



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
PUČKI PRAVOBRANITELJ
OMBUDSMAN

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OHCHR REGISTRY

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Subject: Information on implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in Croatia

In order to collect most up-dated information on how the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/15/28) has been implementing in the Republic of Croatia the Office of the Ombudsman (NHRI) has contacted all relevant institutions in this field: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (www.mzos.hr), Judicial Academy (www.pa.hr) Police Academy (www.fkz.hr) Center for Education of Civil Servants (www.uprava.hr), Government Office for Human Rights (www.ljudskaprava-vladarh.hr), Center for Human Rights (www.human-rights.hr).

Although in Croatia exist many high profile alternative programs for human rights education, especially for primary and secondary schools (organized and conducted in cooperation with NGOs), human rights education has still not been implemented as an obligatory subject in the Croatian education system, either as a separate or as a cross-curricular subject. There have been many attempts to introduce any kind of civic education, including human rights, in the school curricula but with no success so far.

Here is an example from 2006: "The National Curriculum is a theoretical and methodological framework and umbrella for education on human rights, democratic citizenship, identity and intercultural education, peace and nonviolent conflict resolution, law, and sustainable development. The National Curriculum covers all levels of the educational system, both formal and informal. It is composed of the Curriculum for Pre-School Education, Curriculum for Lower Classes of Primary School, Curriculum for Higher Classes of Primary School, Curriculum for Secondary Schools. (all completed 1999), Curriculum for Adult Education. (completed 2001), Curriculum for Higher Education (completed 2006). It could be integrated as a cross-curricular approach, across all subjects with topics related to the EDC/HRE, by using active methods of teaching and learning, as an optional subject, through extracurricular activities, through out-of-school activities, in the form of projects—the most popular of which is Project Citizen at the preschool, primary, and secondary school levels. It must be implemented systematically, through the entire school curriculum, as a whole-school approach. However, every school is free to

implement them in its own way. Over the past eight years, the preconditions for its quality introduction have been developed, the most important among them being the training of more than 4,000 teachers through a system of compulsory in-service training, and the development of teachers' manuals and students' textbooks". (www.ceri.civnet.org)

According to the last research, organized by the Center for Human Rights in 2009/10 on school text books in primary schools, education for active and democratic citizenry was highly recommended by both, teachers and parents, for inclusion in the school system. Hence, the recommendation is to introduce these subjects as early as possible in the school system since the education for democracy, tolerance, prevention of discrimination and violence etc., constitutes a primary task for the whole schooling. Especially interesting was the opinion of parents who put the value of civic education immediately after the child's personal sense of satisfaction with the school; all other parameters such as good marks, language knowledge, computer skills, development of national and European positive attitudes, came at the bottom of their priorities.

In the year 2011 the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports even drafted a human rights curricula for primary and secondary schools and the Office of the Ombudsman was asked to give comments on that proposal. The new administration in the Ministry (started as of 2012) has not answered the Ombudsman's inquiries neither on our proposals nor on their plan of action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme as yet.

Regarding your request for information on the implementation of human rights education particularly for certain public and civil servants, there have been human rights training courses included in their specialized university curricula.

The Police Academy within the Criminal study has a separate educational unit named "Police authorities and human rights" where in one semester of a compulsory subject the students learn both in theory and practice the interconnection between fundamental rights and police procedure.

The Judicial Academy extended their curricula this year with new subjects concerning human rights other than the notion of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Office of the Ombudsman within the IPA 2009 Project on Establishing of a Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination System in Croatia is organizing together with the Judicial Academy a series of seminars for judges, state attorneys and judicial officials on implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Special seminars on Art. 2,3,5,6,8,10 of EU Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for judicial officers are organized in 2012 as well as on the European Court of Human Rights. Novelities of Free Legal Aid Act are also introduced for judges and court presidents throughout the country. Separate seminars are organized on the European system of human rights and fundamental freedoms, for judges and judicial advisers. Since the Croatia will join the European Union on 1 July 2013 a whole set of rights of migrants, asylum seekers and implementation of the Croatian acts with this regard are also envisaged.

No information available on human rights education for military personnel.

OMBUDSMAN

Jurica Malčić

