



## FACTS ABOUT MDGs PROGRESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

### MDG 1: Eradicate Relative Poverty

*The underlying aim of all development programmes within the MDGs framework is the eradication of poverty, ensuring decent work and strengthening social inclusion.*



- Priorities of Croatia's National Plan for Employment Promotion 2009 – 2010 include the increase of women, older people and youth participation, resolving long-term unemployment, reducing the level of skills' disparity in the labour market, improving the level of workers' and companies' adaptability, increasing investment in human resources, good governance and administrative capacity-building.
- The Programme for Social and Economic Recovery is being implemented in 13 Croatian counties within Croatia's Areas of Special State Concern (ASSC). The Programme aims to increase social inclusion and enable economic recovery through investments in infrastructure, de-mining institutional development and project management activities. At present 80.000 people (12% of population in the ASSC) directly benefit from the Programme, through forecasts show that this will increase to 20% with the continuation of the Programme.

### MDG 2: Guaranteed Education for All

*Croatia is committed to create and develop a society of knowledge, starting with the improvement of the education system at all levels.*



- With the aim of securing education for all, Croatia has developed the project "e-Islands", which provides a better quality of distance-learning in regional schools located on distant and scarcely populated islands.
- Croatia adopted the Strategy for the Development of Vocational Education and Training 2008 – 2013 which recognizes the fundamental importance of knowledge, skills and competences to create greater career flexibility and employability, as well as to enable workers to respond to rapid changes in the labour market and technological developments.
- Access to education for children and youth with special needs is being ensured through the design of 51 targeted programmes, as well as the provision of special teaching assistants for children with such needs.

### MDG3: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

*Equal opportunities of women and men must be firmly integrated in all MDG targets, enabling sustained progress in education, employment, participatory decision-making processes or social issues.*



- Participation of women in Croatia's political decision making process has been increased.
- State administration bodies have an obligation to draw up action plans for the promotion and full implementation of gender equality.
- The draft national school curriculum also underscores the importance of a non-discriminatory approach and respect for diversity and tolerance within schools and social communities.
- With the aim of improving the harmonization of professional and private life especially for single-parent families, extended day school programmes for children in elementary schools was introduced as a national educational standard in 2008.

### MDG 4: Reduce Newborn and Child Mortality

*The causes of infant death in Croatia are no different than in developed countries.*



- In the past five years the average number of examinations per individual pregnancy has been increased from 6 to 8 examinations.
- Out of Croatia's 30 maternity hospitals currently 15 have been designated as a "Baby-Friendly Maternity Hospital". Significant steps have been made towards promoting breastfeeding: from initially 16 groups in 2006 to 101 groups in 2010, led by visiting nurses and 5 groups from civil society.
- Education on reproductive health for adolescents and pregnant women in particular, is of critical importance.

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### MDG 5: Improving maternal health

*All women in Croatia are entitled to free childbirth delivery in healthcare institutions, regardless of health insurance coverage.*



- Maternal mortality is kept at a low level owing to the existing mechanisms of antenatal, natal and postnatal care defined by protection standards.
- Activities aimed at further decreasing the number of terminated pregnancies, particularly with adolescent girls are implemented through the School Children and Youth Health Protection Measures Programme, as well as through the youth counseling bodies.
- The National Programme for Early Breast Cancer Detection has been implemented for three years and the number of women examined annually has gradually increased (in 2008, 57% of all invited women chose to be examined).

### MDG 6: Fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses

*Monitoring of the HIV infection in the world and adoption of the programme for the prevention of HIV infection were already initiated in Croatia prior to the first nationally recorded case.*



- Croatia is a country with a low level of AIDS prevalence due to the active, continuous and systematic measures undertaken nationally.
- Free Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment is ensured for AIDS patients in Croatia.
- 10 centers were established across Croatia under the project "Scaling up the HIV/AIDS Response in Croatia" financed by the Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS and Malaria. These centers provide free and anonymous testing as well as counseling services.

### MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

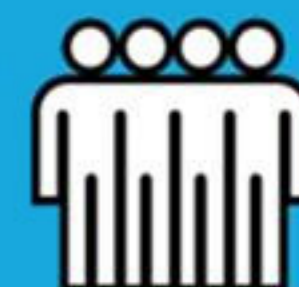
*Adoption of the Croatia's National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2009 has reaffirmed strong support of integrating sustainable development principles into wider national policies.*



- Over the last six years, protected natural areas have increased from 6,81% to 7,95% of Croatia's entire territory in 2010.
- Due to its specific geographical location, Croatia enjoys one of the richest biodiversities in Europe. Currently there are approximately 38,000 known species in Croatia, though estimates are far higher.
- Forests and other wooded land encompass almost half of the Croatia's mainland territory. Forests are managed under a "close to nature" approach with the aim of natural regeneration of forests and in accordance with sustainable management principles.
- Waste management regulations in Croatia have been fully aligned with relevant provisions of the European Union's *acquis*.

### MDG 8: Global development cooperation

*Croatia has committed itself to address the development needs of least developed countries.*



- Croatia has transitioned from a recipient to donor country with regards to development aid.
- By its participation in international development aid programs, Croatia has demonstrated its commitment as a reliable and equal partner in the international political scene.
- Croatia supports the achievement of those development policy objectives which give recipient countries control over their own development.
- The strategic framework for the development of Croatia during the period 2006-2013 recognizes the effective use of ICT as the foundation for the development and transformation of Croatian society into a knowledge-based society.