8. Development of national strategy for permanent protection from CVD (long-term).

Implementation:

At the joint meeting of the Working Group for National Heart Protection Programme and the Working Group for Public Health, held at the Ministry of Health on 26 March 2001, the strategic approach to the protection from CVD was presented on the level of the programme at large, and key issues were discussed concerning the risk factor of smoking and high blood pressure, and the target groups of teenagers and adults. Evaluated guidelines and materials for the prevention of arterial hypertension were collected, as well as new guidelines discussed at this meeting.

Tendering documentation for the procurement of laboratory equipment was prepared in support of the National Heart Protection Programme. The invitation to bidders was published, and the bids received are now being evaluated.

The main goals of the Public Health Care Project are:

1. Design, implementation, supervision and analysis of the household poll concerning the state of health of adults and their risk factors and hazardous behaviour,
2. Design, implementation, supervision and analysis of the school poll concerning health hazardous behaviour of youth,
3. Design, implementation, supervision and analysis of media campaign for the promotion of healthier life for general population as a part of CVD prevention, with emphasis on the prevention of and giving up smoking (using the available materials wherever possible),
4. Planning, implementation and evaluation of workshops for permanent education of medical staff for reducing the risks of CVD, clinical prevention and emergency medicine,
5. Organisation of training of executive staff in promoting health,
6. Planning, implementation and evaluation of permanent education in the promotion of health for providers of medical services, health care policy decision-makers, administrative and other staff in health care sector,

7. Setting up a new reference centre for education and research in public health care.

In regard of the above information, a working group is modifying the terms of reference for the bidding procedure in public health care and promotion of health in accordance with the new P.A.D. interpretation the way it was agreed during the supervision by the World Bank in March.

The activities planned for the next six months of National Heart Protection Programme are: complete the approach strategy for the protection from CVD; prepare draft implementation plan for the programme; complete guidelines for the prevention of arterial hypertension; evaluate the current practice of material distribution and create network for permanent distribution. The activities of the Public Health Care project are: prepare new terms of reference for public health care sector and promotion of health and submit them for approval; prepare TA package for household poll concerning the state of health of adults and their scientifically supported risk factors and health hazardous behaviour; and organisation of training for the key staff for the promotion of health. One special task is the completion of plans for a new reference centre for education and research in public health care.

28. Health insurance “is guaranteed to all citizens of Croatia”. This is provided by Art. 58 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia. The latest amendments to the Constitution provide that everyone are guaranteed their right health care pursuant to law.

Article 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia guarantees human rights and basic freedoms, and Art. 58 guarantees social right. This means that everyone is entitled to health care irrespectively of their race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, property, birth, education, social or other status.

Health insurance and health care in the Republic of Croatia are regulated by the Health Insurance Act and the Health Care Act.

The Health Care Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No. 1/97) regulates the principles, manner and provision of health care. Citizens of the Republic of Croatia are entitled to health care and maintaining the highest possible level of health in accordance with this Act and the Health Insurance Act.

In exercising the right to health care pursuant to Art. 26 of the Health Care Act, every citizen of the Republic of Croatia is entitled to:

1. equality in treatment,
2. free choice of doctor and dentist pursuant to the provisions of the Act and the rules of the insurance,
3. medical service of standardised quality and of equal content, and to damages in case of inadequate medical service,
4. paramedics and emergency medicine when necessary,
5. free choice of all possible forms of medical procedures offered by a doctor or dentist, except in case of urgent intervention the delay of which would threaten the life and health of the citizen or cause permanent damage. If a citizen is unable to take such decision, it will be taken by the members of his or her family or close relatives, or legal guardian. Requesting such approval is not necessary if obtaining it would take time needed to save the citizen's life, and the citizen himself is unable to take decision to such effect,

6. accurate information and instruction about any issue concerning his or her health,
7. refusal of observation, check-up or treatment by students and refusal of any other interventions to be independently performed by the staff prior to having passed professional exam i.e. state exam,
8. refusal to be subjected to scientific research without his or her consent, or to any other check-up or medical treatment that does not serve the purpose of his or her healing,
9. confidentiality of information concerning the state of his or her health,
10. refusal of examination and treatment, including the right to request, during the treatment, another doctor or dentist stating that he or she has lost faith in the doctor he or she wants replaced, or for another reason that he or she does not have to explain in detail,
11. refusal of surgical procedure and other medical intervention on the body if he is conscious and capable of judgement. For persons who are not conscious and are incapable of judgement, the consent shall be given by the members of the family or other close associates, or legal guardian, except in case of urgent medical intervention,
12. nourishment in accordance with his or her beliefs during his or her stay in the medical facility,
13. performance of religious rites during his or her stay at the medical facility in a separate room, and - in case of fatal outcome - to the treatment at the morgue, with religious rites performed.

The Health Insurance Act defines the concept of health insurance through which the insureds acquire rights and duties in using health care services, as well as any other rights and duties arising from health care insurance. Health insurance is compulsory and voluntary, and the rights and duties from the compulsory health insurance are provided to all insured persons in the Republic of Croatia on the basis of mutuality and solidarity as provided by the Act. The Act defines the categories of persons who are to be insured this way, and it can be seen from the list enclosed to the Report on the Implementation of the Pact (para 87) that there practically no persons who are not covered this way or other.

The compulsory health insurance is managed by the National Health Insurance Institute as the sole insurer throughout Croatia.

The compulsory health insurance includes the right to health care and pecuniary reimbursements and support.

Health care includes primary health care, specialist treatment and hospital treatment.

Pecuniary reimbursements and support include the right to the payment of equivalent wages during sick leave, reimbursement of travel costs sustained obtaining health care, support in procuring what is necessary for a new-born baby, and reimbursement of funeral costs.

The compulsory health insurance also includes the right of the insureds to be treated abroad, if the procedure conducted the National Health Care Institute shows that there is nobody in Croatia who could render adequate health care services.

It follows that the Health Insurance Act and the Health Care Act, in their provisions that are in conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, guarantee the widest scope of rights from health insurance for all citizens of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 15. Right to participation in cultural life

29. Updates are enclosed in the tables in Enclosure 2.

30.

1996-2000 EXPENDITURES FOR SCHOOLS

GROSS SALARIES AND CURRENT EXPENDITURES

YEAR	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	SECONDARY SCHOOLS	TOTAL
1996	1,895,200	924,200	2,819,400
1997	2,078,700	1,034,200	3,112,900
1998	2,396,200	1,142,400	3,538,600
1999	2,953,300	1,429,100	4,382,400
2000	3,207,000	1,585,100	4,792,100

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

YEAR	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	SECONDARY SCHOOLS	TOTAL
1996	69,400	40,200	109,600
1997	80,700	55,700	136,400
1998	123,700	60,300	184,000
1999	211,200	55,900	267,100
2000	128,200	53,400	181,600

31. The elementary education of adults in Croatia began some 50 years ago. The first elementary school for adults was established in Zagreb in 1948, being one of the oldest such schools in Europe.

In 1960s and 1970s, more such schools were established in all major cities, and in small towns they were opened as departments within community education centres.

In this time, there were 7 elementary schools for adults in Zagreb alone, and in 1978 they joined together into the Centre for Functional Elementary Education of Adults. The Centre had 43,370 students and 107 full-time teachers.

About twenty years later (school year 1991/92) the number of adults in elementary education totalled 182 persons. The reasons for such reduction in number lay in the process of privatisation and transition to market economy where employers lost their interest in financing education of adults because the labour market bounds in professionals, so the education of adults was excluded from the school financing system.

Owing to the Board of Education of the Ministry of Education and Sport and the appointed Commission i.e. Sub-group for Special Forms of Education, Expert Team for the Education of Adults, a Draft Adult Education Proposal for the Republic of Croatia was prepared.

The Proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Board of Education who noted how serious this problem was and supported the new approach of the Ministry of Education and Sport to adult education. They also supported the proposal that elementary education should be free of charge, whether for children or adults.

According to statistical indicators from the 1991 census (2000 census data are not yet available), and based on analysis from statistical yearbooks e.g. for the year 1993, of a total of 3,858,086 inhabitants over 15 in Croatia at that time, there were 945,071 without completed elementary school education (24.4%): 125,480 with grade 1-3, 819,591 with grade 4-7. (Additional information see in enclosure 2)

Although the last census lies 10 years back now, it can be assumed that the number of inhabitants without elementary school education has remained the same or even higher, considering the war and migrations of the population.

This indicates a stronger need for elementary education of adults in Croatia. This situation, in our opinion, is both important for the economic development of Croatia and an essential social issue. The group of population in question mostly includes the lowest social layers who cannot find employment without education.

According to the information of the National Employment Agency (as of 30 May 2000), 25,863 persons without elementary school education were on record as unemployed:

illiterate	2746
without school education.....	4100
grade 1-3 of elem. school....	1584
4 years of elem. school.....	8477
grade 5-7 of elem. school....	9056

In Croatia, there are currently 42 approved (licensed) institutions for the elementary education of adults. Regrettably, because of inadequate support, lack of better motivation and system of financing, adults in Croatia are currently educated by some 15 institutions that mostly organise consultations and exams.

Regular elementary school teaching for adults is provided by only 3 institutions in Croatia.

32. Teaching staff at schools share the current economic adversities of the civil servants. Schools in Croatia are considered public service, and the salaries of the public service staff are regulated by the Public Service Salaries Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia 27/01), the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Value of Workplace Coefficients, and collective agreements. The salaries of civil servants are regulated in the same manner pursuant to the Civil Servants and Technical Staff Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia 27/01). Public service staff and technical staff employed by the state, including the teaching staff at schools, have the same scope of coefficients for particular jobs as civil servants. Types of jobs are classified according to qualifications. The above mentioned laws were adopted only recently, so no new collective agreements were concluded for public services, and the basis for the calculation of the salary of public service staff and technical staff, including schools, is the same as the basis for the calculation of civil servants' salaries.

Article 15. Right to participate in cultural life

33. The view that the Croatian legislation in the area of culture is in conformity with international standards is based on the evaluations of the Ministry and the experts who in 1998 prepared the National Report on the Cultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia that was to evaluate the national cultural policy within a special programme of the council of Europe, and has been implemented in many states in Europe since 1984. In this year's discussion about the Draft Cultural Development Policy, these issues were once again analysed, and based on their analysis we can note that the view expressed is mostly to be confirmed with an addition that there is a need to further harmonise the regulations in the area of culture with the regulations and standards of the European Union.

34. In regard of the possibility to participate in culture, and its openness to state and private funds, we point out that all regulations dealing with culture, and the regulations dealing with taxes, duties and financial affairs, enable and even stimulate any investment in culture. This way every cultural project or programme is brought out on the market, which open it for financing from various sources besides the national budget. Today, we have a large number of cultural activities and projects solely relying upon the financial support from private funds. Regulations make it possible for private persons to even establish cultural institutions, opening the possibility for maximum level of participation of every individual in the cultural life.

35. In the year 2000, the Ministry of Culture received a total of HRK 526,309,580.79. For the activities of the Ministry, HRK 39,310,269.46 were spent, and for the programmes promoted through the Ministry HRK 486,999,311.33 were spent, which is 30% more than in the year 1999. For the programme of cultural development HRK 150,107,532.00 were spent (HRK 125 million in 1999). Even the debt for the health and pension insurance of independent artists for the year 1999 amounting to HRK 8,526,000.00 as well as contributions for the year 2000 amounting to HRK 31,925,105.04 were fully covered from the budget. For the salaries of the employees at cultural institutions, a total of HRK 93,657,046.00 were paid. The Ministry co-financed the activity of 42 professional associations in the area of culture with a total of 5,405,000.00. Also, pursuant to a special tendering procedure of the Government Office for Associations, more than 300 various programmes of cultural associations were examined, and the Ministry of Culture, with the funds of the Government Office for Associations, co-financed 32 programmes totalling HRK 2,395,480.00.

More than 5000 different programmes were realised, from big festivals, theatrical, art and other events to the purchase of books and computer equipment.

Within the programme of investment support, 155 programmes were co-financed.

In June 2000, an Invitation was published for public needs programme proposals in the area of culture for the year 2001, and this Invitation lasted until 15 September 2000, with expert commissions for individual evaluation set up.

Numerous activities were conducted relating to the improvement of the material status of the cultural sector, particularly with regard to relieving tax pressure on culture and art. The following has been achieved:

- artists and art organisations were accorded the same status as cultural institutions as concerns the value added tax;
- artists, art organisations and public institutions in culture were enabled to decide for themselves whether they would treat their deliveries of goods and services as taxable or stay outside the VAT system i.e. do not pay VAT on their deliveries;
- services and deliveries of goods of the institutions for permanent education and culture (community education centres etc.), when they do not engage in gainful activity, are treated like other institutions in cultural sector with regard to the VAT payment;
- public cinema and theatre shows etc. are exempted from the VAT
- the goods donated to cultural institutions, as well as the goods purchased by the cultural institutions in the country but paid for from the foreign pecuniary donations received, are exempted from the VAT;
- the goods imported from abroad by the artists or writers who created them are exempted from the VAT;
- the tax on authors' fees has been reduced: the previous 25 % flat rate recognised as expenditure has been raised to 40%; artists are granted another 25%; independent artists are no longer required to keep books.

Besides, gifts in kind and money, sponsorships and donations for the culture are exempted from the corporation tax and the income tax up to the level of 2% of the total value received from donators.

Donations exceeding the level of 2% of the total value received from donators will also be exempted from the taxes mentioned above if they were donated in accordance with the cultural public needs programmes and the decision of the Ministry of Culture.

Generally, this has created material i.e. tax conditions in the cultural sector that are at the level of the most favourable tax legislation in the world.

In the year 2001, in the national budget of the Republic of Croatia a total of HRK 587,233,867.00 were earmarked for the Ministry of Culture. The share of the Ministry in the 2001 national budget is 1.18%, and the funds allocated to the programme activities make up 1.05% of the national budget.

NATIONAL BUDGET-MINISTRY OF CULTURE	PLAN	%
Ministry of Culture-regular activity	50,457,436	8.6
Ministry of Culture-programmes	516,192,577	87.9
Croatian Emigrants' Association	12,796,255	2.2
National Cultural Association	7,787,598	1.3
TOTAL	587,233,667	100

**RETURNEES, DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES AND FOREIGNERS
FROM 1ST TO 4TH CLASS IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2000/2001**

Source: *Matica srednješ kole*, Register of 1st class entrants
(as of 30 September 2000)

TOTAL IN CROATIA

School	1 st to 4 th class							
	Returnees from abroad	Displaced Persons	Refugees from BIH		Refugees from SFRY (with the exception of BIH)		Foreigners	
			Total	Croats	Total	Croats	Total	With the refugee status
I. County of Zagreb	50	8	39	37	1	1	1	1
II. County of Krapina-Zagorje	4	2	4	3	0	0	2	2
III. County of Sisak-Moslavina	38	124	450	416	32	17	3	2
IV. County of Karlovac	14	40	149	147	3	0	2	0
V. County of Varaždin	15	2	11	10	0	0	13	2
VI. County of Koprivnica-Križevci	6	6	5	5	0	0	0	0
VII. County of Bjelovar-Bilogora	32	4	4	4	5	3	1	0
VIII. County of Primorje-Gorski kotar	57	48	34	24	2	2	13	4
IX. County of Lika-Senj	0	2	80	80	1	1	0	0
X. County of Virovitica-Podravina	15	14	59	59	20	20	0	0
XI. County of Požega-Slavonia	14	3	52	52	2	2	0	0
XII. County of Slavonski brod-Posavina	40	83	257	244	1	1	2	1
XIII. County of Zadar	31	52	117	116	7	5	6	6
XIV. County of Osijek-Baranja	42	224	57	52	9	8	2	1
XV. County of Šibenik-Knin	28	40	343	335	39	29	4	2
XVI. County of Vukovar-Sirmium	15	136	36	33	4	3	0	0
XVII. County of Split-Dalmatia	73	37	135	130	3	2	86	4
XVIII. County of Istria	32	47	24	16	6	6	7	3
XIX. County of Dubrovnik-Neretva	19	3	26	24	0	0	0	0
XX. County Međimurje	1	3	4	3	1	1	0	0
XXI. City of Zagreb	490	121	312	303	19	14	65	5
TOTAL CROATIA	1016	999	2198	2093	155	115	207	33
1st class	402	246	622	586	46	29	74	11
2nd class	269	284	709	681	51	40	52	6
3rd class	225	308	621	589	37	30	47	11
4th class	120	161	246	237	21	16	34	5

EXPLANATIONS:

1. **Returnees from abroad** are all students who enrolled on the basis of a certificate attesting that they have completed the previous class abroad (which has or will be validated).
2. **Displaced persons** are students who have still not returned to the places where they had lived before the Homeland War.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
OF STUDENTS OF FINAL CLASSES IN GRAMMAR SCHOOLS AND OTHER FOUR-
YEAR TRAINING PROGRAMMES
DATA AS OF END OF SCHOOL YEAR 1999/2000**

Source: *Matica srednješ kole*, end of 1999/2000 school year, Table: SS/K-2

COUNTY	Beginning of school year			SCHOOL PERFORMANCE					
	TOTAL			TOTAL			STUDENTS (students who passed makeup exams in		
	Classes	Students	Of whom girls	Classes	Students	Of whom girls	TOTAL	Excellent	Very good
I. County of Zagreb	32.00	947	613	32.00	946	608	933	342	357
II. County of Krapina-Zagorje	25.00	671	422	25.00	669	418	665	252	293
III. County of Sisak-Moslavina	33.00	845	503	33.00	843	503	792	258	337
IV. County of Karlovac	32.00	819	486	32.00	788	414	778	230	321
V. County of Varaždin	46.00	1371	806	46.00	1361	797	1345	486	578
VI. County of Koprivnica-Križevci	23.00	680	429	23.00	678	423	677	250	279
VII. County of Bjelovar-Bilogora	27.00	730	489	27.00	728	487	723	299	291
VIII. County of Primorje-Gorski kotar	86.00	2410	1368	86.00	2399	1382	2201	472	914
IX. County of Lika-Senj	8.00	155	96	8.00	156	96	151	55	67
X. County of Virovitica-Podravina	20.00	522	278	20.00	524	285	511	184	202
XI. County of Požega-Slavonia	20.00	556	340	19.00	508	304	500	142	227
XII. County of Slavonski brod-Posavina	37.00	1008	578	37.00	1004	577	987	256	406
XIII. County of Zadar	51.00	1298	750	51.00	1288	740	1234	319	545
XIV. County of Osijek-Baranja	84.00	2179	1235	86.00	2201	1259	2164	619	914
XV. County of Šibenik-Knin	26.00	748	449	22.00	642	433	627	234	284
XVI. County of Vukovar-Sirmium	42.00	1099	628	42.00	1094	626	1083	256	380
XVII. County of Split-Dalmatia	140.00	4012	2221	142.00	3962	2238	3799	967	1494
XVIII. County of Istria	60.00	1443	856	62.00	1431	851	1402	384	600
XIX. County of Dubrovnik-Neretva	38.00	1011	548	37.00	981	526	945	238	378
XX. County Međimurje	22.00	691	411	22.00	689	315	681	156	330
XXI. City of Zagreb	283.00	8571	4641	280.00	8521	4677	8399	2480	3616
TOTAL CROATIA	1135.00	31766	18147	1132.00	31413	17959	30597	8879	12813

TOTAL:

IV. Total	I. Girls Girls	I.-IV. Total Total	II. Girls Girls	Total	Girls	III. Total
47356	22987	47320	22989	49941	24131	50505

V. I.-VIII. Total Girls	Girls Total	VI. Total Girls	in mixed Girls class	VII. Total	Girls	VIII. Total	Girls	V.-VIII. Total
50753	24551	51677	25065	53888	26216	53081	25970	209443