

# INTEGRATION OF (YOUNG) REFUGEES AND RECEIVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES.

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GOOD PRACTICES ON INTEGRATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

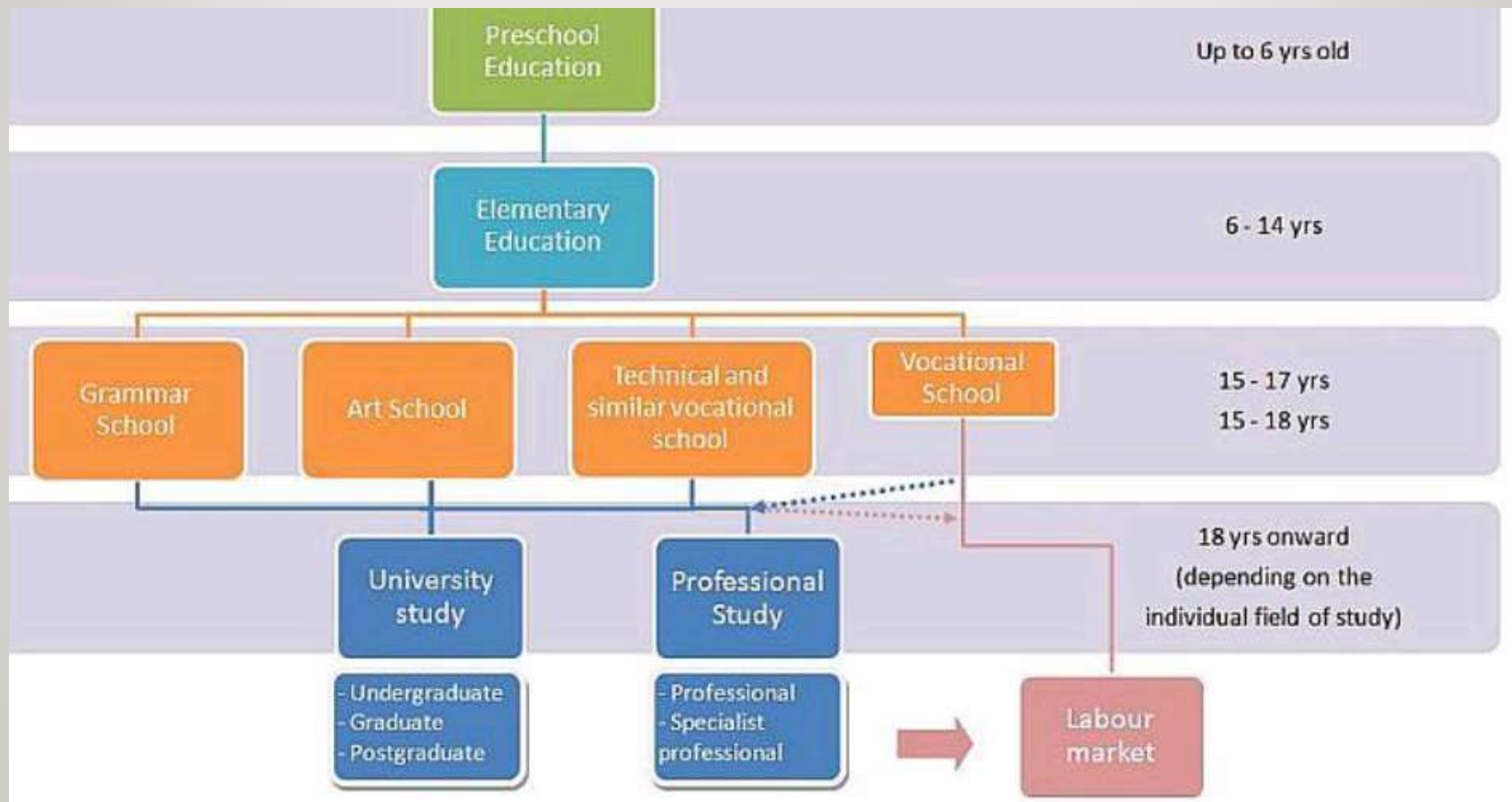
BREZNIČKI HUM AND GORNJA RIJEKA

DURRES ALBANIA, JUNE 2018

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- Other actions taken by the Croatian government to improve immigrant education



# COMPETENT INSTITUTIONS

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- **MINISTARSTVO ZNANOSTI, OBRAZOVANJA I SPORTA**      MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND SPORT
- **AGENCIJA ZA ODGOJ I OBRAZOVANJE** / AGENCY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- **AGENCIJA ZA STRUKOVNO OBRAZOVANJE I OBRAZOVANJE ODRASLIH** / AGENCY FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND ADULT EDUCATION
- **AGENCIJA ZA ZNANOST I VISOKO OBRAZOVANJE** / AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION NATIONAL ENIC / NARIC OFFICE

# LAWS AND REGULATIONS RULING THE INTEGRATION OF ALIENS INTO THE CROATIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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- **Law on International and Temporary Protection (*LITP*) of the Republic of Croatia - Access to education**
- **Indicators: Access to Education**
- 1. Does the law provide for access to education for asylum-seeking children? **Yes**
- 2. Are children able to access education in practice? **Yes**

# EDUCATION GRANTED FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CROATIA

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- The right to education is a constitutional right for all children staying in Croatia. According to the LITP, only child applicants (i.e. those under 18) are entitled to primary and secondary education. Applicants who have begun to exercise the right to secondary education are allowed to continue secondary education even after they have turned 18.
- According to the LITP, the right to primary and secondary education is granted to child applicants under the same conditions as for Croatian nationals, and children can access education within 30 days of lodging an application



# ACTION PLAN FOR INTEGRATION OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2019

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- Adopted by the Government of Croatia in March 2017
- Chapter 8 : Language learning and education
- Pursuant to the Primary and Secondary Education Act (Official Gazette No. 87/2008, 86/2009, 92/2010, 105/2010-Apr, 90/2011, 16/2012, 86/2012, 94/2013, 152/2014) and the Ordinance on Elements and Criteria for Election of candidates for enrollment in I grade of secondary school (Official Gazette 49/2015) asylum seekers, asylum seekers, subordinate foreigners, protection as well as foreigners illegally resident in the Republic of Croatia have the right to primary and secondary education. In order for their integration into the educational system to be as successful as possible, the same law stipulates that schools are required to provide special assistance to children entitled to education in the Republic of Croatia without knowing or lacking knowledge of the Croatian language.
- The Law on International and Temporary Protection (Official Gazette No. 70/15) stipulates that an asylum seeker and a foreigner under subsidiary protection shall be entitled to higher education under the same conditions as Croatian nationals in accordance with special regulations. Also, according to the Law on International and Temporary Protection (Official Gazette No. 70/15), asylum seekers and foreigners under subsidiary protection have the right to recognition of foreign educational qualifications under the same conditions as Croatian citizens.

# ACTION PLAN FOR INTEGRATION OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2019

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- By 2015, the Ministry of Science and Education, based on the Law on Primary and Secondary Education, the Aliens Act and the Asylum Act, passed a series of regulations for asylum seekers, asylum seekers, foreigners under temporary protection and aliens under subsidiary protection learning Croatian language, history and culture for inclusion in the Croatian education system or inclusion in the Croatian society: 1.) Rulebook on the manner of implementation of the program and verification of knowledge of asylum seekers, asylum seekers and foreigners under temporary protection and aliens under subsidiary protection, for access to the educational system of the Republic of Croatia ; 2.) Program of Croatian Language, History and Culture for Asylum and Asylum Seekers ; 3.) Program of the Croatian language for preparatory classes for elementary and high school students who do not know or do not know the Croatian language properly ; 4.) Curriculum of Croatian Language for Asylum Seekers, Asylum Seekers and Aliens under Subsidiary Protection older than 15 years for access to secondary education system and adult education system; 5.) Rulebook on Provision of Preparatory and Supplementary Teaching for Students who do not know or lack knowledge of Croatian language and teach the mother tongue and culture of the pupil's country of origin; 6.) Croatian language, history and culture learning program for asylum seekers and foreigners under subsidiary protection for inclusion in Croatian society - adult program.
- In order to better integrate those categories of persons into the educational system and the Croatian society, it is of particular importance to provide support and professional development of educational staff, to continuously promote education and training on tolerance towards persons who have been granted international protection, conduct civic education and education, as well as to foster cooperation with civil society organizations that carry out various projects of intercultural education and education on civic and human values. With this aim, the Ministry of Science and Education will use the European funds in the forthcoming period to provide better opportunities for persons who have been granted international protection and have been further educated by the educational staff.
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## THE ACTUAL PRACTICE OF MIGRANT EDUCATION IN CROATIA ( IMMIGRATION FACILITIES IN ZAGREB AND KUTINA) – TWO REPORTS: ASYLUM IN EUROPE AND CENTER FOR PIECE STUDIES

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- There have been reported obstacles to accessing secondary education for asylum seeking children. The major problem when accessing school is still the language barrier, but there has been progress in the last few years, and children access the educational system more easily at the moment. According to information provided by the Croatian Red Cross, children in **Zagreb** attend individual classes of Croatian language organised by schools. There is a great need for interpreters.
- As in Zagreb, the main problem in **Kutina** is also the language barrier. An agreement was made with the school in Kutina that during their first year children are only present to listen in the school in Kutina. Moreover, Croatian Red Cross employees working in Kutina have mentioned that no big obstacles exist when accessing secondary education if the child holds proof of education from the country of origin.

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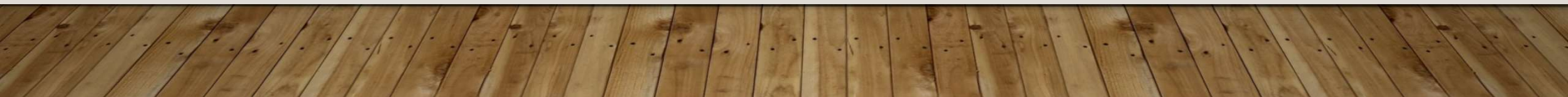
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- The Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma reported that education was inaccessible to asylum seekers over the age of 18, especially secondary education. They mentioned the example of younger people who did not start or had not completed secondary education in their countries of origin because of war. For them, according to the Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma, it was virtually impossible to start or continue their education in a regular education system in Croatia.
- According to the Ministry of Interior, some problems arose mainly relating to the organisation of preparatory Croatian classes, lack of documentation on previous education as well as in relation to the expansion of the so-called “e-matica” system (centralised system of the Ministry of science and Education with the data of the pupils), as asylum seekers do not have an individual identification number (OIB) required for registration in this system.

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- The problem with individual identification numbers required for registration in the so called “e-matica” has not been resolved. In addition they reported that according to available data from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Education and Science as well as from information gathered from asylum seekers at the Reception Centres in Zagreb and Kutina, children are enrolled in schools with delays of several months (three or more). JRS reported that children in Zagreb are enrolled in schools within 2 weeks of their arrival.
- In addition, as mentioned in [Conditions in Reception Facilities](#), several organisations provide educational activities and language classes in the two centres.
- It is hard to predict how the education system will address issues arising in the event of asylum-seeking children with special needs.
- Child applicants are also entitled to special assistance to learn Croatian and to make up for the knowledge they might lack in some school subjects, in the form of preparatory and supplementary classes. In November 2011, a Croatian Programme for preparatory classes in primary and secondary school students who do not speak or speak Croatian insufficiently was adopted. This is an intensive 70-hour course of Croatian, spread over a maximum of one academic year.



# CENTER FOR PEACES STUDIES REPORT

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- The number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Croatia has increased over the last few years. In the territory of Croatia, migrants also spend several years, and some of them decide to settle down in Croatia , but still the largest number goes to richer Western European countries. Among asylum seekers in war-affected countries, there are children who are or will soon be school age and who are included in the Croatian education system within 30 days of the submission of an asylum application. They come from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and are in the largest number from the first three states. Almost everyone is in the reception centers in Zagreb and Kutina.

# CENTER FOR PEACES STUDIES REPORT

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- According to estimates of the Center for Peace Studies, at the moment there are about 550 people in the Asylum Seekers' Reception Center in Zagreb, and around 90 in the Prison for Acceptance, out of which about fifty children of school age. In the Porin shelter, most of the children of elementary school age are included in the classroom or will be, while secondary school students are few. It is important to emphasize that the Center for Peace Studies collects data based on work in reception centers and individually with refugees and provides estimates of the number. The fluctuations of people are, of course, quite large because a large number of people is leaving or coming. The exact figures on the number of children of asylum-seekers who will start school on Monday are not received either by the Ministry of Science and Education or the Ministry of the Interior



# UNICEF ACTIVITIES WITH MIGRANT CHILDREN IN CROATIA

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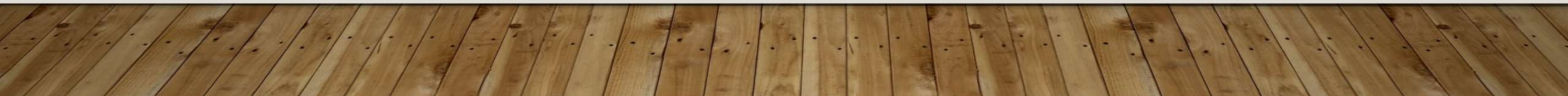
- UNICEF's EDUCATION INTEGRATION PROGRAM UNICEF Croatia for Educational Integration in cooperation with several schools and kindergartens in Zagreb and Kutina is currently implementing a program aimed at quality and timely educational integration of children seeking international protection and migrants. The program includes DV Tratinčica, DV Milan Sachs, I.OŠ Dugave, Fran Galović Elementary School and Gustav Krklec Elementary School, also Kutinas Primary Schools Mato Lovrak, Zvonimir Franko Elementary School, Stjepan Kefelja Elementary School and DV Kutina. UNICEF's implementing partner in this program is the Open Faculties Step by Step. Activities are aimed at empowering human resources in kindergartens and schools that are directly involved in working with children of international protection seekers and migrants, ie educators, teachers, teachers, and professional staff. In addition, the workshops include representatives of local and national authorities, public services, as well as parents - explains Marina Knežević Barišić, an associate at UNICEF Croatia, pointing out that apart from successful integration, the goal of the program and policy analysis is to include recommendations to improve the inclusion of children in kindergartens and schools faster and better.

# UNICEF ACTIVITIES WITH MIGRANT CHILDREN IN CROATIA

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- Preparatory classes of the Croatian language can last for a full year, with the partial integration of students into those subjects for which a high level of language knowledge is not required. Also, the school's expert service provides such students with psychological and counseling assistance and sensitizes other students and collectives to accepting refugee children – we find out from the Ministry.

From the first day of school, children are included in classrooms with other children, who may be Croatian or foreign nationals. Upon receipt of an asylum application, a test is carried out to assess the children of the class.



# PREPARATORY AND SUPPLEMENTARY CLASSES, COMPETENCES DEALING WITH MIGRANT EDUCATION

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- Preparatory and supplementary classes are extremely slow to activate. Schools in Kutina were given the possibility of preparatory classes only after a lot of time, at the end of the second half. Children came, sat and listened to content in a foreign language they couldn't understand without them learning the language in advance. Some of those children will remain in Croatia, but regardless of whether they will remain or have no right to full education, and if they later go to another country they should be able to go to higher class and not repeat lower grades.
- Croatian education and Teacher Training Agency e-learning programs in order to improve the competences and preparedness of the people dealing with migrant education in Croatia.

## A TRAGEDY WHICH HAPPENED FEW DAYS AGO IN DONJI SRB WHEN 2 MIGRANT CHILDREN WERE SHOT

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- Last Wednesday on Bosnian – Croatian border near place Donji Srb a van with foreign number plates didn't stop on 2 police warnings and several police gun shots were directed towards it in sense of protecting the life of police officers as the van was rushing towards them – they explained. 2 out of 29 migrants, mainly children age 6 to 14, were wounded shot through their faces and are taken care of in the hospital. Migrants - Afghanistan and Iraqi citizens were forwarded to Porin and all of them have applied for asylum. The driver escaped but was captured 3 days later and is now in custody. He took 200 E per migrant.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

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- The end.