

Mladi u Hrvatskoj 2026: između papira i prakse

Povodom Međunarodnog dana mladih, 12. kolovoza

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Cilj ovog policy briefa je dati objektivan prikaz stanja mladih u Hrvatskoj na temelju dostupnih službenih statističkih izvora i procjena relevantnih organizacija u području mladih. Unatoč nastojanju da prikaz bude cjelovit, moguće je da je pojedini podatak, izvor ili aspekt izostavljen; autor rado prima primjedbe i dopune.

Napomena o izradi: Za izradu ovog policy briefa korišten je Claude (Anthropic), i to isključivo za grafičko uređenje dokumenta i prijevod na engleski jezik. Sadržaj, analiza i zaključci autorovi su.

Young People in Croatia 2026: Between Paper and Practice

On the occasion of International Youth Day, 12 August

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The aim of this policy brief is to provide an objective overview of the situation of young people in Croatia, based on available official statistical sources and assessments by relevant youth-sector organisations. Despite efforts to be comprehensive, it is possible that some data, sources, or aspects have been omitted; the author welcomes comments and additions.

Note on production: Claude (Anthropic) was used in the preparation of this policy brief, exclusively for document design and translation into English. The content, analysis, and conclusions are the author's own.

1. Sažetak / Executive Summary

Prema Youth Progress Indexu 2025. Hrvatska je 26. od 41 europske zemlje i 34. od 169 u svijetu. U posljednjih deset godina najviše je napredovala u digitalizaciji javnih usluga i smanjenju udjela mladih u NEET statusu, a najviše nazadovala u političkim pravima, slobodi mirnog okupljanja i dostupnosti javnih usluga u ruralnim područjima. Institucionalni okvir postoji na svim razinama, ali je od 576 jedinica lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave savjet mladih aktivno djelovao u njih 94. Stopa nezaposlenosti mladih ostaje znatno viša od opće, gotovo petina zaposlenih mladih radi u prekarnim uvjetima, a prosječna dob napuštanja roditeljskog doma iznosi 31,5 godina.

According to the 2025 Youth Progress Index, Croatia ranks 26th out of 41 European countries and 34th out of 169 worldwide. Over the past decade, the country has made the greatest progress in digitalising public services and reducing the share of young people in NEET status, while regressing most in political rights, freedom of peaceful assembly, and the availability of public services in rural areas. An institutional framework exists at all levels, yet of 576 local and regional self-government units, a youth council was actively operating in only 94. Youth unemployment remains considerably higher than the general rate, almost one in five employed young people works in precarious conditions, and the average age of leaving the parental household is 31.5 years.

2. Kontekst / Context

Danas obilježavamo Međunarodni dan mladih u državi u kojoj mladi (15-29 godina) čine 16,1% stanovništva, prema procjeni Državnog zavoda za statistiku za 2024. godinu. Eurostat za istu dobnu skupinu navodi udio od 16,2%.

Taj se udio smanjuje, a razlozi nisu samo demografski. Uz nizak natalitet, na veličinu generacije bitno utječe iseljavanje, koje se nakon ulaska Hrvatske u Europsku uniju 2013. godine odvija bez administrativnih prepreka i najizraženije je upravo u dobnim skupinama koje ovaj brief promatra.

To ima i metodološku posljedicu: dio pokazatelja koji na prvi pogled izgledaju kao poboljšanje, primjerice pad udjela mladih u NEET statusu, dijelom odražava smanjenje

Today marks International Youth Day in a country where young people (aged 15-29) make up 16.1% of the population, according to the Croatian Bureau of Statistics' 2024 estimate. Eurostat reports a share of 16.2% for the same age group.

This share is shrinking, and the reasons are not solely demographic. Alongside low birth rates, the size of the generation is substantially shaped by emigration, which since Croatia's accession to the European Union in 2013 has proceeded without administrative barriers and is most pronounced precisely in the age groups this brief examines.

nazivnika, a ne isključivo učinak politika. Pokazatelje u nastavku stoga treba čitati zajedno s demografskim kontekstom, a ne odvojeno od njega.

Prilika je to za presjek stanja: gdje Hrvatska stoji prema međunarodnim mjerilima, što joj institucionalno stoji na raspolaganju i gdje ostaju praznine.

This has a methodological consequence: some indicators that appear at first glance to show improvement, such as the falling share of young people in NEET status, partly reflect a shrinking denominator rather than the effect of policy alone. The indicators below should therefore be read together with the demographic context, not in isolation from it.

This is an opportunity to take stock: where Croatia stands by international benchmarks, what institutional resources are available to young people, and where the gaps remain.

Napomena o definiciji mladosti

Ovaj brief spaja izvore koji mladost definiraju različito: Državni zavod za statistiku i Eurostat koriste dob 15-29, Youth Progress Index promatra skupinu 15-35, a Zakon o savjetima mladih definira mlade kao osobe od 15 do 30 godina. Vrijednosti iz različitih izvora stoga nisu izravno usporedive.

Šire od toga, kronološka dob samo je jedan od pristupa definiranju mladosti. Mladost se jednako može odrediti kroz tranzicije, poput izlaska iz obrazovanja, ulaska na tržište rada, napuštanja roditeljskog doma i osamostaljenja, ili kao društveni konstrukt čije se granice mijenjaju s društvenim okolnostima. Podatak da prosječna dob napuštanja roditeljskog doma u Hrvatskoj iznosi 31,5 godina pokazuje da se te perspektive u praksi znatno razilaze: prema tranzicijskom kriteriju mladost u Hrvatskoj traje dulje nego što je predviđa bilo koja od navedenih dobnih granica.

A note on defining youth

This brief combines sources that define youth differently: the Croatian Bureau of Statistics and Eurostat use ages 15-29, the Youth Progress Index examines the 15-35 group, and the Youth Councils Act defines young people as those aged 15 to 30. Values from different sources are therefore not directly comparable.

More broadly, chronological age is only one approach to defining youth. Youth can equally be defined through transitions, such as leaving education, entering the labour market, leaving the parental household, and achieving independence, or as a social construct whose boundaries shift with social circumstances. The fact that the average age of leaving the parental household in Croatia is 31.5 years shows that these perspectives diverge considerably in practice: by the transitional criterion, youth in Croatia lasts longer than any of the age thresholds above would suggest.

3. Nalazi: Youth Progress Index / Findings: Youth Progress Index

Prema Youth Progress Indexu Europskog foruma mladih za 2025. godinu, koji mjeri blagostanje, pristup pravima i kvalitetu života mladih, Hrvatska je 26. od 41 europske zemlje i 34. od 169 zemalja svijeta.

U posljednjih deset godina Hrvatska je najviše napredovala u četiri područja: dostupnosti javnih usluga putem interneta, smanjenju diskriminacije prema manjinama, smanjenju udjela mladih u NEET statusu (mladi koji nisu u obrazovanju, zaposlenju ni osposobljavanju) te mentalnoj dobrobiti mladih.

Najveće nazadovanje zabilježeno je u prihvaćanju gej i lezbijskih osoba, zadovoljstvu kvalitetom zraka i vode, političkim pravima, pravu na mirno okupljanje te dostupnosti javnih usluga mladima u ruralnim područjima.

Obrazac je prepoznatljiv: najveći pomaci ostvareni su ondje gdje je bila dovoljna tehnička ili administrativna promjena, poput digitalizacije usluga. Nazadovanje pogađa građanske i političke slobode te kvalitetu okoliša, dakle područja koja zahtijevaju dugoročno političko ulaganje. Isti se obrazac vidi i na razini Europske unije, gdje je najveći pojedinačni pad u cijelom indeksu zabilježen upravo u pristupu priuštivom stanovanju, za 8,92 boda između 2015. i 2024.

According to the European Youth Forum's Youth Progress Index 2025, which measures wellbeing, access to rights, and quality of life for young people, Croatia ranks 26th out of 41 European countries and 34th out of 169 countries worldwide.

Over the past decade, Croatia has made the greatest progress in four areas: the availability of online public services, the reduction of discrimination against minorities, the reduction in the share of young people in NEET status (not in education, employment, or training), and youth mental wellbeing.

The largest declines were recorded in the acceptance of gay and lesbian people, satisfaction with air and water quality, political rights, the right to peaceful assembly, and the availability of public services for young people in rural areas.

The pattern is recognisable: the biggest gains occurred where a technical or administrative change was sufficient, such as the digitalisation of services. Declines affect civil and political freedoms and environmental quality, areas that require long-term political investment. The same pattern is visible at European Union level, where the single largest decline in the entire index was in access to affordable housing, by 8.92 points between 2015 and 2024.

4. Nalazi: Eurostat pokazatelji / Findings: Eurostat Indicators

EU strategija za mlade okvir je suradnje u politikama za mlade na razini EU-a za razdoblje 2019-2027. Youth dashboard, izvor podataka korišten u ovom odjeljku, sastoji se od statističkih pokazatelja grupiranih prema temeljnim područjima djelovanja strategije (uključivanje, povezivanje, osnaživanje), nadopunjenih kontekstualnim pokazateljima. Odabir pokazatelja temelji se na dokumentu "Proposal for an updated dashboard of EU youth" (2021.), koji je izradila Uprava za obrazovanje, mlade, sport i kulturu Europske komisije. Pojedini pokazatelji objavljuju se za različite dobne raspone i referentna razdoblja, pa ih treba čitati uz naznačenu godinu.

A. Demografija

Pokazatelj	Vrijednost	Godina
Udio mladih (15-29) u ukupnom stanovništvu	16,2%	2025

B. Rad i životni standard

Pokazatelj	Vrijednost	Godina
Omjer nezaposlenosti mladih (udio u populaciji)	6,3%	2025
Stopa nezaposlenosti mladih, 15-24 (*)	18,3%	2025
Mladi u prekarnom statusu zaposlenja	18,8%	2025
Mladi u NEET statusu	14,9%	2025
Rizik od siromaštva ili socijalne isključenosti	12,7%	2025
Teška stambena deprivacija	2,8%	2023
Prosječna dob napuštanja roditeljskog doma	31,5 god.	2025

Podatke o radu treba čitati pažljivo. Vrijednost od 6,3% odnosi se na omjer nezaposlenosti, dakle na udio nezaposlenih u ukupnoj populaciji mladih, uključujući one u obrazovanju i izvan tržišta rada. Stopa nezaposlenosti, koja mjeri udio nezaposlenih u radnoj snazi, znatno je viša i za dob 15-24 iznosila je 18,3%. Uz to, 18,8% zaposlenih mladih radi u prekarnim uvjetima. Problem, dakle, nije samo kvaliteta posla nego i njegova dostupnost.

C. Obrazovanje i digitalne vještine

Pokazatelj	Vrijednost	Godina
Osnovne ili napredne digitalne vještine	88,5%	2025
Sudjelovanje u neformalnom obrazovanju (zadnja 4 tj.)	9,2%	2025

The EU Youth Strategy is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. The Youth Dashboard, the source of the data in this section, consists of statistical indicators grouped according to the strategy's core areas of action (engage, connect, empower), complemented by contextual indicators. The selection is based on the "Proposal for an updated dashboard of EU youth" (2021), prepared by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. Individual indicators are published for different age ranges and reference periods, and should be read alongside the year indicated.

A. Demography

Indicator	Value	Year
Share of young people (15-29) in total population	16.2%	2025

B. Work and Living Standards

Indicator	Value	Year
Youth unemployment ratio (share of population)	6.3%	2025
Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 (*)	18.3%	2025
Young people in precarious employment	18.8%	2025
Young people in NEET status	14.9%	2025
At risk of poverty or social exclusion	12.7%	2025
Severe housing deprivation	2.8%	2023
Average age of leaving parental household	31.5 yrs	2025

Labour data requires careful reading. The 6.3% figure is the unemployment ratio, that is, the share of unemployed within the total youth population, including those in education and outside the labour market. The unemployment rate, which measures the share of unemployed within the labour force, is considerably higher and stood at 18.3% for ages 15-24. In addition, 18.8% of employed young people work in precarious conditions. The problem is therefore not only the quality of work but also its availability.

C. Education and Digital Skills

Indicator	Value	Year
Basic or above basic digital skills	88.5%	2025
Participation in non-formal education (last 4 wks)	9.2%	2025

D. Zdravlje i životni stil

Pokazatelj	Vrijednost	Godina
Dugotrajna bolest ili zdravstveni problem	29,9%	2025
Svakodnevni pušači	20,6%	2025
Učestala konzumacija alkohola	18,7%	2025
Visoko zadovoljstvo životom (udio mladih)	27,3%	2025

Pokazatelj zadovoljstva životom traži pojašnjenje. Eurostat ga primarno objavljuje kao prosječnu ocjenu na ljestvici od 0 do 10, gdje je prosjek Europske unije 2024. iznosio 7,2. Vrijednost od 27,3% odnosi se na udio mladih koji iskazuju visoku razinu zadovoljstva, a ne na udio onih koji su uopće zadovoljni. Za usporedbu, prema Eurostatu su mladi u Europskoj uniji najzadovoljnija dobna skupina, a Hrvatska bilježi najveću razliku između mladih i osoba starijih od 65 godina, 2,6 bodova, i to u korist mladih.

E. Građansko sudjelovanje i informiranost

Pokazatelj	Vrijednost	Godina
Čitanje internetskih novinskih portala	77,2%	2025
Internet za civilno/političko sudjelovanje	17,7%	2025
Sudjelovanje u volonterskim aktivnostima	12,4%	2025

Zajedno, ovi pokazatelji upućuju na jaz između kompetencije i sudjelovanja: mladi u Hrvatskoj digitalno su vrlo vješti i redovito se informiraju putem interneta, no taj se kapacitet rijetko prevodi u građansku ili političku aktivnost.

Izvori: Eurostat (2025a), podaci za 2025. ako nije drukčije navedeno. () Stopa nezaposlenosti mladih 15-24: Eurostat (2026), podaci za prosinac 2025. Kontekst za zadovoljstvo životom: Eurostat (2025b).*

D. Health and Lifestyle

Indicator	Value	Year
Long-standing illness or health problem	29.9%	2025
Daily smokers	20.6%	2025
Frequent alcohol consumption	18.7%	2025
High life satisfaction (share of young people)	27.3%	2025

The life satisfaction indicator requires clarification. Eurostat primarily publishes it as a mean rating on a 0 to 10 scale, where the European Union average in 2024 was 7.2. The 27.3% figure refers to the share of young people reporting a high level of satisfaction, not the share of those who are satisfied at all. For comparison, according to Eurostat, young people in the European Union are the most satisfied age group, and Croatia records the largest gap between young people and those over 65, at 2.6 points, in favour of the young.

E. Civic Participation and Information

Indicator	Value	Year
Reading online news portals	77.2%	2025
Internet use for civic/political participation	17.7%	2025
Participation in volunteering activities	12.4%	2025

Taken together, these indicators point to a gap between competence and participation: young people in Croatia are digitally highly skilled and regularly informed online, yet this capacity rarely translates into civic or political activity.

Sources: Eurostat (2025a), 2025 data unless otherwise stated. () Youth unemployment rate 15-24: Eurostat (2026), December 2025 data. Life satisfaction context: Eurostat (2025b).*

5. Institucionalna arhitektura: što imamo i što nedostaje / Institutional Architecture: What We Have and What Is Missing

Hrvatska ima razmjerno razrađen zakonski i institucionalni okvir za mlade. Na zakonodavnoj razini postoje Zakon o savjetima mladih, Zakon o studentskom zboru i drugim studentskim organizacijama te Zakon o odgoju i obrazovanju u osnovnoj i srednjoj školi, koji mladima priznaje određena participativna prava.

Savjet za razvoj politika za mlade Vlade Republike Hrvatske osnovan je u lipnju 2025. godine i zamijenio je dotadašnji Savjet za mlade Vlade RH. Osim praćenja i predlaganja politika za mlade, taj Savjet formalno djeluje i kao Nacionalna radna skupina za provedbu Dijaloga Europske unije s mladima. Uz njega postoje i Savjet mladih Republike Hrvatske, Mladi delegat pri UN-u, učenička

Croatia has a relatively well-developed legal and institutional framework for young people. At the legislative level, these include the Youth Councils Act, the Act on the Student Council and Other Student Organisations, and the Act on Primary and Secondary Education, which grants young people certain participatory rights.

The Council for the Development of Youth Policies of the Government of the Republic of Croatia was established in June 2025, replacing the former Government Youth Council. Besides monitoring and proposing youth policy, this Council formally also acts as the National Working Group for the implementation of the European Union

vijeća i studentski zborovi. Na lokalnoj razini zakon obvezuje svih 576 jedinica lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave da osnuju savjet mladih.

Provedba, međutim, zaostaje za zakonskim okvirom: u 2024. godini zakonsku je obvezu izvršilo 120 jedinica, a od njih je aktivno, u smislu održane barem jedne sjednice u godini, bilo samo 94. To znači da manje od 17% jedinica ima funkcionalan savjet mladih, iako ga zakon propisuje za sve. Uz taj podatak potrebna je ograda: godišnje izvješće obuhvaća one jedinice koje su o svom radu izvijestile ministarstvo, pa je moguće da je stvarni broj osnovanih i aktivnih savjeta nešto viši od zabilježenoga.

Uz državna tijela, važan dio institucionalne slike čini i civilno društvo. Mreža mladih Hrvatske krovna je organizacija koja okuplja velik broj organizacija mladih i za mlade te je hrvatska članica Europskog foruma mladih, čiji se podaci koriste u ovom briefu. Ipak, Mreža mladih Hrvatske nije službeno priznata kao nacionalno vijeće mladih, čime Hrvatska odstupa od prakse većine europskih zemalja u kojima takvo tijelo ima formalan status sugovornika vlasti.

Hrvatska je uključena i u Youth Wiki, mrežnu enciklopediju koja detaljno prikazuje politike za mlade u 34 europske zemlje, potiče suradnju utemeljenu na dokazima i vršnjačko učenje u sektoru mladih te podupire Europsku komisiju i države članice u njihovim procesima donošenja odluka. Sadržaj vezan za Hrvatsku posljednji je put ažuriran u siječnju 2026. godine.

Stambeno zbrinjavanje mladih jedan je od najozbiljnijih problema. Prosječna dob napuštanja roditeljskog doma od 31,5 godina među najvišima je u Europskoj uniji, a Youth Progress Index bilježi pristup priuštivom stanovanju kao područje najvećeg pada na razini Europske unije u proteklom desetljeću. Vlada Republike Hrvatske u ožujku 2025. godine donijela je Nacionalni plan stambene politike Republike Hrvatske do 2030. godine, čiji će se učinci na položaj mladih tek moći mjeriti.

Kad je riječ o financiranju, Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih u 2025. je godini kroz Natječaj za dodjelu bespovratnih sredstava za provedbu projekata usmjerenih mladima raspodijelilo 4.006.500,00 eura na 142 projekta udruga mladih i za mlade, financirano iz namjenskih prihoda od igara na sreću.

Dodatna sredstva dostupna su putem programa Erasmus+ Mladi: u 2025. je godini organizacijama mladih dodijeljeno 5.894.919,50 eura u prvom roku, a u drugom je roku bilo dostupno 782.231,50 eura. Za 2026. godinu u prvom je roku dodijeljeno 6.256.550,00 eura, a u drugom je roku dostupno 873.706,20 eura. Uz Erasmus+, mladima je namijenjen i program Europske snage solidarnosti, u okviru kojega je Hrvatskoj za 2025. godinu dodijeljeno 1.909.523 eura. Na razini Europske unije proračun tog programa smanjen je sa 166 milijuna eura u 2025. na 129,6 milijuna eura u 2026. godini.

Youth Dialogue. Alongside it there is also the Youth Council of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Youth Delegate to the UN, school student councils, and university student unions. At the local level, the law requires all 576 local and regional self-government units to establish a youth council.

Implementation, however, lags behind the legal framework: in 2024, 120 units fulfilled their legal obligation, and of these only 94 were active, meaning they held at least one session during the year. This means fewer than 17% of units have a functioning youth council, even though the law requires one in every unit. A caveat is needed here: the annual report covers those units that reported to the ministry, so the actual number of established and active councils may be somewhat higher than recorded.

Alongside state bodies, civil society forms an important part of the institutional picture. The Croatian Youth Network is an umbrella organisation bringing together a large number of youth organisations and organisations working for young people, and is Croatia's member of the European Youth Forum, whose data is used in this brief. Nevertheless, the Croatian Youth Network is not officially recognised as a national youth council, which places Croatia outside the practice of most European countries, where such a body holds formal status as an interlocutor of government.

Croatia also participates in Youth Wiki, an online encyclopaedia that provides a detailed overview of youth policies in 34 European countries, encourages evidence-based cooperation and peer learning in the youth sector, and supports the European Commission and member states in their decision-making processes. The content relating to Croatia was last updated in January 2026.

Housing for young people is one of the most serious problems. The average age of leaving the parental household, at 31.5 years, is among the highest in the European Union, and the Youth Progress Index records access to affordable housing as the area of steepest decline at European Union level over the past decade. In March 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the National Housing Policy Plan of the Republic of Croatia until 2030, whose effects on the position of young people remain to be measured.

In terms of funding, in 2025 the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth distributed 4,006,500.00 euros to 142 projects run by youth associations and organisations working for young people, through its Call for Grants for the Implementation of Youth-Oriented Projects, financed from earmarked lottery revenue.

Additional funding is available through the Erasmus+ Youth programme: in 2025, 5,894,919.50 euros were awarded to youth organisations in the first round, and 782,231.50 euros were available in the second round. For 2026, 6,256,550.00 euros were awarded in the first round,

Izvori: Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih (2025a, 2025b); Vlada Republike Hrvatske (2025a, 2025b); Agencija za mobilnost i programe Europske unije (2024, 2025, 2026); European Education and Culture Executive Agency (2026).

Nekoliko institucionalnih praznina ostaje otvoreno: Nacionalni program za mlade za razdoblje od 2023. do 2025. (Narodne novine 61/23) istekao je krajem 2025. godine, a Vlada je 12. prosinca 2025. pokrenula izradu novoga, koji do danas nije usvojen. Ne postoji definirana niti strukturno podržana profesija rada s mladima. Izostaju nacionalne smjernice kvalitete za centre i klubove za mlade. Hrvatska nema zaseban zakon o mladima i organizacijama mladih, unatoč nizu sektorskih zakona koji dotiču pojedine aspekte njihova statusa.

and 873,706.20 euros are available in the second. Alongside Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps is also aimed at young people, under which Croatia was allocated 1,909,523 euros for 2025. At European Union level, the programme's budget was reduced from 166 million euros in 2025 to 129.6 million euros in 2026.

Sources: Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih [Ministry of Science, Education and Youth] (2025a, 2025b); Vlada Republike Hrvatske [Government of Croatia] (2025a, 2025b); Agencija za mobilnost i programe Europske unije [Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes] (2024, 2025, 2026); European Education and Culture Executive Agency (2026).

Several institutional gaps remain open: the National Youth Programme for 2023-2025 (Official Gazette 61/23) expired at the end of 2025, and the Government launched the drafting of a new one on 12 December 2025, which has not yet been adopted. There is no defined or structurally supported profession of youth work. National quality guidelines for youth centres and clubs are lacking. Croatia has no separate act on young people and youth organisations, despite a range of sector-specific laws touching on individual aspects of their status.

6. Zaključak / Conclusion

Hrvatska raspolaže razgranatom mrežom formalnih tijela i propisa za mlade, ali provedba znatno zaostaje za okvirom. Savjeti mladih aktivni su u manjini jedinica, iako ih zakon propisuje za sve. Istovremeno područja koja ovise o dugoročnoj politici, poput političkih prava, prava na mirno okupljanje i kvalitete okoliša, bilježe nazadovanje, dok se napredak koncentrira ondje gdje je dovoljna tehnička ili administrativna mjera.

Slika koja se pritom oblikuje nije slika generacije u krizi, nego generacije u odgodi. Mladi u Hrvatskoj digitalno su kompetentni i po zadovoljstvu životom ne odstupaju negativno od europskih vršnjaka, ali ključne tranzicije prema samostalnosti odvijaju se kasno: nezaposlenost mladih ostaje znatno viša od opće, gotovo petina zaposlenih radi u nesigurnim uvjetima, a osamostaljenje od roditeljskog doma nastupa tek pred 32. godinu života. Iseljavanje pritom ostaje pozadinska varijabla koja dio statističkih poboljšanja objašnjava odlaskom, a ne napretkom.

Izrada novog nacionalnog programa za mlade prilika je da se te tranzicije postave u središte politike prema mladima, ali samo ako je prati stvarno jačanje provedbenih kapaciteta, posebice na lokalnoj i područnoj razini.

Croatia has an extensive network of formal bodies and regulations for young people, but implementation lags considerably behind the framework. Youth councils are active in a minority of units, even though the law requires them everywhere. At the same time, areas that depend on long-term policy, such as political rights, the right to peaceful assembly, and environmental quality, are in decline, while progress is concentrated where a technical or administrative measure suffices.

The picture that emerges is not one of a generation in crisis, but of a generation in deferral. Young people in Croatia are digitally competent and do not compare unfavourably with European peers on life satisfaction, yet the key transitions to independence occur late: youth unemployment remains considerably higher than the general rate, almost one in five of those employed works in insecure conditions, and independence from the parental household arrives only around the age of 32. Emigration meanwhile remains a background variable that explains part of the statistical improvement through departure rather than progress.

The drafting of the new National Youth Programme is an opportunity to place these transitions at the centre of youth policy, but only if it is accompanied by a genuine strengthening of implementation capacity, particularly at local and regional level.

7. Preporuke / Recommendations

1. Novi nacionalni program za mlade trebao bi sadržavati konkretne i mjerljive pokazatelje provedbe, i to u dva smjera: u područjima gdje Youth Progress Index bilježi pad (politička prava, sloboda mirnog okupljanja, kvaliteta okoliša) te u tranzicijama prema samostalnosti (stanovanje, zapošljavanje, osamostaljenje).
2. Provedbu Zakona o savjetima mladih potrebno je ojačati, primjerice kroz jasnije posljedice za jedinice koje ne ispunjavaju zakonsku obvezu i kroz sustavnije praćenje, budući da je danas aktivan manje od svakog šestog zakonom propisanog savjeta mladih.
3. Nacionalno vijeće mladih trebalo bi dobiti formalno priznanje, kako bi krovna organizacija mladih imala status stalnog sugovornika vlasti, u skladu s praksom većine europskih zemalja.
4. Prikupljanje podataka o mladima trebalo bi sustavno uključivati razvrstavanje po spolu, invaliditetu, pripadnosti manjini i seksualnoj orijentaciji, jer sadašnji nedostatak takvih podataka onemogućuje interseksijsku analizu politika za mlade.
5. Zaseban zakon o mladima i organizacijama mladih objedinio bi trenutno fragmentiran sektorski okvir i osigurao pravnu osnovu za profesiju rada s mladima, koja danas ne postoji.

1. The new National Youth Programme should include concrete and measurable implementation indicators in two directions: in the areas where the Youth Progress Index shows decline (political rights, freedom of peaceful assembly, environmental quality), and in the transitions to independence (housing, employment, leaving the parental home).
2. Implementation of the Youth Councils Act needs to be strengthened, for example through clearer consequences for units that fail to meet their legal obligation and through more systematic monitoring, given that fewer than one in six legally mandated youth councils is currently active.
3. A national youth council should receive formal recognition, so that the umbrella youth organisation holds the status of a standing interlocutor of government, in line with the practice of most European countries.
4. Data collection on young people should systematically include breakdowns by sex, disability, minority status, and sexual orientation, since the current lack of such data prevents an intersectional analysis of youth policy.
5. A separate act on young people and youth organisations would consolidate the currently fragmented sector-specific framework and provide a legal basis for the profession of youth work, which does not currently exist.

8. Izvori / Sources

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