

ORGANISATION OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN CROATIA

OVERVIEW

LAST UPDATED IN SEPTEMBER 2020



INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of how asylum and migration policies are organised in **Croatia**, including the organisation of the institutional and regulatory context and framework for dealing with third-country nationals coming for the purpose of legal migration or for international protection. It is based on the information provided by [the EMN NCP Croatia](#) in **September 2020**.

combating human trafficking in human beings, ratified by the Republic of Croatia.

In February 2019, the Government of the Republic of Croatia appointed the Inter-Agency Committee, that comprises of representatives of the ministry responsible for social welfare matters, ministry responsible for internal affairs, ministry responsible for education, ministry responsible for health, the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities and international organizations dealing with the protection of rights of children and refugees (UNICEF, UNHCR, the Croatian Red Cross). The Inter-Agency Committee was set up for the purpose of enhancing inter-departmental cooperation between state administration authorities and other stakeholders involved in the **protection of unaccompanied minors**.

The Ministry of the Interior is the most involved institution regarding area of migration, responsible for protecting the external border, suppressing irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking of human beings. Ministry is in charge of return and readmission, reception and registering the asylum application, examining the application and reaching a decision, issuing residence permits, including residence and work permits, identity cards and other documents. It is also competent in matters regarding the approval of citizenship.

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is in charge of foreign relations and agreements. In



OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

THE INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Croatian Government's **Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities** is responsible for the integration of refugees into the Croatian society. Moreover, it coordinates the work of ministries, NGOs and other bodies that participate in the process of integration, of people who have been granted the international protection, into society. In the field of combating trafficking in human beings, it prepares reports on the implementation of international instruments for

addition, it is the competent authority for visa policy and the issuance of visas to third country nationals.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for providing access to health care.

The Ministry of Science and Education is responsible for providing education for minors and Croatian language courses, translations of diplomas and certificates as well as support in further education for persons granted international protection. It is also responsible for providing subsidised accommodation in student dormitories for asylum seekers with regular student status, as well as recognition of foreign education and professional qualifications.

Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy is in charge of coordinating employment policies under which the National Employment Agency overlooks the employment of third-country nationals. It proposes employment policies for foreigners in accordance with the state and needs of the labour market. The Ministry carries out tasks related to pension insurance system and social security policy, social dialogue and social partnership and relations with employers. It provides support to social welfare centres in the area of exercising the right to reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Labour Inspectorate performs inspection and other professional tasks in the field of labour and safety at work.

Centres of social welfare grant rights under the social welfare system and appoint guardians for unaccompanied minors.

Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing is responsible for providing facilities for accommodating persons who have been granted international protection, and who have been granted the right to accommodation.

State Office for Croats abroad is a central state administration body competent for the relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia.

UNHCR participates in funding the asylum system in Croatia and along with other involved NGOs and

international organisations advocates for better solutions.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Main national laws that regulate the immigration and asylum system of Croatia:

The Aliens Act, regulating the area of return and expulsion of third country nationals; conditions for the entry, movement, stay and work of third country nationals in the Republic of Croatia, including visas. Aliens Act also regulates conditions for granting long-term resident status, ICTs, admission condition for highly qualified third country national (EU Blue Card), as well as conditions for students, pupil exchange and scientific researchers and seasonal workers.

Employment in Croatia

Pursuant to the Aliens Act, third country national can be issued a residence and work permit within annual quota or outside annual quota (for specific categories of third country nationals, e.g. for self-employment, EU Blue card). There is a quota system for employing third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia. Each year, the Government of the Republic of Croatia determines in a decision the annual quota (a number) for the employment of foreigners, for the extension of already issued work permits within the quota, and for new employment, in line with the situation on the labour market. A number of activities are carried out with regard to determining the annual permit quota; that includes analysis of the number of permits issued to third-country nationals according to the type of work and profession, analysis of the number of unemployed persons in activities for which permits have been issued, as well as a detailed analysis of employability, that is, the actual possibility of employing a person with such a profession who is registered as unemployed in the records of the Croatian Employment Service. Proposal for a decision determining the annual quota of permits for the employment is drafted comprising representatives from the respective ministries, as well as the representatives of the Croatian Employment Service, and the representatives of social partners, unions and employers.

Quota system is planned to be replaced by labour market test system.

Act on EEA Nationals and their Family Members prescribes the conditions of entry, movement, residence and work of a citizen of a Member State of the EEA.

Act of International and Temporary Protection defines the principles, conditions and procedures for the approval of international and temporary protection, as well as the status of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection (asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection).

Law on Croatian Citizenship stipulates Croatian citizenship, requirements for its acquisition and its termination.

Act on Health Insurance and Health Care of Foreigners in the Republic of Croatia governs mandatory health insurance and health care of aliens, the scope of the rights arising from mandatory health insurance, the rights and obligations of mandatory health insurance carriers, the scope of the right to health care and other rights and obligations of aliens pursuant to this Act, the conditions and method of providing and financing health care services provided to aliens in the Republic of Croatia, and the rights and obligations of health care providers.

Regarding the area of integration, Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities has issued **Action Plan for Integration**, aimed at creating measures to address precisely the particular vulnerability of persons who have been granted international protection, in order to provide assistance and protection so they can more easily overcome their difficult situation. It is also worth noting that the **National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2018-2021** emphasized importance of cooperation in criminal proceedings between the Public Prosecution Service of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of the Interior in cases of human trafficking, and advancing the methods aimed at identifying the victims of human trafficking and ensuring the protection of the best interests of human trafficking victims.

At its session held on 30 August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Conclusions for the adoption of a **Protocol on the Treatment of Unaccompanied Minors**.

Rights in the social welfare system under the conditions laid down in the **Social Welfare Act** are granted to foreigners and stateless persons with permanent stay in the Republic of Croatia. Foreigners under subsidiary protection, foreigners with the status of a human trafficking victim, asylees and their family members staying legally in the Republic of Croatia, are granted rights in the social welfare system under the conditions prescribed in this Act and special regulation.



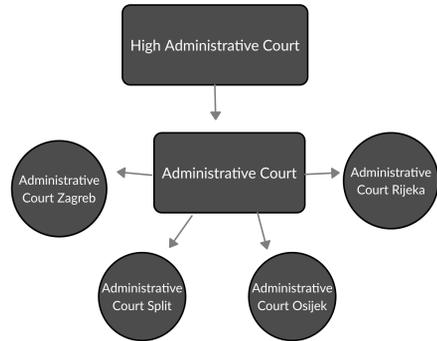
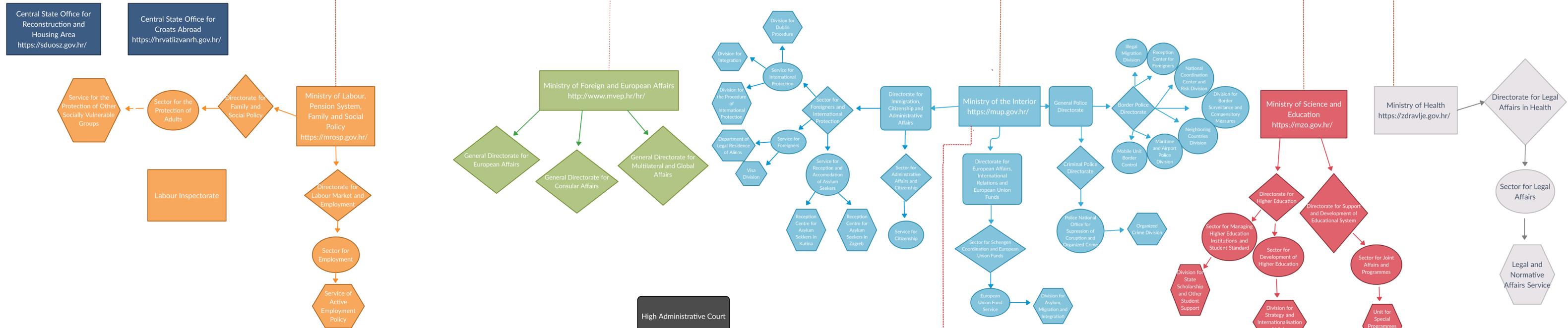
INSTITUTIONAL CHART

The most up to date Institutional Chart will be added in as an Annex.

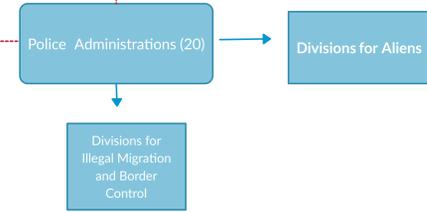
GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
<https://vlada.gov.hr/>

Office for Human Rights and
Rights of National Minorities
<https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/>

NATIONAL LEVEL



REGIONAL LEVEL



LOCAL LEVEL

