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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic
Review**

Croatia

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments
and replies presented by the State under review***

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

1. The Government of the Republic of Croatia welcomes the recommendations received during the fourth Universal Periodic Review of Croatia on 10 November 2025.
2. After careful consideration of the recommendations by all relevant national bodies, the Government is pleased to provide its responses.
3. Croatia received 216 recommendations. The Croatian Government supports 176 recommendations and notes 40 recommendations.
4. With this Addendum, Croatia sets out its position on all recommendations.

Conclusions and/or recommendations

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.1	Noted	
117.2	Noted	
117.3	Noted	
117.4	Supported	
117.5	Noted	
117.6	Noted	
117.7	Supported	
117.8	Supported	
117.9	Supported	
117.10	Supported	
117.11	Supported	The working group for the action plans mentioned includes 10 representatives of civil society organizations (representing discriminated groups in accordance with ombudswoman reports) as well as a representative of the academic community and three representatives of ombudsmen institutions. Improving the mechanisms for combating hate crimes and strengthening awareness of the importance of the fight against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and encouraging a culture of remembrance victims of genocide – is one of the key goals under the National Plan.
117.12	Supported	Activities aiming to address the impacts of digital transformation on vulnerable groups are planned from 2026.
117.13	Noted	
117.14	Noted	
117.15	Supported	Further to the recommendations 117.15 to 117.19, support for autonomous and independent work of the Office of the Ombudswoman is constantly being given.
117.16	Supported	
117.17	Supported	
117.18	Supported	
117.19	Supported	

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.20	Supported	
117.21	Supported	
117.22	Supported	
117.23	Supported	
117.24	Supported	
117.25	Supported	
117.26	Supported	
117.27	Supported	
117.28	Supported	
117.29	Supported	
117.30	Supported	
117.31	Supported	
117.32	Supported	
117.33	Supported	
117.34	Supported	
117.35	Supported	
117.36	Supported	
117.37	Supported	
117.38	Supported	
117.39	Supported	
117.40	Supported	
117.41	Supported	
117.42	Supported	
117.43	Supported	
117.44	Supported	
117.45	Supported	
117.46	Supported	
117.47	Supported	
117.48	Supported	
117.49	Supported	
117.50	Supported	
117.51	Supported	
117.52	Supported	
117.53	Supported	

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.54	Supported	
117.55	Supported	
117.56	Supported	
117.57	Noted	
117.58	Supported	
117.59	Noted	
117.60	Supported	
117.61	Supported	
117.62	Supported	
117.63	Supported	
117.64	Noted	
117.65	Supported	
117.66	Supported	
117.67	Supported	
117.68	Supported	
117.69	Noted	
117.70	Supported	
117.71	Supported	
117.72	Noted	
117.73	Supported	
117.74	Supported	
117.75	Supported	
117.76	Supported	
117.77	Supported	
117.78	Supported	
117.79	Supported	
117.80	Supported	
117.81	Supported	
117.82	Supported	
117.83	Noted	
117.84	Noted	
117.85	Supported	
117.86	Noted	
117.87	Noted	

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.88	Supported	
117.89	Supported	
117.90	Supported	
117.91	Supported	
117.92	Supported	
117.93	Noted	
117.94	Supported	
117.95	Supported	
117.96	Supported	
117.97	Supported	
117.98	Supported	
117.99	Supported	
117.100	Supported	
117.101	Noted	
117.102	Supported	
117.103	Supported	
117.104	Supported	
117.105	Supported	
117.106	Supported	
117.107	Supported	
117.108	Supported	Through the implementation of National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026, investments, mobile pharmacy services are being introduced into primary health care, ensuring better availability and supply of medicines and medical products for all residents and tourists throughout the entire territory of Croatia.
117.109	Supported	In recent years, Croatia has intensified the development of key policy documents related to mental-health promotion and protection. The Strategic Framework for Mental Health 2030 represents a milestone, aiming to ensure the accessibility of services and to reduce mental-health challenges through early prevention, community-based care, and coordinated national action. The Special Programme for Strengthening Mental Health has been introduced in county health centres to provide psychological services without referral, improving access for citizens in rural areas and for vulnerable groups. Under the new Public Health Service Network (2024), the following were established: 30 mobile psychiatric teams for field support, 70 teams for mental health protection, prevention, and addiction treatment, 24 mental health dispensaries, and 130 psychological teams at the primary healthcare level. A Mental Health Empowerment Program has been launched in health centres to

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
		increase the accessibility of mental health care through psychological teams, without the need for a referral.
117.110	Supported	
117.111	Supported	The National Addiction Strategy 2030 addresses both substance abuse and behavioural addictions. It reflects new social realities by including risks such as gambling and excessive online activity. More than 300 prevention programmes are carried out annually, primarily in schools, to strengthen awareness among young people and families.
117.112	Supported	Already implemented in the Act on International and Temporary Protection and the Aliens Act.
117.113	Supported	
117.114	Supported	
117.115	Supported	
117.116	Supported	
117.117	Supported	
117.118	Supported	
117.119	Supported	
117.120	Supported	
117.121	Supported	
117.122	Supported	
117.123	Supported	
117.124	Noted	
117.125	Noted	
117.126	Supported	
117.127	Noted	Croatia has a clear strategic goal of achieving net climate neutrality by 2050, and becoming climate resilient as stipulated in the Act on Climate Change and the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Croatian Parliament has adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and a Low-Carbon Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 with a view to 2050 and an implementing document, the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021-2030. Intensive green investments are underway across all sectors and levels of governance to achieve this climate goals. A wave of financing of decarbonization projects in industry is underway in the amount of about 1 billion euros by 2030 (energy efficiency, RES, batteries, electric vehicles, decarbonization of transport, etc.).
117.128	Noted	In order to support and encourage local governments to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, Croatia co finances drafting of regional and local government plans for climate adaptation and mitigation and priority measures that they identify. Particularly Croatia has special national investment program for the development of green

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
		infrastructure in urban areas for 2021-2030 period intended for local governments with the aim of establishing sustainable, resilient, safe, pleasant to live in and well-maintained cities and municipalities in Croatia.
117.129	Noted	Access to information and public participation in the development of different acts is regulated in Croatia, and the Government has adopted a Code and Guidelines on this matter. This also applies to the development of local action plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
117.130	Noted	In Croatia, there has been an obligation for a long time that certain interventions/projects must undergo an environmental impact assessment under the Environmental Protection Act, before issuing a location permit or other approval. This procedure assesses the acceptability of the intended intervention regarding the environment and determines environmental protection measures in order to minimize impacts and achieve the greatest possible preservation of environmental quality. The assessment procedure is carried out in the early planning phase of the intervention, before issuing a location permit or other approval for an intervention for which the issuance of a location permit is not mandatory. Public participation is also clearly prescribed, as well as transparency.
117.131	Supported	
117.132	Noted	
117.133	Supported	
117.134	Noted	
117.135	Supported	
117.136	Supported	
117.137	Supported	
117.138	Supported	
117.139	Supported	
117.140	Supported	
117.141	Supported	
117.142	Supported	
117.143	Supported	
117.144	Supported	Termination of pregnancy remains legally guaranteed and accessible in accordance with Croatian law. It is regulated by the Act on Health Measures for the Exercise of the Right to Free Decision on Childbirth. The recent data indicate that pregnancy terminations are available in 26 of the 28 health institutions. The two institutions where pregnancy terminations are not performed are county hospitals, which have established cooperative arrangements with other hospitals to provide these services. At the health institutions where medical doctors who are specialists in gynaecology and obstetrics have lodged conscientious objections to terminating pregnancies at the request of the

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
		patients, health institutions ensure that the right to termination of pregnancy is exercised through a contract with professionals who are not their employees or by cooperation with another health institution.
117.145	Supported	
117.146	Supported	
117.147	Supported	
117.148	Supported	
117.149	Noted	
117.150	Supported	
117.151	Supported	
117.152	Supported	Further to the recommendations 117.6, 117.64, 117.52, which are similar in content, it should be point out that Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War and the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence during the Armed Aggression against the Republic of Croatia in the Homeland War provide rights based on disability, or on the loss of a family member. The above should be distinguished from compensation for damage that is achieved through the courts. We emphasize the above, since the terminology used in the recommendations can be interpreted in two ways (e.g. accelerating investigation or reputation for all victims of war crimes which would further indicate the jurisdiction of the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia, or the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation). The competent authorities continue to systematically monitor the needs of all categories of beneficiaries and actively and positively cooperate with civil associations. Consequently, in 2025, the Ministry of Croatian Veterans' Affair initiated the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War with the aim of further improving the system of care for civilian victims of the Homeland War.
117.153	Supported	
117.154	Supported	
117.155	Supported	
117.156	Noted	
117.157	Supported	
117.158	Supported	
117.159	Supported	
117.160	Supported	
117.161	Supported	
117.162	Supported	See 117.144.
117.163	Supported	

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.164	Supported	
117.165	Supported	
117.166	Noted	
117.167	Supported	
117.168	Noted	
117.169	Supported	
117.170	Noted	
117.171	Supported	
117.172	Supported	
117.173	Supported	
117.174	Supported	
117.175	Supported	
117.176	Supported	The education of members of national minorities in Croatia is not based on segregation, but on the constitutionally guaranteed right to education in the language and script of national minorities. This right is exercised in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, the Act on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities, as well as relevant national pedagogical standards. Regulated by the said legislation, the implementation of "Model A" that provides the education in the language and script of each national minority, represents a legally regulated and voluntary form of minority education, whereby the entire curriculum is taught in the language and script of the national minority, alongside compulsory learning of the Croatian language in an equal number of hours. "Model A" is implemented either in separate educational institutions or in special classes within schools where education is otherwise conducted in the Croatian language. Therefore, education provided under "Model A" cannot be considered segregation, as there are no segregated classes based on national affiliation within the general education programme between students belonging to the Serbian national minority and the Croatian majority. On the contrary, this model constitutes an integral part of the Croatian education system and a key mechanism for the protection of minority rights.
117.177	Supported	See 117.176.
117.178	Supported	
117.179	Supported	The Government has provided a comprehensive support to minority protection and promotion policies, and it has been further enhanced by the Operational Programs of National Minorities 2017-2020, 2020-2024, and 2024-2028 with a continuous and significant funds available.
117.180	Supported	

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.181	Supported	
117.182	Supported	
117.183	Supported	The Government has provided institutional support to national minority organisations on both national and local level, and it has been further enhanced by the Operational Programs of National Minorities 2017-2020, 2020-2024, and 2024-2028 with a continuous and significant funds available to those organisations.
117.184	Supported	Croatia has incorporated into its legal order and implemented in practice the most relevant international legal institutes and mechanisms of the UN and the Council of Europe that guarantee the protection of minority rights, as well as a number of crucial OSCE documents and numerous recommendations of international institutions and experts in order to achieve true integration of minorities and a high level of protection of minority rights. The highest degree of respect for minorities with the full political inclusion and social affirmation of minorities has been confirmed by Croatia through its Constitution. The importance of creating a solid and stable legal framework for the complete social affirmation of national minorities and their political activity is also confirmed through Article 83 of the Constitution, which states, among other things, that laws (organic laws) regulating the rights of national minorities are adopted by the Croatian Parliament with a two-thirds majority of all representatives, and that the Croatian Parliament adopts laws (organic laws) by a majority vote of all representatives that elaborate human rights and fundamental freedoms established by the Constitution, as well as the electoral system. The Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities has set a clear framework for the political representation of minorities in the Parliament. The aforementioned constitutional rights of national minorities are consolidated through the Law on Elections of Representatives to the Croatian Parliament, which in Article 16 stipulates that Croatia guarantees members of national minorities in Croatia the exercise of their right to representation in the Parliament and that members of national minorities in the Croatia have the right to elect eight representatives to the Parliament who are elected in a special electoral unit formed by the territory of the Croatia. With the current legal solution, Croatia, within the constitutional possibility of choosing the number of representatives (the aforementioned Constitutional Law provides for 5 to 8 representatives for minorities), has chosen the possibility of maximum guaranteed representation of members of national minorities, of which 8 are in Parliament.
117.185	Supported	
117.186	Supported	
117.187	Supported	
117.188	Supported	National Plan for Roma Inclusion is complemented by the Operational Program of National Minorities, and particularly Operational Programs of Roma National Minority. E.g. in 2024 funds used for the Action Plan implementation were

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
		7.733.952,01 EUR (51,16% more than in 2023 (5.116.399,66 EUR), while funds used for the Roma Operational Program were 7.725.165,87 EUR., i.e. in total 15.459.117,88 EUR.
117.189	Supported	See 117.188.
117.190	Supported	
117.191	Noted	
117.192	Supported	In 2024, 63 cases were recorded in which 75 hate crimes were committed (Article 87, paragraph 21 of the Criminal Code). National origin was recorded as a motive in 34 cases. Among them, hatred towards Serbs was recorded in 21 cases, hatred against Roma in four cases while hatred against Bosnians was not recorded. Comparison of the data from 2022, 2023 and 2024 shows a decrease in total number of hate crimes motivated by national origin as well as number of crimes motivated by hatred against particular national or ethnic minority. Regarding the criminal offense of public incitement to violence and hatred (Article 325 of the Criminal Code), 21 criminal offenses were recorded, out of which four were motivated by hatred towards Serbs. Not a single criminal offense of public incitement to violence and hatred was recorded to be committed against Roma or Bosnians. As for misdemeanour offenses motivated by hatred, in 2024, 105 misdemeanours motivated by the national origin of the victim were committed. Among them, 25 were committed by hatred towards Serbs, 10 by hatred against Roma, 8 by hatred against Bosnians, and 2 by hatred towards Muslims and none against Jews. When the data on misdemeanour offences are compared – in past three years there is a decrease in committed misdemeanours motivated by the national origin of the victim.
117.193	Supported	
117.194	Supported	
117.195	Supported	
117.196	Supported	
117.197	Supported	
117.198	Noted	
117.199	Supported	
117.200	Noted	
117.201	Noted	
117.202	Supported	
117.203	Noted	
117.204	Supported	The Aliens Act – latest amendments: recognition of the full period of residence for the purpose of studying, issuance of vouchers for language learning in certain sectors of the economy by Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy. According to the Act, all children are obliged to attend primary education.

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
117.205	Supported	
117.206	Supported	
117.207	Supported	
117.208	Supported	
117.209	Supported	
117.210	Noted	
117.211	Supported	
117.212	Noted	
117.213	Supported	
117.214	Noted	Please note that Croatia is not in a position to individually restructure the Asylum Fund since it is governed by the legal framework of the European Union which is adopted by a qualified majority of all Member States.
117.215	Supported	
117.216	Noted	
