Science Programmes

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the European Union research and innovation framework programme for the period 2014 to 2020, encompassing the activities of the former Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the innovation aspects of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), and the EU’s contribution to the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). The structure of the Horizon 2020 is based on three main priorities: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges.

Horizon 2020 contributes towards the realisation of the objectives of the key strategic documents of the EU in the area of research, technology and innovation – Europe 2020 and Innovation Union – as well as towards building the European Research Area.

The leading ideas behind the new framework programme include offering solutions and responses to the economic crisis, investing into future jobs and development, addressing the issues of financial and general security of EU citizens and their environment, and fortifying the global position of the EU in research, innovation and technology.

Programme countries put into place national support structures consisting of National Contact Points (NCPs) responsible for specific thematic areas, whose job is to provide information and consulting services to potential applicants. In Croatia, the strategic management of the programme falls within the competence of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and the major part of the NCP support structure is located at the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes.

www.odbzor2020.hr

Euraxess

EURAXESS is a European Union programme aimed at fostering the mobility of researchers and scientists. The EURAXESS network covers 38 European countries and consists of 200 EURAXESS centres in all major European cities.

The EURAXESS service centre assists foreign researchers and scientists who visit Croatia to work on scientific projects. Additionally, the programme supports local researchers by providing them with information on research opportunities abroad, international cooperation, and available financial support and fellowships.

www.euraxess.hr

Results of Croatia’s participation in EU Programmes in the fields of Science

Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development 2007 – 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Total for the period 2007 – 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>National financial contribution for participation</td>
<td>EUR 48.9 million (EUR 23.5 million from the State Budget, and EUR 15.4 million via contribution from the IPA funds)</td>
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<td>Total amount of grants signed</td>
<td>567 million EUR</td>
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<td>Contracting rate in relation to the national financial contribution</td>
<td>183 %</td>
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<td>Number of approved projects with Croatian partners</td>
<td>368</td>
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<td>Number of participants – Croatian institutions</td>
<td>392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rate of projects by Croatian applicants</td>
<td>16.99 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rate of projects by EU applicants</td>
<td>21.60 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rate of Croatian-coordinated projects</td>
<td>10.47 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rate of EU coordinated projects</td>
<td>18.14 %</td>
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</table>

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) was the largest EU programme in the field of research and technological development in the period 2007 – 2013. FP7 was an important financial instrument for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Croatia, with EUR 15.9 million awarded for SMEs through the programme.

Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes

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Programmes in the Area of Education, Training and Youth

Erasmus+
Erasmus+ is the largest EU programme in the area of education, training and youth, spanning the period from 2014 to 2020. Approximately 245 million € have been allocated for the programme on the European Union level. In Croatia, the programme budget was over €14.5 million in 2015, with an expected gradual increase of the budget in the upcoming years.

The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMEP) is a national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+. The Agency offers information and support services, publishes calls for proposals for the allocation of grants for mobility and strategic partnership actions, contracts and other financial instruments, and monitors their implementation. Some of the Erasmus+ actions are centralised for all of the participating countries. Centralised actions are implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - EACEA (ec.europa.eu/education).

Erasmus+ aims to boost knowledge, skills and employability of European citizens as well as to modernise education, training and work in the fields of youth and sport. It particularly focuses on the interconnections between the education, training and youth areas and the business sector, providing opportunities for joint projects.

Education and Training
Erasmus+ provides opportunities for international mobility of individuals, including periods of study, traineeship and training abroad. Interested individuals apply through their home institutions. Furthermore, the programme offers opportunities for cooperation to institutions from around the world through the Joint Master Degrees programme and Capacity Building projects for higher education.

Youth
Numerous group and individual mobility opportunities are available to young people and youth workers. For young people, the programme offers opportunities for exchange, volunteering, engaging in structured dialogue with policy makers and participating in youth initiatives. For youth workers, opportunities are available for job shadowing, training seminars and study visits. Depending on the action, either organisations or informal groups of young people are eligible to apply. All of the actions include the component of cooperation with the EU neighbourhood countries: the countries of the South-East Europe, the Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region, as well as the Mediterranean Asian and African countries. Interested individuals can contact organisations in their home countries to participate in the preparation of Erasmus+ projects.

Erasmus+ also provides opportunities for joint international projects involving organisations that are engaged in the fields of education, training or youth work on any level. These organisations may include bodies of local and regional government, chambers, companies and cultural institutions. This collaboration may be in the form of strategic partnerships aimed at developing basic and transversal skills, such as entrepreneurial, language and digital skills; developing new and innovative approaches to learning and teaching; integrating digital skills and knowledge into teaching, training and youth work; building institutional and organisational capacities; promoting equality, inclusion and targeted activities for special groups.

Sport
The area of sport is covered by centralised Erasmus+ activities. The sport actions aim at highlighting the European dimension of sport, supporting transnational amateur sport projects, tackling cross-border challenges such as match fixing, doping, violence and racism, and promoting good governance, gender equality, social inclusion and sport for all.

The Erasmus+ Programme also includes Jean Monnet Actions aimed at fostering research and development and educational activities in the field of European Union studies.

Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)
Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS) is a regional higher education mobility programme. The programme promotes international cooperation of higher education institutions and mobility of students and staff. CEEPUS provides students and teachers with an opportunity to spend a period of study or to teach in one of the CEEPUS countries.

Bilateral Programme of Mobility in Higher Education
Bilateral Programme of Mobility in Higher Education is a programme of scholarships for Croatian and foreign citizens based on international bilateral agreements and cooperation programmes entered into by the Republic of Croatia and partner countries.

In the implementation of the programme, the Agency cooperates closely with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, as the signatory of bilateral agreements. Bilateral scholarships are awarded on the basis of public call for applications and they can be awarded for degree and non-degree mobility of students, PhD students and researchers as well as for summer language courses or one-semester Croatian course for foreign students.

Initiatives, Networks and Working Groups
eTwinning
The eTwinning platform offers an online platform for international collaboration and professional development of teaching and non-teaching staff of preschool, primary and secondary education levels. The collaboration takes place in the form of virtual projects and participation in virtual and live professional development programmes, such as workshops, seminars and conferences.

Euroguidance
Euroguidance is a member of the European network of national centres providing support to career guidance. The network was established to strengthen the European dimension of guidance and provide information on lifelong guidance and mobility.

Europass
The National Europass Centre in Croatia implements the Europass initiative. Europass is a portfolio containing five documents. Its purpose is to enable European citizens to present the acquired skills and qualifications in a clear, reliable and comparable way, harmonized throughout Europe. The Europass documents are: Europass Curriculum Vitae (CV), Europass Language Passport, Europass Mobility, Europass Diploma Supplement and Europass Certificate Supplement.

European Language Label
The European Language Label (ELL) is an award encouraging new initiatives in the field of teaching and learning languages, promoting and encouraging the introduction of new languages and awarding new techniques in language teaching.

Eurodesk
Eurodesk is a European scheme to provide young people with information on learning, work, volunteering, scholarships, travel and other opportunities for young people in Europe.

Expert working group for ECVET
Expert working group for ECVET promotes the development and the application of the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training. ECVET is a new European instrument for the promotion of reliability and mobility in the field of vocational education and training.