

Croatia

| <i>Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor</i> | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working: | Unavailable |
| Minimum age of work: | 15 ¹²⁴⁶ |
| Age to which education is compulsory: | 14 ¹²⁴⁷ |
| Free public education: | Yes ¹²⁴⁸ |
| Gross primary enrollment rate in 2003: | 94% ¹²⁴⁹ |
| Net primary enrollment rate in 2003: | 87% ¹²⁵⁰ |
| Percent of children 5-14 attending school: | Unavailable |
| Percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5: | Unavailable |
| Ratified Convention 138: | 10/08/1991 ¹²⁵¹ |
| Ratified Convention 182: | 7/17/2001 ¹²⁵² |
| ILO-IPEC participating country: | No ¹²⁵³ |

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Croatia work in the entertainment, hospitality, tourism, retail, industrial, construction, and media sectors.¹²⁵⁴ Trafficking is a problem.¹²⁵⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Children younger than 15 years may participate in artistic endeavors for remuneration with the labor inspector's approval and if the assignment does not threaten their morals or interfere with school.¹²⁵⁸ Children 15 to 18 may only work with written permission from a legal guardian and labor inspector, assuming that the work is not harmful to the child's health, morality, education, or development.¹²⁵⁹ Children under 18 are prohibited from working overtime, at night, and under dangerous labor conditions. Specifically, this provision applies to work in bars,

¹²⁴⁶ Government of Croatia, *Croatia Labour Act of 2004 (No. 137/2004)*, Article 21(1).

¹²⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Croatia," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2006*, Washington, DC, 2006, Section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78806.htm>.

¹²⁴⁸ Government of Croatia, *Constitution of the Republic of Croatia*, (December 1990, as amended on April 2, 2001), Article 65; available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/hr00000_.html.

¹²⁴⁹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Gross Enrolment Ratio. Primary. Total*, accessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹²⁵⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Net Enrolment Rate. Primary. Total*, assessed December 20, 2006; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>.

¹²⁵¹ ILOLEX, *Ratifications by Country*, accessed January 31, 2007 2007; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/newratframeE.htm>.

¹²⁵² Ibid.

¹²⁵³ ILO- IPEC, *Programme Countries* [website] 2007 [cited March 23 2007]; available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipecc/about/countries/countries_en.pdf.

¹²⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Croatia." Section 6d.

¹²⁵⁵ U.S. Embassy Official-Zagreb, E-mail communication to USDOL official, August 1 2007.

¹²⁵⁸ Government of Croatia, *Croatia Labour Act of 2004*, Article 21(2).

¹²⁵⁹ Ibid., Articles 22(1), 22(5), and 23(1).

nightclubs, and gambling establishments.¹²⁶⁰ Under Croatian law, anyone forcing minors to beg or perform work inappropriate for their age can be penalized with 3 months to 3 years of imprisonment.¹²⁶¹

The law prohibits international prostitution and solicitation of a minor for sexual purposes, calling for between 1 and 10 years of imprisonment for violations.¹²⁶² The law also stipulates 1 to 5 years of imprisonment for using children for pornographic purposes.¹²⁶³ Trafficking in persons is a separate criminal act for which the law stipulates a minimum prison sentence of 5 years when a child or a minor is involved.¹²⁶⁴ Forced and compulsory labor are prohibited.¹²⁶⁵ The minimum age for conscription into the military is 18.¹²⁶⁶

The Ministry of Economy, Labor, and Entrepreneurship collaborates with the ombudsman for children and the State Labor Inspectorate to enforce minimum age laws.¹²⁶⁷ The Inspectorate has 102 inspectors who are responsible for detecting child labor.¹²⁶⁸ The ombudsman for children coordinates government efforts to promote and protect the interests of children, and is obligated to report any findings of exploitation to the State's Attorney's Office.¹²⁶⁹ A working group including government officials and NGOs has met regularly to exchange information on trafficking cases and programs.¹²⁷⁰

¹²⁶⁰ Ibid., Articles 41(5), 62(3), and 23(1). See also *Safety and Health Protection at the Workplace Act, 1996*, (June 28, 1996), Section 40; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/45063/65037/E96HRV01.htm>. See also Government of Croatia, *Regulations Concerning Jobs at which a Minor May not Be Employed and Jobs at which a Minor May Be Employed after the prior Determination of the Minor's Health Capacity (Official Gazette No. 59/02)*, as cited in ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Croatia (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2004 [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/index.cfm?lang=EN>.

¹²⁶¹ *Penal Code*, Section 213(2), as cited in ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request (No. 182): Croatia*.

¹²⁶² Government of Croatia, *Criminal Code*, Article 6, as cited in Interpol, *Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offenses against children*, [online] [cited October 19, 2006]; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaCroatia.asp>.

¹²⁶³ Government of Croatia, *Criminal Code*, Article 196, as cited in Ibid.

¹²⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, *reporting*, August 27, 2004.

¹²⁶⁵ Government of Croatia, *Constitution of the Republic of Croatia*, Article 23.

¹²⁶⁶ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Croatia," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004, 231; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=966.

¹²⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2006: Croatia," Section 6d.

¹²⁶⁸ U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, *reporting*, December 19, 2006.

¹²⁶⁹ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request (No. 182): Croatia*.

¹²⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Croatia (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2006*, Washington, DC, 2006; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/65988.htm>.

¹²⁷² Government of Croatia, *National Programme for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons 2005-2008*, National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, Zagreb, 2004; available from <http://www.ljudskapravavladarh.hr/Download/2005/03/30/Dosta-eng.pdf>.

Current Government Efforts to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of Croatia is implementing its National Program for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons 2005-2008,¹²⁷² a 2005-2007 National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Children,¹²⁷³ and a 2006 action plan for trafficking¹²⁷⁴ through a national committee and civil society organizations.¹²⁷⁵ The government also launched the 2006-2012 National Program for the Protection of the Best Interests of Children to prevent and protect children from sexual abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation.¹²⁷⁶ A national-level coordinator has monitored ongoing anti-trafficking efforts in the country.¹²⁷⁷ The government has provided funds and support for anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns, a national referral system, victim identification, shelters, and legal, medical, and psychological services for victims.¹²⁷⁸ Croatian police forces have included anti-trafficking as part of its academy's curriculum.¹²⁷⁹ The government also works with international organizations to assist trafficking victims and cooperates with other governments in the region.¹²⁸⁰

Through 2007, Croatia is participating in a Government of Germany-funded regional program implemented by ILO-IPEC to combat the worst forms of child labor in the Stability Pact Countries.¹²⁸¹

¹²⁷³ Government of Croatia, *National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Children October 2005-December 2007*, National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, Zagreb, 2005; available from http://www.ljudskaprava-vladarh.hr/Download/2006/01/31/NACIONALNI_PROGRAM_ZA_SUZBIJANJE_TRGOVANJA_DJECOM-ENG-MD.doc.

¹²⁷⁴ Government of Croatia, *Action Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons for 2006*, National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, Zagreb; available from http://www.ljudskaprava-vladarh.hr/Download/2006/01/31/OPERATIVNI_PLAN_za_suzbijanje_trgovanja_ljudima_engl.doc.

¹²⁷⁵ Government of Croatia, *OSCE 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting: Trafficking in Human Beings*, Office for Human Rights, Warsaw, October 3, 2006.

¹²⁷⁶ U.S. Embassy- Zagreb, *reporting*, December 19, 2006.

¹²⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report: Croatia."

¹²⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁸⁰ UNOHCHR UNICEF, OCSE/ODIHR, Barbara Limanowska., *Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe: 2004- Focus on Prevention* March 2005, 136-137 and 215; available from <http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Trafficking.Report.2005.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report: Croatia."

¹²⁸¹ ILO- IPEC official, email communication, November 15, 2006.