

Croatias' achivements on inclusion in teaching and learning

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Policy priorities in Higher Education

• The current policies for the development of higher education at the international and national levels are focused on improving the quality and relevance of higher education, e.g. numerous initiatives and activities related to student-centred learning, the recognition of prior learning, mutal recognition of degrees, employability, mobility, internationalization and enhancing of the social dimension of higher education.



National context of inclusion of higher education

 Implementation priorities in the field of higher education policy in the Republic of Croatia are defined in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 and refer to development of:

1) higher education system and internationalization in accordance with contemporary European trends through improving the availability of quality higher education, relevant in relation to the labor market and society;

2) student standards, infrastructure and work, and university towns as nurseries of knowledge and talents.



- In order that higher education plays its role in confronting Europe with social and democratic challenges, it was necessary to ensure that higher education was inclusive and its institutions to be well connected to the communities in which they operate.
- In acordance with that the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia established in 2015 the National group for the Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education.
- The National group created the first National plan for the Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia 2019-2021.

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NATIONAL PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA (2019 – 2021)

> UNDER-REPRESENTED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

GUIDELINES FOR ENHANCING THE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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- Along with the **National plan**, two accompanying documents were published:
- 1) Under-represented and Vulnerable Groups in Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia;
- 2) Guidelines for Enhancing the Support System for Students with Disabilities in Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia.
- These documents are available on the website of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia: <u>https://mzo.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/odgoj-i-obrazovanje/visoko-obrazovanje/visokog-obrazovanja/157</u>

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There are 6 objectives of the National Plan for Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia 2019-2021:

- 1) Systematically collect and process information that is relevant to the improvement of the social dimension of higher education and to use them for this purpose;
- 2) Improve access to higher education for under-represented and vulnerable groups and remove barriers to entry;
- 3) Provide equal opportunities for all students during their studies;
- 4) Increase the rate of completion of studies and employment of under-represented and vulnerable groups after graduation;



- 5) Improve the system of financial assistance to members of underrepresented and vulnerable groups;
- 6) Include standards related to the improvement of the social dimension of higher education in the quality assurance system.



SIDERAL - Social and International Dimension of Education and Recognition of Acquired Learning (2019-2021) as part of the call of the Erasmus+ program "Key Action 3 - Support to the implementation of EHEA. The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia was the coordinator of the project.

Project was designed to support the implementation of the measures of the National Plan for Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the Republic of Croatia 2019 – 2021, especially measures that include the creation of studies and the implementation of research related to the effectiveness of existing measures of inclusivity and the improvement of the social dimension in higher education, as well on the development of guidelines for HEIs for recognition of prior learning for the purpose of further education.



- The project co-financed the Advisory Group for the Social Dimension of the International Group for Monitoring the Bologna Process (BFUG) and the National Group for the Enhancing of the Social Dimension of Higher Education, which connects the national and European levels in harmonizing policies for the development of the social dimension.
- The partners in the project were the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Swedish Institute for Higher Education and the European Student Union (ESU), with Croatia as co-chair of the Advisory Group for the Social Dimension of the BFUG.



- The project 'Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension across the European Higher Education Area (PLAR-U-PAGs)' is a 3-year project co-funded by Erasmus+ KA3 Support to Policy Reform. The project will run from June 2022 until May 2025.
- The project is led by the Ministry of Education and Training Belgium/Flemish Community (MINEDU-FC) and the Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO) of the Flemish Community of Belgium. They collaborate with the Ministry of Science and Education, Republic of Croatia (MINEDU-CR), the Institute for the Development of Education (IDE) in Zagreb, and the European Students' Union (ESU).

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The project activities are:

- peer-learning activities to deepen the exchange of good practices between EHEA countries at different policy implementation stages;
- a PAGs toolkit to support national authorities and higher education institutions to check their current policies and practices in the social dimension and receive advice on action points for improvement;
- a comprehensive mental health action framework, including a self-assessment tool and guidelines to support the implementation of sustainable mental health policies at the national and institutional levels.



- A central web portal on financial assistance and psychological counselling services to enable a Europe-wide network of cooperation and information sharing.
- More details are available on the project website: <u>https://www.inclusivehighereducation.eu/</u>.





The PLAR-U-PAGs project supports national authorities and higher education institutions in the implementation of the principles and guidelines for social dimension.



Timeline				$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	
2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2024



- The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia is the coordinator of the national survey **EUROSTUDENT for the Republic of Croatia**.
- Croatia joined the EUROSTUDENT research in 2010 in its fourth cycle, and it participated in the fifth, sixth, and the seventh cycles. The eight cycle of research is currently being conducted.
- The goal of the research is to collect data on the demographic profile, socio-economic status of students, expenses incurred by students during their studies, sources of financing, students' satisfaction with various aspects of their studies, work during their studies, and their experiences and plans for international mobility.



- In addition, the research was focused on the performance characteristics of classes, study success and health aspects of **pandemics** and **earthquakes** in the past period.
- Data was collected at the national level, national reports are prepared, then analyzed at the level of all countries participating in the research and published in an international report after each research cycle.
- More details are available on the EUROSTUDENT research website: <u>https://www.eurostudent.hr/</u>.





EUROSTUDENT VI

O Eurostudentu

EUROSTUDENT je međunarodni projekt i istraživanje o kvaliteti studentskoga života čiji je cilj prikupiti podatke o socijalnoj dimenziji visokog obrazovanja u državama članicama Bolonjskoga procesa. Pokrenut je u svrhu unapređenja socijalne dimenzije visokog obrazovanja i postizanja strateških ciljeva kao što su dostupnost, uključivost i pristupačnost visokog obrazovanja.





- The European Commission provided grants within the Erasmus+ program for the purposes of co-financing the implementation of the EUROGRADUATE Survey 2022 in selected countries.
- The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia has approved the implementation of the project called **GT Croatia**, which would finance the implementation of the EUROGRADUATE Survey 2022 in the Republic of Croatia.
- The Republic of Croatia is one of the 17 countries of the European Union selected to participate in the EUROGRADUATE Survey 2022, under the leadership of the European Commission.



- The research implementation is carried out by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the Agency for Science and Higher Education.
- What is EUROGRADUATE Survey?
- The EUROGRADUATE survey is a survey in selected countries of the European Union launched by the European Commission in 2018 with the aim of creating assumptions for monitoring the career development of persons with a higher education degree across Europe.
- The second phase of the EUROGRADUATE Survey started in 2022, the implementation body for the Republic of Croatia is the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia.



- At the level of the European Union, the research is coordinated by the German Center for Research in Higher Education (DZHW).
- Monitoring the employability of persons with a higher education qualification has emerged as an extremely important national and European topic, as it enables the collection of information necessary for the better development of policies and higher education as a whole.
- More details are available on the EUROGRADUATE Survey in Croatia website: <u>https://www.eurograduate.hr/</u>



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O ISTRAŽIVANJU DOKUMENTI AKTUALNOSTI KONTAKT NASLOVNICA O PROJEKTU

ANKETA

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EUROGRADUATE SURVEY 2022 IN CROATIA

EUROGRADUATE Survey 2022 u Republici Hrvatskoj.

Europska komisija osigurala je bespovratna sredstva u sklopu programa Erasmus+ za potrebe sufinanciranja provedbe istraživanja EUROGRADUATE Survey 2022 u odabranim zemljama.

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Thank you for attention!





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