The Situation of Children and Young People at the Regional Level in Croatia

Prepared by Croatia Country Statistical Team
Co-ordinator: Central Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb

MONEE Country Analytical Report
November 2004
The project to monitor the impact of economic and social change on children in Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (MONEE) was initiated at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in 1992. The project seeks to monitor, analyse and disseminate information on economic and social trends affecting children’s rights and wellbeing in countries in the region. A key feature of the Project is a network of correspondents in the 27 National Statistical Offices (NSOs). On an annual basis these correspondents complete an extensive data template which in turn is used for calculating indicators, supporting research of the project and, in due course, being made publicly available as the TransMonee database and in tables and graphs of the Innocenti Social Monitor.

For a number of years, each participating NSO prepared a Country Analytical Report based on extensive outline from UNICEF IRC on a different theme on the situation of children every year. These analytical reports have provided valuable input into the research at UNICEF IRC and, as significantly, have also served as important national documents on monitoring aspects of child wellbeing in the countries. Some of these Country Analytical Reports have been issued by the NSOs (in the national language) as part of their publication programme.

UNICEF IRC attaches great value to these national assessments of the situation of children and is committed to promote the efforts, including through translating the reports into English (where the submitted report has been in Russian) and offering its website to make them accessible to a wider research audience. The Country Analytical Reports are owned and authored by the National Statistical Offices and are not the intellectual property of UNICEF (see below).

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or view of UNICEF. The text has not been edited for official publication standards and UNICEF accepts no responsibility for errors. The designations in this publication do not imply an opinion on legal status of any country or territory, or of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers.
Population and demographic change

In 2001 Census Croatia had about 4.4 million of inhabitants, which is 78.5 per square km.

Average age of population in Croatia is 39.3 (37.5 for men and 41.0 for women). Oldest in average are population in County of Lika-Senj (43.0 years) and County of Karlovac (41.9 years), while the youngest in average are population in County of Medjimurje (37.6 years), County of Vukovar-Sirmium (37.8 years) and County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina (37.8 years).

Counties with highest percentage of young people (0-14 years) are County of Pozega-Slavonia (19.8%), County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina (19.6%) and County of Vukovar-Sirmium (19.2%).

The lowest percentage of young people is in County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar (14.0%), County of Karlovac (14.5%) and in County of Istria (15.1%).

In 2001, the average number of persons per family was 3.1. The highest figure is in County of Split-Dalmatia (3.3 persons per family) and the smallest in County of Lika-senj (3.0 persons per family).

The highest percentage of single-parent families is in the City of Zagreb (17.7%) and County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar (16.2%).

In Croatia 55.7% of people live in urban areas. The less urbanised areas are County of Krapina-Zagorje (16.8% of people) and County of Medjimurje (22.6% of people).

Total fertility rate is was 1.33 in 2003. The smallest is in County of Primorje-Gorski Kotar (1.12) and County of Istria (1.15) and in the City of Zagreb (1.24). The highest total fertility rate is in County of Medjimurje (1.63) and County of Dubrovnik-Neretva (1.58).

According to 2001 Census, majority of population in all counties are ethnically Croats, from 98.4% in County of Krapina-Zagorje to 71.9% in County of Istria. Counties with at least 10% of population belonging to ethnic minorities are: County of Sisak-Moslavina, 14.1% (11.7% Serbs), County of Karlovac, 12.4% (11.0% Serbs), County of Bjelovar-Bilogora, 14.5% (7.1% Serbs and 5.3% Czechs), County of Lika-Senj, 12.2% (11.5% Serbs), County of Osijek-Baranja, 13.9% (8.7% Serbs and 3.0% Hungarians), County of Sibenik-Knin, 10.0% (9.1% Serbs), County of Vukovar-Sirmium, 19.4% (15.5% Serbs and 1.0% Hungarians), County of Istria, 15.1% (6.9% Italians, 3.2% Serbs and 1.5% Bosniacs).