Croatia's National Youth Action Program (2003) defines youth as aged 15-29 years old, however the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth sets the definition at 15-20 years old.

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

Croatia has a National Youth Action Program from 2003, underpinned by a Youth Program for 2009-2013.

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Youth Development Index**

- **Index**: 0.68
- **Rank**: 68 out of 170 countries
- **Year**: 2013
- **Source**: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**Literacy Rates**

- **Male**: 99.74%
- **Female**: 99.75%
- **Both sex**: 99.73%
- **Year**: 2015
- **Source**: UNESCO

**Net Enrolment Rate**

- **Secondary School**: 93.67%
- **Male**: 92.33%
- **Female**: 95.08%
- **Both sex**: 94.24%
- **Year**: 2012
- **Source**: UNESCO

**Prevalence of HIV**

- **Male (15-24) %**: 2.50%
- **Female (15-24) %**: 2.50%
- **Both sex**: 2.50%
- **Year**: No data
- **Source**: World Bank

**Tobacco Use**

- **24.90%**
- **Male (15-24) %**: 23.30%
- **Female (15-24) %**: 25.60%
- **Year**: 2010
- **Source**: WHO

**Policy & Legislation**

The 2003 National Youth Action Program, as described by the country sheet on Croatia (2011), aims to create the conditions for the improved development and well-being of youth. Its strategic goals include:

- Improving legislation on youth;
- Defining and providing clarity to public bodies on their obligations in relation to youth;
- Including as many young people as possible in decision-making;
- Creating conditions that reduce emigration and promote a return to Croatia.

It also sets out a plan for implementation and financing. The Youth Program 2006-2013 (referred to as the “new National Youth Program”) is an update of the original, with measures and activities specifically for 2009-2013. It focuses on many of the same areas: Education; Employment; Social Policy; Health; and Participation.
**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Department of Youth within Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is responsible for youth in Croatia, previously belonging to the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity, the authors of the 2003 National Youth Action Program. The deputy minister is also the deputy chair for the Youth Council of the Croatian Government, an interdepartmental advisory body on public policies for youth. It is comprised of 24 members, with 14 representing government departments, 7 from youth organisations and 3 from scientific and educational institutions.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The Croatian Youth Network (MMH) represents 64 non-governmental youth organisations in Croatia. Its main goals are to raise awareness about young people, co-create and advocate for quality youth policies, and contribute to the development of civil society. It is coordinated by a Managing Board of elected representatives from member organisations, led by a Secretary General that is elected by the Board, and makes decisions via a yearly General Assembly. It participates in the Youth Council of the Croatian Government and is a member of the European Youth Forum.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

As reported by Lider on 14 November 2013, the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth was allocated HRK 6.2 billion (USD 1.1 million) in 2013, however it is uncertain what portion of this was specifically for youth. According to the World Bank, Croatia spent 4.31% of its GDP on education in 2010, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of Gov. Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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</table>

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

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