



(image source: Wikipedia)

Croatia is situated in South East Europe, at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, neighbouring five countries on land border: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro. The Croatian Adriatic coastline is one of the most indented coastlines in Europe, next to the Norwegian fjords.



The International Monetary Fund classified Croatia as an open and developing economy and the World Bank defined it as a high-income economy.



EURAXESS members in focus: CROATIA

Croatian S&T Funding Agencies

Scientific research in Croatia is monitored and conducted in six fields of science: natural sciences, technical, biomedical, biotechnical and social sciences, and humanities. The entire system of science and technology is financed through direct project financing with a mechanism of annual monitoring of results, through financing of junior researchers on concrete projects, with multi-year monitoring of their progress and financing of equipment.

The main funding bodies, in addition to the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE), are the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) and the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO). Through the Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme and Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Croatia is combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for funding development of science and research.

Croatian Science Foundation (CSF)

Croatian Science Foundation was established by the Croatian Parliament in December 2001 under the name The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia. Its mission is to promote science, higher education and technological development in Croatia in order to ensure the economic development and to support employment. The Foundation provides support to scientific, higher education and technological programmes and projects, fosters international cooperation, and supports the realization of scientific programmes of special interest in the field of fundamental, applied and developmental research.

Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)

HAMAG-BICRO is the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the purpose of enhancing SME development and promoting investment and innovation. The Agency is an independent institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts.

Croatian Research and Innovation Institutions

The Croatian research and innovation system

The Croatian research and innovation system has evolved over the last decade into a complex system of various institutions and measures directed to build innovation-driven growth. The basic principles and guidelines of science and higher education policy are determined by the Croatian Parliament. **The Ministry of Science and Education (MSE)** is the main administrative body responsible for planning, funding and monitoring of the entire science and education system while the highest advisory body for the scientific research system is **The National Council of Science, Higher Education and Technological Development** with the aim to harmonize the overall development of the R&D and innovation system. **The Ministry of Economy,**

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EURAXESS is supported by over 40 countries, of which we profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS LAC newsletters. In this edition, we zoom in on CROATIA.

Focuses on other EU countries are available [here](#).

So far, we featured the following countries: Albania, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain.

Entrepreneurship and Crafts complements the national innovation policy related to innovation-based entrepreneurship and business infrastructure. The role of the **Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds** has increased upon the Croatian accession to EU. Scientific activity in Croatia is performed at the universities, public research institutes, research institutes, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other legal persons duly registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations.

Investment in R&D and employment in Science and Technology

The Croatian science and technology sector employed 38,2 % of the active population (aged 25-64) in 2016 according to the Eurostat report which is close to the EU-28 average (46%). The public R&D sector, with universities playing a leading role, is the largely dominant sector research manpower (56,5% of total researchers HEI in 2016). As reported by Eurostat in 2016, the business sector employs a modest 21% of total researchers and invests 0,44 percent of GDP in R&D. On the other hand, the business enterprises sector is leading in R&D performing activities (49,4%), followed by the higher education sector (31%). Furthermore, the total investment into R&D was 0,85% of the GDP in 2016 and has been fluctuating around 1% in the past 10 years, marking Croatia as one of the most advanced R&D performers in the region, but not at the EU level. However, according to ERAWATCH, Economic Programme of Croatia envisaged increasing the investment in research and development to achieve a share of GERD of 1,4% of the GDP by 2020 in order to overcome the gap in science funding between Croatia and the EU countries (0,85% of GDP vs. 2,03 % of GDP in 2016).

Ruđer Bošković Institute

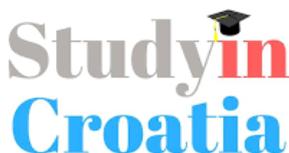
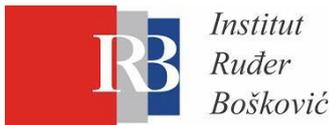
The Ruđer Bošković Institute is regarded as Croatia's leading scientific institute in the natural and biomedical sciences as well as marine and environmental research, owing to its size, scientific productivity, international reputation in research, and the quality of its scientific personnel and research facilities. The Institute is the leading and internationally most competitive Croatian institute by virtue of its participation in international research projects.

Croatian Academy of Science and Arts

The Academy promotes and organizes scientific research and encourages the application of the findings of this research, develops artistic and cultural activities, and is concerned with Croatian cultural heritage and its affirmation throughout the world. It publishes the results of scientific research and artistic creation and makes proposals and gives its opinion on the promotion of sciences and arts in the fields which are of special importance to the Republic of Croatia.

Study in Croatia

The portal "Study in Croatia" (www.studyincroatia.hr) is owned and managed by the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes. It contains information about higher education in Croatia aimed at prospective international students. You can find an overview of the Croatian higher education system, practical information about application procedures, student life, visas and accommodation and scholarships. Furthermore, the portal provides information on learning Croatian as a foreign language, as well as general information about Croatia.





SNAPSHOT

**Dunja Dunda (Croatia)**

Dunja Dunda is a Community Psychologist who went from the UK to Chile, thanks to a Santander Universities Travel Grant obtained while she was pursuing her MA in Community Psychology. Her research relates to grassroots self-organisation of disadvantaged communities. She has been researching liberation psychology and the importance of critical consciousness-raising and public space being recognised and treated as political space, as a way of achieving transformative change for the oppressed.

Her focus has been on the methodology of large group self-organisation called the "Organisation Workshop", created by the Brazilian sociologist Clodomir Santos de Morais, which contributes to the process of local empowerment; the acquisition of organisational, emotional and professional skills, the reactivation of the local economy, and the creation and development of local enterprises.

Croatian presence in South America

It is estimated that some 3 million Croatian immigrants and their descendants live today outside Croatia and around the world. Latin American countries, primarily Argentina and Chile, received Croatian immigrants in two important immigration waves. The first one was in late 19th century, between 1880 until World War 1, mainly for economic reasons, while the second one was at the end of World War 2, mainly for political reasons. It is estimated that some 250.000 Croats and their descendants live today in Argentina, some 200.000 in Chile, 20.000 in Brazil, 5.000 in Bolivia, 4.000 in Ecuador, 5.000 in Paraguay, 6.000 in Peru, and 5.000 in Venezuela. These figures however are not confirmed and in some of these countries the estimated numbers may significantly vary to include a much higher number of Croatian descendants. As for Chile, the contribution of Croatian immigrants and their descendants in the construction of modern Chile has been very significant since important Chilean entrepreneurs and industrials, politicians, artists, writers, academics and scientists are Croats by descent.

The Croatian immigrants and their descendants from South America are often very interested in cooperating with their mother land and Croatia's goal is to support their interest through various initiatives aiming at keeping and strengthening their Croatian identity and fostering their economic, cultural, scientific and political involvement in present-day Croatia.

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Croats outside Croatia is a consultative body of the Croatian Government which supports it in the design and implementation of policies, activities and programs aimed at Croats and Croatian immigrants living abroad, while the Central State Office for Croats outside the Republic of Croatia is the central governmental executive body in charge of the coordination of all pertinent activities.

The Embassy of Croatia in Chile has co-organized so far 4 annual meetings, in coordination with the Croatian diaspora organisations from Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, and the participation of the Embassies in Argentina and Brazil and the Croatian diaspora organizations from the rest of South American countries, as well as with the support from the Croatian Government institutions. The Final Conclusions aim at strengthening the Croatian South American diaspora identity and their overall involvement in Croatia's economic, cultural, scientific and political life and growth. The 5th meeting is expected to take place in Argentina in the second half of 2019.

Source: Croatian Embassy to Chile.

EURAXESS Croatia

The Agency for Mobility and European Union Programmes is coordinator (Bridgehead Organization) of the EURAXESS programme in Croatia as well as a EURAXESS Service Centre. The EURAXESS Service Centre (ESC) assists researchers and their families during their period of mobility, in all matters relating to their professional and daily lives, helping them to reach adequate services for their needs, as well as assists the core contact points in research institutions and informs a wider group of contact points about matters of interest to mobility. For all required information, incoming researchers should contact Croatian EURAXESS Service Centre, or check the website (<https://www.euraxess.hr/>).

