

Policy Recommendations – Croatia

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Generation 0101 – Intellectual Output O2

Policy Level:

National

Policy Issue:

Non-formal ICT education

Recommendations:

Non-formal educational environment is not recognised as environment for replacing inefficiency of formal education system, especially vocational education. Main characteristics of informal educational environment are flexibility, focus on important general competencies as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity etc. and focus on experiential learning more adjusted to the needs of person in education.

Rationale:

What:

Non-formal education in structured learning environment which is aimed at development of different skills and gain all kind of knowledge. It is very important for functional literacy and continuing education for adults and youths who have not had the advantage of formal education or who did not complete their primary education and secondary education. It provides education to different categories of graduates to improve the basic knowledge and skills as well as in-service, on-the-job, vocational and professional training to different categories of workers and professionals to improve their skills. Additionally, it is important for necessary aesthetic, cultural and civic education for public enlightenment to all citizens.

Why:

With the rapid development of digital technology and its increasing use in business, education and culture, it is important to ensure everyone can understand and engage with different ICT tools. Development of [digital market](#) requires employees with professional ICT skills and costumers with at least basic ICT skills.

Who:

Teachers, trainers, e-facilitators, ICT professionals, children, youth, adults, seniors.

Where:

ICT non – formal education should be implemented in NGOs, community centers, training centers, at home. The most needed change in Croatian society is involvement of ICT education on all educational levels, from kindergarten up to College.

How:

1. Recognition of non-formal education in [Croatian Qualifications Framework](#) by the [Ministry of Education, Science and Sports](#).
2. ICT education could be supported by fostering more hours of direct work with citizens in existing Associations of technical culture that are funded by municipalities.
3. Additionally, more funds from EU and National funds must be reserved, by [Ministry of Education, Science and Sports](#), [Ministry of Labor and Pension System](#) and [Ministry of Social Policy and Youth](#) for non-formal ICT education specially because of the Government's decision not to include Informatics as one of major subjects in primary schools in ongoing education reform. Setting up digital labs and makers spaces in local communities, connected to schools and libraries, would enable local community to have efficient ICT development and will empower digital market and industry.