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CROATIA

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<p>Key Statistics</p>	<p>There is no established strategy for collecting national/regional data on homelessness in Croatia. The term “homeless” was legally defined in 2011 for the first time in the Social Welfare Act. The definition is in line with the ETHOS typology and includes “rough sleepers” homeless category.</p> <p>There are 22 homelessness services in the Republic of Croatia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 homeless shelters (Zagreb-2, Rijeka, Pula, Karlovac) (ETHOS 3.1.) ○ 7 night shelters in Zagreb, Varaždin, Osijek, Zadar, Rijeka, Split and Kaštela (ETHOS 2.1.) ○ 2 transitional supported accommodation (Zagreb, Split) ETHOS 3.3. ○ 8 NGOs that support homeless without accommodation - Vinkovci, Zagreb (6), Split <p>Unofficial estimated data (calculated by NGO MoSt and the Croatian Network for the Homeless):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approx. 300 people sleeping rough (ETHOS 1.1.) ○ 124 people living in overnight shelters (ETHOS 2.1.) ○ 217 people living in temporary accommodation (ETHOS 3.1) ○ 10 people living in transitional supported accommodation (ETHOS 3.3.) ○ Approx. 40 people living in medical institutions (ETHOS 6.2.) ○ Approx 350 people living in temporary, non-standard structures (ETHOS 11.1., 11.2., 11.3.) ○ 35 people living in unfit housing in Dubrovnik (ETHOS 12.1.) ○ 250 people living in accommodation for migrants (ETHOS 5.1.)
<p>Increase/ Decrease in Number of Homeless People</p>	<p>Homelessness in Croatia has been increasing in recent years.</p> <p>The rising unemployment rate has led to an increase in the number of homeless people (single men, women and whole families) who are experiencing poverty for the first time.</p> <p>The high unemployment rate (16.9%) and especially the high rate of youth unemployment (51.8%) are also key problems.</p> <p>Croatia is also experiencing an increase in the number of asylum seekers (148 in 2009, 867 in 2013). Most of them are from Syria, Somalia, Algeria, Pakistan and Morocco.</p>
<p>Change in Profile of Homeless People</p>	<p>The Ministry of Social Policy and Youth carried out an analysis of the profile of 384 shelter beneficiaries in 2012. Most beneficiaries are men aged between 45 and 60 years, usually single, divorced or never married and without children. The majority of them have finished high school and have approximately ten years of work experience.</p> <p>The analysis showed that 9.9% were aged 0-29 years and 13.3% were aged 30-39 years.</p>

¹ Last updated January 2014

	In Zagreb shelters, there are some young people who left institutions (prison or social care) at the age of 18.
National Strategy	<p>There is no strategy to combat homelessness.</p> <p>The Government is developing a Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Members of NGO MoSt are involved in the process.</p> <p>The Act stipulates that large cities and county towns are obliged to fund meal services in public canteens, as well as homeless accommodation. The Act also determines that large cities and county towns are obliged, depending on their financial capacity, to encourage and guarantee the provision of other forms of material assistance and support, such as: meals in public canteens; temporary accommodation for homeless persons; accommodation for persons who receive sustenance support in social housing and subsidies for particular social and other services. They should also encourage civil society organisations' work and voluntary work in social welfare, as well as develop other forms of social welfare. If large cities and county towns are not able to ensure funds for meals in public canteens, temporary accommodation of homeless persons in shelters or accommodation of persons who receive sustenance support in social housing, regions will also contribute to the funding of such support and services, depending on their financial capacity.</p>
Targeted Prevention	Development of a local, regional and national strategy for housing policy.
Housing-Led Approaches	<p>Housing First in Croatia will be piloted in Rijeka and Split in partnership with the Association Terra, Rijeka and the Association MoSt, Split. This project will be coordinated by CERANEO - Centre for Development of Non-Profit Organisations.</p> <p>The main challenge for implementing this project in Croatia is to ensure housing units and sustainable budgets through both state and local funds, and private investments.</p> <p>For a successful project implementation, it is also important to establish a strong political commitment to the Housing First concept.</p> <p>At this moment there are some services that provide accommodation with support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 transitional supported accommodation service (Split) ○ Several transitional supported accommodation (Zagreb, Karlovac) scheduled to open in 2014
Quality of Homeless Services	<p>The Red Cross Homeless Shelter - the largest shelter in Croatia (capacity 130 / maximum 150 people) offers also the highest quality services (open 24 hours, 3 meals a day, 2 persons per room).</p> <p>Most night shelters in Croatia are open from 7pm till 8am and offer basic services such as a bed, a bath and 1-2 meals.</p> <p>It is scheduled that two more night shelters (Sibenik, Ploce) and one shelter (Zadar) will open in 2014. Also, it is expected that the Split shelter will expand its capacity by relocating to a larger space.</p> <p>All organizations that deal with the homeless population in Croatia (total of 20) offer social</p>

	inclusion services.	
Remarks on Research	<p>Homelessness became a priority in 2005 when Croatia began writing its JIM (Joint Inclusion Memorandum).</p> <p>The only study in the area of homelessness was conducted in 2008 by the Ivo Pilar institute.</p> <p>Through their program “KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY MITIGATION”, NGO MoSt is monitoring data from various organisations dealing with homelessness and poverty. NGO MoSt plans to conduct extensive research about homelessness in Croatia over the next few years, in cooperation with the Croatian Network for the Homeless.</p>	
Remarks on Budget Evolution	<p>There is no continuous financing of projects and activities in the area of homelessness at local, regional or national level.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Policy and Youth did not offer a single grant application procedure in the category of homelessness and poverty in the year 2013.</p>	
Remarks on Key Policy Developments	Positive	Negative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A strategy against poverty and social exclusion is being developed ○ Option for applying for EU funds ○ Ministry of Social Policy and Youth decision to fund homelessness projects and programmes in 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of clear and set rules and regulations about how homeless shelters should function. ○ ETHOS still not implemented in definitions of homelessness ○ New Act transferred all financing and managing responsibilities from national to local level. That caused new problems since the local authorities lack the sufficient funds to support NGOs that work with homeless people.