

## 2018 Country Report for Croatia

### Key points for EASPD members

#### I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Active labour market policy measures for low-skilled and long-term unemployed remain largely underutilised.
- Croatia still faces a high rate of young people not in employment, education or training.
- Low participation in active labour market policy measures.
- The labour market continued to improve, but participation remains very low.
- The unemployment rate in Croatia has been falling considerably over the past year, but labour utilisation remains low.
- The activity and employment rate of both men and women are well below EU average.
- The activity gap between people with and without disabilities in 2015 was 28.9 pp above the EU average.

#### II. Education Policy

- While the education reform is still pending, despite some encouraging steps.
- Education system performance indicators have stagnated or worsened in most relevant areas and reforms are needed.
- The low performance of Croatia's education system underlines the urgency of reform.
- Croatia exhibits the lowest rate of early leaving from education and training in the EU.
- Growth in tertiary graduates has slowed, while their employment rates have not yet returned to pre-crisis levels.
- The target for tertiary education attainment by 2020 does not appear within reach.

#### III. Social Policy

- Health outcomes continue to improve, but remain below the EU average. Some measures aimed at rationalising the hospital system were initiated in 2017. Hospitals, however, remain inadequately financed and overburdened with arrears.
- The rate of at-risk-of poverty and social exclusion declined in 2016, but remains high.



#### IV. Anything else?

- Croatia has a high share of people at-risk-of social exclusion. This is particularly the case for low-skilled worker, elderly people and people with disabilities.
- The social dialogue between the government and the social partners is overall underdeveloped.

#### Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Croatia](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

#### For more information, please contact

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