



RURAL NEETS IN CROATIA



2009/2019
OVERVIEW



AUTHORS

Anita Busljeta Tonkovic – Anita.Busljeta.Tonkovic@pilar.hr
Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Slaven Gasparovic – slaveng@geog.pmf.hr
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Geography, Zagreb, Croatia

Image by Croatia Tips from Pexels

This document is published by COST Action CA 18213: Rural NEET Youth Network: Modeling the risks underlying rural NEETs social exclusion.

© COST CA18213, December 2020.

Reproduction is authorized provided the source is acknowledged.
Please cite this publication as "COST CA18213 Rural NEETs in Croatia: 2009/2019 Overview.

ISBN: 978-989-781-414-3

Visit: www.rnyobservatory.eu

INDEX

1. CONTEXTUALIZATION	6
2. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE	12
3. DATA ANALYSIS	13
3. 1. Population and youth population	13
3. 2. Employment and Unemployment	17
• Youth employment	17
• Youth unemployment	21
3. 3. Education	25
• Young people by educational attainment level	25
• Early school leavers	28
3. 4. NEETs	29
• NEET rate	29
4. CONCLUSIONS	33
5. REFERENCES	35
6. IMPORTANT LINKS	37

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the situation of rural Youths Neither in Employment, nor in Education or Training (NEET) in Croatia, aged between 15 and 34 years old, in the period from 2009 until 2019. To achieve this goal, the report utilised indicators of youth population, youth employment and unemployment, education and NEETs distribution. The characterisation of all indicators adopted the degree of urbanisation as a central criteria, enabling comparisons between rural areas, towns and suburbs, cities and the whole country. These analyses are further collapsed into age sub-groups and, when possible, in sex groups for greater detail.

The statistical procedures adopted across the different selected dimensions involved descriptive longitudinal analysis, using figures (e.g., line charts) as well as the calculation of absolute and relative changes between 2009 and 2013, 2013 and 2019 and 2009 and 2019. These time ranges were chosen to capture the indicators evolution before and after the economic crisis that hit European countries. All data was extracted from Eurostat public datasets.

The analyses show that between 2009 and 2019 rural youth population aged 15 to 24 years has been decreasing in Croatia. Youth unemployment was marked by two distinct periods, one from 2009 to 2013 (with higher rates of youth unemployment) and another from 2013 to 2019 (with the decrease in unemployment rates, with lower unemployment rates in cities and higher in towns and suburbs and rural areas). In the field of education, however, there has been a decrease of the Croatian population with lower levels of education and an increase of the proportion of those with higher educational attainment. Finally, the proportion of NEETs in Croatia is higher in rural areas compared to cities and towns and suburbs, revealing territorial inequalities in access to employment and education opportunities.

SAŽETAK

Ovo se izvješće odnosi na mlade u ruralnim prostorima u Hrvatskoj koji nisu zaposleni, niti su uključeni u sustav obrazovanja ili dodatne obuke (eng. NEET) u dobi između 15 i 34 godine, u razdoblju od 2009. do 2019. Da bi se postigao taj cilj, u izvješću su korišteni sljedeći pokazatelji: broj mladih i njihov udio u ukupnom stanovništvu, zaposlenost i nezaposlenost, stupanj postignutog obrazovanja i udio NEET populacije. Navedeni pokazatelji prikazani su kroz stupanj urbanizacije kao središnji kriterij, omogućujući usporedbu između ruralnih područja, manjih gradova i gradskih predgrađa, gradova i cijele države. Te su analize dodatno razrađene prema dobi i, kad je to moguće, prema spolu kako bi se problematika detaljnije razradila.

Izvršene statističke analize uključivale su deskriptivnu longitudinalnu analizu, koristeći dijagrame (npr. linijske), kao i izračun apsolutnih i relativnih promjena između 2009. i 2013., 2013. i 2019. te 2009. i 2019. godine. Ta su vremenska razdoblja odabrana kako bi se uočilo kretanje vrijednosti pokazatelja prije i nakon ekonomske krize koja je pogodila europske zemlje. Svi su podaci dobiveni iz javno dostupnih podataka Eurostata.

Analiza je pokazala da se između 2009. i 2019. broj mladih u dobi od 15 do 24 godine u ruralnim prostorima Hrvatske smanjuje. Podaci o nezaposlenosti mladih razlikuju se s obzirom na vremensko razdoblje. Od 2009. do 2013. godine prisutne su više stope nezaposlenosti mladih, dok od 2013. do 2019. godine stopa nezaposlenosti opada, s time da niže stope nezaposlenosti prevladavaju u gradovima dok su više stope prisutne u manjim gradovima i predgrađima i ruralnim prostorima. Što se tiče stupnja postignutog obrazovanja prisutan je pad udjela stanovništva s nižim razinama obrazovanja i porast udjela onih s višim stupnjem postignutog obrazovanja. Udio NEET populacije u Hrvatskoj veći je u ruralnim prostorima u usporedbi s gradovima te manjim gradskim naseljima i predgrađima, što otkriva teritorijalne nejednakosti u dostupnosti zaposlenja i mogućnostima obrazovanja.



1. CONTEXTUALIZATION

Croatia is a parliamentary republic in which the Prime Minister and the Head of State jointly represent executive authority at home and abroad. The structure of the government is based on the separation of legislative, executive and judicial power. The parliament wields legislative authority and exercises oversight of executive authority. Members of parliament are elected to terms of four years. Croatia has been a member of the European Union since 1st July 2013. The Republic of Croatia is a state located at the crossroads between Central, Southern and South-eastern Europe. It is bordered by Slovenia and Hungary in the north, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in the east, and Montenegro in the south, while it shares a maritime border with Italy in the west. In terms of its surface area (56,594 km², 2011 Census) and population (4,284,889, 2011 Census), Croatia is a relatively small European state. The diversity of its natural-geographic features as well as socio-economic circumstances have crucially impacted the present-day uneven population density of Croatia's various regions. Thus, Central Croatia, which encompasses the capital city of Zagreb, has assumed the leading role as the core of Croatia's politics, economy and population. Adriatic Croatia, first and foremost the coastal belt with the primary urban centres of Split in Dalmatia and Rijeka in the Kvarner region, has become the country's secondary economic and demographic counterweight, as has the eastern portion of the Pannonian/peri-Pannonian sphere centred around Osijek, the largest city in Slavonia. Highland Croatia, parts of the coastal hinterland, most of the islands and the less developed rural areas of eastern Croatia can be counted among the peripheral areas in the country's current demographic and economic development. Today, tertiary activities, above all tourism, are playing an increasingly significant role in the structure of the Croatian economy (Opačić, 2014).

Croatia is administratively sub-divided into 20 counties and the City of Zagreb, which has the same status as a county. Each county has its own administrative seat. Moreover, Croatia has 127 cities, 429 municipalities, and 6,756 communities (2011 Census). In the European context, Croatia is a sparsely populated state with population density of only 75.71 residents per square kilometre. Rural areas such as Lika-Senj County only have 9.51 residents per square kilometre (2011 Census). The City of Zagreb has the highest population density, with 1,232.48 residents per square kilometre (2011 Census). Although both national and regional politicians regularly underscore the need for decentralisation, Croatia is by and large a centralised state. The process of systematic decentralisation in Croatia began with amendments to the



Constitution and relevant laws a decade ago, when decentralisation was launched in the administrative fields of education, healthcare and social welfare. However, decentralisation in Croatia is a process that the central government is not implementing in a cohesive manner, rather it is proceeding haphazardly, without any serious plans or strategies. Because of this, local governments have not seen any substantive benefits from decentralisation and many of them do not even want to assume decentralised functions (Đulabić, 2018).

According to the official web-site of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy¹, young people form a heterogeneous social group which, on the one hand, is characterised by the social differentiation that corresponds to the society in which it exists, while on the other hand sharing the specific common characteristics of a discrete social group. This means that besides the specific generational traits that set young people apart as a recognisable social group, there are simultaneously intra-generational differences which are associated with varying degrees of individual and social maturity of young people, social origin, socialisation types and sub-cultural features. In Croatia, a person gains the status of legal adulthood after reaching the age of 18. However, until 21 years of age, a person is still considered a younger adult. According to Croatia's Youth Courts Act (Art. 2), a younger adult is a person who is aged eighteen or over but has not yet reached the age of twenty-one at the time of perpetration of a given act.

The contemporary generation of youth in Croatia, as in most countries in the European milieu, is maturing under general social conditions that differ considerably from those in which earlier generations came of age. This difference is primarily due to the multi-year economic crisis which has beset all fields of social life. The situation of young people in Croatia is further exacerbated by the fact that they are growing up in a transitional society with only two decades of experience in building a democratic society and political order. Young people also have the traumatic experience of war in their own territory, in which the latter's material, social and political consequences still loom (National Youth Programme for the 2014–2017 period). The universally common feature of young people is their age. However, researchers are not of one mind in determining the boundaries of youth. Con-

1 The text that follows utilizes information available at the official web-site of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy: <https://mdomsp.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/mladi-i-volonterstvo/mladi-9015/9015>, accessed on 26 June 2020.



sensus has been reached on setting the lower threshold at 15 years of age, which is the case in Croatia. In the Republic of Croatia, persons aged 15 to 30 are deemed youth, and their social empowerment and protection is a fundamental constitutional principle (Ilišin and Spajić Vrkaš, 2015). The youth population in Croatia is both in absolute and relative decline: in 1953, the share of youth aged 15 to 29 in the total population was 27.7%; in 2001, there were 898,734 (20.3%) young people in the total population while according to the 2011 Census, there are 794,901 young people, or 18.6% of the total population (Ilišin and Spajić Vrkaš, 2015).

In Croatia, the highest political and administrative instance to care for the youth is the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy², more precisely the Youth Department as one of its integral components. This Ministry took advantage of Croatia's presidency of the European Council during 2020 to acknowledge young people in rural and remote areas as a priority. Within the framework of Croatia's presidency, the EU Youth Conference was held on the theme of "Opportunities for Rural Youth – How to Ensure the Sustainability of Rural Communities Across the EU". A comprehensive report (Youth Dialogue, 2020) was compiled as a result of the workshops held during the conference, and it includes the recommendations to decision-makers made by the youth. It also contains the objectives and outcomes of cycle VII of European Union Dialogue with Youth based on the EU Youth Strategy for 2019–2027.

The national body that sees to the well-being of the youth, a part of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, is the Croatian Government's Youth Council. The Council is the Government's interdepartmental advisory body tasked with participation in the development of public policy geared towards youth. Specifically, it monitors the Ministry's work and the development of youth NGOs and NGOs for youth and submits recommendations for the development of youth policies at the national, regional and local levels. Youth Councils have also been established as advisory bodies at the regional and local levels. Their task is to promote and advocate for the rights, needs and interests of young people at their respective local and regional levels. Youth Councils give young people an opportunity to participate in official decision-making procedures and processes conduc-

² This section utilizes information available at the official web-site of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (Croatian Government's Youth Council): <https://mdomsp.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/mladi-i-volonterstvo/mladi-9015/savjet-za-mlade-vlade-republike-hrvatske-9020/9020>, accessed on 15 June 2020.



ted by the relevant representative authorities. The Youth Councils Act regulates the establishment of the Youth Councils, their jurisdiction, election procedures and other matters of significance to their operations. This law is aimed at the participation of young people in decision-making on the administration of public affairs of interest and significance to young people, the active involvement of young people in public life and the dissemination of information and counselling in local and regional governmental units.

The educational system in the Republic of Croatia consists of: 1) early and preschool upbringing and education; 2) primary education; 3) secondary education; and, 4) higher education. Primary school upbringing and education is mandatory in Croatia and free of charge for all children aged six to fifteen, and for pupils with multiple developmental difficulties up to the age of twenty-one. For persons older than 15 who have not completed the legally-required primary schooling, there is the possibility of enrolling in primary education programmes for adults. Secondary education facilities enable the acquisition of knowledge and skills for work and ongoing education for everyone under equal conditions after the completion of primary education and upbringing. However, secondary education, although also free, is not mandatory. Primary and secondary education are regulated by the Primary and Secondary School Education and Upbringing Act. Adult education is a component of the consolidated educational system of the Republic of Croatia and encompasses the processes of teaching adults with the aim of improving their employment prospects and personal individual growth³. Participants must cover their own costs. However, in exceptional cases (most often through education organised by the Croatian Employment Bureau or NGOs and with the help of grants from European funds), participants are offered the possibility of earning qualifications or requalification free of charge. Enrolment in higher educational institutions, which in Croatia means universities, academies and colleges, is free of charge for a considerable number of students based on state matriculation rankings with the help of quotas, while some of them pay their own way. Graduate specialist and doctoral study are not free of charge, although employers may cover these costs for students.

According to the Labour Act (Art. 21), young people in Croatia can enter the job market at the age of 15 at the earliest. The Croatian Employment Bureau (HZZ) deems a young

3 This section utilises information available at the official web-site of the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (Education and Upbringing): <https://mzo.gov.hr/odgoj-i-obrazovanje/109>, accessed on 16 June 2020.



unemployed person as any individual aged 15 to 29 who is capable or partially capable of engaging in labour and who is not employed, who is actively seeking a job or is available for work. Any individual aged 15 to 29 who is registered by the employment bureau for a period exceeding 6 months is deemed a long-term young unemployed person. Based on data from the Croatian Employment Bureau, young people seeking jobs are characterised by a lack of work experience, which makes them particularly vulnerable on the market (National Youth Programme for the 2014–2017). The National Education, Science and Technology Strategy (2014) stresses that an additional factor which makes their hiring difficult is the discrepancy between their educational and professional qualifications and the labour market's needs. Based on their own resources and the risks that they encounter, we can say that there are several sub-groups of young people who are particularly vulnerable with regards to unemployment. These include, for example, young people with lower levels of education, young mothers, disabled persons and Roma. These sub-groups of young people encounter increased risks of drastically lower income, continual extension of fixed-term employment contracts or even work without any signed contract, i.e., "off the books" employment. All of this considerably threatens the social status of young people and their lifetime opportunities, and bars access to retirement insurance and the financial advantages brought by full-time contractual employment (such as loans to purchase housing) (National Youth Programme for 2014–2017).

In order to reduce these risks, the Croatian Employment Bureau developed a career path computer application called 'Moj izbor' ('My Choice'; e-Usmjeravanje) geared towards individuals who are pondering their career choice or further education and employment. The Career Information and Counselling Centre (CISOK), established by the Croatian Employment Bureau, operates by means of an internet platform and branch offices in all major Croatian cities. CISOK's mission is to offer the wider community professional guidance services in order to succeed in selecting the right education and jobs. In Croatia, specific supports for employment, i.e., active employment policy measures, are being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Pension System in cooperation with the Croatian Employment Bureau. These measures pertain to: 1) employment support; 2) support for further education; 3) self-employment support; 4) education and qualification; 5) public work; 6) supports to preserve jobs; and, 7) permanent seasonal labour. The first measure, Employment Support, implies support for hiring to acquire first work experience (internship) and as such it is primarily aimed at young people. The Youth Guarantee also contributes to the implementation of these measures. This is a new approach at the level of the European



Union to resolve the matter of youth unemployment, which is aimed at ensuring that all people under 30 years of age become active on the labour market as soon as possible. Rapid activation means receiving a quality job offer within a period of 4 months after leaving school or completing education or joining the ranks of the unemployed, regardless of whether the individual is registered with an employment bureau or not. The Youth Guarantee itself does not guarantee employment, rather it represents a structural reform that will allow for more active job searches by young people. The establishment of the Youth Guarantee is an attempt to prevent young people from falling prey to NEET status. In the context of the Youth Guarantee measures, in Croatia we consider NEET persons (Not in Education, Employment or Training) anyone aged 15 to 29 who do not work, who are not enrolled in the regular educational system and not in the adult education system. They can thereby be beneficiaries of the Youth Guarantee by meeting all three of the aforementioned criteria (Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan for 2019 to 2020). Implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Croatia is being supported by financing from the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the European Social Fund (ESF) (Bedeniković, 2017):



2. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Croatia national report uses information gathered by the National Reports Editorial Team of the Rural NEET Youth Network in the Eurostat platform. The main data presented and analysed in this report are from the following Eurostat database:

- Population Statistics: [yth_demo_020]
- EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS): [lfst_r_pgauwsc]; [lfst_r_ergau]; [lfst_r_urgau]; [edat_lfs_9913]; [edat_lfse_30]; [edat_lfse_29]

Selected indicators were extracted from the different databases according to two criteria:

- Time range: the previous decade (2009–2019) in order to have a sufficiently long period of time to capture the main changes and continuities in young people's trajectories in education, training and employment. The analysis mainly covered 3 dates – 2009–2013–2019 – in order to capture the impact of the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe and that, in most countries, reached its peak in 2012/2013.
- Age group: age group range varies accordingly to the data available in each indicator (15–24; 15–29; 15–34; and 15–39). Whenever possible, age range also covered young adult's data (30–34 and 35–39) in order to capture the extent of crisis impact on these age groups.

Besides a descriptive analysis, in order to compare data, main changes and continuities in different time periods, absolute and relative change were calculated considering the three main time points that were selected – 2009, 2013 and 2019. Absolute change refers to the simple difference in the indicator over two periods in time and is expressed in percentage points (pp); relative change expresses the change of a value of an indicator in an earlier period and is expressed in percentage terms.



3. DATA ANALYSIS

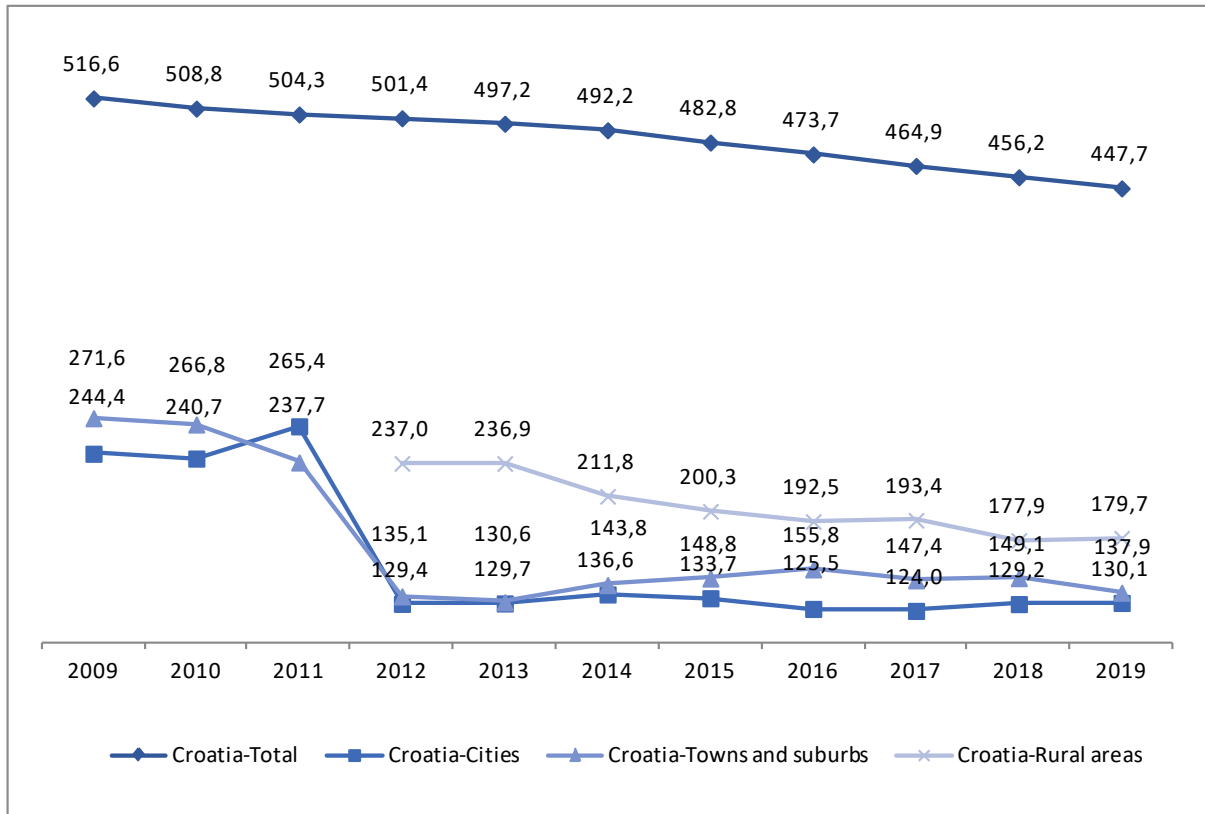
3. 1. Population and youth population

Chart 1 shows trends in the number of young people in Croatia with due consideration for the degree of urbanisation from 2009 to 2019. It presents data on the overall number of young people, but also separately for young people in cities, towns and suburbs, and rural areas. When viewing the total number of young people in Croatia, a notable trend is the decline in their number. From 2009 to 2019, their number dropped by almost 70,000, from 516,600 in 2009, through 497,200 in 2013, to 447,700 in 2019. That trend is evident among both women (252,700 in 2009; 242,900 in 2013; 217,000 in 2019) and men (263,900 in 2009; 254,300 in 2013; 229,900 in 2019).

With regard to the degree of urbanisation, the greatest decline in the number of young people occurred in rural areas. Data in this category is absent for 2009, but a decline in the number of young people from 236,900 in 2013 to 179,700 in 2019 can be observed. Besides a general decline in Croatia's total population (and thereby also the young population), this is also a result of migration of residents from rural areas to cities and their suburbs. It is therefore worthwhile noting the decline in the number of young people in cities from 2009 to 2013 from 244,400 to 129,700 and in towns and suburbs from 271,600 in 2009 to 130,600 in 2013. However, this is a result of break in time series. But from 2013 to 2019, a slight increase in the number of young people in cities and towns and suburbs is noticeable, to 130,100 in the case of cities and 137,900 in the case of towns and suburbs.



Chart 1. Total youth population (thousands) 2009–2019 (Croatia) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_pgawusc) – data extracted on 12.05.2020

From 2009 to 2019, the total number of the youth population (15–24 years) continuously declined in Croatia. However, there were slight increases in the young population both in cities and towns and suburbs between 2012 and 2019, while greatest increase occurred in towns and suburbs between 2012 and 2016 (with increase rate of 15.32%).



With reference to the ratio of youth population in Table 1 and Chart 2, one may observe its negative absolute and relative change in the 2011–2019 period, which reflects the inauspicious demographic situation in Croatia. In this period, the largest age groups were the 25–29 bracket (–.90 pp; –13.24%) and the only slightly smaller 15–19 bracket (–.70 pp; –12.28%). The smallest negative absolute and relative change during this period was registered in the 20–24 age group (–0.20 pp; –3.28%). The same age group registered a small but positive absolute and relative change during the 2015–2019 period (0.10 pp; –1.69%), while the remaining age groups in this period experienced a negative absolute and relative change. In the 2011–2015 period, a negative absolute and relative change was registered in the 20–24 age group (–0.30 pp; –4.92%) and the 25–29 age group (–0.50 pp; –7.35%), while the 15–19 age group did not see any changes in this period.

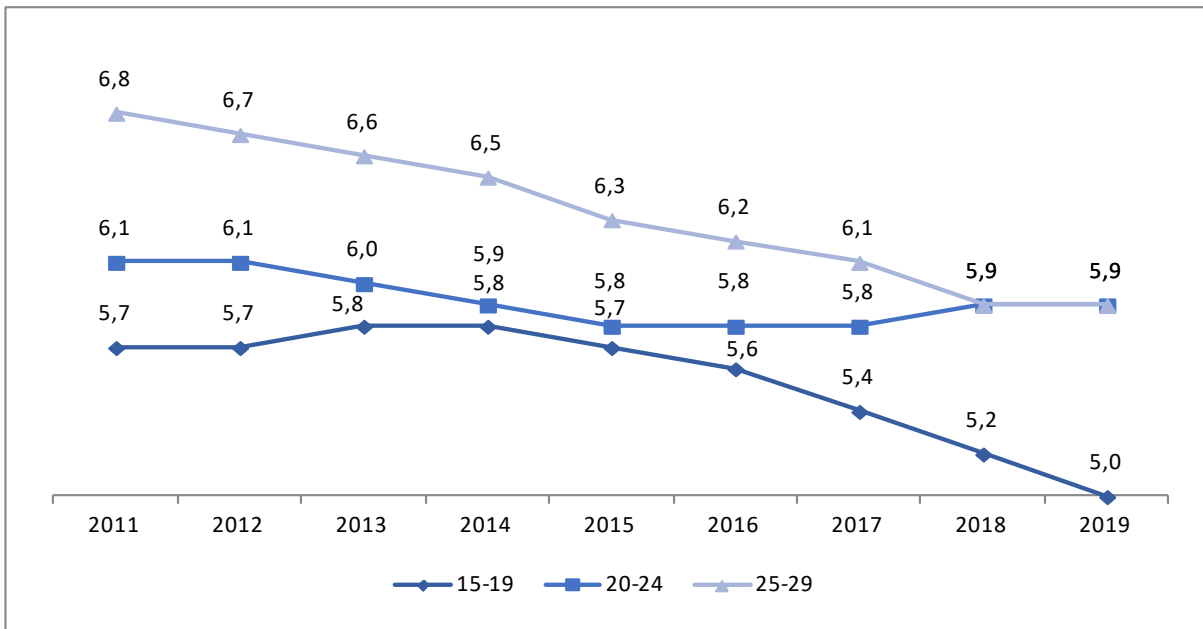
Tab. 1. Ratio of youth population by age sub-groups and absolute and relative change in Croatia (2011–2015, 2015–2019 and 2011–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2009 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Age groups						
15–19	5.70%	5.70%	5.00%	0 (0)	–0.70 pp (–12.28%)	–0.70 pp (–12.28%)
20–24	6.10%	5.80%	5.90%	–0.30 pp (–4.92%)	0.10 pp (–1.72%)	–0.20 pp (–3.28%)
25–29	6.80%	6.30%	5.90%	–0.50 pp (–7.35%)	–0.40 pp (–6.35%)	–0.90 pp (–13.24%)

Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_pgauwsc) – data extracted on 12.05.2020



Chart 2. Ratio of youth population in the total population (%) 2009–2019 (Croatia) by age



Source: Eurostat: yth_demo_O20 – data extracted on 13.05.20

Since 2011, the youth population ratio (15–29 years) has been continuously declining in Croatia (less 1.6 p.p., from 18.6% in 2011 to 16.8% in 2019).



3. 2. Employment and Unemployment

3. 2. 1. Youth employment

When considering the trend of absolute and relative changes in youth employment at the national level during the 2009–2019 period (Tab. 2, Chart 3), slight growth (2.5 pp; 4.25%) may be observed. The values of absolute and relative changes among the age groups are relatively low. Thus, positive absolute and relative change values for the 15–19 (0.40 pp; 4.76%), 20–24 (0.70 pp; 1.58%) and 25–29 age groups (0.70 pp; 0.96%) are notable, while a negative absolute and relative change value was registered for the 30–34 age group (–0.50 pp; –0.61%). Nonetheless, considerably higher negative absolute and relative change values may be observed for young people in general, and for all age groups individually, in the period between 2009 and 2013, which may be tied to the economic crisis and recession in Croatia, which persisted for several years after 2009. Higher positive absolute and relative change values among young people at the national level (overall and among individual age groups) are apparent in the period from 2013 to 2019, after the end of the economic crisis and recession.

Youth employment trends overall, and by age groups across different degrees of urbanisation levels, vary. In Croatian cities during the 2009–2019 period, positive absolute and relative change in youth employment (2.5 pp; 4.15%) were registered. Positive absolute and relative change values were also present in individual age groups, so the values were 0.9 pp (2.43%) for the 20–24 age group, 1.8 pp (2.55%) for the 25–29 age group, and 2.8 pp (3.37%) for the 30–34 age group. No absolute nor relative change was recorded for the 15–19 age group (0.00 pp; 0.00%). As at the national level, the situation in Croatian cities is identical in terms of absolute and relative change values when observed in the 2009–2013 and 2013–2019 periods. The values for overall and individual age groups are negative in the 2009–2013 period, and positive in the 2013–2019 period. The highest positive absolute and relative change values in Croatian cities during the 2013–2019 period were recorded for the 20–24 age group (23.1 pp; 156.08%) which also experienced the highest absolute negative change in the 2009–2013 period.

In towns and suburbs, the situation was somewhat different than at the national level and the level of cities. From 2009 to 2019, the absolute and relative change values were po-



sitive overall (3.5 pp; 6.12%). Looking at individual age groups, only the 30–34 age group registered positive values in that period (1.3 pp; 1.64%), while the remaining age groups registered negative absolute and relative change values. As to values in the 2009–2013 and 2013–2019 periods, the trends are the same as at the national level and the cities level. All age groups registered negative absolute and relative change values in the 2009–2013 period, and positive values in the 2013–2019 period. The highest absolute and relative change values in the 2013–2019 period were registered in the 15–19 age group (3.00 pp; 111.11%).

In the case of rural areas, it is noteworthy that there is no data broken down by age groups for 2009. Concerning young people in general, in the period from 2009 to 2019, the share of employed declined negligibly and the absolute and relative change is -0.60 pp (-0.98%). Regardless of the positive absolute and relative changes in the period from 2013 to 2019, the negative absolute and relative change values for the 2009–2013 period were obviously crucial, such that the values for the 2009–2019 period are negative. Given the absence of data, only absolute and relative change has been calculated for the 2013–2019 period, and it may be concluded that the highest absolute and relative change values are associated with the 15–19 age group (9.60 pp; 266.67%), just as with towns and suburbs.



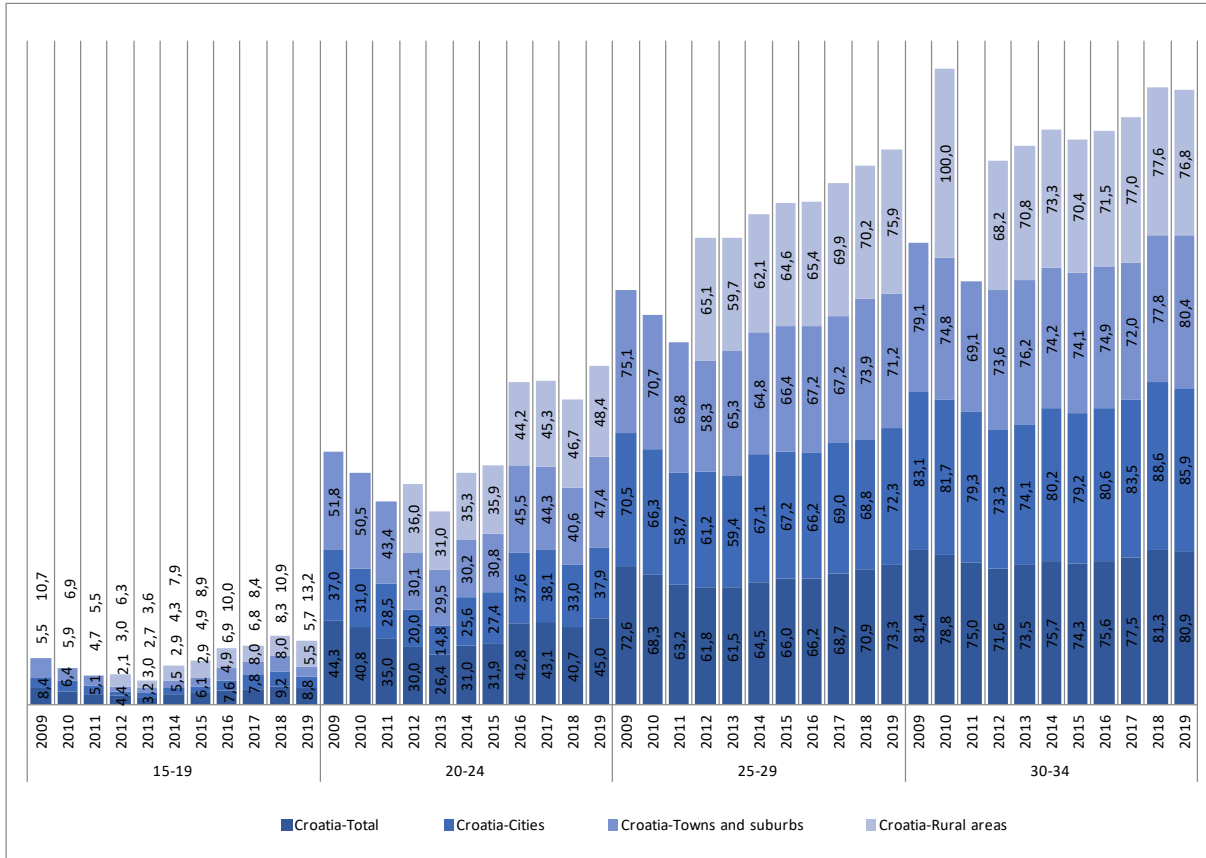
Tab. 2. Youth employment (%) and absolute and relative change in Croatia by age groups (2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2009 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
Overall	58.80%	49.60%	61.30%	-9.20 pp (84.35%)	11.70 pp (23.59%)	2.50 pp (4.25%)
15–19	8.40%	3.20%	8.80%	-5.20 pp (38.10%)	5.60 pp (175.00%)	0.40 pp (4.76%)
20–24	44.30%	26.40%	45.00%	-17.90 pp (59.59%)	18.60 pp (70.45%)	0.70 pp (1.58%)
25–29	72.60%	61.50%	73.30%	-11.10 pp (84.71%)	11.80 pp (19.19%)	0.70 pp (0.96%)
30–34	81.40%	73.50%	80.90%	-7.90 pp (90.29%)	7.40 pp (10.07%)	-0.50 pp (-0.61%)
Cities						
Overall	60.30%	51.00%	62.80%	-9.30 pp (84.58%)	11.80 pp (23.14%)	2.50 pp (4.15%)
15–19	5.50%	3.00%	5.50%	-2.50 pp (54.55%)	2.50 pp (83.33%)	0.00 pp (0.00%)
20–24	37.00%	14.80%	37.90%	-22.20 pp (40.00%)	23.10 pp (156.08%)	0.90 pp (2.43%)
25–29	70.50%	59.40%	72.30%	-11.10 pp (84.26%)	12.90 pp (21.72%)	1.80 pp (2.55%)
30–34	83.10%	74.10%	85.90%	-9.00 pp (89.17%)	11.80 pp (15.92%)	2.80 pp (3.37%)
Towns and suburbs						
Overall	57.20%	53.90%	60.70%	-3.30 pp (94.23%)	6.80 pp (12.62%)	3.50 pp (6.12%)
15–19	10.70%	2.70%	5.70%	-8.00 pp (25.23%)	3.00 pp (111.11%)	-5.00 pp (-46.73%)
20–24	51.80%	29.50%	47.40%	-22.30 pp (56.95%)	17.90 pp (60.68%)	-4.40 pp (-8.49%)
25–29	75.10%	65.30%	71.20%	-9.80 pp (86.95%)	5.90 pp (9.04%)	-3.90 pp (-5.19%)
30–34	79.10%	76.20%	80.40%	-2.90 pp (96.33%)	4.20 pp (5.51%)	1.30 pp (1.64%)
Rural areas						
Overall	61.10%	45.70%	60.50%	-15.40 pp (74.80%)	14.80 pp (32.39%)	-0.60 pp (-0.98%)
15–19	n.d.	3.60%	13.20%	---	9.60 pp (266.67%)	---
20–24	n.d.	31.00%	48.40%	---	17.40 pp (56.13%)	---
25–29	n.d.	59.70%	75.90%	---	16.20 pp (27.14%)	---
30–34	n.d.	70.80%	76.80%	---	6.00 pp (8.47%)	---

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_29) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



Chart 3. Youth employment (%) and absolute and relative change in Croatia by age groups (2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019)



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_30) – data extracted on 20.04.2020

In the past decade, youth employment was marked by two distinct periods, one from 2009 to 2013 (with lower rates of youth employment) and another one from 2013 to 2019 (with the increase in employment rates). However, data are missing by age groups in rural areas for 2009.





3. 2. 2. Youth unemployment

The absolute and relative change values in youth unemployment at the national level in the period from 2009 to 2019 (as shown in Tab. 3, Chart 4) are negative (-3.00 pp; -23.81). Positive absolute and relative change values pertain to the 2009–2013 period, i.e., the period of economic crisis and recession, while negative absolute and relative change values may be observed in the 2013–2019 period. Examining individual age groups, negative absolute and relative change values apply to all groups in the 2009–2013 period, except for the 30–34 age group (0.70 pp; 8.75%), which would mean that for this age group, unemployment increased in the period under observation. All age groups recorded positive absolute and relative change values in the 2009–2013 period as a result of the economic crisis and recession, wherein remarkably high relative change values are notable for all age groups. By contrast, negative absolute and relative change values are notable for all age groups in the 2013–2019 period, which pertains to the period when the economic crisis and recession were left behind.

Negative absolute and relative change values in youth unemployment were recorded in Croatian cities in the 2009–2019 period (-3.50 pp; -30.17%). Herein, the lowest absolute and relative change values were recorded for the 30–34 age group (-0.20 pp; -2.27%). The remaining age groups had somewhat higher negative absolute and relative change values, so values of (-14.90 pp; -35.99%) were recorded for the 15–19 age group, (-7.50 pp; -37.13%) for the 20–24 age group, and (-3.90 pp; -28.68%) for the 25–29 age group. As at the national level, in Croatian cities there was an identical situation in absolute and relative change values when observing the 2009–2013 period and the 2013–2019 period. Overall, and broken down by individual age groups, the values are positive for the 2009–2013 period and negative for the 2013–2019 period. The greatest negative absolute and relative change values in Croatian cities in the 2013–2019 period were recorded for the 20–24 age group (-39.60 pp; -75.72%), which also experienced the highest absolute positive change in the 2009–2013 period.

In Croatian towns and suburbs, the situation is somewhat different. The overall absolute and relative change values in the 2009–2019 period were -3.00 pp (-21.90%). Negative absolute and relative change values were only also registered for the 20–24 age group (-10.70 pp; -48.42%), while the remaining age groups registered positive absolute and relative change values. As to values in the 2009–2013 period and the 2013–2019 period, the trends are the same as at the



national level and the cities level. All age groups registered positive absolute and relative change values in the 2009–2013 period, and negative values in the 2013–2019 period. The highest absolute and relative change in the 2013–2019 period was registered by the 20–24 age group (–28.30 pp; –71.28%).

In the case of rural areas, it is noteworthy that data is missing by age groups for 2009. Given this lack of data, only absolute and relative change for the 2013–2019 period was calculated for individual age groups, and it may be concluded that the highest absolute and relative change values are tied to the 15–19 age group (–54.40 pp; –70.74%).

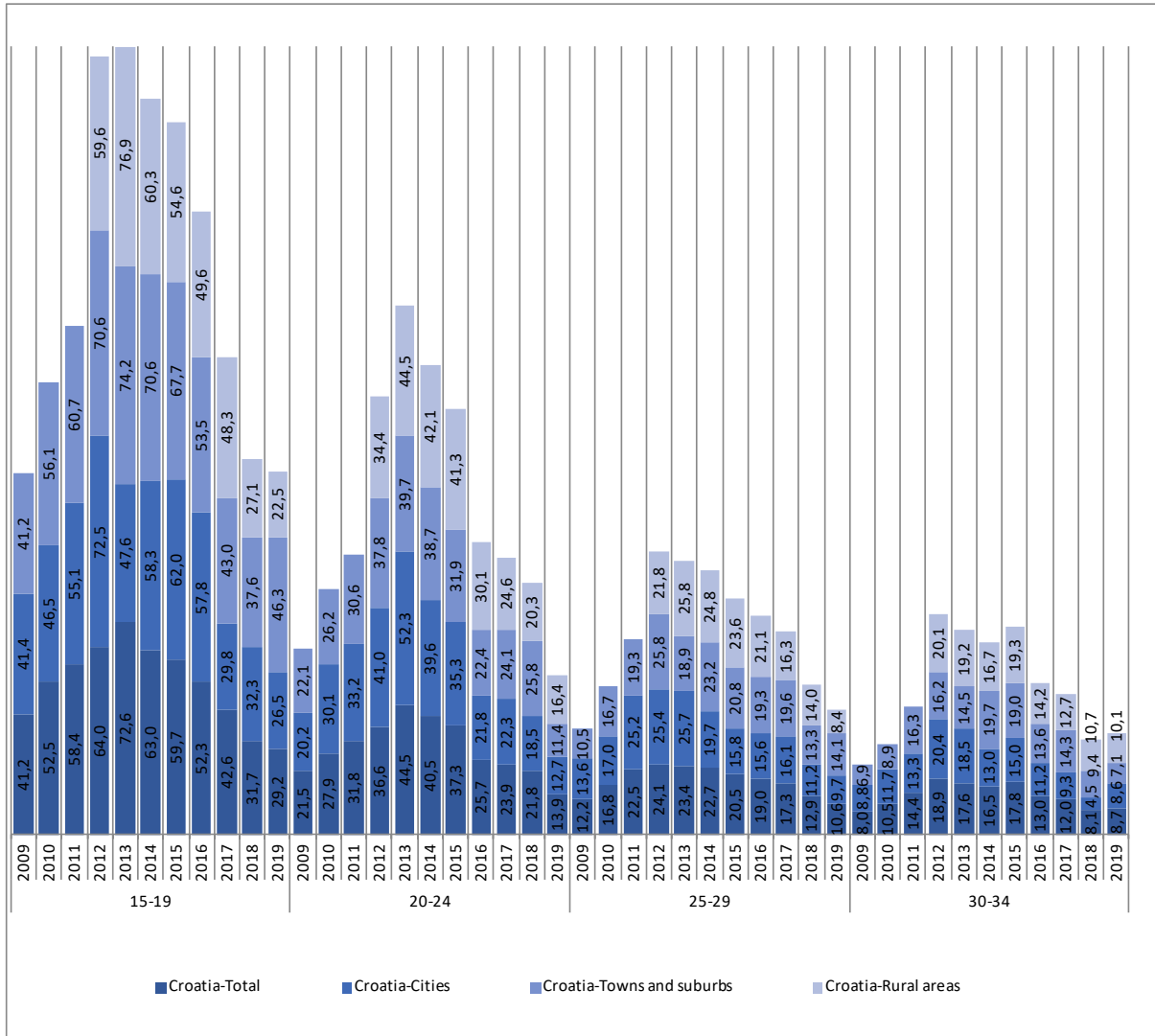


Tab. 3. Youth unemployment (%) and absolute and relative change in Croatia (2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2009 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
Overall	12.60%	23.50%	9.60%	10.90 pp (86.51%)	-13.90 pp (-59.15%)	-3.00 pp (-23.81%)
15–19	41.20%	72.60%	29.20%	31.40 pp (76.21%)	-43.40 pp (-59.78%)	-12.00 pp (-29.13%)
20–24	21.50%	44.50%	13.90%	23.00 pp (106.98%)	-30.60 pp (-68.76%)	-7.60 pp (-35.35%)
25–29	12.20%	23.40%	10.60%	11.20 pp (91.80%)	-12.80 pp (-54.70%)	-1.60 pp (-13.11%)
30–34	8.00%	17.60%	8.70%	9.60 pp (120.00%)	-8.90 pp (-50.57%)	0.70 pp (8.75%)
Cities						
Overall	11.60%	21.10%	8.10%	9.50 pp (81.90%)	-13.00 pp (-61.61%)	-3.50 pp (-30.17%)
15–19	41.40%	47.60%	26.50%	6.20 pp (14.98%)	-21.10 pp (-44.33%)	-14.90 pp (-35.99%)
20–24	20.20%	52.30%	12.70%	32.10 pp (158.91%)	-39.60 pp (-75.72%)	-7.50 pp (-37.13%)
25–29	13.60%	25.70%	9.70%	12.10 pp (88.97%)	-16.00 pp (-62.26%)	-3.90 pp (-28.68%)
30–34	8.80%	18.50%	8.60%	9.70 pp (110.23%)	-9.90 pp (-53.51%)	-0.20 pp (-2.27%)
Towns and suburbs						
Overall	13.70%	19.70%	10.70%	6.00 pp (43.80%)	-9.00 pp (-45.69%)	-3.00 pp (-21.90%)
15–19	41.20%	74.20%	46.30%	33.00 pp (80.10%)	-27.90 pp (-37.60%)	5.10 pp (12.38%)
20–24	22.10%	39.70%	11.40%	17.60 pp (79.64%)	-28.30 pp (-71.28%)	-10.70 pp (-48.42%)
25–29	10.50%	18.90%	14.10%	8.40 pp (80.00%)	-4.80 pp (-25.40%)	3.60 pp (34.29%)
30–34	6.90%	14.50%	7.10%	7.60 pp (110.14%)	-7.40 pp (-51.03%)	0.20 pp (2.90%)
Rural areas						
Overall	n.d.	28.10%	10.00%	---	-18.10 pp (-64.41%)	---
15–19	n.d.	76.90%	22.50%	---	-54.40 pp (-70.74%)	---
20–24	n.d.	44.50%	16.40%	---	-28.10 pp (-63.15%)	---
25–29	n.d.	25.80%	8.40%	---	-17.40 pp (-67.44%)	---
30–34	n.d.	19.20%	10.10%	---	-9.10 pp (-47.40%)	---

Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_ergrau) – data extracted on 29.04.2020

Chart 4. Youth unemployment rates (%) 2009-2019 (Croatia) by age and degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_30) – data extracted on 20.04.2020

In the past decade youth unemployment was marked by two distinct periods, one from 2009 to 2013 (with higher rates of youth employment) and another one from 2013 to 2019 (with the decrease in unemployment rates). However, data are missing by age groups in rural areas for 2009. In 2013, youth unemployment rates were highest in rural areas, but rates were also higher in cities than in towns and suburbs (1.4 pp). In 2019, values for towns and suburbs and rural areas were above the average of Croatia, and rural areas reached a lower value than towns and suburbs (0.7 pp).



3. 3. Education

3. 3. 1. Young people by educational attainment level

Table 4 and Chart 5 describe the Croatian population aged 15 to 24 by ISCED levels between 2009 and 2019 for the country as a whole and by degree of urbanisation. The table also summarises absolute and relative change across the different ISCED levels, for three periods: 2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019. The data at the national level for these periods is variable. Even so, it may be observed that positive absolute and relative change values were registered for those who have attained ISCED levels 5–8, with the highest growth during the 2009–2019 period (3.70 pp; 154.17%). Negative absolute and relative change values can be observed for ISCED 0–2 and ISCED 3–4 in the 2009–2013 period. In the 2009–2013 period, absolute and relative change values for ISCED 0–2 are positive, but negative for ISCED 3–4, while the situation was opposite in the 2013–2019 period.

At the cities level, positive values for ISCED 5–8 are notable for all periods, and, by the same token, negative absolute and relative change values are notable for ISCED 3–4 in all periods. Variations in the data in these periods are notable for ISCED 0–2.

At the level of towns and suburbs, the situation is somewhat different. Positive absolute and relative change values are notable in the ISCED 5–8 category for all periods, and the values for the 2009–2019 period are particularly significant (4.40 pp; 231.58%). By contrast, negative values in all periods hold for the ISCED 0–2 value, and the absolute and relative change values for the 2009–2019 period are –5.50 pp (–13.68%). The values for ISCED 3–4 levels during the 2009–2013 period are negative, while the values for 2013–2019 are positive, and the values for the 2009–2019 period are small, but positive.

There is no data for rural areas in 2009. A positive absolute and relative change is notable for the 2013–2019 period for ISCED 5–8 and ISCED 3–4 levels, and negative for the ISCED 0–2 level.

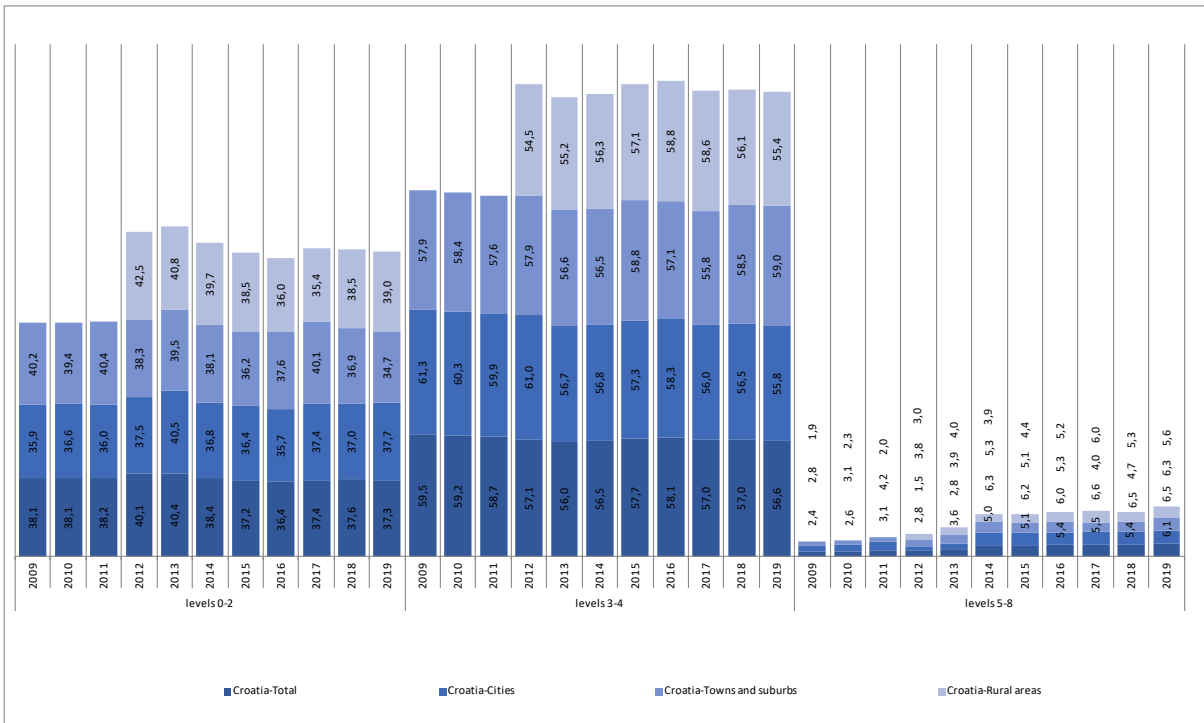


Table 4. Croatian population aged 15–24 by ISCED levels (%) and degree of urbanisation in Croatia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2009 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
ISCED 0–2	38.10%	40.40%	37.30%	2.30 pp (6.04%)	-3.10 pp (-7.67%)	-0.80 pp (-2.10%)
ISCED 3–4	59.50%	56.00%	56.60%	-3.50 pp (-5.88%)	0.60 pp (1.07%)	-2.90 pp (-4.87%)
ISCED 5–8	2.40%	3.60%	6.10%	1.20 pp (50.00%)	2.50 pp (69.44%)	3.70 pp (154.17%)
Cities						
ISCED 0–2	35.90%	40.50%	37.70%	4.60 pp (12.81%)	-2.80 pp (-6.91%)	1.80 pp (5.01%)
ISCED 3–4	61.30%	56.70%	55.80%	-4.60 pp (-7.50%)	-0.90 pp (-1.59%)	-5.50 pp (-8.97%)
ISCED 5–8	2.80%	2.80%	6.50%	0.00 pp (0.00%)	3.70 pp (132.14%)	3.70 pp (132.14%)
Towns and suburbs						
ISCED 0–2	40.20%	39.50%	34.70%	-0.70 pp (-1.74%)	-4.80 pp (-12.15%)	-5.50 pp (-13.68%)
ISCED 3–4	57.90%	56.60%	59.00%	-1.30 pp (-2.25%)	2.40 pp (4.24%)	1.10 pp (1.90%)
ISCED 5–8	1.90%	3.90%	6.30%	2.00 pp (105.26%)	2.40 pp (61.54%)	4.40 pp (231.58%)
Rural areas						
ISCED 0–2	n.d.	40.80%	39.00%	---	-1.80 pp (-4.41%)	---
ISCED 3–4	n.d.	55.20%	55.40%	---	0.20 pp (0.36%)	---
ISCED 5–8	n.d.	4.00%	5.60%	---	1.60 pp (40.00%)	---

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9913) – data extracted in 29.04.2020

Chart 5. Young population by educational attainment level and degree of urbanisation (%) 2009-2019 (Croatia)



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted in 29.04.2020

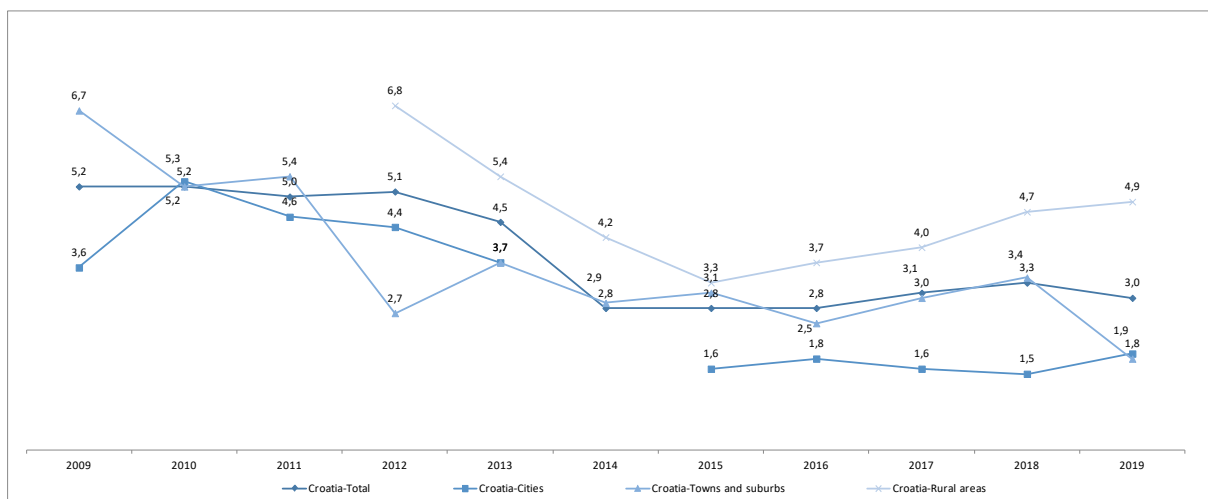
In the past decade, there has been a decrease of the Croatian population with lower levels of education and an increase of the proportion of those with higher educational attainment. The proportion of Croatian population with tertiary education (ISCED 5–8) increased 154.17% in the last decade (2009–2.40%; 2019–6.10%). This trend cuts across cities and towns and suburbs rural areas. However, data are missing by educational attainment in rural areas for 2009.



3.3.2. Early school leavers

Chart 6 displays the evolution of ESLET from 2009 to 2019 in Croatia and across different degrees of urbanisation. At the national level, a decline from 5.2% to 3.0% is notable for the 2009–2019 period, even though this decline is not constant, yet in some years slight growth is also notable. At the cities level, a decline from 3.6% to 1.9% is apparent, but it should be noted that the data for 2014 is not available. An even more significant decline is apparent for towns and suburbs, from 6.7% to 1.8%, although even here the decline is not constant over the years, rather in some years growth may be observed. For rural areas, a decline is also apparent if the first and last years (2009 and 2019) are observed, and the values are 6.8% and 4.9%, even though it is noteworthy that growth can be seen from 2015 onward.

Chart 6. Early leavers from education and training (%) 2009–2019 (Croatia) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted on 29.04.2020

There has been a progressive and significant decrease of ESLET in Croatia from 2009 until 2014. Since 2014, there has been slight increase of ESLET in Croatia until 2018, and then again a slight decrease for 2019. In rural areas, there has been progressive decrease of ESLET from 2012 until 2015 (-51.47%), and then a progressive increase from 2015 until 2019 (48.48%).

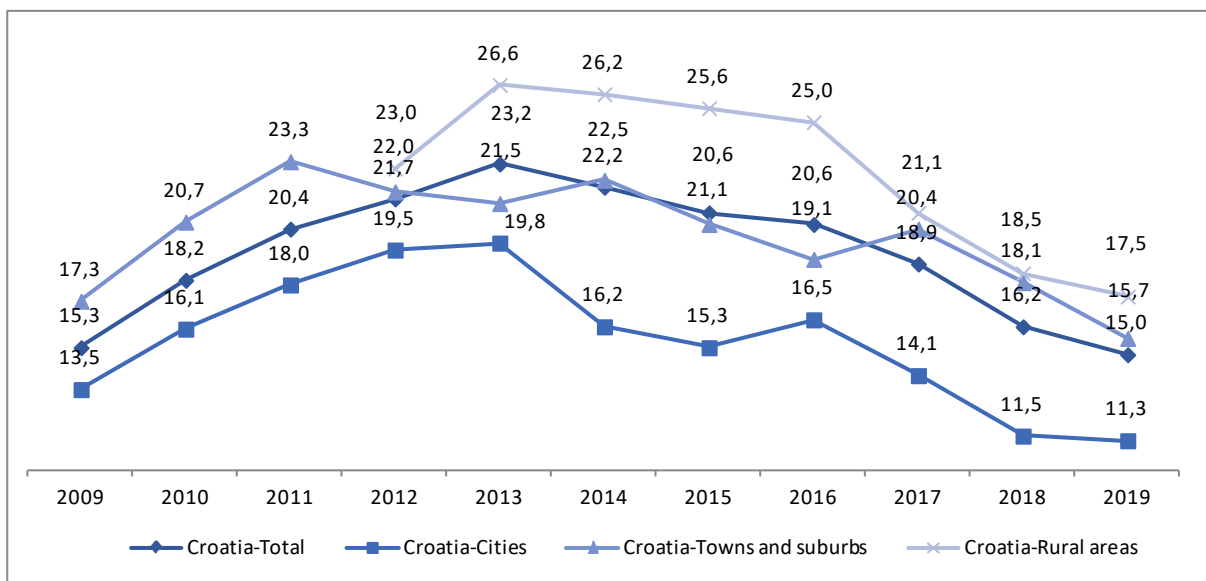


3. 4. NEET

3. 4. 1. NEET rate

Chart 7 displays the overall evolution of the NEET ratio throughout the country and at all degrees of urbanisation between 2009 and 2019. According to the chart, the NEET rate in Croatia declined in the 2009–2019 period from 15.3% to 15.0%. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that this trend grew until 2013, and then began to decline, so the reduction is not significant. At the level of cities, the value fell from 13.5% to 11.3%, also with growth until 2013, and then a decline ensued. At the level of towns and suburbs, a decline of 17.3% to 15.7% was registered, with some growth in individual years. In rural areas, the value fell from 23.0% to 17.5%, and the highest value was registered in 2013 (26.6%). A gradation in values has been noted given the degree of urbanisation, so the lowest values were recorded in cities, and the highest in rural areas.

Chart 7. Evolution of the NEET rates (%) 2009–2019 (Croatia) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



Table 5 and Chart 8 display the evolution of NEETs by age sub-groups for the country and for each degree of urbanisation. In 2019, the smallest share of NEET in Croatia was registered in the 15–19 age group (8.4%), and the highest in the 25–29 age group (18.8%). With regards to the degree of urbanisation, the highest share of NEET in 2019 was in rural areas for all age groups, except the 25–29 age group, whose share was the highest in towns and suburbs (22.7%). With regards to absolute and relative change, at the national level from 2009 to 2019 the 15–19 and 20–24 age groups experienced negative absolute and relative change values, while the 25–29 and 30–34 age groups registered positive absolute and relative change values. It is noteworthy that all age groups at the national level registered positive absolute and relative change values between 2009 and 2013, and negative values from 2013 to 2019.

At the cities level, all age groups registered negative absolute and relative change values in the 2009–2019 period, and the same also applies to the 2013–2019 period. During the 2009–2013 period, only the 15–19 age group registered negative absolute and relative change values, while the remaining age groups registered positive absolute and relative change values.

At the level of towns and suburbs, a decline may be seen in all age groups during the 2009–2019 period, except for the 25–29 group, which was the only one to register growth (3.5 pp; 18.23%). The situation is similar at the national level, and here all age groups are characterised by positive absolute and relative change values during the 2009–2013 period and negative values during the 2013–2019 period.

There are no data for rural areas in 2009. All age groups are characterised by a decline in absolute and relative change values in the 2013–2019 period, which complies with the values at other degrees of urbanisation and at the national level.



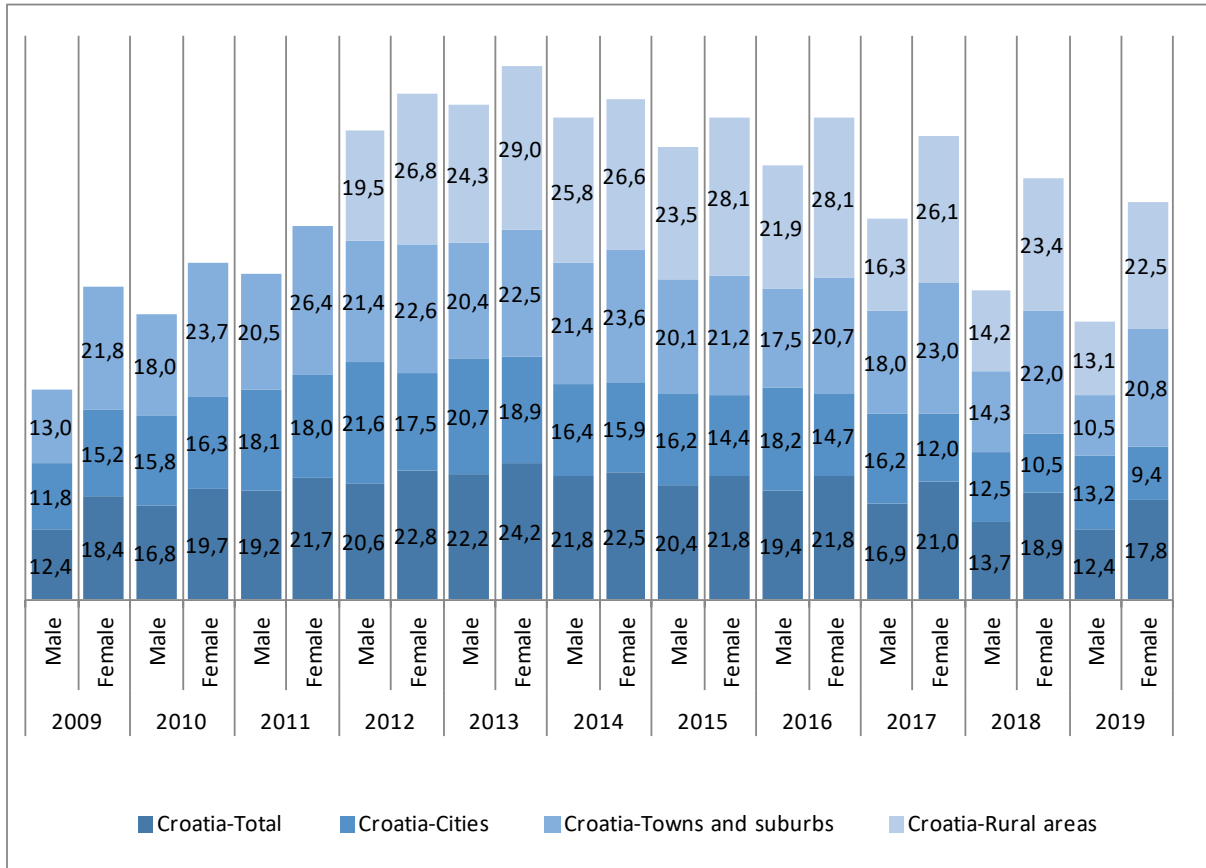
Table 5. NEET rate (%) by age sub-groups and by degree of urbanisation in Croatia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2009 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
15–19	9.50%	11.90%	8.40%	2.40 pp (25.26%)	-3.50 pp (-29.41%)	-1.10 pp (-11.58%)
20–24	17.10%	27.20%	14.80%	10.10 pp (59.06%)	-12.40 pp (-45.59%)	-2.30 pp (-13.45%)
25–29	17.40%	27.10%	18.80%	9.70 pp (55.75%)	-8.30 pp (-30.63%)	1.40 pp (8.05%)
30–34	16.60%	25.50%	17.20%	8.90 pp (53.61%)	-8.30 pp (-32.55%)	0.60 pp (3.61%)
Cities						
15–19	7.80%	7.50%	5.60%	-0.30 pp (-3.85%)	-1.90 pp (-25.33%)	-2.20 pp (-28.21%)
20–24	13.70%	21.30%	11.50%	7.60 pp (55.47%)	-9.80 pp (-46.01%)	-2.20 pp (-16.06%)
25–29	16.10%	24.20%	16.00%	8.10 pp (50.31%)	-8.20 pp (-33.88%)	-0.10 pp (-0.62%)
30–34	14.50%	23.60%	11.30%	9.10 pp (62.76%)	-12.30 pp (-52.12%)	-3.20 pp (-22.07%)
Towns and suburbs						
15–19	10.80%	11.40%	8.80%	0.60 pp (5.56%)	-2.60 pp (-22.81%)	-2.00 pp (-18.52%)
20–24	20.10%	24.80%	11.90%	4.70 pp (23.38%)	-12.90 pp (-52.02%)	-8.20 pp (-40.80%)
25–29	19.20%	23.70%	22.70%	4.50 pp (23.44%)	-1.00 pp (-4.22%)	3.50 pp (18.23%)
30–34	14.50%	23.60%	11.30%	9.10 pp (62.76%)	-12.30 pp (-52.12%)	-3.20 pp (-22.07%)
Rural areas						
15–19	n.d.	14.60%	10.20%	---	-4.40 pp (-30.14%)	---
20–24	n.d.	31.80%	19.70%	---	-12.10 pp (-38.05%)	---
25–29	n.d.	32.50%	17.80%	---	-14.70 pp (-45.23%)	---
30–34	n.d.	28.30%	21.80%	---	-6.50 pp (-22.97%)	---

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_29) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



Chart 8. NEET rates (%) 2009–2019 (Croatia) by sex and degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted on 29.04.2020

Between 2009 and 2013, during the economic crisis, Croatia presented higher NEET rates compared to the period between 2014 and 2019 which was marked by an economic recovery. Although there has also been a decline in NEET rates in rural areas since 2013, in 2019, compared to cities and towns and suburbs, the proportion of NEETs is higher (cities – 11.30%; towns and suburbs – 15.70% and rural – 17.50%).



4. CONCLUSIONS

Youth population | The number of young people in Croatia has been in decline over the past decade. This pertains to all youth age groups. The situation in rural areas has been particularly dire since 2013.

Youth unemployment | Youth employment has grown in the past decade. However, a decline in the number of employed was registered in the 2009–2013 period as a result of the economic crisis and recession, while growth in the number of employed was registered in the 2013–2019 period. With regard to the degree of urbanisation, slight growth in the number of employed was present in Croatian cities in the 2009–2019 period, while in towns and suburbs a decline in the number of employed was registered for the 15–19, 20–24 and 25–29 age groups. Complete data is lacking for rural areas, so all that may be observed is that general employment of young people declined in the 2009–2019 period.

Youth unemployment | During the 2009–2019 period, a decline in the number of unemployed young people was registered, both overall and among all age groups, except for the 30–34 group. The economic crisis and recession in the 2009–2013 period led to growth in the number of those unemployed, while in the 2013–2019 period a drop in the number of unemployed was registered. With regards to degree of urbanisation, a decline in the number of unemployed from 2009 to 2019 was registered both overall and in all age groups. In towns and suburbs, a decline in the number of unemployed during this period was only seen in the 20–24 group, while growth in unemployment was registered in all other age groups given that growth in unemployment was considerably higher in the 2009–2013 period than the decline in the 2013–2019 period. There are no complete data for rural areas, but based on data concerning the number of employed, it may be presumed that unemployment among young people in rural areas grew.

Educational attainment | In the 2009–2019 period, the share of young people in Croatia who have achieved ISCED 5–8 education levels has grown, while the share of the remainder is falling. Growth in the share of young people who have attained ISCED 5–8 levels was registered in this period in both cities and towns and suburbs. There are no data for rural



areas, but slight growth in the share of young people who have attained ISCED 3–4 and ISCED 5–8 has been registered, as well as a decline in ISCED 0–2, during the 2013–2019 period.

ESLET | ESLET has decreased in Croatia during the 2009–2019 period at both at the national level and across different degrees of urbanisation. Even so, this decline has not been constant over the years, rather there has been growth in some years.

NEETs | The NEETs share decreased between 2009 and 2019 at the national level and across all degrees of urbanisation. However, this difference is slight on average given that the share of NEETs in Croatia grew in 2013, but after 2013 a decline proceeded.



5. REFERENCES

Bedeniković, I. (2017). (Ne)zaposlenost mladih i NEET populacija u Hrvatskoj [Youth (Un)Employment and the NEET Population in Croatia]. *Mali Levijatan*, 4 (1), 75–90. <https://hrcak.srce.hr/187011>

Đulabić, V. (2018). Lokalna samouprava i decentralizacija u Hrvatskoj: Rezultati istraživanja i preporuke za poboljšanje politike decentralizacije (Analysis) [Local self-government and decentralization in Croatia: Research results and recommendations for improving decentralization policy (Analysis)]. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Regional Office for Croatia and Slovenia. <https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/962156.VDulabic-Lokalna-samouprava-i-decentralizacija.pdf>

European Union Youth Strategy 2019–2027 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2018:456:FULL>

Ilišin, V., & Spajić Vrkaš, V. (2015). Potrebe, problemi i potencijali mladih u Hrvatskoj (Istraživački izvještaj) [Needs, problems and potential of young people in Croatia (Research report)]. Ministarstvo socijalne politike i mladih. Zagreb.

Opačić, V. T. (2014). Geografija Hrvatske [The Geography of Croatia]: In Hrvatska na prvi pogled: udžbenik hrvatske kulture. In S. D. Udier (Ed.), *Hrvatska na prvi pogled: udžbenik hrvatske kulture* [Croatia at first sight: Textbook of Croatian culture] (p.p. 8–49). FFpress.

Nacionalni program za mlade za razdoblje od 2014. do 2017. godine [National Youth Program for the period from 2014 to 2017]. <http://arhiva.mladi-eu.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Nacionalni-program-za-mlade-14-17.pdf>

Nacionalni program za mlade za razdoblje od 2020. do 2024. Godine – nacrt [National Youth Program for the period from 2020 to 2024 – draft]. <https://mdomsp.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/mladi-i-volonterstvo/mladi-9015/nacionalni-program-za-mlade-9024/9024>

Plan implementacije Garancije za mlade za razdoblje 2019. do 2020. godine [Implement-



COST Action CA18213
Rural NEET Youth Network:
Modeling the risks underlying rural
NEETs social exclusion

tation plan for the Youth Guarantee for the period 2019 to 2020]. Ministarstvo rada i mirovinskog sustava. <http://www.gzm.hr/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Plan-implementacije-Garancije-za-mlade-za-razdoblje-od-2019.-do-2020.-godine.pdf>

Strategija obrazovanja, znanosti i tehnologije: Nove boje znanja (2014) [Education, Science and Technology Strategy: New Colors of Knowledge]. https://www.azoo.hr/images/AZOO/Cjelovit_sadrzaj_Strategije_obrazovanja_znanosti_i_tehnologije.pdf

Youth Dialogue. Creating Opportunities for Youth. Outcomes of the 7th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue, created at the EU Youth Conference 2020, Zagreb, Croatia. <https://mdomsp.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/Vijesti2020/Creating%20Opportunities%20for%20Youth%20-%20outcomes%20report%2027%20mar%202020.pdf>

Zakon o odgoju i obrazovanju u osnovnoj i srednjoj školi [Primary and Secondary School Education Act] http://narodnenovine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2008_07_87_2789.htm

Zakon o radu [Labour Act] <https://www.zakon.hr/z/307/Zakon-o-radu>

Zakon o savjetima mladih [Youth Councils Act] https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2014_03_41_724.html



6. IMPORTANT LINKS

Ministarstva za demografiju, obitelj, mlade i socijalnu politiku (Mladi i odjel za mlade) [Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (Youth and Youth Department)] <https://mdomsp.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/mladi-i-volonterstvo/mladi-9015/9015>

Ministarstvo rada i mirovinskog sustava (Garancija za mlade) [Ministry of Labour and Pension System (Youth Guarantee)] <https://mrms.gov.hr/pristup-informacijama-16/najcesca-pitanja-i-odgovori/garancija-za-mlade/5689>

Ministarstvo znanosti i obrazovanja (Odgoj i obrazovanje) [Ministry of Science and Education (Education)] <https://mzo.gov.hr/odgoj-i-obrazovanje/109>

Popis stanovništva, kućanstava i stanova 2011. [2011 Census] <https://www.dzs.hr/hrv/census/census/census2011/censuslogo.htm>