

# Croatia introduction

Croatia still faces the challenge of one of the lowest rates of participation in adult education. In order to deal with this, the government has focused its efforts into strengthening the provision of vocational and professional training for adults. At the same time, the country is working on a new agenda and strategies for adult education for the near future.

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## Recent developments in Croatia

The Croatian Ministry of Education is currently continuing its work on drafting the new Adult Education Act. Croatian EAEA members are expecting the new act to increase regulation of non-formal adult education providers.

During the last year the Croatian government has started developing a new curriculum for adult education. The new curriculum focuses on basic skills and their provision. The basic skills include literacy, numeracy, and digital capabilities and will be integrated into elementary education for adults. The local actors have an important role in fostering adult education in the country, largely by engaging in projects funded by the European Commission, especially Erasmus+.

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# Links to EU and international policy in Croatia

Recent policies on education are largely based on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Upskilling Pathways initiative. As was mentioned before, the government is focusing on strengthening the provision of basic skills. In addition to that the Strategy on Education, Science, and Technology, adopted in 2014, sets several goals related to adult education:

Goal 1: Provide preconditions for increasing adult involvement into lifelong learning and education processes;

Goal 2: Improve and expand learning, education, training and refining skills;

Goal 3: Establish a quality assurance system in adult education;

Goal 4: Improve organisation, funding and the management processes of adult education.

The EAEA member, Institute for Development of Lifelong Learning (PAR), is working on promoting SDG by organising events, promoting lifelong learning, and promoting learning for entrepreneurship. Among the organizations activities are: PAR International Leadership Conference in Opatija, Entrepreneurial Camp (for start-ups and young entrepreneurs) and "Women with no excuses" in Rijeka.

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# Challenges and recommendations in Croatia

Following the adaptation of the new Adult Education Act, the education providers in Croatia may find complying with new regulations challenging. However, it is still not clear how the new Act will change the status quo for non-formal adult education.

The EAEAs members in Croatia recommend that the state places a stronger focus on creating a culture of lifelong learning amongst its citizens, and promoting continuing education to adults from all walks of life. At the moment, there are relatively few opportunities for adults with higher qualifications or currently in employment who want to participate in non-formal education. Therefore, there is a need to create more incentives for private companies and non-formal education providers to offer all individuals learning opportunities.

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