



Country Presentation - Croatia

Workshop on Emigration Issues in the Western Balkans – joint approach to linking migration and development of the countries of origin

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PART 1

Migration Flows

- Croatia has been a traditional emigration country for centuries.
- Croatian emigration can be divided in several periods:
 - the phase before World War I (USA, Latin American countries, lesser Australia, New Zealand, South Africa etc.)
 - from 1918 till World War II (Germany, France, Belgium)
 - at the end of and immediately after the World War II (again Argentina and other Latin American countries)
 - after 1965 – opening of the border of Yugoslavia (Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada)
 - after 1990 – war and its consequences (mainly to Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand).

* NOTE: The 2011 Census : 4.290.000

Diaspora (without Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatian minorities in 12 countries): about 3.000.000

- In majority of periods, economic migration dominated, primarily made up of rural emigrants and workers from urban areas (Heršak, 1993).
- Between the two wars and also after the World War II there was also political emigration
- The estimates of the number of emigrants from the Croatian area until World War I are between 300.000 and 500.000 (Telišman, 1978).
- After World War II the greatest emigration wave from Yugoslavia occurred between 1965 and 1968 when the annual outflow included between 40.000 and 57.000 persons.

- Net emigration from 1948-1961 may have amounted to about 500.000 (Baučić, 1973)
- Croatia in relation to the other Yugoslav republics at that time had the largest emigration flows and in 1960 accounted for 56% of all external migrants from the area of former Yugoslavia (Baučić, 1973: 43)
- In the mid 1960's there were about 400.000 workers from the former Yugoslavia in Western Europe (Sekulić et al., 1995: 15)
- The war events of 1991-1995 and the break-up of Yugoslavia resulted in massive immigration flows to Croatia (refugees from BiH, later from Kosovo and Macedonia) together with internal flows of displaced persons.

PART 2

Recent Migration Flows

- Besides being an emigration country, Croatia was also a country of immigration, especially for migrants from other republics of the former Yugoslavia (Table 1.)
- The reduction in the number of immigrants was primarily due to negative trends in the economy (trend 2009-2010).
 - demand for labour was reduced in the construction industry, shipbuilding industry, the hotel industry and tourism

*NOTE: Croatia does not have a “Population Register” so the data on population migration is recorded every 10 years (Census)

Table 1. External migration of the population of the Republic of Croatia

	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net migration
2000	29 385	5 953	23 432
2001	24 415	7 488	16 927
2002	20 365	11 767	8 598
2003	18 455	6 534	11 921
2004	18 383	6 812	11 571
2005	14 230	6 012	8 218
2006	14 978	7 692	7 286
2007	14 622	9 002	5 620
2008	14 541	7 488	7 053
2009	8 468	9 940	-1 472
2010	4 985	9 860	-4 875

Source: http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2011/07-01-02_01_2011.htm

PART 3

STRATEGY FOR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND THE CROATIANS OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

- **Reasons for adoption**

- need for systematical approach to Croats outside Croatia as a part of a global migration policy
- constitutional obligation of the state (Article 10)

- **Basic strategic goals**

1. New legislative and institutional framework (basis for the implementation of the strategy)
2. Protect the rights and interests of the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia and strengthen their communities
3. Develop cooperation with the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia
4. Encourage the return of Croatian emigrants and their offspring to the Republic of Croatia

* NOTE: The Strategy and the Law define the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia as three basic groups:

- Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, presently about 400.000 (in 1991: 760.852)
- Croatian minorities in 12 European countries (about 350.000)
- Croatian diaspora in overseas and European countries (about 3 million)

MAIN OUTLINES AND NOVELTIES

1. **New legislative and institutional framework**

- Law on Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia
- Central authority in charge of the relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia
- Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia

2. **Protect the rights and interests of the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia and strengthen their communities**

- implementation of the existing bilateral agreements and the concluding of new bilateral agreements, as well as to the implementation of international conventions
- **Preserve the Croatian language, culture and identity among the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia**
 - *e-learning in support of the Croatian language classes in foreign countries*
 - *scholarship for pupils and students*

- **Encourage Croatian communities outside the Republic of Croatia to participate in the local social and political life**
 - *Croatian communities as a bridge for cooperation between the states*
 - *Encouragement of the intercultural dialogue*

- **Strengthen the status of the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia**
 - *Speed up admission to Croatian citizenship*
 - *Introduce the **Status of the Croatians without Croatian citizenship***
 - *Introduce facilities for the Croatians without Croatian citizenship even without the above-mentioned status*
 - *Provide facilities for tourist stays in the Republic of Croatia*

- **Actively include the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia in the social and political life of the Republic of Croatia**
 - *Representatives in the Croatian Parliament*
 - *Members appointed to the Council of the Government*

 - **Strengthen Croatian communities through information and connection**
 - *Information through the Central Authority*
 - *Connecting all the state administrative bodies and the local and regional self-government*
 - *Information through television and radio specialized service programs*
- 3. Develop cooperation with the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia**
- **Cultural cooperation**
 - *connecting the associations and cultural institutions*
 - *exchange of the Croatian cultural activities and heritage created in the local communities*
 - *encourage the establishment of the Croatian culture institutes/centres in the countries where Croatian communities live*

- **Educational and scientific cooperation**
 - *connecting the domestic educational and scientific institutions and individuals with the Croatian associations, institutions and individuals outside the Republic of Croatia*

- **Economic cooperation**
 - *encourage the Croatian emigrants to invest and produce in the Republic of Croatia*
 - *special projects grants for the Croatian emigrants improving small and medium-sized enterprises*
 - *systematically keeping specific records and statistics (remittances, investment ratio, foreign trade balance...)*

- **Scientific research into Croatian migrations**
 - *encourage research into the Croatian emigrants, Croatian minorities in foreign countries and the Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
 - *establish a documentary centre and museum for the historical documents and publications of the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia*

4. Encourage the return of Croatian emigrants and their offspring to the Republic of Croatia

- the return of the Croatian emigrants and their offspring will become a priority
 - *Programs for quicker integration (Mentorship and Welcome office)*

- **Attract established scientists**
 - A permanent program of „virtual mentorship“ between the students and teachers and Croatian scientists and businessmen world-wide will be put in place with a view to transferring the necessary knowhow

- **Attract pupils and students**
 - programs for studying Croatian language in Croatia,
 - Scholarships for pupils and students of the Croatian origin
 - accommodation in student homes

- **Projects for the employment of Croatian returnees in accordance with the needs of the labour market**

- **Facilitate the return of the retired and other persons**
 - Implementation of existing and work on new international (bilateral) social security agreements on pension and health insurance of the returnees and immigrants

****Republic of Croatia will also monitor the status of the communities and individuals who are **not adequately integrated** in the countries where they live, and when necessary it will protect and assist them under **specific terms** including the assistance to return to the Republic of Croatia and integrate in Croatian society

* **NOTE: Strategy making process:**

- *Analysis of legal and policy framework and practice in the Republic of Croatia;*
- *Analysis of models of the existing foreign legislations and practice of several countries with their emigration (Italy, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, France)*

PART 4

DIASPORAS CONTRIBUTION TO CROATIA

Data on remittance flows to Croatia (World Bank)

2003	5,72 bil. HRK
2004	6,44
2005	6,44
2006	6,50
2007	7,35
2008	8,45
2009	7,78
2010	8,14

- Estimates of unrecorded informal remittances
- Expenses during the visits and tourist visits in Croatia

Estimate of proportion of diasporas formal and informal remittances and expenses in GDP is approximately 10%.

This and other (indirect) contributions have been recognized in the Strategy and specific records and statistics will be registered

- Records about the investment of the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia and about the investment by Croatian returnees and immigrants
- Records about the cash remittances of the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia
- Monitoring of the foreign trade balance with the countries where the Croatians outside the Republic of Croatia live

Conclusion

It is possible to assume that the accession of Croatia to the EU will influence migration movements – reducing the recent domination of emigration flows and gradually increasing immigration flows, including immigration of Croats living abroad

The assumption is that the development of cooperation in cultural, educational and scientific fields will also boost economic cooperation with Croats outside Croatia.

In the new *Migration policy framework for 2012-2016*, the Government of Croatia has recently introduced the Population Register (and other measures).

It is necessary for each country to adopt its **emigration policy** and adjust its migration policy based on international standards.