

## **INFORMAL COUNTRY REPORT (Croatia)**

Within the education system we have introduced the new crosscurricular theme – health education and the new subject civic education. Both courses partially cover the theme of education for sustainable development. Health education has been introduced to all schools (primary and secondary education) whereas civic education has been introduced as a special subject into some schools but the tendency is to introduce it to all schools in the next school year. In this way education for sustainable development has been included in all school curricula. Additionally, a lot of schools have been involved with the projects concerning environmental protection, e.g. eco schools, green flag, SEMEP, people to people international and many other projects concerning the education for sustainable development. The handbook for education for sustainable development is actually a book for the seminars for the teachers on education for sustainable development. At these seminars teachers of different school subjects can participate and there is an annual conference for the teachers of biology, chemistry and geography. The Education and Teacher Training Agency organizes 6 one-day-modules for teachers throughout Croatia. So far five modules have been organized and by the end of this school year 200 teachers will have finished this training.

At the higher level institutions different courses on education for sustainable development have been organized. However, due to the autonomy of the higher education institutions we do not have exact data since these courses have been organized as elective courses. We can state that the awareness about the education for sustainable development has been risen, which can be seen in the number of elective courses at universities as well as the promotion of it in primary and secondary schools.

In the framework of the Horizon 2020 CB/MEP, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection in cooperation with the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development and the University of Athens organized a regional workshop „Strengthening Education for Sustainable Development policies in the Mediterranean“ which was held in Zagreb on 17-18 June 2013. The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacities of officials from Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Education on strengthening and promoting policies for ESD. The participants were representatives of Ministries of Education and Environment, as well as representatives of NGOs from Mediterranean countries.

The Croatian participants presented their examples of good practice in stimulating ESD in schools, higher education, business sector, as well as among teachers and civil servants. Also, the final draft of the Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development was agreed which is to be adopted at the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change on 13 May 2014 in Athens.

The Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health signed the Agreement on cooperation in the implementation of the prevention project "Give me five for health". The project was implemented through two components during the school year 2012/2013. The component "addiction prevention" problematized the addiction and abuse of alcohol, drugs and games of chance; numerous trainings were held in schools in all the Croatian counties by law enforcement and public health teams.

In the continuation of activities the second component of the project "environment and nature" was conducted. The objective of this component is to raise the awareness of young people about the importance of protecting and preserving the environment and nature, at the same time promoting the objectives of the overall project under the syntagm "clean environment, healthy future."

In the period from 15 April - 15 May 2013, one-day outdoor events were held throughout Croatia, which were devised by regional leaders in collaboration with schools, civil society organizations, officials of police departments, physicians and/or psychologists from County Departments of Public Health and representatives of county offices for the protection of the environment and nature. The central event was organized in Zagreb on 4 May 2013 where the project was presented to young people from schools in Zagreb through eco-workshops, presentations, thematic games, etc.