

COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CROATIA CONCERNING THE LIST
OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/HRV/2) RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF
THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND PERIODIC
REPORT OF CROATIA (CRC/C/70/Add.23)

[Received on 13 September 2004]

CRC/C/RESP/69

PART I

A. Data and statistics, if available

1. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, provinces, ethnic groups, urban or rural areas) covering the period 2001-2003 on:

1. a) The number and percentage of children under 18 living in the State party,
POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 18 BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SEX ACCORDING TO 2001
CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Albanians	Bosniacs	Czechs	Hungarians	Roma	Slovenians	Serbs	Italians	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	931.927	867.353	4.996	4.072	1.371	1.846	4.844	500	19.679	2.405	2.443	4.706	15.305	2.407
	0	42.942	40.211	258	158	43	86	377	24	744	95	88	190	560	108
	1	45.677	42.825	285	148	77	91	386	12	765	87	91	215	573	122
	2	47.513	44.620	303	151	46	71	348	21	806	102	108	214	621	102
	3	50.039	47.034	292	198	62	97	335	22	817	97	105	227	629	124
	4	51.351	48.276	269	215	54	100	323	23	840	121	104	205	691	130
	5	49.802	46.660	268	182	68	89	290	16	952	113	117	240	686	121
	6	49.640	46.496	288	194	80	73	287	21	963	110	104	213	703	108
	7	48.454	45.369	265	167	61	87	281	32	927	119	99	208	740	99
	8	48.703	45.680	265	191	65	90	258	19	799	113	120	241	726	136
	9	51.929	48.419	309	219	79	106	274	24	968	123	137	260	905	106
	10	51.932	48.180	294	238	75	106	225	29	1.107	135	165	290	951	137
	11	52.145	48.324	280	253	77	115	239	24	1.166	130	145	287	974	131
	12	53.941	49.966	287	290	83	108	200	25	1.187	168	173	293	1.012	149
	13	55.402	51.152	289	274	104	128	231	31	1.320	165	150	296	1.102	160
	14	55.164	50.897	251	277	93	124	210	37	1.417	152	190	308	1.041	167
	15	56.938	52.432	260	335	98	121	194	39	1.485	187	177	345	1.108	157
	16	59.816	55.164	265	281	98	117	202	49	1.642	187	172	356	1.095	188
17	60.539	55.648	268	301	108	137	184	52	1.774	201	198	318	1.188	162	
Male	0-17	476.777	443.468	2.684	2.132	711	956	2.436	242	10.174	1.164	1.278	2.414	7.861	1.277
	0	22.097	20.697	129	88	28	43	197	13	370	50	49	89	287	57
	1	23.382	21.914	161	68	35	45	199	6	400	45	39	114	291	85
	2	24.322	22.861	159	85	22	31	182	13	398	49	55	105	312	50
	3	25.572	24.008	172	109	33	57	165	10	438	46	55	115	298	66
	4	26.345	24.789	130	127	26	58	158	9	415	60	48	103	352	70
	5	25.567	23.940	125	101	31	53	143	7	500	55	66	130	348	68
	6	25.170	23.562	144	105	41	37	140	12	494	56	58	105	374	42
	7	24.772	23.205	136	89	40	47	137	14	455	59	51	105	381	53
	8	25.023	23.434	137	101	34	52	147	9	430	53	62	117	365	82
	9	26.742	24.901	189	131	41	52	137	7	500	60	77	151	435	81
	10	26.517	24.567	160	120	46	43	106	16	581	64	85	153	506	70
	11	26.631	24.667	144	126	39	55	104	10	612	67	75	154	512	66
	12	27.650	25.560	154	131	42	60	102	16	620	97	95	139	551	83
	13	28.229	26.056	154	132	53	65	117	17	664	85	90	144	568	84
	14	28.148	25.975	138	135	42	61	105	16	751	89	91	153	520	92
	15	29.088	26.781	136	185	51	61	104	19	779	72	86	177	561	76
	16	30.562	28.144	139	151	50	62	105	23	861	92	93	187	552	103
17	30.960	28.407	157	148	57	74	88	25	906	85	103	173	648	89	
Female	0-17	455.150	423.885	2.332	1.940	660	890	2.408	258	9.505	1.241	1.165	2.292	7.444	1.130
	0	20.845	19.514	129	70	15	43	180	11	374	45	39	101	273	51
	1	22.295	20.911	124	80	42	46	187	6	365	42	52	101	282	57
	2	23.191	21.759	144	66	24	40	166	8	408	53	53	109	309	52
	3	24.467	23.026	120	89	29	40	170	12	379	51	50	112	331	58
	4	25.006	23.487	139	88	28	42	165	14	425	61	56	102	339	60
	5	24.235	22.720	143	81	37	36	147	9	452	58	51	110	338	53
	6	24.470	22.934	144	89	39	36	147	9	469	54	46	108	329	66
	7	23.682	22.164	129	78	21	40	144	18	472	60	48	103	359	46
	8	23.680	22.246	128	90	31	38	111	10	369	60	58	124	361	54
	9	25.187	23.518	120	88	38	54	137	17	468	63	60	109	470	45
	10	25.415	23.613	134	118	29	63	119	13	526	71	80	137	445	87
	11	25.514	23.657	136	127	38	60	135	14	554	63	70	133	462	65
	12	26.291	24.406	133	159	41	48	98	9	567	71	78	154	461	66
	13	27.173	25.096	135	142	51	63	114	14	656	80	60	152	534	76
	14	27.016	24.922	113	142	51	63	105	21	666	83	99	155	521	75
	15	27.850	25.651	124	150	47	60	90	20	706	115	91	168	547	81
	16	29.254	27.020	126	130	48	55	97	26	781	95	79	169	543	85
17	29.579	27.241	111	153	51	63	96	27	868	116	95	145	540	73	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 18 BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SETTLEMENT
TYPE ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Albanians	Bosniacs	Czechs	Hungarians	Roma	Slovenians	Serbs	Italians	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	931.927	867.353	4.996	4.072	1.371	1.846	4.844	500	19.679	2.405	2.443	4.706	15.305	2.407
	0	42.942	40.211	258	158	43	86	377	24	744	95	88	190	560	108
	1	45.677	42.825	285	148	77	91	386	12	765	87	91	215	573	122
	2	47.513	44.620	303	151	46	71	348	21	806	102	108	214	621	102
	3	50.039	47.034	292	198	62	97	335	22	817	97	105	227	629	124
	4	51.351	48.276	269	215	54	100	323	23	840	121	104	205	691	130
	5	49.802	46.660	268	182	68	89	290	16	952	113	117	240	686	121
	6	49.640	46.496	288	194	80	73	287	21	963	110	104	213	703	108
	7	48.454	45.369	265	167	61	87	281	32	927	119	99	208	740	99
	8	48.703	45.680	265	191	65	90	258	19	799	113	120	241	726	136
	9	51.929	48.419	309	219	79	106	274	24	968	123	137	260	905	106
	10	51.932	48.180	294	238	75	106	225	29	1.107	135	165	290	951	137
	11	52.145	48.324	280	253	77	115	239	24	1.166	130	145	287	974	131
	12	53.941	49.966	287	290	83	108	200	25	1.187	168	173	293	1.012	149
	13	55.402	51.152	289	274	104	128	231	31	1.320	165	150	296	1.102	160
	14	55.164	50.897	251	277	93	124	210	37	1.417	152	190	308	1.041	167
	15	56.938	52.432	260	335	98	121	194	39	1.485	187	177	345	1.108	157
	16	59.816	55.164	265	281	98	117	202	49	1.642	187	172	356	1.095	188
17	60.539	55.648	268	301	108	137	184	52	1.774	201	198	318	1.188	162	
Urban	0-17	504.644	468.046	3.899	2.775	434	433	2.124	269	8.858	1.345	1.361	3.326	10.540	1.234
	0	23.438	21.892	196	110	22	18	144	9	329	59	58	142	399	60
	1	24.538	22.952	221	108	24	20	156	9	338	48	57	159	374	72
	2	25.587	23.933	240	106	16	11	134	13	364	53	57	160	439	61
	3	26.944	25.292	224	124	16	25	138	9	352	52	59	164	430	59
	4	27.638	25.939	202	137	17	17	129	11	362	77	55	141	482	69
	5	26.885	25.157	205	129	27	20	129	11	392	56	68	177	467	47
	6	26.895	25.188	221	131	30	25	138	10	350	68	60	141	474	59
	7	26.046	24.387	193	102	22	10	117	14	380	61	56	152	508	44
	8	26.324	24.641	203	128	15	23	124	13	316	56	73	183	477	72
	9	27.877	25.880	248	150	22	25	132	15	417	66	66	190	617	49
	10	27.937	25.817	221	176	18	17	100	17	469	77	86	205	669	65
	11	28.080	25.910	223	173	25	26	117	16	512	77	84	191	663	63
	12	29.152	26.837	232	211	21	29	87	16	542	99	102	197	700	79
	13	29.906	27.461	238	183	42	41	89	18	635	80	83	203	755	78
	14	29.860	27.437	195	184	25	27	112	18	664	88	102	224	704	80
	15	30.705	28.087	208	233	25	31	91	20	720	101	94	235	774	86
	16	33.082	30.413	210	186	34	26	102	24	788	109	80	242	769	99
17	33.750	30.823	219	204	33	42	85	26	928	118	121	220	839	92	
Rural	0-17	427.283	399.307	1.097	1.297	937	1.413	2.720	231	10.821	1.060	1.082	1.380	4.765	1.173
	0	19.504	18.319	62	48	21	68	233	15	415	36	30	48	161	48
	1	21.139	19.873	64	40	53	71	230	3	427	39	34	56	199	50
	2	21.926	20.687	63	45	30	60	214	8	442	49	51	54	182	41
	3	23.095	21.742	68	74	46	72	197	13	465	45	46	63	199	65
	4	23.713	22.337	67	78	37	83	194	12	478	44	49	64	209	61
	5	22.917	21.503	63	53	41	69	161	5	560	57	49	63	219	74
	6	22.745	21.308	67	63	50	48	149	11	613	42	44	72	229	49
	7	22.408	20.982	72	65	39	77	164	18	547	58	43	56	232	55
	8	22.379	21.039	62	63	50	67	134	6	483	57	47	58	249	64
	9	24.052	22.539	61	69	57	81	142	9	551	57	71	70	288	57
	10	23.995	22.363	73	62	57	89	125	12	638	58	79	85	282	72
	11	24.065	22.414	57	80	52	89	122	8	654	53	61	96	311	68
	12	24.789	23.129	55	79	62	79	113	9	645	69	71	96	312	70
	13	25.496	23.691	51	91	62	87	142	13	685	85	67	93	347	82
	14	25.304	23.460	56	93	68	97	98	19	753	84	88	84	337	87
	15	26.233	24.345	52	102	73	90	103	19	765	86	83	110	334	71
	16	26.734	24.751	55	95	64	91	100	25	854	78	92	114	326	89
17	26.789	24.825	49	97	75	95	99	26	846	83	77	98	349	70	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

1. b) The number and percentage of children from minority groups, non-national children including immigrant children, refugee and displaced children and Roma children.

POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WITHOUT CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SEX ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Albanians	Bosniacs	Roma	Serbs	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	4.315	1.987	460	466	167	166	343	445	248	33
	0	214	104	33	18	6	10	17	15	9	Z
	1	210	99	23	16	6	15	19	17	14	Z
	2	253	104	37	31	10	10	23	19	16	3
	3	205	87	39	18	7	9	23	18	3	Z
	4	234	97	33	25	11	9	13	27	18	Z
	5	245	107	34	28	8	13	15	26	10	4
	6	235	116	33	17	10	8	19	12	19	Z
	7	211	101	25	20	9	9	18	21	5	3
	8	210	95	20	24	13	8	15	19	13	3
	9	238	108	26	23	12	11	17	25	14	Z
	10	252	106	24	25	9	7	34	36	9	Z
	11	242	107	24	26	12	8	16	31	16	Z
	12	254	107	19	34	12	11	18	28	23	Z
	13	267	139	20	33	10	8	18	22	16	Z
	14	255	129	18	29	8	4	19	30	17	Z
	15	269	133	16	38	5	8	19	33	16	Z
	16	252	113	20	30	9	9	24	33	13	Z
17	269	135	16	31	10	9	16	33	17	Z	
Male	0-17	2.171	995	238	240	90	85	153	214	135	21
	0	105	49	15	9	3	4	11	7	5	Z
	1	106	44	11	8	4	11	6	13	8	Z
	2	126	47	25	18	5	6	7	9	8	Z
	3	102	49	21	6	3	3	9	9	2	Z
	4	124	55	18	17	6	3	3	11	10	Z
	5	137	65	18	16	2	5	7	16	7	Z
	6	122	57	18	12	5	2	9	6	12	Z
	7	105	48	14	12	5	7	5	10	2	Z
	8	112	49	5	15	13	5	9	6	8	Z
	9	123	54	16	12	4	8	10	13	5	Z
	10	136	56	20	7	5	5	17	21	4	Z
	11	116	56	9	13	3	3	5	14	11	Z
	12	124	52	7	13	9	6	5	16	14	Z
	13	126	65	6	17	6	5	12	9	5	Z
	14	135	68	9	17	3	2	11	16	8	Z
	15	126	62	8	20	4	4	9	11	8	-
	16	117	54	10	12	5	3	10	14	8	Z
17	129	65	8	16	5	3	8	13	11	-	
Female	0-17	2.144	992	222	226	77	81	190	231	113	12
	0	109	55	18	9	3	6	6	8	4	-
	1	104	55	12	8	2	4	13	4	6	Z
	2	127	57	12	13	5	4	16	10	8	Z
	3	103	38	18	12	4	6	14	9	2	Z
	4	110	42	15	8	5	6	10	16	8	-
	5	108	42	16	12	6	8	8	10	3	3
	6	113	59	15	5	5	6	10	6	7	-
	7	106	53	11	8	4	2	13	11	3	Z
	8	98	46	15	9	-	3	6	13	5	Z
	9	115	54	10	11	8	3	7	12	9	Z
	10	116	50	4	18	4	2	17	15	5	Z
	11	126	51	15	13	9	5	11	17	5	-
	12	130	55	12	21	3	5	13	12	9	Z
	13	141	74	14	16	4	3	6	13	11	-
	14	120	61	9	12	5	2	8	14	9	-
	15	143	71	8	18	2	4	10	22	8	Z
	16	135	59	10	18	4	6	14	19	5	-
17	140	70	8	15	5	6	8	20	6	Z	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WITHOUT CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SETTLEMENT TYPE ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Albanians	Bosniacs	Roma	Serbs	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	4.315	1.987	460	466	167	166	343	445	248	33
	0	214	104	33	18	6	10	17	15	9	Z
	1	210	99	23	16	6	15	19	17	14	Z
	2	253	104	37	31	10	10	23	19	16	3
	3	205	87	39	18	7	9	23	18	3	Z
	4	234	97	33	25	11	9	13	27	18	Z
	5	245	107	34	28	8	13	15	26	10	4
	6	235	116	33	17	10	8	19	12	19	Z
	7	211	101	25	20	9	9	18	21	5	3
	8	210	95	20	24	13	8	15	19	13	3
	9	238	108	26	23	12	11	17	25	14	Z
	10	252	106	24	25	9	7	34	36	9	Z
	11	242	107	24	26	12	8	16	31	16	Z
	12	254	107	19	34	12	11	18	28	23	Z
	13	267	139	20	33	10	8	18	22	16	Z
	14	255	129	18	29	8	4	19	30	17	Z
	15	269	133	16	38	5	8	19	33	16	Z
	16	252	113	20	30	9	9	24	33	13	Z
17	269	135	16	31	10	9	16	33	17	Z	
Urban	0-17	2.536	1.112	355	248	145	54	175	282	153	12
	0	127	62	26	8	5	3	5	9	8	1
	1	130	54	20	9	5	6	16	13	6	1
	2	156	57	29	15	9	Z	15	17	10	Z
	3	127	45	34	12	6	3	13	13	Z	-
	4	139	51	28	12	9	3	6	20	10	-
	5	137	63	24	11	7	Z	8	19	4	Z
	6	153	80	23	9	8	Z	10	8	13	Z
	7	116	57	17	8	8	Z	8	13	3	Z
	8	125	56	13	13	12	-	8	15	8	-
	9	139	61	18	10	11	5	8	16	10	-
	10	158	68	17	20	7	Z	15	22	6	Z
	11	146	53	18	15	11	5	9	21	14	-
	12	135	47	13	21	8	7	11	15	12	1
	13	159	84	16	18	9	Z	8	13	9	Z
	14	137	61	14	14	7	3	8	19	10	Z
	15	158	74	16	21	5	6	9	15	11	Z
	16	143	67	17	15	9	Z	8	16	8	Z
17	151	72	12	17	9	Z	10	18	10	Z	
Rural	0-17	1.779	875	105	218	22	112	168	163	95	21
	0	87	42	7	10	Z	7	12	6	Z	Z
	1	80	45	3	7	Z	9	3	4	8	Z
	2	97	47	8	16	Z	8	8	Z	6	Z
	3	78	42	5	6	Z	6	10	5	Z	Z
	4	95	46	5	13	Z	6	7	7	8	Z
	5	108	44	10	17	Z	12	7	7	6	4
	6	82	36	10	8	Z	7	9	4	6	-
	7	95	44	8	12	Z	8	10	8	Z	2
	8	85	39	7	11	Z	8	7	4	5	3
	9	99	47	8	13	Z	6	9	9	4	Z
	10	94	38	7	5	Z	5	19	14	3	Z
	11	96	54	6	11	Z	3	7	10	Z	Z
	12	119	60	6	13	4	4	7	13	11	Z
	13	108	55	4	15	Z	6	10	9	7	Z
	14	118	68	4	15	Z	Z	11	11	7	-
	15	111	59	-	17	-	2	10	18	5	-
	16	109	46	3	15	-	7	16	17	5	-
17	118	63	4	14	Z	7	6	15	7	Z	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

2. In light of Article 4 of this Convention, please provide additional disaggregated data for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on budget allocations and trends (in absolute figures, percentages of the national and regional budgets or GDP) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, specified as follows:

NOTE: Allocations have been expressed in the Croatian national currency 'kuna' (HRK) (EUR 1 = HRK 7.4)

2. a) education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education);

Year 2002		
Total State Budget expenses	71.992.143.000,00	100 %
Total education expenses	6.091.254.000,00	8.46 %
Primary education expenses	3.161.869.000,00	4.39 %
Secondary education expenses	1.504.305.000,00	2.09 %
Higher education expenses	1.425.080.000,00	1.98 %

Year 2003		
Total State Budget expenses	75.439.296.820,00	100 %
Total education expenses	6.216.671.553,00	8.24 %
Primary education expenses	3.050.866.755,00	4.04 %
Secondary education expenses	1.474.792.918,00	1.96 %
Higher education expenses	1.691.011.880,00	2.24 %

Year 2004		
Planned State Budget funds	83.203.886.810,00	100 %
Total education expenses	7.089.405.308,00	8.52 %
Primary education expenses	3.441.106.370,00	4.14 %
Secondary education expenses	1.784.705.699,00	2.14 %
Higher education expenses	1.863.593.239,00	2.24 %

2. b) health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health care services for children);

In primary health care, ill children of school age are taken care of by doctors of general/family medicine, while preventive and specific health care services are provided by doctors of school medicine as part of the activities of public health institutes.

Vaccination programmes include vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, morbilli, rubeola, parotitis, type B Haemophilus influenzae and hepatitis B.

Vaccination-related matters are governed by the following acts and regulations: the Health Care Act, the Act on the Protection of the Population against Infectious Diseases, the Statute on the Implementation Methods of Obligatory Immunisation, Seroprophylaxis and Chemoprophylaxis.

In 2001, health care services for children were provided by 276 teams within health care activities intended for infants and small children, while this number amounted to 279 teams in 2002. Health care for 75% of children is ensured within this type of activities, while health care for other children, i.e. approximately 25% of all children, mostly in rural areas and on islands, is provided within the services of general/school medicine.

School children, adolescents and full-time students make up approximately 15.5% of the entire population.

The following table shows total funds allocated to particular types of health care services in 2001, 2002 and 2003:

No.	ACTIVITY / TYPE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE	TOTAL FUNDS IN 2001	TOTAL FUNDS IN 2002	TOTAL FUNDS IN 2003
1.	GENERAL / FAMILY MEDICINE	61.453.240,68	61.551.353,43	64.464.757,74
2.	HEALTH CARE FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN	82.777.306,08	82.193.898,56	87.266.104,32
3.	POST-NATAL HEALTH CARE FOR MOTHERS	23.929.612,80	24.898.593,60	25.319.889,60
4.	STOMATOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE (polyvalent)	126.638.726,60	126.288.168,45	129.892.201,92
5.	HYGIENIC AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE	7.551.730,80	7.425.342,00	7.730.781,60
6.	PREVENTION AND EDUCATION MEASURES FOR HEALTH CARE INTENDED FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENTS	30.896.639,80	30.159.179,10	32.229.543,26
7.	LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS	27.377.400,00	24.321.766,60	24.084.871,20
8.	VACCINATION	40.932.061,89	40.343.848,82	46.066.236,55
9.	SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (Health care education of adolescents within reproductive health protection)			385.350,00
	T O T A L	401.556.718,65	397.182.150,56	417.439.736,19

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

2. c) social welfare and support programmes for families, including families from ethnic minorities, refugee and displaced families;

It has been estimated that the Republic of Croatia earmarks approximately 26% of its GDP for social costs, including costs for the pension plan (51.09%), the health care system (32.29%), social welfare (5.04%) and other social welfare costs (11.58%). Trends of the State Budget expenses (including social welfare institutions' own funds) aimed at financing the social welfare system have been as follows (expressed in million HRK):

2001	HRK 162.909,0	or	1.27 % of GDP
2002	HRK 176.429,0	or	1.05 % of GDP
2003	HRK 189.883,0	or	1.11 % of GDP

Sources of information: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Central Bureau of Statistics
Monthly Statistical Report No. 4/2004 for gross domestic product – current prices.

The data indicated above cover total financing of social welfare (financial assistance, institutional and non-institutional care) and there are no specific or planned funds which would be referring exclusively to expenses for children.

Support programmes for families:

Source: State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents

No.	Name	Agency / Organiser	Duration (date of beginning / end)	Funds in HRK
1.	Model of counselling and diagnostic monitoring of early child development and support for families with small children	Education and Rehabilitation School	from 2001 to 2003	349,000
2.	Empowerment of abused women and prevention of violence against women	Autonomous Women's House, Zagreb	from 2001 to 2002	392,286
3.	Financial assistance for single parents	State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents	2001	1,063,400
4.	Financial support for the organisation of a holiday programme and the giving of presents for children, child-bearing women and ill Association members	Association of parents with four and more children	2001	20,000
5.	Financial support for SANUS – Club of parents with children suffering from or treated for malignant diseases, Split	SANUS – Club of parents with children suffering from or treated for malignant diseases	from 2001 to 2002	10,000
6.	Programme of the Children, Adolescent and Family Centre	Psychological Help Association	from 2002 to 2003	175,000

7.	Protection and assistance programme for children, adolescents and families	Children, Adolescent and Family Centre, Velika Gorica	from 2002 to 2003	80,000
8.	Programme: "Fostering quality development of children of pre-school age"	NGO <i>Poticaj (Movens)</i>	academic year 2002/2003	63,000
9.	Development of mobile teams for the education of pregnant women, mothers and families	<i>Roda (Stork)</i> - Parents in Action NGO	from 2002 to 2003	55,000
10.	Programme of prevention of PUP and the functioning of children burdened with high risks in their upbringing	NGO <i>Poticaj (Movens)</i>	academic year 2002/2003	30,000
11.	Programme: "Centre for Family Psychological Support"	Institute for Peace Studies and Education, Vukovar	from 2003 to 2004	92,080
12.	Accommodation for children from families of high-risk	CARITAS of the Archbishop's Diocese of Zadar	2003	32,680
13.	Implementation of the project of a community warning system "Help, hello"	NGO <i>Bedem ljubavi (Bastion of Love)</i>	from 2003 to 2004	37,000

2. d) programmes and services for children with disabilities;

Social welfare funds – same as in Item 2. c).

Source: State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents

No.	Name	Agency / Organiser	Duration (date of beginning / end)	Funds in HRK
1.	"Recreation and Emperiential Learning Outdoors"	Zagreb Rehabilitation Centre	2001	343.226,87
2.	Programme of the Computer Centre intended for the needs of children and adolescents with visual impairment	Association of Persons with Visual Impairment of the Požeško-slavonska County	2001	25,000
3.	Activities of <i>Zvono (Bell)</i> - Association of parents of children with mental retardation	<i>Bell</i> – Association of parents of children with mental retardation	2001	6,000

4.	Programme: "Psychological and pedagogical aspects of rehabilitation of adolescents with impaired hearing and/or speech"	Polyclinic for the Rehabilitation of Hearing and Speech - SUVAG	from 2001 to 2002	32,600
5.	Project: "Detection, record keeping and systematic monitoring of persons with special needs in Velika Gorica"	NGO for the Promotion of Education and Training of Children and Adolescents - Gorica	from 2001 to 2003	69,000
6.	Pilot project: Architectural Counselling Centre - "For Quality Lifestyle without Barriers"	HSUTI	from 2001 to 2002	145,100
7.	Project: "Early detection of impaired hearing in newborn and small children"	Croatian Association for Early Diagnostics	from 2002 to 2003	68.000,00
8.	Project: "Scouts Course Outdoors – Amazing Forest"	Pula Scouts Association	2003	28.068,00
9.	Project: "Environmental adaptation of recreation and rehabilitation centre"	MI – Association of parents with children with disabilities	2002	50,000
10.	Project: "Children and adults with ADHD" – co-operation	Centre for Improving the Quality of Life	2002	14,274
11.	Project: Art workshops on the topics related to the European Year of Persons with Disabilities	Autism Centre	from 2002 to 2003	10,000
12.	Programme for children with disabilities	Association of dystrophy sufferers from cerebral palsy and poliomyelitis and other persons with disabilities of the Town of Županja	2002	3,040
13.	"INKAZ 2003"	Children and Adolescent Education and Training Centre, Dubrava	2003	20,000
14.	Weekend programmes of education in local communities for the integration of children with special needs	IDEM association	2003	110,600

2. e) protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;

Answer: the same as in Item 2. c).

2. g) programmes for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child labour;

Within the scope and methods of work of the police system, conceptual improvements have been made which are of particular importance, among other things, for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In accordance with the activities specified by the Police Act, which has been in force since 2001, the police system, within its regular operations, has been working with continuity on the implementation of prevention activities aimed at the protection of children from abuse, sexual exploitation and the exploitation of child labour.

For the purpose of special training for such operations, police officers have been attending a specialised course including the acquiring of knowledge and skills needed for understanding and respecting the rights of the child recognised by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In the period from 2000 to 2004, seven (7) specialised courses have been organised with the objective of eliminating juvenile delinquency. The courses were attended by a total of 185 police officers. Total course organisation costs amounted to HRK 694,503.51.

Moreover, in co-operation with the non-governmental organisation Psychological Help Association, a special programme has been organised aimed at training police officers with regard to undertaking activities of combating domestic violence on an interdepartmental basis.

Furthermore, the police system has been undertaking with continuity prevention activities and tasks that have been placed into its scope of work by the following special programmes of the Croatian Government and the Croatian Parliament (*Sabor*) and adopted for the purpose of ensuring child protection:

1. the National Action Programme for Children which has been applied since 1998;
2. the Programme of Measures for Increasing Security in Zones of Education and Training Institutions – in force since 2001;
3. the Implementation Programme of the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Republic of Croatia from 2001 to 2005;
4. Priority Activities for the Benefit of Children for the period 2003 – 2005 from the National Action Programme for Children – effective since 2003;
5. Programme of Activities for the Prevention of Violence among Children and Adolescents – since February 2004;
6. the National Strategy for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse (effective since 1996) and the Action Plan for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse for 2004;
7. the National Programme of Road Traffic Safety within which the activities of “Children in Traffic” campaign are undertaken.

Although no special funds have been allocated to the police system for the implementation of prevention programme activities placed within its competence by the above-mentioned Programmes, the police have been covering such activities by regular funds allocated to the police system from the State Budget.

2. h) juvenile justice.

Funds allocated from the State Budget to educational homes

Year	Amount	% of total State Budget funds allocated to the Directorate for Prison System
2001	14,799,000 kuna	5.93 %
2002	15,077,000 kuna	5.64 %
2003	17,853,000 kuna	5.73 %

Source: Ministry of Justice

Other juvenile justice expenses have not been represented separately and may be found within regular funds allocated from the State Budget to the Ministry of Justice and other ministries whose scope of competence encompasses these matters.

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

The Ministry of Health cannot make an estimate of private sector expenses.

ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF CO-FINANCING PRIVATE AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FROM THE STATE BUDGET

Year 2001	
Total State Budget expenses	2,689,833.00
Primary education	1,236,000.00
Secondary education	1,453,833.33
Year 2002	
Total State Budget expenses	3,135,000.00
Primary education	1,567,500.00
Secondary education	1,567,500.00
Year 2003	
Total State Budget expenses	4,744,726.00
Primary education	1,602,261.00
Secondary education	3,142,465.00
Year 2004	
Planned funds	5,800,000.00
Primary education	2,000,000.00
Secondary education	3,800,000.00

Source: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number of children:

3. a) separated from their parents;

Children separated from parents are placed in social welfare homes and foster families pursuant to the following to legal bases:

- the Family Act as a measure of family legal protection of children; and
- the Social Welfare Act, with a prior consent of parents.

There are three types of social welfare homes where children may be placed, i.e.:

- homes for children without adequate parental care;
- homes for children with behaviour disturbances;
- homes for children with disabilities.

3. b) placed in institutions;

3. b) 1. homes for children without adequate parental care

Out of 18 homes for children without adequate parental care, there are 14 state homes, while the remaining 4 homes have been established by other founders.

NOTE: The text following below does not contain data on the number of children placed in homes established by other founders in 2001, because it was during that period that such homes were established (by way of transformation from foster families).

Home capacity:

Year	State homes		Homes established by other founders	
	Optimum home capacity	Occupancy rate on 31 December	Optimum home capacity	Occupancy rate on 31 December
2001	1,174	1,129		
2002	1,170	1,140	503	489
2003	1,212	1,079	550	512

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Home capacity according to type of placement / type of service:

- Permanent placement
- Weekly placement
- Half-day placement
- Pregnant women
- Housing community

Year	State homes					Homes established by other founders				
	a	b	c	d	e	a	b	c	d	e
2001	1,091	0	49	20	14					
2002	1,075	9	54	22	17	431	0	0	15	57
2003	1,079	6	65	23	39	479	0	0	15	56

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Reasons for placing children in homes for children:

- a. Children without parental care,
- b. Children whose parents have lost custody of them,
- c. Children placed in homes for children with parents' consent,
- d. Other.

Year	State homes				Homes established by other founders			
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
2001	118	280	656	8				
2002	145	306	626	33	66	171	228	4
2003	171	295	593	20	68	136	297	0

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Reasons for terminating placement in homes for children:

- a. Child's attainment of majority / End of schooling,
- b. Placement with parents,
- c. Placement with relatives,
- d. Adoption,
- e. Transfer to the same home branch,
- f. Placement in another home for children,
- g. Placement in a home for children with behaviour disturbances,
- h. Placement in a home for children with physical or mental disabilities,
- i. Fostering,
- j. Other.

Year	State homes										Homes established by other founders									
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
2001	61	144	8	61	26	20	19	12	76	5										
2002	56	153	8	40	33	12	21	15	38	10	5	51	1	9	18	8	4	1	5	6
2003	46	111	16	53	24	13	17	11	64	16	8	53	0	18	21	6	2	2	1	2

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Classification of children by age and sex:

		State homes															
Age		0-1		1-3		3-7		7-14		14-16		16-18		18-21		21+	
Year	Sex	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
2001		28	29	44	30	45	56	232	169	101	93	80	79	36	28	4	1
2002		31	23	47	43	50	50	221	172	136	88	82	84	45	24	0	0
2003		31	21	46	37	47	50	199	175	108	100	78	89	48	51	1	0

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Homes established by other founders																	
Age		0-1		1-3		3-7		7-14		14-16		16-18		18-21		21+	
Year	Sex	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f
2001																	
2002		4	5	13	12	37	37	101	128	33	30	26	29	6	7	0	1
2003		2	6	6	12	32	25	125	127	36	43	25	39	9	9	2	3

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Housing community (intended for adolescents' living on their own)

The Act on the Amendments to the Social Welfare Act of June 2001 provides that young persons who have attained majority may also be placed in homes for children up to the age of 21, which includes their placement in homes for children during their schooling and, in many cases, for a period of time following after the end of schooling, that is, until they find a job or until they find a way to live on their own. Moreover, the above-mentioned Act provides a possibility for placing children within a housing community, so that young persons could prepare themselves to live on their own outside the institution of a home for children. Each housing community accommodates a small number of children (i.e. two to four children) who run their household on their own whereby they receive professional support and prepare themselves to live on their own in the future. As a rule, children stay in such flats, that is, housing communities, for a short period of time (i.e. six to twelve months) until they find a job or meet necessary preconditions to live on their own.

So far, this type of placement for children has been organised in Zagreb (five flats), Osijek (two flats), Split (two flats), Lovran (three flats), Vinkovci (one flat) and Pula (two flats). All the housing communities together may accommodate a total of 40 persons.

Premises for all the housing communities (except for the housing community which has been established by an NGO) have been provided by local administration or self-government units, while the accommodation expenses for all the users of the housing communities are covered by funds of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

This type of taking care of children is in conformity with the orientation to de-institutionalisation of the social welfare system, while its implementation so far has shown very good results in terms of preparing children for a life on their own, so that, according to plans, a network of new housing communities should be expanded in the above-mentioned towns and established in other towns, too.

Capacity of housing communities

	State homes	Homes established by other founders
Year	Capacity	Capacity
2001	14	
2002	17	57
2003	39	56

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

3. b) 2. Homes for children and adolescents with behaviour disturbances

In the Republic of Croatia, there are 11 homes for children and adolescents with behaviour disturbances and they have all been established by the State. So far, other founders have not shown interest in establishing this type of homes although such option has been provided by law. The tables below show the number of children placed in such homes, the accommodation capacity of such homes, types of placement, legal bases for placement in such homes, the reasons for terminating home placement and the classification of users by age and sex.

Home capacity

Year	Optimum home capacity	Occupancy rate on 31 December
2001	1,344	1,206
2002	1,393	1,297
2003	1,365	1,264

Home capacity according to type of placement / type of service:

Year	Permanent placement	Half-day placement	Housing community	Reception unit	In-patient observation	Other
2001	446	669	22	36	42	102
2002	461	696	26	34	42	98
2003	480	759	39	32	42	13

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Legal bases for placing children in a home

Year	Social Welfare Act	Family Act	Act on Juvenile Courts	Total
2001	1,313	278	203	1774
2002	1,363	276	204	1823
2003	1,710	184	243	2149

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Reasons for terminating home placement:

- a. End of treatment,
- b. Suspension of corrective measure,
- c. End of schooling,
- d. Modification of corrective measure,
- e. Adaptation problems,
- f. Long absences from home,
- g. On parents' request,
- h. Impossibility of treatment application,
- i. Other.

Year	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
2001	1,247	49	82	54	20	26	27	57	78
2002	1,267	51	91	57	29	24	25	69	76
2003	835	43	122	46	26	9	40	42	45

Data provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Classification of users by age and sex

Age	Male					Female				
	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18+	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18+
2001	205	289	555	566	176	91	143	223	19	25
2002	203	299	571	569	183	93	142	219	28	29
2003	195	393	393	503	253	122	178	119	142	71

Data provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

3. b) 3. number of children with disabilities placed in social welfare homes

In the Republic of Croatia there are 21 state homes taking care of children with disabilities. Nine of them accommodate exclusively children, while the remaining 12 homes (within the framework of special organisational units) accommodate children, as well as adults with disabilities. In addition, there are 6 homes for children with disabilities established by other founders.

The following table shows the number of children placed in state homes.

	2001	2002	2003
AGE	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
0-3	4	1	13
4-7	52	48	77
8-14	501	479	546
15-16	323	322	346
17-18	333	361	259
TOTAL	1,213	1,211	1,241

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

In 2003, there were 269 children with disabilities placed in the homes established by other founders.

3. c) placed with foster families;

A total number of persons placed with foster families has been increasing for ten years now. Thus, for instance, the number of persons placed with foster families (including both children and adults) amounted to 2,530 in 1993, while in 2003, there were 5,550 persons placed in foster families whose number amounted to 2,593.

Care provided outside of users own families on 31 December 2003

Placement with foster families	
Users placed with foster families	Number of users
- children and adolescents	2,484
Foster families	Number of families
- where both children and adolescents have been placed	1,273

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

The following table shows that most users placed with foster families are children without adequate parental care (1,531):

Categories of users	Number of users placed in foster families
Children without adequate parental care	1,531
Children and young persons of age with behaviour disturbances	55
Children whose parents are temporarily unable to take care of them	302
Six months pregnant women or single parents with children	9
Persons with physical or mental disabilities - minors	544
Persons addicted to alcohol, drugs and other substances - minors	27
Mentally ill persons - mentally ill minors	-
Victims of domestic violence - minors	-
Total	2,468

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

3. d) adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions.

	2001	2002	2003
total number of adoptions	148	138	151
internationally	4	3	3

ADOPTIONS BY RELATIVES

According to child's age	2001	2002	2003
Children under the age of 1	29	31	29
Children aged 1 to 5	64	44	64
Children aged 5 to 10	29	34	37
Total	122	109	130
Age average (approximately)	3.48	3.69	3.72
According to adoptive parents' age			
Adoptive parents under the age of 35	31	31	44
Adoptive parents aged 35 to 40	64	45	56
Adoptive parents above the age of 40	27	33	30
Total	122	109	130
Age average (approximately)	37.92	38.55	37.38

PARENTS' ADOPTION

According to child's age			
Children under the age of 2	3	4	2
Children aged 2 to 6	3	5	4
Children aged 6 to 10	8	7	7
Children aged 10 to 18	12	13	8
Total	26	29	21
Age average (approximately)	9.50	9.03	8.86
According to adoptive parents' age			
Adoptive parents under the age of 35	3	3	6
Adoptive parents aged 35 to 40	8	11	6
Adoptive parents above the age of 40	15	15	9
Total	26	29	21
Age average (approximately)	42.69	42.16	39.86

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

4. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age and, if possible, minority groups) for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number of children:

4. a) with disabilities;

DISABLED PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SEX ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Roma	Serbs	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	9.188	8.328	80	161	135	57	186	241
	0	54	48	Z	Z	-	-	Z	Z
	1	200	190	Z	Z	-	Z	3	Z
	2	285	265	Z	3	4	3	6	Z
	3	388	368	-	5	Z	Z	4	7
	4	382	347	4	4	7	3	8	9
	5	358	336	4	5	4	Z	Z	6
	6	435	404	5	4	7	Z	Z	7
	7	443	409	4	9	Z	5	8	Z
	8	496	454	6	7	7	4	6	12
	9	512	473	8	3	Z	Z	12	7
	10	548	503	5	5	Z	Z	14	17
	11	570	522	Z	9	8	Z	13	15
	12	640	572	5	12	9	7	14	21
	13	702	613	8	13	19	5	16	28
	14	724	650	7	17	14	Z	Z	21
	15	765	668	9	17	11	6	20	34
	16	800	720	7	17	8	10	18	20
17	886	786	Z	28	21	4	22	24	
Male	0-17	5.277	4.799	45	89	71	32	105	136
	0	33	29	Z	Z	-	-	-	Z
	1	108	101	Z	Z	-	-	Z	Z
	2	151	142	Z	Z	Z	Z	3	Z
	3	216	203	-	3	Z	Z	3	5
	4	203	186	Z	Z	4	Z	4	5
	5	190	179	Z	Z	Z	-	Z	4
	6	237	223	3	Z	3	Z	Z	3
	7	266	249	Z	5	Z	Z	4	3
	8	288	265	4	5	3	Z	Z	6
	9	284	264	6	Z	3	Z	7	Z
	10	310	292	Z	Z	-	Z	7	7
	11	340	309	Z	4	6	Z	9	10
	12	384	342	4	8	Z	Z	10	14
	13	424	371	4	10	8	3	12	16
	14	412	369	5	8	Z	Z	8	14
	15	434	378	4	9	7	5	12	19
	16	457	417	3	8	6	6	7	10
17	540	480	Z	17	14	Z	11	13	
Female	0-17	3.911	3.529	35	72	64	25	81	105
	0	21	19	Z	-	-	-	Z	-
	1	92	89	Z	-	-	Z	Z	-
	2	134	123	-	Z	Z	Z	3	Z
	3	172	165	-	Z	Z	-	Z	Z
	4	179	161	3	Z	3	Z	4	4
	5	168	157	Z	3	Z	Z	Z	Z
	6	198	181	Z	Z	4	-	5	4
	7	177	160	Z	4	Z	3	4	3
	8	208	189	Z	Z	4	3	Z	6
	9	228	209	Z	Z	5	-	5	5
	10	238	211	3	4	3	-	7	10
	11	230	213	Z	5	Z	-	4	5
	12	256	230	Z	4	5	5	Z	7
	13	278	242	4	3	11	Z	Z	12
	14	312	281	Z	9	7	Z	Z	7
	15	331	290	5	8	Z	Z	8	15
	16	343	303	4	9	Z	Z	11	10
17	346	306	-	11	7	-	11	11	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

DISABLED PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 BY ETHNICITY, AGE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Age	Total	Croats	Roma	Serbs	Other ethnic minorities	Others	No reply in respect of ethnicity	Unknown
Total	0-17	9.188	8.328	80	161	135	57	186	241
	0	54	48	Z	Z	-	-	Z	Z
	1	200	190	Z	Z	-	Z	3	Z
	2	285	265	Z	3	4	3	6	3
	3	388	368	-	5	3	Z	4	7
	4	382	347	4	4	7	3	8	9
	5	358	336	4	5	4	Z	Z	6
	6	435	404	5	4	7	Z	6	7
	7	443	409	4	9	Z	5	8	6
	8	496	454	6	7	7	4	6	12
	9	512	473	8	3	8	Z	12	7
	10	548	503	5	5	3	Z	14	17
	11	570	522	Z	9	8	Z	13	15
	12	640	572	5	12	9	7	14	21
	13	702	613	8	13	19	5	16	28
	14	724	650	7	17	14	Z	13	21
	15	765	668	9	17	11	6	20	34
	16	800	720	7	17	8	10	18	20
	17	886	786	Z	28	21	4	22	24
Attending school	6-17	5.172	4.808	25	92	83	32	111	21
	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	182	172	Z	4	Z	Z	Z	-
	8	340	321	Z	7	4	3	4	-
	9	385	361	5	Z	7	Z	9	-
	10	442	420	3	4	3	Z	9	Z
	11	459	437	-	8	5	Z	8	-
	12	517	475	Z	9	7	7	14	3
	13	587	535	5	11	14	Z	15	5
	14	577	538	3	11	11	Z	11	Z
	15	556	513	Z	11	9	4	15	Z
	16	571	527	Z	10	7	7	12	6
	17	552	505	-	15	15	3	12	Z
Not attending school	0-17	3.961	3.468	55	67	52	24	75	220
	0	54	48	Z	Z	-	-	Z	Z
	1	200	190	Z	Z	-	Z	3	Z
	2	285	265	Z	3	4	3	6	3
	3	388	368	-	5	3	Z	4	7
	4	382	347	4	4	7	3	8	9
	5	358	336	4	5	4	Z	Z	6
	6	431	400	5	4	7	Z	6	7
	7	261	237	Z	5	Z	4	6	6
	8	156	133	5	-	3	Z	Z	12
	9	127	112	3	Z	Z	-	3	7
	10	106	83	Z	Z	-	-	5	15
	11	111	85	Z	Z	3	-	5	15
	12	123	97	3	3	Z	-	-	18
	13	115	78	3	Z	5	3	Z	23
	14	147	112	4	6	3	-	Z	20
	15	191	139	7	5	Z	Z	5	32
	16	220	184	5	7	Z	3	6	14
	17	306	254	Z	12	6	Z	10	22
School attendance unknown	15-17	55	52	-	Z	-	1	-	-
	15	18	16	-	Z	-	1	-	-
	16	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
	17	28	27	-	Z	-	-	-	-

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

4. b) with disabilities living at home and placed in institutions;

Number of children with disabilities placed in social welfare homes

	2001	2002	2003
AGE	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
0-3	4	1	13
4-7	52	48	77
8-14	501	479	546
15-16	323	322	346
17-18	333	361	259
TOTAL	1,213	1,211	1,241

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

4. c) with disabilities enrolled in regular education and special education systems;

Table 1: Children with disabilities enrolled in regular education systems following special programmes – integrated pupils

Education level	Sex	end of school year		
		2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	n/a			
Primary ISCED 1&2	total	8,307	8,806	9,007
	female	3,185	3,344	3,408
Secondary ISCED 3	total	1,077	937	930
	female	382	361	335
TOTAL	total	9,384	9,743	9,937
	female	3,567	3,705	3,743

Table 2: Children with disabilities enrolled in special education institutions and school classes

Education level	Sex	beginning of school year		
		2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	total	465	486	443
	female	194	206	171
Primary ISCED 1&2	total	2,233	2,378	2,278
	female	832	912	883
Secondary ISCED 3	total	1,568	1,572	1,652
	female	663	693	734
TOTAL	total	4,266	4,436	4,373
	female	1,689	1,811	1,788

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES INTEGRATED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, END OF SCHOOL
YEAR 2000/2001**

	Total number of pupils	Pupils per classes							
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Total	8,307	552	772	978	979	1218	1353	1269	1186
Number of female pupils	3,185	202	334	393	398	442	482	468	466
Total number of pupils promoted in higher classes	8,139	548	768	971	981	1165	1321	1224	1161
Number of female pupils promoted in higher classes	3,102	190	317	380	387	434	479	458	457

**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES INTEGRATED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, END OF SCHOOL
YEAR 2001/2002**

	Total number of pupils	Pupils per classes							
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Total	8,806	563	875	996	1134	1245	1310	1428	1255
Number of female pupils	3,344	204	344	415	441	475	504	511	450
Total number of pupils promoted in higher classes	8,568	543	849	971	1106	1207	1270	1396	1226
Number of female pupils promoted in higher classes	3,261	196	330	400	430	467	495	502	441

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

PULPS WITH DISABILITIES (INTEGRATED PUPILS) I SECONDARY SCHOOLS, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2000. / 2001.

		Pupils					Pupils promoted in higher classes					Pupils who completed secondary educationn		
		total	per classes				total	per classes				total	secondary school qualifications	semi-skilled training
			I.	II.	III.	IV.		I.	II.	III.	IV.			
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	1 077	437	335	258	47	989	379	314	249	47	249	182	67
	female pupils	382	141	113	104	24	359	126	106	103	24	101	80	21
GENERAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	22	4	5	4	9	22	4	5	4	9	9	9	
	female pupils	15	2	3	3	7	15	2	3	3	7	7	7	
SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND RELATED SCHOOLS	total	151	42	32	39	38	141	35	29	39	38	37	37	
	female pupils	83	26	17	23	17	75	21	14	23	17	17	17	
INDUSTRIAL AND CRAFT SCHOOLS	total	904	391	298	215		826	340	280	206	-	203	136	67
	female pupils	284	113	93	78	-	269	103	89	77	-	77	56	21

PULPS WITH DISABILITIES (INTEGRATED PUPILS) I SECONDARY SCHOOLS, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2001. / 2002.

		Pupils					Pupils promoted in higher classes					Pupils who completed secondary educationn		
		total	per classes				total	per classes				total	secondary school qualifications	semi-skilled training
			I.	II.	III.	IV.		I.	II.	III.	IV.			
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	937	349	315	231	42	867	298	297	230	42	237	222	15
	female pupils	361	135	109	96	21	341	122	103	95	21	97	90	7
GENERAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	30	2	16	7	5	26	2	12	7	5	4	4	-
	female pupils	19	2	10	4	3	17	2	8	4	3	3	3	
SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND RELATED SCHOOLS	total	160	37	47	39	37	157	35	46	39	37	37	37	
	female pupils	85	22	25	20	18	84	21	25	20	18	18	18	
INDUSTRIAL AND CRAFT SCHOOLS	total	747	310	252	185		684	261	239	184	-	196	181	15
	female pupils	257	111	74	72	-	240	99	70	71		76	69	7

PULPS WITH DISABILITIES (INTEGRATED PUPILS) I SECONDARY SCHOOLS, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2002./2003.

		Pupils					Pupils promoted in higher classes					Pupils who completed secondary educationn		
		total	per classes				total	per classes				total	secondary school qualifications	semi-skilled training
			I.	II.	III.	IV.		I.	II.	III.	IV.			
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	930	408	271	226	25	837	336	254	222	25	206	200	6
	female pupils	335	145	106	71	13	319	133	102	71	13	66	64	2
GENERAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	total	13	2	4	4	3	13	2	4	4	3	3	3	-
	female pupils	8	1	2	3	2	8	1	2	3	2	2	2	-
SECONDARY TECHNICAL AND RELATED SCHOOLS	total	132	39	34	37	22	127	35	33	37	22	20	20	-
	female pupils	64	17	19	17	11	63	16	19	17	11	11	11	-
INDUSTRIAL AND CRAFT SCHOOLS	total	785	367	233	185	-	697	299	217	181	-	183	177	6
	female pupils	263	127	85	51	-	248	116	81	51	-	53	51	2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

PUPILS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES, PER CLASSES AND ACCORDING TO TYPES OF DISABILITIES AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SCHOOL CLASSES, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2000/2001.

		Pupils				
		Total	Per classes			
			I.	II.	III.	IV.
TOTAL	Total	1550	556	438	470	86
	Promoted	1490	526	418	461	85
Adolescents with mental retardation	Total	1099	420	326	353	-
	Promoted	1053	397	310	346	-
Adolescents with impaired sight	Total	83	33	26	19	5
	Promoted	83	33	26	19	5
Adolescents with impaired hearing	Total	114	21	26	39	28
	Promoted	111	21	24	39	27
Adolescents with physical disabilities	Total	219	53	55	58	53
	Promoted	215	52	54	56	53
Adolescents with behaviour disturbances	Total	35	29	5	1	-
	Promoted	28	23	4	1	-

PUPILS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES, PER CLASSES AND ACCORDING TO TYPES OF DISABILITIES AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SCHOOL CLASSES, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2001/2002.

		Pupils				
		Total	Total			
			I.	II.	III.	IV.
TOTAL	Total	1557	543	503	424	87
	Promoted	1491	499	491	417	84
Adolescents with mental retardation	Total	1 119	426	386	307	-
	Promoted	1069	391	376	302	-
Adolescents with impaired sight	Total	91	25	29	25	12
	Promoted	89	24	29	25	11
Adolescents with impaired hearing	Total	111	25	17	33	36
	Promoted	109	25	17	33	34
Adolescents with physical disabilities	Total	199	51	52	57	39
	Promoted	193	49	50	55	39
Adolescents with behaviour disturbances	Total	37	16	19	2	-
	Promoted	31	10	19	2	-

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

PUPILS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO COMPLETED SECONDARY EDUCATION . ACCORDING TO TRADE AREAS, END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2000. / 2001.

	Trade schools	Secondary school qualifications		Semi-skilled training	
		Total	female pupils	Total	female pupils
TOTAL	1)	88	35	361	147
Mechanical engineering	13	6	-	64	-
Electrical engineering	1	-	-	-	-
Agriculture	9	-	-	23	13
Food industry	2	-	-	3	-
Wood processing	7	-	-	26	-
Building trade	3	-	-	4	-
Telecommunications	2	10	2	-	-
Textile	13	6	6	49	45
Leather treatment	4	4	-	20	4
Printmaking	6	20	3	30	13
Economics and trade	2	26	16	1	1
Catering industry and tourism	15	15	8	128	71
Other services	8	1	-	13	-

UČENICI SREDNJIH ŠKOLA ZA MLADEŽ S TEŠKOĆAMA U RAZVOJU KOJI SU ZAVRŠILI ŠKOLU, PO STRUKOVNIM PODRUČJIMA, KRAJ ŠKOLSKE GODINE 2001/2002.

	Trade schools	Secondary school qualifications		Semi-skilled training	
		Total	female pupils	Total	female pupils
TOTAL	i)	85	44	337	139
Mechanical engineering	13	10	-	46	-
Electrical engineering	1	-	-	-	-
Agriculture	9	-	-	19	12
Food industry	2	-	-	3	-
Wood processing	8	-	-	31	-
Building trade	3	1	-	1	-
Telecommunications	2	11	4	-	-
Textile	14	10	10	40	34
Leather treatment	4	1	-	18	9
Printmaking	6	9	1	43	19
Economics and trade	2	28	20	2	1
Catering industry and tourism	14	11	9	107	64
Other services	8	4	-	27	-

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

4. d) not attending school.

There are no available data.

5. With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender, ethnic groups and types of violations reported) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the:

5. a) number of child abuse cases reported;

Persons reported for acts of violence against children

Criminal acts of violence	2001	2002	2003
Rape – Article 188	25 3.0%	11 1.3%	23 2.2%
Attempted rape – Article 188	5 0.6%	5 0.6%	5 0.5%
Sexual intercourse with an infirm person – Article 189	9 1.0%	6 0.7%	17 1.6%
Forced sexual intercourse – Article 190	1 0.1%	2 0.2%	1 0.1%
Sexual intercourse committed by position abuse – Article 191	9 1.0%	6 0.7%	2 0.2%
Sexual intercourse with a child – Article 192	30 3.5%	22 2.6%	34 3.3%
Acts of indecency – Article 193	80 9.3%	78 9.4%	84 8.2%
Sexual gratification in front of a child or a minor – Article 194	12 1.3%	17 2.0%	22 2.1%
Procuring – Article 195	4 0.5%	6 0.7%	3 0.2%
Exploitation of children or minors for pornography – Article 196	16 1.9%	18 2.1%	25 2.4%
Familiarising children with pornography – Article 197		4 0.4%	5 0.5%
Incest – Article 198	1 0.1%		
Neglect or abuse of children or minors – Article 213	669 77.7%	661 79.3%	798 78.3%
Total	861 100%	833 100%	1019 100%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

5. b) number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up.

Persons convicted of violence against children

Criminal acts of violence	2001	2002	2003
Rape – Article 188	7 2.5%	9 2.5%	11 2.0%
Attempted rape – Article 188	7 2.5%	2 0.5%	
Sexual intercourse with an infirm person – Article 189	5 1.8%	2 0.5%	1 0.2%
Forced sexual intercourse – Article 190		1 0.2%	
Sexual intercourse committed by position abuse – Article 191	7 2.5%	1 0.2%	2 0.4%
Sexual intercourse with a child – Article 192	19 6.8%	18 5.1%	15 2.8%
Acts of indecency – Article 193	38 13.7%	32 9.0%	35 6.5%
Sexual gratification in front of a child or a minor – Article 194	2 0.7%	11 3.1%	16 2.9%
Procuring – Article 195			9 1.7%
Exploitation of children or minors for pornography – Article 196	4 1.4%	1 0.2%	4 0.7%
Familiarising children with pornography – Article 197	1 0.3%	1 0.2%	1 0.2%
Incest – Article 198		2 0.5%	
Neglect or abuse children or minors – Article 213	186 67.4%	272 77.2%	441 82.4%
Total	276 100%	352 100%	535 100%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

5. c) average duration of the case from the time of reporting to a court decision;

**Procedure duration in cases of violence against children
from filing a report to issuing a court decision**

Criminal act	Up to 6 months	Over 6 months
Rape – Article 188	39.7%	60.3%
Sexual intercourse with a child – Article 192	45.8%	54.2%
Neglect or abuse of children or minors – Article 213	19.6%	80.4%
Acts of indecency – Article 193	29.1%	70.9%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

5. d) number and proportion of victims who have received counseling and assistance in recovery.

The state policy of protecting children from abuse and severe neglect is focused on the provision of preconditions for prevention measures, but it is also oriented to constant improvements of modes and methods of expert work in the treatment of abused children. In this respect, emphasis has been placed on an interdisciplinary team approach and the fostering of constant training of experts working with abused and neglected children.

Unfortunately, for the time being, a major problem in this area lies in insufficient provision of psychotherapeutic treatments of victims of domestic violence. Namely, only several large towns have experts who have specialised in psychotherapeutic work with victims of sexual and other forms of violence.

On the other hand, all children and adults who have been victims of violence have access to counselling in social welfare centres which employ teams of experts (such as social workers, psychologists, etc.).

A Polyclinic of the City of Zagreb for the Protection of Children has been established in Zagreb for the purpose of providing expert assistance and treatment of children who have been victims of violence, as well as other children who may need such assistance. In the course of 2003, a total of 1,100 children and their families were treated in this Polyclinic.

In addition, there are several non-governmental organisations dealing with the matters related to this area, such as *Mirta (Myrtle)* from Split, *Tić (Little Bird)* from Rijeka, etc. Furthermore, assistance for victims of violence is provided by some health care institutions, such as Dubrava Clinical Hospital, Accident Centre - Children's Hospital in Klaićeva Street in Zagreb, Children's Psychiatric Hospital in Kukuljevićeva Street in Zagreb.

The activities of protecting children from domestic violence that have been undertaken so far have shown the need to establish shelters for victims of domestic violence. The Amendments to the Social Welfare Act provide the establishment of institutions for taking both children and parents who have been victims of domestic violence, but the State has not established such an institution yet. Therefore, social welfare centres co-operate with the non-governmental organisations providing this type of services. There are currently 8 non-governmental organisations offering such services. This type of assistance has also been provided by Caritas of the Archbishop's Diocese of Zagreb.

The Amendments to the Social Welfare Act have simplified the registration of non-governmental organisations providing accommodation and assistance for victims of domestic violence, while the expenses of their stay are covered by the State.

6. Please also provide disaggregated data (by sex, age, urban and rural areas and, if possible, by minority groups, including the Roma, refugee and displaced children covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on:

6. a) rates of literacy of all under 18 years old;

POPULATION AGED 10-17 BY AGE, SEX, LITERACY, ETHNICITY AND SETTLEMENT TYPE ACCORDING TO 2001 CENSUS

	Total population	Total literacy		Men	Literate men		Women	Literate women	
			%			%			%
Total	445.877	444.406	99,7	227.785	227.013	99,7	218.092	217.393	99,7
Urban	242.472	241.799	99,7	123.856	123.498	99,7	118.616	118.301	99,7
Rural	203.405	202.607	99,6	103.929	103.515	99,6	99.476	99.092	99,6
Croats	411.763	410.800	99,8	210.157	209.633	99,8	201.606	201.167	99,8
Albanians	2.194	2.185	99,6	1.182	1.178	99,7	1.012	1.007	99,5
Bosniacs	2.249	2.234	99,3	1.128	1.123	99,6	1.121	1.111	99,1
Czechs	736	736	100,0	380	380	100,0	356	356	100,0
Hungarians	956	955	99,9	481	481	100,0	475	474	99,8
Roma	1.685	1.459	86,6	831	737	88,7	854	722	84,5
Slovenians	286	285	99,7	142	142	100,0	144	143	99,3
Serbs	11.098	11.075	99,8	5.774	5.763	99,8	5.324	5.312	99,8
Italians	1.325	1.324	99,9	631	630	99,8	694	694	100,0
Other ethnic minorities	1.370	1.363	99,5	718	714	99,4	652	649	99,5
Others	2.493	2.475	99,3	1.280	1.269	99,1	1.213	1.206	99,4
No reply in respect of ethnicity	8.471	8.432	99,5	4.418	4.400	99,6	4.053	4.032	99,5
Unknown	1.251	1.083	86,6	663	563	84,9	588	520	88,4

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

6. b) rate of enrolment in pre-primary schools, primary schools and in secondary schools;

Item 6. b)

Table 3: Rate of enrolment at all education levels (%)

Gross Enrolment Rates		Pre-primary school		Primary	Secondary
Age		0-6	3-6	7-14	15-18
	1999	25.80	32.21	97.05	81.65
	2000	25.79	32.21	97.05	81.65
	2001	29.79	37.06	97.79	81.95
	2002	32.02	38.82	97.09	83.28
	2003	28.20	35.64	95.48	84.46

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

6. c) rate of children completing primary and secondary school;

Percentage of final class pupils who have successfully finished primary school (only for regular schools, without schools for children with disabilities)

Education level		2000/2001	201/2002	2002/2003
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	total	86,202	87,592	89,107
	promoted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Primary ISCED 1&2				
Primary ISCED 1	total	50,267	49,732	47,063
	promoted	50,189	49,670	46,988
	%	99.84	99.88	99.84
Lower secondary ISCED 2	total	52,778	53,039	50,985
	promoted	52,640	52,901	50,859
	%	99.74	99.74	99.75
Secondary ISCED 3	total	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	promoted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	%			
TOTAL	total			
	promoted			
	%			

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Since some secondary schools have four-year, and others three-year programmes, these data are not available.

There are data on how many pupils have completed secondary education, but there are no data on how many pupils there were in final secondary school classes.

6. d) rate of children in private schools;

Pupils in private schools and their percentage in the total number of pupils

Beginning of
school year

Education level		2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	total	86,202	87,592	89,107
	private	6,312	6,973	7,580
	%	7.32	7.96	8.51
Primary ISCED 1&2	total	405,682	400,100	395,702
	private	549	571	571
	%	0.14	0.14	0.14
Secondary ISCED 3	total	195,120	195,000	196,147
	private	3,250	3,452	3,856
	%	1.67	1.77	1.97
TOTAL	Total	600,802	595,100	591,849
	private	3,799	4,023	4,427
	%	0.63	0.68	0.75

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

6. e) number and percentage of drop-outs and repetitions;

Education institutions of religious communities are added to private schools.

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Repetitions

Education level	
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	Total
	Repetitions
	%
Primary ISCED 1&2	Total
	Repetitions
	%
Secondary ISCED 3	Total
	Repetitions
	%
TOTAL	Total
	Repetitions
	%

6. f) ratio teacher per children.

Number of children per teacher

Education level		Beginning of school year		
		2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Pre-primary school ISCED 0	pupils	86,202	87,592	89,107
	teachers	6,374	6,566	6,783
Number of children per teacher		13.52	13.34	13.14
Elementary ISCED 1&2	pupils	405,682	400,100	395,702
	teachers	27,147	27,502	27,905
Regular schools				
	pupils	403,449	397,722	393,424
6.	teachers	26,488	26,810	27,216
Number of children per teacher		15.23139	14.83484	14.45561
for children with disabilities	pupils	2,233	2,378	2,278
	teachers	659	692	689
Number of children per teacher		3.388467	3.436416	3.306241
Secondary ISCED 3	total	195,120	195,000	196,147
	teachers	19,325	19,718	19,733
Regular schools				
	pupils	193,552	193,428	194,495
	teachers	19,044	19,398	19,423
Number of children per teacher		10.16341	9.971543	10.01364
for children with disabilities	pupils	1,568	1,572	1,652
	teachers	281	320	310
Number of children per teacher		5.580071	4.9125	5.329032
TOTAL	total	600,802	595,100	591,849
	teachers	52,846	53,786	54,421
Number of children per teacher		11.37	11.06	10.88

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

7. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) on infant and child mortality, adolescent health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse (including within the family), suicide, traffic accidents and mental health concerns, for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Deceased persons aged 18 and under by age, sex and settlement type from 2001 to 2003

Age	Sex	2001.			2002.			2003.		
		Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements	Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements	Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements
Total	both	537	280	257	461	240	221	453	228	225
	men	317	159	158	281	147	134	281	145	136
	women	220	121	99	180	93	87	172	83	89
0	both	315	179	136	282	144	138	251	135	116
	men	167	95	72	159	81	78	148	82	66
	women	148	84	64	123	63	60	103	53	50
1 - 4	both	62	28	34	54	29	25	42	18	24
	men	40	16	24	33	15	18	25	13	12
	women	22	12	10	21	14	7	17	5	12
5 - 9	both	43	16	27	36	19	17	38	17	21
	men	25	11	14	22	14	8	22	11	11
	women	18	5	13	14	5	9	16	6	10
10 - 14	both	44	18	26	28	14	14	49	22	27
	men	30	12	18	20	11	9	35	15	20
	women	14	6	8	8	3	5	14	7	7
15 - 17	both	73	39	34	61	34	27	73	36	37
	men	55	25	30	47	26	21	51	24	27
	women	18	14	4	14	8	6	22	12	10

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Infant mortality

Causes of infant mortality do not differ from infant mortality causes identified in developed countries. In 2001, 315 infants died (infant mortality rate being 7.7 per 1,000 liveborn infants), while this number amounted to 282 infants in 2002 (infant mortality rate: 7.0 per 1,000 liveborn infants). The most frequent causes in the total number of infant mortality cases are certain pathological conditions related to pregnancy or labour (the portion of conditions pertaining to perinatal period being 57.7%) and congenital anomalies (29.4%), as well as insufficiently defined conditions (5.3%), which implies that other causes of infant mortality amount to not more than 7.5%. Ten most frequent causes of infant mortality include respiratory distress, intracranial haemorrhage, labour asphyxia, neonatal aspiratory syndrome and other complications related to low birth weight and short gestation duration, while most prematurely born infants die the first day after birth or in the first few days after birth. In 29.4% of the total number of infant mortality cases, infants died on the first day after birth. The percentage of infants who died in the period from 2 months to one year of age also amounted to 29.4%. A total of 70.4% of infants died in the neonatal period (the first 27 days after birth), while 29.6% of infants died in the period from 2 months to one year of age.

Mortality of children aged 1 – 14

Mortality of children aged 1 – 14 is low (25.04/100,000 children in 2000), but the classification of the causes of death indicates that over a half of child mortality cases could have been prevented, because they were caused by various types of accidents (in the case of 25 out of a total of 54 children who died at the age of 1 – 14). A classification according to gender shows that there is a higher child mortality rate among boys (29/100,000 boys at the age of 1 to 14) compared to a child mortality rate in girls (20/100,000 girls). This variation

may be mostly attributed to boys' suffering injuries (in the case of 20 out of a total of 32 deceased boys and 5 out of a total of 22 deceased girls). Besides serious injuries causing death, tumours and congenital anomalies have been identified as major causes of death in over a half of the cases of deceased children of both age groups. Death has been caused by injuries in over 50% of the cases of deceased children at the age of 10 to 14, followed by malignancies in 22% of the cases, while all the remaining causes of death account for 25% of the cases of child mortality. Since the best method of reducing the number of injuries lies in prevention activities, it is essential to develop prevention programmes ranging from individual levels (of children and their families) to community levels (i.e. kindergartens, schools, other institutions for placing children).

Adolescent health

Health care of adolescents aims at ensuring their healthy growth, as well as physical and mental maturation. The most frequent diseases affecting this age group include respiratory diseases, contagious and parasitic diseases, as well as allergies and injuries.

Prevention objectives and specific health care activities include: early identification and recognition of disorders and diseases, the prevention of the appearance of socially unacceptable behaviour and addictions, teaching of healthy lifestyle attitudes and habits, developing responsibility for personal health, as well as the protection of mental health, particularly in connection with learning difficulties and adaptation to school.

Sexual health

Adolescents enter sexual relations very early, without using contraceptives and without protecting themselves from sexually transmitted infections. The percentage of pupils who have been sexually active amounts to 23.2% for boys and 9.7% for girls. An average age for having the first sexual intercourse is 14 years and a half for girls and 14 years for boys. 22% of boys and 21.3% of girls have not used any type of birth control.

Early pregnancy

Induced labour in women under the age of 19

Year	Legally induced labour in women under the age of 19	% of total number of legally induced labours	Total number of induced labours in women under the age of 19	% of total number of induced labours	TOTAL number of induced labour
2001	453	6.9	758	5.9	12,814
2002	482	7.8	781	6.5	12,002
2003	494	8.3	756	6.9	10,999

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Number of births by women under the age of 19 in the Republic of Croatia

Year	Child-bearing women under the age of 19	% of total number of births	TOTAL number of births
2001	2,152	5.6	38,726
2002	2,134	5.4	39,424
2003	1,951	5.0	38,925

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Drug abuse by children

The activities undertaken by the police in the period from 2001 to 2003 resulted in discovering and reporting 25,322 criminal acts of drug abuse. Within the activities of drug abuse prevention, there have been 21,577 seizures of narcotic drugs by police officers in the above-mentioned period. Further data in this regard may be found in the tables following below.

TABLE REPRESENTING TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CRIMINAL ACTS OF NARCOTIC DRUG ABUSE

Y E A R	2001	2002	2003
NUMBER OF CRIMINAL ACTS – Art. 173 of Criminal Code	8,609	8,717	7,992
NUMBER OF SEIZURES	7,620	7,585	6,366

Source: Ministry of the Interior

TABLE REPRESENTING SEIZED QUANTITIES OF CERTAIN TYPES OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

NARCOTIC DRUG	2001	2002	2003
HEROIN	19 kg 568 gr.	36 kg 935 gr.	85 kg 727 gr.
HASHISH	4 kg 558 gr.	2 kg 053 gr.	2 kg 281 gr.
MARIJUANA	737 kg 911 gr.	595 kg 190 gr.	435 kg 037 gr.
COCAINE	1 kg 486 gr.	3 kg 296 gr.	350 kg 769 gr.
AMPHETAMINES	930 gr.	28kg 026gr.	3 kg 814 gr.
HEPTANON	4 190	4 047	3 842
ECSTASY	12 905	110 632	29 840
LSD (doze)	154	192	14

Source: Ministry of the Interior

With regard to age groups of persons against whom criminal charges were filed on account of the perpetration of the criminal act of narcotic drug abuse, children at the age of 14 accounted for 0.12% of the total number of perpetrators of these criminal acts in 2001, 0.09% in 2002 and 0.04% in 2003. Young minors aged 14 – 16 accounted for 2.81% of the total number of perpetrators in 2001, 2.27% in 2002 and 1.88% in 2003. Elder minors aged from 16 – 18 accounted for 14.06% of the total number of perpetrators of this criminal act in 2001, 11.22% in 2002 and 9.34% in 2003. These figures indicate the presence of a positive trend identified in the above-mentioned period, this being a gradual decrease of the number of minors in the total number of perpetrators of this criminal act.

The activities undertaken by the police in the period from 2001 to 2003 resulted in the reporting of 2,668 minors (above the age of 14) criminally accountable for perpetrating the criminal acts of narcotic drug abuse. There has been a positive trend of the reduction of the number of minors who have committed this criminal act. Minors have mostly been reported for the criminal act of narcotic drug possession (2,380 cases, i.e. 89.21% of the total number of reported minors). Most reported minors are male (i.e. 88.19% of the total number of the reported minors).

TABLE REPRESENTING THE NUMBER OF REPORTED MINORS WHO COMMITTED CRIMINAL ACTS OF NARCOTIC DRUG ABUSE

Year	Art. 173 par.1	Art. 173 par.2	Art. 173 par.3	Art. 173 par.4	Art. 173 par.5	Art. 173 par.6	Art. 173 par.7	Art. 173 par.8	Sex of perpetrator	
									M	F
2001	1,003	94	5	-	21	6	-	-	996	133
2002	811	58	4	-	24	4	-	-	799	102
2003	566	45	1	2	16	8	-	-	558	80
Total	2,380	197	10	2	61	18	-	-	2,353	315

Source: Ministry of the Interior

In the same period, there were 13 children reported for committing the criminal act of narcotic drug abuse.

TABLE REPRESENTING NUMBERS OF CHILDREN PERPETRATORS OF CRIMINAL ACTS OF NARCOTIC DRUG ABUSE

Year	Art. 173 par.1	Art. 173 par.2	Art. 173 par.3	Art. 173 par.4	Art. 173 par.5	Art. 173 par.6	Art. 173 par.7	Art. 173 par.8	Sex of perpetrator	
									M	F
2001	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
2002	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
2003	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Total	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Marijuana consumption by pupils in the first grade of secondary schools (ESPAD)

Children who used marijuana at least once in their life

	1995	1999	2003
	%	%	%
Boys	12	18	24
Girls	5	12	17

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Children who used marijuana three and more times in their life

	1995	1999	2003
	%	%	%
Boys	6	10	15
Girls	3	8	11

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Consumption of marijuana by pupils of the first and second grades of secondary schools in Zagreb and Croatia in 2003

	Grade I		Grade II	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	%	%	%	%
Zagreb	34	27	42	37
Croatia	24	17	35	29

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Persons treated for consumption of or addiction to psychotropic substances in the Republic of Croatia

Year	Number of treated persons under the age of 19	% of the total number or treated persons	TOTAL number of treated persons
2001	1,546	31.8	5,320
2002	1,486	25.6	5,811
2003	924	16.3	5,678

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Alcohol consumption by children

Since 2001, the police have been applying specially formulated procedures intended for the cases in which it has been established that minors have bought or drunk alcohol. In such

cases, they file charges for a misdemeanour against the person who sold an alcoholic beverage to the minor in question.

Beside the police, catering service inspectors have also been undertaking measures in the protection of children from alcohol consumption pursuant to the Catering Trade Act.

Alcohol consumption by pupils in the first grade of secondary schools (ESPAD)

Pupils who drank alcohol at least once in their life

	1995	1999	2003
	%	%	%
Boys	85	88	91
Girls	78	83	88

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Heavy drinking three or more times

	1995	1999	2003
	%	%	%
Boys	30	35	45
Girls	11	19	26

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

'Binge drinking' in the last one-month period

	1995	1999	2003
	%	%	%
Boys	35	35	40
Girls	18	23	29

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Data on suicides committed by children and adolescents

The period from 2001 to 2003 saw a total of 145 suicides and attempted suicides. 41 suicides and attempted suicides, i.e. 28.27% of the total number suicides and attempted suicides were committed by children (i.e. persons under the age of 14), while the remaining 104 suicides and attempted suicides, i.e. 71.73% of suicides and attempted suicides, were committed by minors, that is, persons aged 14 to 18.

TABLE REPRESENTING TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDES BY MINORS

YEAR	UNDER THE AGE OF 14	AGED 14 – 18	TOTAL
2001	28	22	50
2002	4	38	42
2003	9	44	53
TOTAL	41	104	145

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Number of suicides by persons aged 18 and under from 2001 to 2003

	Number of suicides
2001	13
2002	11
2003	18

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Persons killed in traffic accidents aged 18 and under by age, sex and settlement type from 2001 to 2003

Age	Sex	2001.			2002.			2003.		
		Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements	Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements	Total	In urban settlements	In rural settlements
Total	both	59	22	37	37	18	19	58	26	32
	men	41	15	26	26	13	13	38	17	21
	women	18	7	11	11	5	6	20	9	11
0 - 4	both	9	3	6	3	2	1	6	3	3
	men	6	2	4	1	1	-	3	2	1
	women	3	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	2
5 - 9	both	13	6	7	6	4	2	10	7	3
	men	6	4	2	5	4	1	5	3	2
	women	7	2	5	1	-	1	5	4	1
10 - 14	both	10	3	7	10	5	5	11	3	8
	men	8	2	6	8	5	3	9	2	7
	women	2	1	1	2	-	2	2	1	1
15 - 17	both	27	10	17	18	7	11	31	13	18
	men	21	7	14	12	3	9	21	10	11
	women	6	3	3	6	4	2	10	3	7

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Mental health

Major causes of mental health disorders in children and adolescents include the following: mental disturbances and behaviour disturbances caused by alcohol consumption and psychotropic drug abuse, neuroses and disturbances caused by stress, mental retardation, schizophrenia and other mental health disorders. In 2001, the total number of children with mental health problems amounted to 4,196.

The most frequent reasons for hospitalisation are schizophrenia, alcohol abuse, reaction to severe stress, depression. In the course of 2001, the number of boys aged 7 to 14 who were hospitalised amounted to 278, while the number of girls hospitalised in the same period was 214. In the same period, the number of hospitalised boys and girls aged 15 to 19 was 338 and 263, respectively.

IDENTIFIED DISEASES IN 2001

MKB10	0 – 6 YEARS OF AGE	AGED 7 - 19
F00-F06	0	0
F10	0	3
F11-F19	2	17
F20-F29	2	5
F40-F48	144	149
F70-F79	186	138
F79-F99	2470	1082
TOTAL	2,802	1,394

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

8. Please provide disaggregated data (including, where relevant, by gender, age, type of crime and by ethnic and minority group) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, in particular on the:

8. a) number of persons below 18 who allegedly committed a crime reported to the police;

Reported minors by age and sex

	Reported minors	Age		Sex	
		14 – 16	16 – 18	Male	Female
2001	4,604 100%	1,642 35.7%	2,962 64.3%	4,304 93.5%	300 6.5%
2002	3,872 100%	1,352 35.0%	2,520 65.0 %	3,615 93.0%	257 7.0%
2003	3,,652 100%	1,328 36.4%	2,324 63.6%	3,367 92.2%	285 7.8%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

With regard to reported minors, it should be noted that in the case of criminal charges filed against 45.9% of minors in 2001, the offices of the State Attorney applied the principle of diversion with or without stipulating special duties as informal sanctions including the following: a) the minor in question should, according to his/her own abilities, repair or compensate for the damage caused by

the committed criminal act; b) the minor in question should get involved in the work of humanitarian organisations or activities of community or environmental protection importance; c) the minor in question should undergo a treatment of giving up drug consumption and other addictions; d) the minor in question should get involved in individual or group work of an adolescent counselling centre.

In the course of 2002 and 2003, the above-mentioned principle was applied to 53.1% and 53.5% of minors, respectively.

Classification of criminal acts committed by minors

Type of criminal acts	2001	2002	2003
Criminal acts against life and physical integrity	156 3.4%	127 3.3%	166 4.5%
Criminal acts related to narcotic drug abuse	1,216 26.4%	977 25.2%	766 21.0%
Criminal acts against sexual freedom and morals	33 0.7%	25 0.6%	40 1.1%
Criminal acts against property	2,614 56.8%	2,227 57.5%	2,226 61.0%
Criminal acts against general security of persons and property and traffic safety	118 2.6%	100 2.6%	92 2.5%
Criminal acts against authenticity of documents	159 3.5%	82 2.1%	63 1.7%
Criminal acts against public order	77 1.7%	103 2.6%	89 2.4%
Other criminal acts defined by the Criminal Code	231 5.0%	231 6.0%	210 5.7%
TOTAL	4,604 100%	3,872 100%	3,652 5.7%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

Sanctions against minors

	Reprimand measures - alternative sanctions	Intensified surveillance measure	Correctional institution measures	Juvenile court	Suspended sentence	Total
2001	213 28.3%	387 51.5%	118 15.7%	10 1.3%	24 3.2%	752 100%
2002	281 33.4%	405 48.2%	111 13.2%	11 1.3%	33 3.9%	841 100%
2003	276 33.0%	407 48.6%	95 11.3%	12 1.4%	47 5.6%	837 100%

Source: Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Croatia

With regard to alternative sanctions, the court may order one or more duties that the minor needs to assume if the court assesses that appropriate orders or restrictions should be used in order to make an impact on the minor and his or her behaviour. The court may establish the following duties that the minor in question needs to assume:

1. he/she should apologise to the injured party;
2. he/she should, according to his/her own abilities, repair or compensate for the damage caused by the criminal act in question;
3. he/she should attend school classes regularly;
4. he/she may not be absent from his/her place of work;
5. he/she should attend training for a profession that suits best his/her interests and abilities;
6. he/she should accept a job and persist in keeping it;
7. he/she should get involved in the work of humanitarian organisations or business activities of community or environmental protection importance;
8. he/she should refrain from visiting certain outlets or attending certain events and stay away from the company of persons that may have harmful influence over him/her;
9. with a prior consent of the minor's legal representative, the person in question should undergo an expert drug abuse medical treatment or a procedure of overcoming other addictions;
10. he/she should get involved in individual or group work in an adolescent counselling centre;
11. he/she should attend vocational training courses;
12. without a special approval of the relevant social welfare centre, he/she may not leave the place of permanent or temporary residence for a longer period of time;
13. for the purpose of checking his/her knowledge of traffic regulations, he/she may be sent to a school in charge of training of future drivers.

In its selection of particular sanctions to be established, the court is liable to take into consideration, among other things, the willingness of the minor to participate in their application, as well as the fact that the sanctions in question should be adjusted to the minor and the conditions in which he/she lives.

The stipulated sanctions may be ordered for a period of not more than a year.

8. b) number of persons below 18 who were sentenced by courts to sanctions, and the nature of sanctions (community service, detention, other types of sanctions);

According to data of the Directorate for Prison System of the Ministry of Justice, in the period from 2001 to 2003 there were:

135 persons who were under the age of 18 when the sentence of corrective training in their case was pronounced, while 9 persons were under the age of 18 when the juvenile court sentence of imprisonment in their case was pronounced.

8. c) number of persons below 18 detained and imprisoned, the location of their detention or imprisonment place and the lengths of their deprivation of liberty;

In the period from 2001 to 2003, there were a total of 217 detained persons who were under the age of 18 when the sentence of their detention was passed.

8. d) detention facilities for persons below 18 and their capacity;

In the Directorate for Prison System of the Ministry of Justice there are three institutions intended for persons under the age of 18 these being the following:

- a) the Correctional Institution of Turopolje which accommodates 98 minors. This Correctional Institution is used for the implementation of the sanction of corrective training that the court orders for male minors.
- b) the Correctional Institution of Požega which accommodates 50 minors. This Correctional Institution is used for the implementation of the sanction of corrective training that the court orders for female minors.
- c) A Division of the Juvenile Court at the Penitentiary of Požega which accommodates 20 minors. This Division is intended for the implementation of the sanction of juvenile court imprisonment ordered for male minors.

In the period from 2001 to 2003, the number of persons under the age of 18 who were sent for corrective training in one of the correctional institutions was as follows:

- the Correctional Institution of Turopolje: 115 males;
- the Correctional Institution of Požega: 20 females;

During the same period, the sentence of juvenile court imprisonment in the Division of the Juvenile Court at the Penitentiary of Požega was passed on 9 males under the age of 18.

8. e) persons below 18 detained in these facilities and minors detained in adult facilities;

In the period from 2001 to 2003, there were a total of 217 persons detained in adult facilities who were under the age of 18 at the time of their arrest.

8. f) reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons below 18 occurred during their arrest and detention.

In the period from 2001 – 2003, there were 120 reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons under the age of 18 occurred at the time of their arrest and the serving of sentence (bullying among detainees).

11. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, urban/rural areas) for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number of children:

11. a) involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking and the number of children provided with access to recovery and other assistance;

Criminal acts referring to sexual exploitation of children are international prostitution, procuring, exploitation of children or minors for pornography and familiarising children with pornography. In the period from 2001 to 2003, 158 such criminal acts against children and minors were reported, including 2 criminal acts of international prostitution, 20 criminal acts of procuring, 91 criminal acts of exploitation of children or minors for pornography and 45 criminal acts of familiarising children with pornography. A gradual increase of the number of such criminal acts has been identified in the course of the period under review.

TABLE REPRESENTING THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL ACTS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

CRIMINAL ACTS	2001	2002	2003	TOTAL
Art. 178, par. 3 - International prostitution	1	1	0	2
Art.195, par. 1, 4, 5, 6 - Procuring	11	3	6	20
Art. 196 – Exploitation of children or minors for pornography	23	31	37	91
Art. 197 – Familiarising children with pornography	7	19	19	45
TOTAL	42	54	62	158

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Faced with the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, as one of the most blatant violations of human rights, the Government established, in 2002, the National Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons whose main purpose is to formulate and implement the National Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. This marked the beginning of more systematic dealing with the issues of trafficking in persons.

The first data on the number, sex and age of children victims of trafficking in persons date back to 2002 when there were no children victims of trafficking, while in 2003 there were two girls aged 17 who were identified as victims of trafficking in persons.

In June 2004, within the framework of the National Committee, a Working Group for the Prevention of Trafficking in Children was established, its objective being the co-ordination of national and regional activities in combating trafficking in children with a special emphasis placed on particular vulnerability of children as victims of trafficking. The Working Group will formulate an action strategy of combating trafficking in children and prepare, in the framework of the National Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, an action plan for combating trafficking in children that it will then monitor and co-ordinate.

11. b) involved in substance abuse and the number of children who received treatment and rehabilitative assistance;

The answer to this question is contained in the answer to question number 7.

11. c) involved in child labour;

The legislation of the Republic of Croatia does not contain a regulation which would explicitly define what may be considered to be “the worst forms of child labour”. However, a number of acts and by-laws regulate this matter. This problem is not present to a significant extent, but it still receives significant attention. The definition that is in use corresponds to the definition given by the ILO Convention 182 [Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour](#).

The Labour Act specifies that the person under the age of 15 must not be employed. Exceptionally, and with a prior approval by a workplace inspector, the child at the age of 15 may participate, for an appropriate charge, in the production of movies, the performance of works of art and similar works, provided that this does not jeopardise his/her health, morals, school studies or development.

The Act forbids overtime work and the work in night shifts for minors, as well as the employment of minors at workplaces that may have harmful effects on their health, morals and development.

From January 2002 to April 2003, workplace inspectors established that 5 minors at the age of 16 to 17 (all minors were male) illegally worked under special working conditions, whereby 4 of them worked in bakeries and one of them worked on pulling logs from the woods. On account of the offences established in accordance with the Act on Occupational Safety and Health, the workplace inspectors ordered the employers in question to dismiss the minors. Moreover, requests for initiating offence procedures against the employers were filed (and they were penalised by pecuniary penalties of HRK 10,000 and 1,000). During the same period, workplace inspectors in charge of labour relations identified 117 infringements of the said Act in the case of 99 minors (out of whom there were 65 young women) in the sectors of catering, trade, industry and construction in which they worked as waiters, sales persons, bakers and unskilled construction workers. In the cases in which minors’ illegal overtime work and work in night shifts was established, the employers in questions were forbidden to engage minors in overtime work and work in night shifts and the requests for initiating offense procedures against them were filed.

The workplace inspectors do not monitor the work of children who perform certain business activities on the basis of temporary service contracts (such as, for instance, fashion modeling, advertisement production, movie production), so that there are no data on potential violations of children’s rights in this respect.

11. d) unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and displaced children.

The term ‘unaccompanied child’ means the child unaccompanied by parents or a guardian. Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Act, every child (i.e. the person under the age of 18) is entitled to protection and life with his/her parents, unless this is contrary to child’s interest.

The unaccompanied child who finds himself/herself in the territory of the Republic of Croatia is placed under the guardianship (guardianship prescribed for special circumstances) in accordance with the provisions of the Family Act. In such cases, social welfare centres act *ex officio*. They may obtain the information on unaccompanied children through their regular activities, as well as from other sources (i.e. children's relatives, pre-primary schools, schools, police, health care institutions, non-governmental organisations, etc.).

The Act on Settling the Conflict between the National Legislation and the Legislation of Other Countries in certain relations prescribes that for the purpose of placing a person under guardianship and terminating such guardianship and for the purpose of relations between the guardian and the person placed under guardianship (dependant), applicable law shall be the law of the country in which the dependant holds citizenship. Temporary protection measures established for foreign citizens and stateless persons who stay in the Republic of Croatia shall be regulated by law of the Republic of Croatia and remain effective until the relevant country has passed a decision and undertaken appropriate measures.

In accordance with what has been explained above, a guardian is appointed *ex officio* in all the cases of unaccompanied children. The guardian may be an employee of a social welfare centre, the child's relative, the person with whom the child stays or a third person who meets the legal requirements to be a guardian. The guardian is appointed immediately upon receiving the information that the child in question is unaccompanied. The selection of the guardian varies from one case to another, but each child placed under guardianship is entitled to free legal aid provided by lawyers at social welfare centres. The guardian becomes the child's legal representative. Moreover, in capacity of the guardian body, the social welfare centre may directly undertake the measures that are needed for the child to exercise his or her rights. For instance, it may submit an application to secure health care for the child, etc.

Upon receiving the information on an unaccompanied child and appointing his/her guardian, the social welfare centre informs, through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and via diplomatic correspondence, competent bodies of the country of origin about the temporary measures of child protection that have been undertaken and seeks the data that are required for taking care of the child on a permanent basis. Whenever this is possible, the child's contact with his/her family is ensured. In cases in which family reunification in a European country has been sought, competent bodies ask for the data on the conditions in which the child would live upon family reunification, as well as an assessment of the child's interests. In the process of family reunification and the return to the country of origin, the child's view will be taken into consideration in accordance with his/her age, maturity and best interest.

An analysis of the existing practice has shown that particularly in cases of small children there is a long period of time before the competent bodies of the child's country of origin undertake child protection measures. In such cases, the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to its positive regulations, may not apply permanent measures of child protection. Therefore, it is, among other things, for the purpose of protecting the interests of such children that the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children is in the process of ratification.

If the protection measure of removing a minor from the territory of the Republic of Croatia has been instituted, police officers shall pursue the activities of establishing the minor's identity, procuring travel documents and organising his/her accompanying to a diplomatic mission or a consular office of the state of his/her citizenship. Upon obtaining the

travel documents, they will organise the accompanying of the minor to the state border. In order to protect the interests of the child, the guardian is obliged to participate in accompanying the child.

Children unaccompanied by parents and found in the territory of the Republic of Croatia

YEAR	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
2000	377
2001	568
2002	227
2003	204
TOTAL	1,376

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Countries of origin of children unaccompanied by parents (placed in homes for children and minors of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)

Country of origin	2001		Total	2002		Total	2003		Total
	M	F		M	F		M	F	
Romania	128	30	158	18	3	21	11	3	14
Turkey	16	1	17	38	0	38	2	0	2
Bulgaria	0	12	12	2	3	5	0	2	2
Bosnia and	17	2	19	39	4	43	11	2	13
Serbia and Montenegro	16	6	22	45	8	53	10	2	12
Albania	3	0	3	17	0	17	13	0	13
Moldova	5	5	10	2	0	2	0	0	0
Macedonia	10	10	20	13	3	16	0	0	0
China	6	9	15	2	8	10	0	0	0
Iran	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2
Iraq	7	0	7	4	0	4	0	0	0
Slovenia	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Italy	2	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0
Afghanistan	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bangladesh	4	0	4	0	0	0	8	0	8
India	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somalia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chechnya	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other countries	0	0	0	3	2	5	0	0	0
UKUPNO	227	81	308	194	33	227	61	10	71

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Since May 2001, automatic data processing has been used to update numerical data on the number of cases of reporting the offence of illegal crossing of the state border by minors accompanied by parents or unaccompanied minors according to citizenship and police administrations.

In the course of eight months of 2001, offense procedure was initiated in 419 cases of illegal state border crossing by minors of foreign citizenship, whereby 342 minors, i.e. 81.62% of them, were minors unaccompanied by a guardian. Most minors were citizens of Serbia and Montenegro (100), Macedonia (58) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (29).

In 2002, offense procedure was initiated against minors in 261 cases of illegal state border crossing, whereby 193 minors, i.e. 73.95% of them, were minors unaccompanied by parents from Serbia and Montenegro (110), 42 unaccompanied minors were from Turkey, and there were 41 unaccompanied minors from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the course of 2003, there were 224 minors caught in illegal state border crossing, whereby 195 of them, i.e. 87.05% of them, were unaccompanied by parents. Then, again, most of the minors were citizens of Serbia and Montenegro (66), followed by citizens of Albania (52), Bosnia and Herzegovina (23) and Turkey (21). In most cases, the minors were young men at the age of 16 to 18, mostly accompanied by elder persons, usually their elder brothers and other relatives.

According to the evidence kept by the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Ježevo, the number of accommodated children under the age of 14 was as follows: in 2001, there were 61 children; in 2002, 37 children, and in 2003, 5 children. All of the children were accompanied by parents or a guardian from the group in which they were found at the time, so that they were then placed in separate rooms.

B. General Measures of Implementation

1. Please provide information on the reasons some of the recommendations contained in the Committee's previous observations (CRC/C/15/Add.52) have not yet been fully implemented, in particular the ones related to (i) non-discrimination (para, 15), (ii) training programmes on the Convention (para, 24), the situation of children in institutions or in foster care (para, 25).

1. With regard to the recommendations contained in the Committee's previous observations (CRC/C/15/Add.52) that have not yet been fully implemented (in the Committee's opinion) and that are related to (i) non-discrimination (paragraph 15), (ii) training programmes on the Convention (paragraph 24) and the situation of children in institutions or in foster care (paragraph 25), we would like to state the following:

(i) non-discrimination (paragraph 15)

The Committee expressed "concern about the Law on Temporary Possession, according to which property may be occupied by temporary settlers in the absence of the property owners." Moreover, the Committee was "concerned that families affected by this law will face problems if they should return before the present occupiers have found alternative shelter."

First, it should be noted that such concerns were expressed by the Committee in 1996, while in the meantime, the Government policy has been particularly dynamic and many changes have occurred. In this context, we would like to inform you briefly, in the text following below, about the process of the return of property and the difficulties that accompanied it.

- The Law on Temporary Possession (its full title being the Law on Temporary Take-over and Management of Property), which was in force from 1996 to mid-1998, regulated temporary take-over of property whose owners were refugees who had left Croatia.
- The above-mentioned Law was repealed in mid-1998 when the process of organised return of refugees began. The same period saw the beginning of the process of return of private property, as well as the finding of solutions for permanent housing of the settled population. This was defined by new legislation including the following: the Act on the Suspension of the Law on Temporary Take-over and Management of Property and the Programme of Return.
- However, municipal/city housing committees (hereinafter: 'local housing committees – LHC') that were in charge of the return of property did not function, so that the state administration was not in a position to control local self-government. That is why in the second half of 2001 the Government initiated a comprehensive reform of the system of temporarily occupied property.
- The Amendments to the Act on the Areas of Special State Concern of August 2002 provided new procedures intended to solve previous problems related to the interpretation of the procedure of property return. The LHCs were dissolved and the responsibility for property return was assumed by the state administration. As a result, arbitrary interpretation by certain local authorities was eliminated. Priority was given to the owner and, pursuant to a previously issued official decision, the temporary owner is liable to leave the property that he/she had occupied.

Based on the statistical data, certain indicators are shown in the text following below:

- The total number of returnees to Croatia from the beginning of the return process in 1995 amounts to over 323,000 persons of whom one third are Serbs;
- The entire property returned to owners or empty premises amount to 17,226 housing units out of which there are 4,021 units that are still empty and waiting for their owners;
- There is a total of 2,048 occupied housing units that still need to be returned for which 1,420 owners submitted their applications, while 628 applications for the return of property have not been submitted yet.

Since the beginning of 2004, the Government initiated a number of measures aimed at speeding up the process of property return and established the Commission on the Return of Refugees and Property Rights to control the return process. The owners whose property had not been returned by the end of 2002 are indemnified.

With regard to the former tenancy rights, the current situation is as follows:

- According to the Amendments to the Act on the Areas of Special State Concern, refugees from the areas of special state concern are given an opportunity to rent a house or a flat owned by the State.

- In order to facilitate the return of the former tenancy right holders returning to the areas outside the areas of special state concern, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a Conclusion in June 2003 based on the Programme of Return and the Act on State Aid for Housing Construction (hereinafter: 'SAHC'). The provision of housing for this category of the population may be ensured within the options offered by the SAHC. It will be achieved by securing the following for returnees: *(i)* the renting of state-owned flats to be bought by the State; or *(ii)* the returnees' purchase of their own flats with the possibility of long-term payment by instalments under more favourable conditions. The final deadline for the returnees' applications for the provision of housing is the end of 2004, while the final deadline for the implementation of this Programme is the end of 2006. A media campaign initiated at the beginning of 2004 for the purpose of familiarising potential applicants with their rights and informing refugees, particularly the refugees living abroad (especially the refugees living in Serbia and Montenegro).

The new Government has reiterated its appeal to all refugees to return to their homes guaranteeing fully their civil, property and minority rights. In this respect, unconditional return of all refugees and displaced persons, regardless of their nationality, is the basis of Croatian policy and politics. In spite of certain incidents at the local level, the return of refugees and displaced persons is no longer a political problem. Dealing with this matter today primarily depends on the economic situation of the country. Over 90% of the funds intended for financing the Government programmes in this field are covered by the State Budget.

The Croatian Government is determined to solve, as soon as possible, the issues related to the return of refugees and their property, as well as their social integration.

(ii) training programmes on the Convention (paragraph 24)

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports undertakes a number of activities of education about children's rights.

Within the Programme of Activities of the Prevention of Violence among Children and Adolescents, the Ministry implements the project of the "Establishment of Positive Values in Combating Violence". Schools pay significant attention to the implementation of the said project through regular school classes, extracurricular activities and individual work with their pupils.

All education institutions, as well as the state administration offices at the county level, have appointed experts to co-ordinate the activities related to the issues of children's rights. The co-ordinators are obliged to be involved in all forms of education.

Education institutions have marked visible and accessible places for putting posters, designing large boards and presenting printed materials on the issues of children's rights. Such places provide pupils, teachers and parents with the most important information on children's rights.

Furthermore, education institutions have specified visible and accessible places with the prominent sign saying "place of zero tolerance of violence". Such places are intended for putting posters, designing large boards and presenting materials on the problems of violence.

The Ministry supports the UNICEF programme in Croatia entitled "School without Violence". In the framework of the programme, a total of 116 schools so far have participated in the project entitled "Safe and Enabling Schools".

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports has published an invitation for financing projects and programmes of non-governmental organisations in the field of extra-

institutional education of children and adolescents in school year 2004/2005. In addition, the framework of priority activities encompasses the field of combating bullying among children and adolescents.

In the framework of extracurricular activities schools organise workshops on children's rights.

In the period from 2001 to 2003, in co-operation with and financially assisted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the non-governmental organisation for initiatives in social policy, called the Centre for the Rights of the Child, implemented a project entitled the "Participation of children in education process – exercise of the rights of children placed in homes for children in the Republic of Croatia". The project included a survey of children's participation in the exercise of their rights in homes for children, as well as the education of children and staff about the rights of the child. The survey and education involved 120 children and 30 pedagogues employed in four homes for children without adequate parental care.

The curriculum of the High Police School includes the education about the areas covered by the Convention on the Rights of the Child in several school courses.

Through education at the Police Academy of the Ministry of the Interior, which is organised to fulfil the needs of the police system, topics contained in the Convention have been incorporated in classes, so that in the course of 2003 and 2004, a total of 276 participants were taught the important topics of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the framework of 41 school classes.

(iii) The situation of children in institutions or in foster care

Social welfare system is mainly institutionalised, particularly with regard to certain user categories. In most cases, the system provides placement in homes, while other forms of welfare (different services, help and care at home, support for families taking care of the disabled members, etc.) are poorly and insufficiently developed.

The process of de-institutionalisation of the social welfare system will take place in accordance with the Government objectives and the strategy of the social welfare system reform. The aim of de-institutionalisation is to achieve a change in the ratio of institutional and non-institutional forms of welfare in favour of the latter.

In order to establish the scope and dynamics of the de-institutionalisation process, as well as professional and financial feasibility of this type of care, a Draft Study on De-institutionalisation of the Special Care System has been elaborated with a view to improving the level of service for socially vulnerable user groups.

The latest amendments of June 2003 define the concept of organised dwelling, which implies the living of one person or more persons, usually a maximum of 5 people, living together during 24 hours whereby a professional or some other person is organised to offer them help on a temporary or permanent basis in order to ensure their basic needs, as well as social, working, cultural, leisure and other needs.

This form of dwelling organisation has been applied ever since 2001 through the Inclusion Association *Lastavice (Swallows)* from Split that started implementing the de-institutionalisation programme for children without adequate parental care, as well as children and adults suffering from mental retardation.

This form of care has been implemented within the activities of the homes for children without adequate parental care located in Zagreb, Osijek, Split, Lovran, Pula and Vinkovci

for a total of 40 users. The premises for all the housing communities (excluding the one founded by a non-governmental organisation) have been ensured by local and regional self-administration units, while the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare covers the expenses of placement for all users.

Certain social welfare homes offer sitting room services encouraging thus the development of daily centres with the option of service selection, which enables children to continue living in their own homes.

There is a growing tendency of placing children in foster families. A comparison of indicators for the previous ten years shows that the number of children placed in foster families has significantly increased.

With regard to the selection of this type of care provided in a family, which is undoubtedly more humane, the latest amendments of June 2003 have ensured a better approach to the development of foster care. This primarily refers to the issuance of permits for foster parents, the renewal of the permits, obligatory attendance of courses intended for foster parents, reduction of the number of persons that can be placed in one family (a maximum of five users), the specification of further conditions to be fulfilled by a foster family, etc. There is another possibility that has been introduced and that implies the organisation of a family home for six to twenty users as a new method of performing social welfare activities, which guarantees a higher-quality service.

- 2. Please provide updated information on the status of the following amendments and new laws, and further explain in which ways they are in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention;**
- 2. a) Law on Amendments to the Penal Act (2003);**

The Act on the Amendments to the Criminal Code entered into force in July 2004.

The Act includes a new criminal offence, i.e. “Child pornography in a computer system or on the network” (Article 197a) (Article 34 of the Convention). This provision stipulates a sentence of imprisonment of one to ten years for the person producing, offering, distributing, providing for himself/herself or other persons, that is, possessing pornographic materials that represent children or minors in explicit sexual scenes or focus on children's sexual organs.

Moreover, a person that makes available pictures, audio-visual materials and other pornography-related objects to a child shall be fined or sentenced to a maximum of three years of prison.

Article 175 of the Criminal Code entitled “Trafficking in persons and slavery” (Article 35 of the Convention) has also been amended.

Thus a person trafficking in children or minors commits a criminal act and may be sentenced to a minimum of five years of prison.

In the case that such a criminal act has been committed by a person who is a member of a group or criminal organisation or that it has been committed against a large number of people or that it has caused death of one or more persons, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to a minimum of five years of prison or to a long-term imprisonment (40 years).

Article 158 of the Criminal Code entitled “War crimes against civil population” has also been amended. This provision does not allow children under the age of 18 to be recruited by the national armed forces or to actively participate in actions against enemy (Article 38 of the Convention, i.e. the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

2. b) Amendments to the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities (passed in 2000);

In December 2002, a new Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities was passed. The introductory provisions of this Act invoke, among other international instruments, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The provisions of Article 30 of the Convention can be found in the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities.

The Republic of Croatia ensures the exercise of special rights and freedoms by members of national minorities on an individual basis or together with other members of the same national minority, or together with the members of other national minorities when this has been provided by the Constitutional Act or special acts. The special rights and freedoms mentioned above are as follows:

1. the use of the language and script of the national minority, both in private and in public, and their official use;
2. the education in the language and script of the national minority;
3. the use of the signs and symbols of the national minority;
4. cultural autonomy by maintaining, developing and expressing the culture of a particular national minority, and the preservation and protection of its cultural values and tradition;
5. the right to practise religion and establish religious communities together with other members of that religion;
6. the access to mass media and the performing of mass media-related activities (reception and distribution of information) in the language and script of the national minority;
7. freedom of association and freedom of assembly for the purpose of achieving common interest;
8. representation in the representative bodies at the state and local levels and in administrative and legal authorities;
9. the participation of members of national minorities in public life and the management of local affairs through council and national minority representatives;
10. the protection against any activity than jeopardises or may jeopardise the survival of the national minority and the exercise of rights and freedoms by its members.

Each right mentioned above has been elaborated in detail either in the Constitutional Act or in special acts.

Concerning the right to practise religion and regarding the issues of common interest, beside the agreement with the Holy See, agreements have been signed with the following: the Serb Orthodox Church, the Islam Community, the Evangelistic Church, the Reformed Christian Church, the Evangelic (Pentecost) Church, the Christian Adventist Church, the Union of Baptist Churches, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, the Croatian Old-Catholic Church and the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

2. c) Law on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities (passed in 2000);

The Act on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities passed in 2000 defines in detail the right of the members of national minorities to exercise their right to use their language and script in public and private life, in the local self-administration units in which the members of the national minorities form a minimum of one third of the population, i.e. in places where the local self-administration unit in question has introduced the minority language as equivalent to the official language by a statute, as well as when such matter is established by inter-state agreements. Such agreements have been concluded with Italy and Hungary.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned acts and agreements concerning children, the following rights are exercised:

- upon the registration of children in the register book, parents are entitled to establish the nationality of the child,
- the name of the child can be registered in the minority language at parents' request,
- according to a parents' decision, the child is entitled to attend religious education courses within the school system during his/her education,
- according to a parents' decision, the child may be educated in the minority language within the framework established by law.

Given that a 16 year-old child is entitled to have his/her identity card, he/she may decide to have a bilingual identity card and state his/her nationality.

2. d) Amendments to the Family Act (2003);

A new Family Act was passed in 2003 and amended in January 2004.

The most important changes compared to the previous Family Act consist in the fact that the measures for the protection of the rights and welfare of children, which were previously within the competence of the social welfare centre, were transferred into the competence of the court. These measures are as follows:

- taking away the right of parents to live with and raise their children,
- referring children with behaviour disturbances to social welfare institutions,
- prohibiting the parents or grandparents who do not live with the child to approach him/her without a previous authorisation and disturb him/her.

In the future, it will always be the court to adopt a decision on the parent with whom the child will live. According to the previous Family Act, the court would adopt such a decision only in the case of a marriage dispute and, if possible, in paternity suits, while in all other situations the decision would be adopted by a social welfare centre.

The reason for this change, i.e. for the transfer of the actual competence from the social welfare centre to the court, is based on the need to harmonise the Family Act with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (therefore also with Article 9(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The provisions of the Family Act by which the responsibility in conducting procedures has been transferred from the social welfare centre to the court should enter into force as of 1 October 2004. However, due to insufficient preparedness of the courts to assume the obligation to deal with these issues, the judicial system has sought a postponement of the date of entering into force of the said provisions. In this respect, appropriate activities of the

Government are under way whereby the Government will propose to the Croatian Parliament to postpone the deadline for taking over the above-mentioned responsibility by the court until 1 January 2006.

Another important change consists in the fact that the child, in addition to the situations in which he/she was entitled to a special guardian according to the previous act, is entitled to a special guardian in the following situations, too:

- maternity or paternity suits,
- the procedure of taking away the right of the parents to live with and raise their children,
- the procedure of referring children with behaviour disturbances to social welfare institutions,
- the procedure of depriving both parents or single parents of parental care.

With regard to adoption, some significant changes have occurred in the sense that two types of adoption have been abolished and only one type of adoption has been established that cannot be terminated, this measure being taken with a view to better, permanent and safer protection of the adopted child. When adopting brothers and sisters together, adoptive parents are encouraged by the fact that they need to fulfil the age requirement for only one of the children whom they wish to adopt. This possibility exists regardless of whether all the brothers and sisters are adopted immediately or subsequently.

In respect of the third parties, there is greater confidentiality of adoption-related information. Biological parents may give their consent for the adoption of their child only to unknown adoptive parents and are excluded as parties from the procedure after giving their consent. In the cases when adoption has been initiated without their consent, they are not entitled to have access to either the adoption file or to the state register of birth of the child. In this manner the adoptive family is better protected from being potentially disturbed by the biological parents.

In the section defining guardianship, certain changes have been enacted whereby:

- the dependant who has not attained majority must be appropriately informed of the important circumstances of the case in accordance with his/her age and maturity. He/she is entitled to be advised and to express his/her views, as well as to be informed of the potential consequences that his/her views may have on making a decision on his/her rights.

With regard to maternity or paternity suits, a provision has been adopted whereby the court is instructed how to shorten this procedure, while the parties concerned are advised of the consequences of non-appearance or of obstructing the presentation of evidence material via medical expertise.

2. e) the now Asylum Act (2003);

The Asylum Act that entered into force on 1 July 2004 is in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the sense that the child, i.e. the minor, is considered to be each person below the age of eighteen years.

The Asylum Act establishes the right of the child to have a guardian. The above-mentioned provision is in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Act ensures the right to freedom of religion and religious education of children asylum seekers and asylees. The aforementioned provisions are in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Act stipulates that the asylee staying in the Republic of Croatia will be granted the right to join the members of his/her immediate family. The following persons are considered to be members of the immediate family: spouses, minor children not having their own family, and parents, i.e. legal representatives of the child.

The above-mentioned provisions are in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Act ensures the right of the child asylum seeker to have access to a full range of health care services the same as those at the disposal of Croatian nationals. This provision is in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Act establishes the right of asylum seekers to primary education, as well as the right of asylees to primary, secondary and higher education under the same conditions as those that are valid for Croatian nationals. This refers to children of a stated category of foreigners, and is in accordance with the provision of Article 28 of the Convention on the rights of the Child.

2. f) Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act (2003).

The Amendments to this Act were passed in 2002.

They envisage intensified protection of children and minors, particularly in the provisions on testifying which are intended to protect especially children victims of criminal acts as particularly vulnerable witnesses. Interrogation contradictions in pre-investigation and investigation procedures are avoided in the best interest of the child's protection. A special method of interrogating a child victim is oriented to increased protection of the child from an additional trauma caused by the procedure itself. The participation of experts in the interrogation of a child victim of a criminal act requires the establishment of a method of examination (both in terms of content and communication) and the possibility of using statements by such experts in the procedure. In terms of the content, the court determines the course of interrogation, while the expert determines the mode of conducting the interrogation. This, in principle, is considered to be the approach in use. The interrogation may be conducted in such a way as to require a special method of communication with the witness, as well as a special method of giving statements (for example, by drawing, imitation of gestures, showing of objects). The Act stipulates that the interrogation of the child who suffered in a criminal act must always be conducted with the help of psychologists, pedagogues or other experts.

3. Please indicate whether the Convention has been invoked in domestic courts, and if any, please provide examples.

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, as the highest court in Croatia, has indicated that the Criminal Code and the Act on Juvenile Courts entirely guarantee protection to children and minors from criminal effects on their physical integrity, health, healthy sexual development, the possibility of education and balanced personality development. With regard to comprehensive legal solutions protecting the interests of children and minors, the Convention has not been invoked in decision-making procedures of domestic courts.

4. Please provide information on the current status and activities of the existing institutions, in particular of the Council for Children, the Ombudsman for Children, etc.

The following government bodies are active at the Ministry of Family, Defenders and Intergeneration Solidarity:

Council for Children – advisory and expert government body established in order to permanently monitor the implementation of the National Action Programme for Children, and to co-ordinate and harmonise the work of the government and other bodies in accomplishing planned measures and activities of the National Programme. The Council for Children consists of representatives of ministries and other state administration bodies, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, as well as the media and non-governmental organisations working with children.

Council for Adolescents – interdisciplinary and expert advisory government body entrusted with the participation in co-ordinating the implementation and evaluation of the National Action Programme for Adolescents (aged 15 to 29). The Council for Adolescents is a newly established body consisting of representatives of ministries and other state administration bodies, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations of and for adolescents.

Government Commission for Persons with Disabilities – advisory and expert government body entrusted with giving proposals, opinions and expert explanations in the field of status, protection and rehabilitation of disabled persons. The Commission consists of representatives of ministries and other state administration bodies, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, and non-governmental organisations of disabled persons.

Government Commission for the Prevention of Behaviour Disturbances in Children and Adolescents – advisory and expert government body in charge of providing expert help in discussing and deciding on all the issues related to necessary measures that should be taken in due time in the interest of children and adolescents, particularly in the interest of children and adolescents living in conditions of high risk, and in the interest of their care. The Commission consists of representatives of ministries and other state administration bodies, and representatives of scientific and technical institutions.

Ombudsperson for Children

The Act on the Ombudsperson for Children entered into force in June 2003. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children became active at the end of October 2003.

In January 2004, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children included a petition to the Government to postpone the date of entering into force of a section of the Family Act relating to the transfer of competences from social welfare centres to courts in decision making concerning the interests of children. There has also been a proposal to establish family departments at municipal courts and to train future judges in the field of family matters.

For the purpose of better identity protection of children appearing in the media, a change of the Croatian Journalist Code has been initiated.

With regard to absolute confidentiality of information on the adoption of children, a proposal has been submitted to the Central State Administration Office regarding a change of the by-law referring to registering the information on adoption, including extracts from children's birth registers.

The Ombudsperson for Children is a member of the Working Group for the Prevention of Trafficking in Children, participates in the project referring to the protection of children separated from their parents, and is actively involved in the work of the Asylum Co-ordination Group.

Furthermore, the proposal of the Ombudsperson for Children to include a course on human rights and the rights of the child in the 'knowledge catalogues' of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has been approved.

The Ombudsperson for Children is a member of the Working Group for Promoting the Protection against Domestic Violence established at the Ministry of Family, Defenders and Intergeneration Solidarity.

The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children directly communicates with children on a regular basis, visits institutions where children are placed (homes for children, homes for children with behaviour disturbances, educational institutions and prisons for minors), and assesses the care provided to children in such institutions.

After repeated occurrence of violence among children at the end of 2003 and the beginning of 2004, both inside and outside the institutions, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Programme of Activities for the Prevention of Violence among Children and Adolescents at the end of February 2004. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children is one of the organisers of the Programme. Furthermore, it monitors the implementation of the Programme by other parties, submits relevant reports to the Government and participates in the formulation of a protocol of procedures to be initiated by the authorities with regard to violence among children.

- 5. In view of the reforms in the functioning of the Council for Children, created in 1998 to ensure the implementation of the National Action Programme for Children (paragraph 26 of the State party's report), please provide information about its functioning, activities and results, and about the participation of representatives of NGOs, particularly after its reform in 2000. Please provide information on the implementation of the National Action Programme for Children.**

In the course of 2000, the Government initiated the process of restructuring the Council for Children and in May 2000 it amended the Decision on the Establishment of the Council, whereby the number of Council members was reduced with a view to higher efficiency. At the session held in October in 2000, there was a new (second) convocation of the Council. In June 2004 new members of the Council for Children were appointed.

The text following below is a chronological order of results achieved by the Council for Children in the period from 2000 to 2004.

2000 – 2001:

By the end of 2000, two sessions were held at which the basic organisation by-laws were adopted, i.e. the Action Plan of 2001, and the Financial Plan of the same year. Working groups of the Council for Children were appointed and the Decade Report in the field of children's care in the past 10 years was presented in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

The activities of the Council for Children consist of sessions of all the members held on a regular basis (four times a year) and four permanent working groups:

- a. the Working Group for the Review of the National Action Programme for Children,
- b. the Working Group for Monitoring the Regulations referring to the Status and Protection of children,
- c. the Working Group for Co-operation with Local and Regional Self-administration Units,
- d. the Working Group for Ethical Issues and Media Activities.

In this period all the Working Groups held a minimum one session at which they defined their aims and methods applying a single methodology.

Other activities performed by the Council for Children in this period are as follows:

- organisation and moderating of a round table entitled “Domestic violence against children – Recommendations of experts to the Government of the Republic of Croatia concerning increased prevention and direct contacts with victims”, September 2001;
- organisation and moderating of a round table entitled “Children war witnesses – Ten years after”;
- Council representatives actively participated in a large number of activities in children’s interest held on the state level.;
- The Council for Children co-operated with UNICEF representatives (3 sessions were held) during which the role of UNICEF, regarding the fulfilment of tasks that are of a priority interest for children, was examined considering modified organisational circumstances and the preparation of a different mandate of UNICEF in Croatia;
- Organisation of a variety of other meetings with a view to co-ordinating the actions that are of interest to children;
- Proposing amendments to the Decision on Establishment of the Council according to which the composition of the Council was extended with three representatives from NGOs.

In 2002 four sessions of the Council for Children were held:

In between sessions, the Council acted in accordance with the Action Programme either via sessions of the Working Groups or via direct actions of certain Council members.

In 2002 the following activities were performed:

1. Activities regarding a review of the *National Action Programme for Children* and its monitoring

Within the activities of a review of the National Programme, a comprehensive paper entitled *Priority Activities for the Benefit of Children in the Period 2003 - 2005* was drafted. This text is an operative supplement to the Programme the aim of which is to direct the activities in the field of developing the position of children in the future. The elaboration of the *Priority Activities for Children*, composed by the Working Group for a Review of the National Programme and 12 Group members, integrated the work of a large number of experts (approximately 60 experts) and over 100 children. In this manner, the basic principle of contemporary approach to children has been ensured, i.e. the principle of their functional involvement.

2. Organisation of conferences and seminars

In the course of the stated period, the Council for Children organised two seminars and one conference:

- a seminar on *Emotional Neglect and Abuse of Children*, April 2002;
- a conference on *Ethics of Research with Children*, September 2002;
- a seminar on *Relevant Competence: From Obedience to Responsibility – New Perspective in Professional Relations of Adults towards Children*, October 2002.

3. Monitoring of the implementation of the conclusions reached at the conferences held in the course of 2001

With regard to the significance of the continuity of activities and the importance of monitoring the results of these activities, the 2002 Action Programme envisages the monitoring of the conclusions reached at the conferences held in 2001. The activities undertaken with regard to monitoring and advocating the implementation of the conclusions reached at the conference entitled *Domestic Violence against Children – Recommendations of Experts to the Government of the Republic of Croatia* are as follows:

- in April 2002, a seminar entitled *Emotional Neglect and Abuse of Children* was held under the guidance of Kari Killen, Ph.D., one of the most renowned world experts in the field of improving the care of abused children;
- the proceedings entitled *Domestic Violence against Children – Recommendations of Experts to the Government of the Republic of Croatia* were published;
- a discussion on the *Campaign against Child Abuse* was held in association with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in October 2002;
- competent ministries appointed their expert groups for monitoring the conclusions of the conference;
- an action project was initiated with a view to examining the criteria of making decisions on family-related legal protection measures in cases of violence against children.

Pursuant to the conclusions on the improvement of care for children victims (witnesses) of domestic violence, the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Local Self-government initiated a procurement procedure for technical equipment needed at county courts for recording children's testimonies.

The activities undertaken with regard to monitoring and encouraging the implementation of the conclusions reached at the conference entitled *Children War Witnesses – Ten Years After* (in October 2001) are as follows:

- conclusions reached at the conference were implemented in the Priority Activities;
- the State Bureau for Family Protection published a double issue of the magazine entitled *Children and Society* dedicated to this matter, while the chairman of the Council for Children was the guest editor of that issue.

4. Establishment of the award for the promotion of the rights of the child

At the initiative of the Council for Children, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare drafted the Act on the Award for the Promotion of the Rights of the Child which was adopted in 2003.

5. Advocating the establishment of the *Day of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Within the Priority Activities for Children, as one of the common tasks, it was proposed to establish the Day of the Child in Croatia which would be celebrated on the same date as the Day of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. Advocating the establishment of the Coalition of Non-governmental Organisations Representing the Rights of the Child in association with the UNICEF and the Office for Non-governmental Organisations

The Council for Children actively participated at the meetings organised for this purpose at the initiative of UNICEF.

7. Provision of expert opinions and statements within the competence of the Council for Children to other state bodies concerning new regulations or strategic documents

In the course of 2002, the Council for Children drafted a whole series of statements taking into consideration the fact that the proposals should be in accordance with the content and values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These documents were as follows: a Draft Proposal of the National Action Programme for Children, a Draft Proposal of the Family Act, a Draft Proposal of the Act on the Award for the Promotion of the Rights of the Child, the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, a Draft Act on the Amendments to the Social Welfare Act, a Draft Proposal of the Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence, the National Family Policy, a Draft Act on the Award for the Promotion of the Rights of the Child, a Draft Proposal of the Act on Sanctions against Minors for Criminal Acts and Misdemeanours.

8. Other activities

In the course of 2002, the Council for Children actively participated in a series of events important for the children:

- celebration of the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child organised by the Council for Children and the State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents;
- participation in the discussions with regard to the UN document entitled *World Worthy of Children* at the Annual Symposium of the Union of Associations of *Naša djeca (Our Children)*, and the Committee on Labour, Social Policy and Health of the Croatian Parliament;
- fostering the activities in the best interest of children, such as *A Glass of Milk for Each Child* (programme of the non-governmental organisation *Djeca prva (Children First)*); promotion of breast-feeding as the best nutrition for the children, etc.;
- lectures on the activities of the Council for Children in the County of Ličko-senjska and the County of Međimurje.

9. Work improvements

- A representative of the Office for Human Rights joined the Council for Children, with which appropriate co-operation was thus established.

In 2003, four sessions of the Council for Children were held. In between the sessions, the Council acted in accordance with the Action Programme, either through the activities of the working groups or via direct actions by the certain Council members.

In 2003 the following activities were organised:

1. Activities regarding the review of the *National Action Programme for Children* and its monitoring:
 - the final version of the *Priority Activities for the Benefit of Children in the period 2003 - 2005* was drafted and adopted by the Croatian Government in July 2003;
 - 5,000 copies of the *Priority Activities for the Benefit of Children in the period 2003 - 2005* were published;
 - the Priority Activities were drafted in accordance with the UN instructions following the Children Summit of 2002 on the need to redefine, in terms of operation, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the national level.
2. Organisation of seminars

The following seminars and conferences were organised and hosted:

- The seminar entitled *The Strategy of Development of Institutional and Non-institutional Care for Children in the 21st Century* was held in February 2003 (the main topic referred to the presentation of results of research in the field of psychosocial needs of children in homes for children and foster families as an empirical basis for de-institutionalisation of the care for children).;
 - The conference entitled *The Needs of Children in Vukovar: Is assimilation or segregation the only solution?* was held in Vukovar in May 2003 (the purpose of the Conference was to encourage a discussion on the needs and possibilities to educate children of both Croatian and Serb nationality in the context of a correlation between the rights of children to non-discrimination and the development of tolerance, and the rights of children members of national minorities to preserve their own language and culture respecting ethnical, national and religious orientation – an outline and the conclusions of the Conference were submitted to all participants and competent authorities).
3. Monitoring the implementation of the conclusions reached at the seminars, conferences and other events held in the course of 2001

Concerning the significance of the continuity of activities and the importance of monitoring the effects of recommendations and conclusions of seminars and conferences, the implementation of conclusions reached at conferences held in the past years was monitored. The activities undertaken with regard to the conclusions reached at the Conference entitled *Domestic Violence against Children – Recommendations of Experts to the Government of the Republic of Croatia* are as follows:

- Due to a considerable interest, the Conference Proceedings were reprinted.;
- A special attention was given to the area of domestic violence in the book entitled *National Family Policy* edited by Puljiz, V. and Bouillet, D. (2003).;
- The Council for Children, via active participation by its members and associates, supported the international conference entitled *Promoting the health of children and youth – An evidence-base for a non-violent society* held in IUC Dubrovnik on the topic of abuse of children.;
- A representative of the Council for Children participated with a review of conclusions and the strategy of their application at the *IXth ISPCAN European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect* held in Warsaw in August 2003.
- An action research of decision-making criteria in the application of family-related legal protection measures in cases of endangered development of children in their

family has been conducted. The first results have already been published in the appropriate journals.

- An analysis of changes in criminal legislation was made concerning the position of abused children.

The activities undertaken with regard to monitoring and fostering the implementation of the conclusions reached at the Conference entitled *Ethics of Research with Children* are as follows:

- The *Code of Ethics in Research with Children* was adopted and published.
- The edition of the *Children and Society* journal, dedicated to the topic of the ethics of research with children was published.
- A press conference was held on the occasion of publishing the *Code of Ethics in Research with Children*.
- A public presentation of the *Code of Ethics in Research with Children* was held for experts in December 2003.
- A strategy of further informing of experts, children and parents about the *Code of Ethics in Research with Children* was elaborated.
- It was proposed to establish a National Commission for Ethics that should consist of scientists and experts who were involved in the elaboration of the *Code of Ethics*.

4. Provision of expert opinions and statements within the competence of the Council for Children for other state bodies

The Council for Children issued the following opinions and statements:

- The Opinion on the Final Draft of the Act on the Ombudsperson for Children,
- The Opinion on the Final Draft of the Act on the Amendments to the Social Welfare Act,
- The Opinion on the Draft Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence,
- The Opinion on the Final Draft of the Family Act,
- A statement to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with regard to the Report of the Croatian Government to the Committee on the Rights of the Child,
- The Opinion on the Complementary Report of NGOs on the second state report on the situation of children in the Republic of Croatia according to Article 45(a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

5. Organisation and moderating of discussions in co-operation with the state administration bodies

The Council for Children, as an expert, advisory and inter-disciplinary Government body, significantly contributed to a discussion on the issues of direct protection and promotion of the rights of the child through its activities on a regular basis. Although no debates were organised in 2003 outside the above-mentioned seminars, conferences and events in co-operation with the Council for Children, it is worth outlining good co-operation, support and active participation of competent ministries in the organisation of the seminar on the *Strategy of the Development of Institutional and Non-institutional Care for Children in the 21st Century* and the Conference on the *Needs of Children in Vukovar*.

6. Public and active support and promotion of the activities that are in the best interest of children

The Council for Children was actively promoting the ideas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the following manner:

- participation with a presentation at the *Non-governmental Organisations Fair - Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations Acting for the Rights and the Benefit of the Child* (February 2003);
- organisation of lectures for the principals of primary and secondary schools in Varaždin : *The Role of the Prevention of Behaviour Disturbances in New Strategic Documents of the Republic of Croatia* (February 2003);
- participation with a presentation at the annual conference of representatives of co-ordination committees within the activity entitled *Towns and Municipalities – Friends of Children*;
- participation in the Council of the UNICEF action entitled *Stop Violence Among Children*;
- participation in other activities important for the promotion of the best interest of children (co-operation with UNICEF, the Ombudsperson for Children, the Commission for the Prevention of Behaviour Disturbance in Children and Adolescents, etc.).

In December 2003, the representatives of the Council for Children and the State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents participated at a meeting of equivalent bodies for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina held in Sarajevo. The meeting was organised by the organisation *Save the Children* from Norway.

6. With regard to the newly established commissions or internal commissions (paragraphs 28, 32-37 of the State party's report), please provide information on the effective coordination of their programmes and activities in the implementation of the Convention.

In the field of criminal legislation, the following bodies are active within the Ministry of Justice:

- the Commission for monitoring and improving the work of the criminal procedure body and the execution of sanctions against minors; and
- the Commission for monitoring and improving the work of the criminal and offense procedure bodies, and the execution of sanctions relating to the protection against domestic violence. Members of the Commission are appointed among judges, state attorneys, lawyers, civil servants in the Ministry of the Interior specialised in the field of the criminal act of domestic violence, civil servants in the Ministry of Justice, and civil servants in the ministry competent for social welfare affairs. The Commission submits proposals and opinions to the Minister of Justice.
- Within the National Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, a Working Group for the Prevention of Trafficking in Children was established in June 2004. The Working Group was established for the purpose of co-ordination of national and regional activities in the field of combating trafficking in children, taking into account the particular sensibility of children – victims of trafficking in persons.

The Working Group creates a strategy of action in combating trafficking in children. Within the National Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, the Working Group prepares an action plan for combating trafficking in children, and is monitoring and co-ordinating its implementation.

7. With regard to the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for Children, please provide information on the mandate, financial and human resources of this body. In addition, please provide information on the number and nature of the complaints filed with this body and its responses to these complaints.

The Act on the Ombudsperson for Children, that entered into force on 18 June 2003, establishes a special and supervisory body as an institution *sui generis* with the task of protecting, monitoring and promoting the rights and interests of children based on the Constitution, international agreements and laws.

The Ombudsperson for Children acts as an independent body following the principles of justice and morality. No one is allowed to instruct the Ombudsperson for Children in his/her work, while he/she and his/her substitutes are not allowed to take part in any political party and or to participate in political activities.

The Ombudsperson for Children and his/her substitutes are appointed and acquitted by the Croatian Parliament. They are officials appointed for a period of eight years with the possibility of being appointed again. On 17 July 2003, the Croatian Parliament adopted a Decision on the Appointment of the Ombudsperson for Children.

The Ombudsperson for Children:

- monitors the harmonisation of laws and other regulations relating to the protection of the rights and interests of children with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents; monitors the fulfilment of obligations of the Republic of Croatia deriving from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents; monitors the application of all regulations relating to the protection of the rights and interests of the child; monitors the violation of certain individual rights of the child and studies general trends and ways of the violation of the rights and interests of children;
- encourages the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of children with special needs; proposes measures for the construction of an integral system of the protection and promotion of the rights of children, as well as the prevention of harmful effects on their interests;
- informs the public on the status of the rights of children, informs and advises children about the ways of exercising and protecting their rights and interests, co-operates with children, encourages them to express themselves and respects their opinion, initiates and participates in public activities intended to improve the situation of children, and proposes measures to increase their influence in the society;
- may participate in the procedure preceding the adoption of regulations relating to the rights of children or those defining the issues that are important for children; may initiate the adoption of and amendments to other regulations relating to the rights and the protection of children.

The Ombudsperson for Children is authorised to issue warnings, submit proposals and give recommendations. The state administration bodies, local and regional self-government units, as well as legal entities, are obliged to co-operate with the Ombudsperson for Children and, upon his/her request, submit reports, provide answers immediately, and notify the Ombudsperson for Children of the steps taken regarding his/her warning, proposal or recommendation within a maximum of 15 days. Should the above-mentioned bodies and legal entities fail to act according to his/her request within the set deadline, the Ombudsperson for Children shall notify thereof the body monitoring their work. Should this

body fail to report on the facts that have been established and the measures that have been undertaken, the Ombudsperson for Children shall notify the Government thereof.

The Ombudsperson for Children is entitled to have access to all the data, information and by-laws relating to the rights and the protection of children, regardless of the level of their confidentiality. Furthermore, the Ombudsperson for Children is entitled to have access and examine all institutions, state administration bodies, natural persons and legal entities taking care of children according to special regulations, as well as the religious communities in which children stay or are placed on a permanent or temporary basis.

Should the Ombudsperson for Children realise that the child has been exposed to physical or mental violence, sexual abuse, abuse or exploitation, neglect or negligent treatment, he/she shall immediately notify thereof the competent state attorney's office, warn the competent social welfare centre and propose measures for the protection of the rights and interests of children.

The Ombudsperson for Children may seek expert help from scientists and professionals, as well as scientific and professional institutions whose scope of activities includes research, protection, care, development and the rights of children. Such persons and institutions are obliged to provide the aforementioned help in due time.

Each person is entitled to submit a proposal for the consideration of issues of importance for the protection of the rights and interests of children to the Ombudsperson for Children who will inform the applicant about the activities undertaken upon receiving the proposal in question.

The Ombudsperson for Children acts independently and may not be called to account, put into custody or punished for his/her opinion or the actions undertaken within his/her scope of activities unless he/she breaks the law and thus commits a criminal offence.

The Ombudsperson for Children and his/her substitutes will be relieved of their duties prior to the expiry of the period of their mandate in the following cases: resignation, the loss of Croatian citizenship, permanent loss of the ability to fulfil their duties, valid conviction for a criminal offence, non-acceptance of the annual work report or illegal, untimely, and unprofessional fulfilment of their duties.

Once a year, the Ombudsperson for Children submits an annual report on his/her activities to the Croatian Parliament. In the cases in which the rights and interests of children are highly endangered, the Ombudsperson for Children may submit special reports to the Croatian Parliament. The Ombudsperson for Children sent the first annual report on the activities for the period from 25 September 2003 to 31 December 2003 to the Croatian Parliament in March 2003. The Croatian Parliament accepted this report.

Technical and administrative activities of the Ombudsperson for Children are performed in the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children the headquarters of which is located in Zagreb, Andrije Hebranga 4/1.

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Ombudsperson for Children approved by the Croatian Parliament on 3 March 2004, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children consists of the Technical Affairs Section and the General Affairs Section with an envisaged total of 9 employees out of whom 6 employees possess university degrees and perform expert advisory activities, while 3 employees are in charge of administrative and technical activities.

The funds needed for the functioning of the Ombudsperson for Children, his/her substitutes and the technical section are ensured within the State Budget. Within the 2004 State Budget, the first amount of funds allocated to the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children was HRK 3,000,000 (approximately EUR 400,000). Unfortunately, there was a rebalance of the State Budget in July 2004, which resulted in decreasing these funds to HRK 2,689,795 (approximately EUR 358,500). This new situation caused problems in performing some of the activities, such as visiting children within the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Frequent and ongoing activities of the Ombudsperson for Children directed towards the presentation of institutions and the promotion of children's rights in public resulted in a large number of written initiatives to discuss certain cases of endangerment or violation of the rights and interests of children. At the same time, the Ombudsperson for Children and her substitutes were receiving clients on a daily basis who presented such initiatives orally or who asked for counselling with regard to the protection of a certain right and interest of the child.

According to an analysis of 227 cases filed in the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children in the period from 15 December to 15 July 2004, the following may be stated:

- EXERCISE OF PARENTAL CARE – 50 cases

This refers to reports of conflicts, arguments and complaints of one parent towards the other stating the parent's failure to act in the child's best interest (the parent does not take care of school results, health condition, necessary activities and the benefit of the child in any other segment). These complaints occur mostly between the parents who are no longer living as a family. Moreover, the reports refer to the denial of the right of one parent to participate in the upbringing of the child and the decisions important for the child, the lack of co-operation and communication, etc. The aforementioned conflicts usually occur in the presence of the child.

In these cases, recommendations are always submitted to the competent social welfare centres regarding the measures of counselling or surveillance over the exercise of parental care. If possible, some of the parents are referred to a group therapy or counselling (to a small extent). Furthermore, the State intends to develop a network of high quality family counselling centres with the main purpose of "focusing on the interest of the child" and training parents to develop skills of ensuring quality parental care.

- ISSUING OF A NEW DECISION ON THE PERSON WITH WHOM A MINOR WILL LIVE – 7 cases

The cases reported under this item refer to the situations in which one of the parents requires a new decision on the person with whom the child will live with although there is already a valid decision regarding that matter whether it has been previously adopted by the court (in a divorce procedure) or by a social welfare centre. The adoption of this kind of decision is conditioned by a change of circumstances present at the time of the first procedure and relevant for the adoption of the new decision.

Very often conflicts between parents regarding the content of the parental care result in initiating this kind of a procedure. The parents initiating this procedure inform the Office about the child's rights violated by the other parent (in this manner they report the neglect of the child's needs, negligence and lack of care, and even abuse). The parents report these cases to the Office mostly when they are not satisfied with the work done by the body in charge of

the procedure (they report the lack of sensibility on the part of experts issuing decisions, the slowness of solving the cases, etc.).

The recommendations of the Office always state the fact that all the statements are to be examined carefully, as well as all relevant circumstances. Moreover, if possible, the opinion of the child is to be taken into consideration and the experts' recommendations are to be obtained in the cases when the child is undergoing psychotherapy.

- VIOLATION OF THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO MEET ONE OF THE PARENTS – 25 cases

These complaints are filed by the parent not living with the child who is, contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Family Act, impeded or prevented by the parent living with the child from meeting the child in the periods of time established by a decision of the competent body (the reported methods being the following: the parent hides the child, he/she justifies the child's absence with an alleged case of illness or some extracurricular activities performed during that very period, the parent states that "the child refuses to see the other parent" or that "the child refuses the new family or the partner of the parent that he/she does not live with", etc.).

In such cases the competent social welfare centre is notified immediately and the recommendation is given according to which it is necessary and in compliance with the child's rights to ensure contacts with the parent that the child does not live with, which results in the development of emotional and family contacts. Moreover, if necessary, counselling, i.e. surveillance over the exercise of parental care is recommended. Furthermore, in such cases it is emphasised that this type of behaviour implies a criminal offence, that is, the prevention and the non-implementation of the measures for the protection of the child and the minor referred to in Article 215 of the Criminal Code.

- VIOLATION OF THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO MEET GRANDPARENTS AND SIBLINGS – 7 cases

In these cases, complaints are filed by grandparents through the parent who does not live with the child. Most complaints refer to the slowness in solving the cases. In one of the cases, in order to protect the child, the competent body that was asked to submit a report adopted a decision whereby such contacts were forbidden.

In one of the cases, two elder sisters filed a complaint asking to meet their brother who was separated from the family at an early age and placed in a foster family. The sisters referred to a social welfare centre requiring the adoption of such a decision, which could not be adopted by the centre due to the fact that law did not provide such a possibility at the time. In other words, only after the new Family Act has entered into force will the siblings be entitled to require the enactment of such a decision, which will be considered by the court in the future (for the time being the grandparents are entitled to this decision). In the meantime, for the purpose of developing child's family relations, the social welfare centre has been advised to arrange meetings between the brother and his elder siblings via counselling with the foster family and in an amicable procedure without adopting any decisions.

- SURVEILLANCE OVER PARENTAL CARE – 2 cases

These cases refer to the situations in which surveillance has been established over parental care (this occurs when mistakes and failures in parental care happen often and are of various types or when the parents need special help in raising their child). In the above-mentioned cases, the parents have filed their complaints against the employees executing the surveillance. In their opinion, in one of the cases the employees did not show enough understanding and therefore the results were not positive, while in the other case they complained of inappropriate behaviour of the surveillance supervisor minimising and relativising the issues for which the surveillance has been established, which did not result in the improvement of the situation. In both cases the competent social welfare centre has been notified of the complaints of the parties, and recommendations have been given to undertake further steps the purpose of which is to improve the quality of surveillance.

- ABUSE NAD NEGLECT OF CHILDREN – 33 cases

This section shows all motives for assessing the violation of children's rights regarding the protection from neglect and abuse.

With regard to the abuse of children, the following cases have been reported: the abuse of children by the father or the mother after the divorce; the abuse of children by the parents insisting on a vegetarian diet, which resulted in malnutrition of the child and his/her physical underdevelopment; the abuse of children by a child-care worker or other expert workers in the social welfare institutions where the children are placed.

On a few occasions, parents were reported to have been neglecting their children with regard to inadequate care in the field of education, health or other children's needs.

In a few cases we were informed about the sexual abuse of children. In most of these cases sexual offences committed against girls by their fathers were reported. In one of the cases the school informed us that one of their female students had been a victim of rape by several unidentified persons, which her parents were aware of but refused to report the case.

In one of the cases the child himself – a seventeen year-old boy - reported directly to the Office an attempt, i.e. a proposal by an NN persuading him to record pornographic pictures and films.

In all of these cases reports were requested from the competent bodies and the relevant recommendations were delivered. Moreover, we have always demanded urgency and feedback information. In the case of the girl victim of rape criminal charges were filed against the sex offender.

- SUPPORT OF CHILDREN – 15 cases

A small number of cases refer to a parent requiring the information on the manner of exercising the right of the child to be supported by the other parent, too. On the other hand, a larger number of cases reflect current problems occurring in the procedure of establishing that right in court – the problem of establishing the actual income of the parent who is responsible to support the child, since a large number of parents present in court the documentation stating their unemployment although they are engaged in 'black labour' and have an income. They also present the documentation showing lower income, which makes it more difficult to establish the actual income. They may also possess property (i.e. real estate,

cars and other movables) which is not registered in their name. Parents also complain about the slowness of the court proceedings aimed at establishing the support of the child, and the problems in the procedure of property seizure executed for the purpose of forced payment of debts.

In all of these cases, we have advised parents about the method of exercising the right to child support, and in the cases of parents living in poor social conditions, we have advised them to request an assistant / lawyer from the Croatian Bar Association to represent their child on a free-of-charge basis. Moreover, we have advised them to press charges, since the violation of the duty to support a minor is a criminal offence which is prosecuted *ex officio*. We have also advised them to refer to a competent social welfare centre which is required to provide a temporary support for the child if the parent who is obliged to support the child has failed to do so in a period of over three months whereby the support of the child has been endangered.

- BULLYING – 36 cases

Since the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, bullying has proved to be a major issue of concern in the field of the protection of children's rights. This is the first issue in which children recognised the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children as the place where they can report the violation of their rights, and the issue in the field of which children have filed the greatest number of indirect complaints. With regard to the remaining cases, we were notified through the media (bullying in institutions) or via parents' complaints, while in one of the cases a school informed us about the matter.

The reports that have been requested show that the problem is sometimes minimised or relativised on the part of adults (often teachers). Therefore, in each case after receiving a report, the Office submitted urgent recommendations for actions to be taken by both school and other state authorities, particularly social welfare centre. The recommendations contain instructions for the activities intended to teach children the skills of non-violent communication, the organisation of lectures, debates and meetings on bullying, the obligation to report violence to a competent social welfare centre to investigate the circumstances in which the child 'little bully' lives in order to help both children and their parents, and a whole series of other recommendations.

A range of recommendations of the Office for Ombudsperson for Children in this field have been included in the Activity Programme for the Prevention of Violence among Children and Adolescents adopted by the Government at the end of February 2004. Therefore, the Office for the Ombudsperson for Children is a co-organiser of certain measures referred to in the above-mentioned Programme, as well as the competent body for monitoring the implementation of certain measures by other authorities.

- VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS – 8 cases

These cases refer mostly to the complaints filed by parents about the mistakes of the administrative bodies in the procedure of exercising material rights of children with special needs, particularly concerning the slowness of procedures. In such cases, the Office issues recommendations emphasising the importance of respecting set legal deadlines for the adoption of decisions of the first or second instance. In one of the cases, the Office has been informed of the parents' difficulties in taking care and organising the care for their severely and permanently ill child (spinal muscle atrophy).

- VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WITH REGARD TO PECUNIARY COMPENSATION/INCOME (FAMILY PENSION, CHILD'S ALLOWANCE, etc.) – 6 cases

These cases refer mostly to the complaints filed by parents about the mistakes of the administrative bodies in the procedure of exercising material rights of their children, particularly concerning the slowness of procedures. In such cases, the Office issues recommendations emphasising the importance of respecting set legal deadlines for the adoption of decisions.

- RIGHTS OF CHILDREN TO BE PROVIDED WITH CARE OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS (foster families, adoption) – 7 cases

These cases refer to different issues of concern, such as a complaint filed by a foster parent against the decision of the administrative body according to which the child was not to be placed in her foster care any longer (in this case no violation of the rights of the child was established). Other cases refer mostly to complaints about extreme slowness of institutions (e.g. social welfare centres initiating the judicial procedure for taking away the parents' right to parental care, and the slowness of courts in adopting decisions in such cases concerning the children who are placed in homes for children and whose parents refuse to give approval for their adoption, which makes the court decision a legal basis for the adoption). In this field we have noticed a certain issue of concern, which has also been indicated by a recent research of the School of Law in Zagreb, stating that sometimes children remain placed in institutions longer than they should (some of them for even a few years), which diminishes their possibilities for a different aspect of care, particularly adoption.

- OTHER – 31 cases

These cases refer to the following issues: the participation of children in advertising campaigns, the violation of the right to education of the child in conflict with law, paternity suits, complaints about the slowness of courts, the protection and help for the child running away from home, denying the child the right to play, the protection of property rights of the child, exposure of children to pornographic contents, the protection and the rights of the child in criminal proceedings against minors, illegal taking of children outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia by one of the parents and the problems of establishing contacts with the other parent, the violation of the right to a proper name and proper documents, a report of the transformation of a children's resort into other facilities not intended for children.

8. Please provide further information on efforts to provide training, awareness and information on the Convention to various groups of professionals working for or with children.

The same answer as under Item: B (ii).

9. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

The issues affecting children and requiring the most urgent attention are the following: the protection of children from any form of domestic violence or bullying, the improvement of non-institutional care for children, the provision of appropriate conditions for adequate growth and development of children in difficult circumstances (such as children deriving

from poor families, children deprived of adequate parental care, children with disabilities and children affected by war consequences).

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages of the State party as well as in other languages or dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

The Croatian language is the official language in the Republic of Croatia. The text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Croatian language is submitted in electronic format.

PART III

Under this section, the State party is to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in its report with regard to:

- New bills or enacted legislation;

The Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence was enacted in 2003. It defines the method of protecting family members in cases of domestic violence. The following is considered to be domestic violence:

- any use of force, either mental or physical, against the person's integrity,
- any other behaviour on the part of one member of the family that may cause physical or mental pain,
- creating the feeling of fear or threat or violation of dignity,
- physical assault regardless of whether a physical injury has been caused or not,
- verbal assaults, insulting, swearing, bad language and other kinds of harassment,
- sexual harassment,
- spying on the person and other kinds of harassment,
- illegal isolation or restriction of the freedom of movement and communication with third parties,
- damaging or destroying property or attempting to do so.

The perpetrator of domestic violence may be convicted for an offence (fined or sentenced to prison) or protection measures may be pronounced against him/her. According to the provisions of the Act on Protection against Domestic Violence, the family member who commits violence may be fined with an amount of HRK 1,000 to 10,000 or sentenced to 60 days of imprisonment. A special punishment is envisaged for the person who commits violence in the presence of a child or a minor, since this emphasises the need to protect children and minors, i.e. their right to healthy and balanced life within their family.

The Act on the Award for Promotion of the Rights of the Child was enacted in 2003 and it defines the award for extraordinary achievements in the field of the protection of the benefit, rights and interests of children. This award is granted as a life achievement award (given to prominent individuals whose work represents a permanent contribution to the promotion of the rights of the child) and as an annual award (given to individuals and/or a group of individuals for the most significant achievements in various fields of promoting the rights of the child during last year). Each year, one life achievement award and a maximum

of three annual awards may be presented on 20 November, i.e. on the day when the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted.

However, it should be noted that no award has been presented so far, since the criteria for granting the award have not been established yet, which will be regulated by a subsequent by-law.

The **Act on Juvenile Courts** was enacted in 1997 as *lex specialis* for juvenile offenders. It contains special material and procedural legal provisions referring to minors (aged 14-18) and young persons of age (aged 18-21). In addition, the Act contains provisions on criminal acts committed against children and minors, and lists the criminal acts on which juvenile courts will decide. This refers to criminal acts against life and physical integrity, sexual freedom and morals, marriage, family and adolescents, as well as criminal acts against the values protected by international law.

The Act on the Amendments to the Act on Juvenile Courts dated 2002 establishes that, in the case of a criminal act committed against children and minors, the child (up to 14 years of age) or the young minor (aged 14-16) against whom the offence was committed may be interrogated as a witness not more than twice. The interrogation shall be executed with the assistance of a psychologist, a pedagogue or another professional. The investigating judge shall order that the interrogation of the witness in question be recorded in another room via technical devices for the transfer of picture and sound, i.e. without the presence of the judge or the parties in the room with the witness, whereby the parties may ask questions to the witness via the investigating judge, psychologist, pedagogue or other persons.

Children and young minors may also be interrogated as witnesses in their flats, other premises or a social welfare centre. In this case, the witnesses are also interrogated via devices for the transfer of picture and sound.

It should be emphasised that, in the course of 2002, all courts were equipped with the devices for the transfer of picture and sound so as to be able to apply the aforementioned provisions of the Act on Juvenile Courts.

The **Act on Foreigners**, which became effective as of the beginning of 2004, together with an accompanying by-law (the Rule Book on Travel Documents for Foreigners, Visas, Border Passes and the Methods of Treating Foreigners) regulate, in some of their provisions, the procedure of treating minors.

Some provisions refer to the notification of the consular body of the foreigner's state of origin (either a minor or a person of age) in accordance with Article 36 of the Convention on Consular Relations, the designation of the guardian in the treatment of minors unaccompanied by parents, as well as the procedure of placing minors in a Reception Centre.

With regard to the protection of minors, the Ministry of the Interior co-operates with other state administration bodies. In the field of the protection of rights and the provision of care for Croatian nationals, as well as foreigners who have not attained majority, co-operation has been established with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Although this Act mainly defines temporary residence of the child, the child's permanent residence may also be regulated on the basis of this Act providing that one of his/her parents has the status of a foreigner with permanent residence.

Children may regulate the status of foreigners in the Republic of Croatia on the basis of temporary residence for the purpose of education, while the parents of such minors may regulate their status on the basis of temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification.

It should be noted that the child born within the territory of the Republic of Croatia who is not a Croatian national does not require a residence approval before the expiry of the first month of his/her life.

After the expiry of the first month, the competent police administration/police station will issue, *ex officio*, a temporary residence approval, which will be renewed for the period of time for which the residence has been approved to one of the child's parents or guardian.

- New institutions;

Mala Terezija (Little Theresa) Rehabilitation Centre in Vinkovci, designed to provide care for children suffering from mental retardation and having a capacity for 85 persons, should become operational within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in the course of this year.

Mala kuća (Little House) - Daily Centre for Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation in Zagreb operates as a social welfare institution founded by the Croatian Nambudo Institute. This institution ensures a half-day and a whole-day stay for 50 children with visual impairment and young people with other impairments. The *Little House* is an institution providing rehabilitation for children with visual and other impairments, and undertaking early interventions in that population.

With regard to newly established institutions, it is worth mentioning the Judicial Academy founded within the Ministry of Justice as a special organisational unit with the task of providing constant further training for all judges and court officials. The training programme is implemented as expert and ongoing education of judges, advisors to judges, state attorneys, deputy state attorneys, their deputies and advisors. The training is implemented in groups of judges and state attorneys. The groups are established according to the specialisation and organisation within courts and the offices of the State Attorney, the type and rank of courts, as well as the areas of legal expertise, such as criminal, civil and commercial law, as well as other fields of legal expertise.

- Newly implemented policies;

- National Family Policy (adopted by the Government in January 2003)

The National Family Policy integrates different aspects of education, health, employment, housing and social policies for the purpose of providing families with a better life.

- Priority Activities for the Benefit of Children in the Period 2003 - 2005 (adopted by the Government in July 2003).

The Priority Activities represent part of the National Action Programme for Children in the Republic of Croatia.

An analysis of the National Action Programme for Children for the period from 1998 to 2002 has shown the need for clearer definition of the actual action plan and the planning of a dynamic process that will contribute to a better and more substantial implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Faced with limited resources and high expectations, the Council for Children assumed the task of defining a restricted number of actual priority activities for the benefit of children, which resulted in drafting this document.

- National Action Programme for Adolescents (adopted by the Government in January 2003)

The National Action Programme for Adolescents is a document stating clear and long-term intention to create social, educational, pedagogical, cultural, material and other conditions for permanent benefit of adolescents and their active, complete and responsible participation in the society.

The Programme is based on modern principles of the policy towards adolescents adopted by the United Nations and the Council of Europe, and it is particularly oriented towards the implementation of the European Commission White Paper – A New Impetus for European Youth.

- **National Strategy for a Single Policy for Persons with Disabilities from 2003 to 2006** (adopted by the Government in January 2003)

The **National Strategy for a Single Policy for Persons with Disabilities from 2003 to 2006** is a document representing the first systematic policy for disabled persons in the Republic of Croatia regardless of the type, time and circumstances in which their disabilities have occurred.

The main objectives of this National Strategy are the following: promoting and ensuring the rights of disabled persons, creating conditions for solving their problems, harmonised activities and the provision of information, active participation of disabled persons, and making the society more perceptive of disabled persons' needs.

- **Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.**

FUNDS DISBURSED ON ACCOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Institution: State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents

No.	Name	Agency/Organiser	Duration (date of beginning/end)	Funds in HRK
1.	Theatre workshops of pre-school and school children	Club of Theatre Friends	2001 - 2002	110,000.00
2.	Allocation of funds for the Association <i>Naša djeca (Our Children)</i> , Maksimir	Maksimir Association <i>Naša djeca</i>	2001	27,000.00
3.	Ongoing Theatre Workshop and Musical-Dramatic Festival Workshop	Šibenik Theatre	2001	30,000.00
4.	Allocation of funds for Navarra Association <i>Nuevo Futuro</i>	Navarra Association <i>Nuevo Futuro</i>	2001	27,000.00
5.	Project entitled: "Development of Bilingualism of Pre-school Children"	NGO - <i>Jedan drugi svijet (A Different World)</i>	2001 - 2002	10,000.00

6.	Programme entitled: "Playroom for Pre-school Children of the Roma Nationality"	Agents: County of Međimurje and State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents; Organiser: Pre-school Facility <i>Dječja mašta (Children's Imagination)</i>	2001 - 2002	382,000.00
7.	Project entitled: "Town and Municipalities – Friends of Children"	Croatian Union of Associations <i>Naša djeca</i>	2001 - 2002	146,400.00
8.	Project entitled: "Play and Learn" of the NGO <i>Djeca prva</i>	NGO <i>Djeca prva (Children First)</i>	2002 - 2003	49,000.00
9.	Financial support for <i>Jelenko</i> Kindergarten	<i>Jelenko</i> Kindergarten	2002	20,000.00
10.	Programme: "Making Children's Festival curtain for the refurbished theatre building in Šibenik"	Šibenik Theatre	2002	30,000.00
11.	Project: "Its Majesty – the Child"	<i>Zagrepcanke</i> Artistic Association	2002	15,124.00
12.	Programme of playrooms for pre-school children in the SOS Lekenik Kindergarten	SOS Lekenik Kindergarten	2002 - 2003	40,000.00

FUNDS DISBURSED ON ACCOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR ADOLESCENTS

Institution: State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Young People

No.	Name	Agency/Organiser	Duration (date of beginning/end)	Funds in HRK
1.	Medical and educational work in family planning for adolescents	Students' Health Institute	2001 - 2002	80,000.00
2.	Project: "Activating Young People of the City of Osijek in the EU Accession Process"	Belišće Development Centre	2001	20,000.00
3.	"Implementation of the National Action Programme for Young People in Local Communities"	Croatian Red Cross – Union of NGOs of the Red Cross of the County of Varaždin	2001 - 2003	360,000.00

4.	Financing the project of CARE Association Canada	CARE Association Canada		20,060.00
5.	Project «Ambidekster Club»	Association of Social Pedagogues	2002 - 2003	154,400.00
6.	Programme: "Health Education of Young People in the Protection of General and Reproductive Health"	Clinic for Children's Diseases, Zagreb	2002 - 2003	71,120.00
7.	Project: "Europe Day"	JEF Association Croatia	9 May	6,000.00
8.	Project of networking NGOs for adolescents	Croatian Esperanto Union	2002 - 2003	115,960.00
9.	Project: "Education of Young Pedagogues"	Croatian Salesian Province	2002	11,000.00
10.	Programme for the prevention of drug addiction in Krapinsko-zagorska County – co-operation	NGO <i>Moji dani (My Days)</i>	2002 - 2003	120,000.00
11.	Programme: "Empowerment against Addiction"	Education and Rehabilitation Faculty, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare	2003	29,525.00
12.	"Communication Workshops" within the project of Intercultural Youth Centre	NGO <i>Romi za Rome Hrvatske (The Roma for the Roma of Croatia)</i>	2003	23,000.00
13.	Organisation of the 1 st congress of young people in emigration	International Club of Croatian emigrants, returned emigrants and investors in emigration	2003	8,000.00
14.	Project: "2003 Forest School"	Croatian Scouts Associations	2003	45,250.00
15.	Financing Youth Clubs	Youth Clubs		1,098,800.00

In accordance with the provisions of the Act on Non-governmental Organisations and the Programme of Co-operation between the Government and Non-governmental and Non-profit sectors, the Government has established a mechanism of providing financial support for NGO projects and programmes within the framework of funds available in the State Budget. The priority fields of activities for the registration of programmes and projects related to the protection, respect and promotion of human rights in 2004 were, among other things, the fight against discrimination, respect for and the promotion of children's rights.

The projects financed in the field of the fight against violence are the following: Parliaments of the Youth and a School of Democracy, Stop the Violence against Children, Right to Live without Violence – the Prevention of Violence in Adolescent Relationships, "I Want to Know My Rights, too", the Promotion of the Rights of the Child in Local Communities, the Programme of Support for Individuals and Families in Stressful Situations, the Programme for Making the Public More Perceptive, the Prevention of Trafficking in Young People, Education on preventing "Child Abuse – Domestic Violence".

In the period from 1996 to 2000, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the State Attorney's Office, in co-operation with the Education and Rehabilitation School of Zagreb University, including a financial support from UNICEF, worked on the project entitled: "Assistance to Children and Young People with Behaviour Disturbances in Post-war Conditions". At the beginning of 2000, within the framework of that project, another special project was initiated which was entitled: "Special Obligation – Out-of-court Settlement". The aim of the out-of-court settlement was the "reconciliation between the minor or young

perpetrator of age and the victim of the perpetrated criminal act, as well as the establishment of social peace". The project was implemented in three towns. All participants received certificates. Moreover, a book representing a textbook, a guide and a manual for future mediators was published on that occasion.

Within the police system, there is an intensive activity going on regarding the execution of a new action strategy called "Police within the Community", i.e. the implementation of the project entitled "The Reform of Operative and Preventive Activities of the Police in Uniform". In the implementation of this project and in establishing contact points of their work, the police have taken into consideration schools and other educational institutions. According to the above-mentioned Reform, one police officer with flexible working hours would be in charge of each such neighbourhood. Therefore, the working hours of the police officer entrusted with a neighbourhood with an educational institution would correspond to the time of students coming to and leaving the educational institution in question. Each police officer should participate pro-actively in solving any potential problem through co-operation with principals of the educational institutions.

According to plans, the implementation of the project of 'contact police officer' will be finalised in the areas of all police administrations in the Republic of Croatia in the course of 2005.

Within the scope of its activities, the newly founded Ministry of Family, Defenders and Intergeneration Solidarity provides financial support and monitors the implementation of a whole series of projects listed in the text following below.

Within the Family Department

Continuation of the projects of the former State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents:

- Weekend education programme in a local community with a view to involving children with special needs, the publishing of an education
- City Administrations of Krapina and Pregrada – Stronger social relations within family and the community;
- the Croatian Association of Psychiatrists – *School for Parents*, a Psychological Counselling Centre
- IRCT - International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims – Contribution to the establishment of successful parenthood; Psychological help for parent migrants,
- Children, adolescent, marriage and family counselling in co-operation with the Split Social Welfare Centre, the County of Splitsko-dalmatinska and the City of Split, as well as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
- Children, Adolescents and Family Centre of Velika Gorica – co-operation in the implementation of the activity programme of the Centre,
- Counselling for children and family, Opatija – in co-operation with the Association *Naša djeca (Our Children)*,
- Research project on the Development of the population and changes of family structures in Croatia.

New projects:

- Programme: Workshop for children and adolescents - Kistanje, in co-operation with the Association St. Vinko Paulski,

- Programme for women with impaired hearing, education and counselling for the employment of women with impaired hearing, in co-operation with the Rosa Women Centre, Zagreb
- Children, adolescent, marriage and family counselling – Dubrovnik, in co-operation with the County of Dubrovačko-neretvanska and the City of Dubrovnik,
- Hrvatska Kostajnica Family Counselling Centre in co-operation with the Rosa Association, Hrvatska Kostajnica
- Project: Pregnancy course in co-operation with the Croatian Medical Assembly.

Total: HRK 1,394,875.00

Projects in preparation:

- Establishment of Family Centres – children, adolescent, marriage and family counselling centres in Dubrovnik, Osijek, Vinkovci, Sisak, Šibenik and Gospić,
- Implementation of the Programme of Self-help for vulnerable groups of women – education of women with a tendency to asocial forms of behaviour – in co-operation with the Rosa Women Centre of Zagreb,
- Programme of Family Counselling Centre for children with special needs, in co-operation with the Education and Rehabilitation School of Zagreb University,
- PRO VITA educational advisory programme in co-operation with the Family Counselling Centre at *Srce Isusovo* Parish in Zadar,
- Implementation of the Programme of Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence in co-operation with the Shelter for Women in Bjelovar,
- Publishing of a book on results of the research entitled “Development of the population and changes of family structures in Croatia”, in co-operation with the Faculty of Economy of Zagreb University,
- Implementation of a research entitled “Social Sterility of Persons of a Fertile Age” in co-operation with the Faculty of Economy of Zagreb University,
- Co-operation with local self-government with a view to opening playrooms and co-operation with non-profit organisations in the implementation of planned activities on the Island of Hvar, in Gospić and Knin,
- Co-operation with non-profit organisations with the purpose of implementing the Programme of assistance for families and victims of domestic violence – SUNCE Association for Psychological Help in Osijek, the Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb, ADELA Women’s Centre in Sisak, *Mirna luka (Peaceful Port)* Association – Ston, Alojzije Stepinac Association in Zagreb,
- Co-operation with Caritas of the Archbishop’s Diocese of Zadar and St. Francis’ Home for Children in Osijek.

Total: HRK 4,340,108.00

For the protection of victims of domestic violence, the following projects are underway: a project of the Professional Rehabilitation Centre in Osijek – Shelter for victims of domestic violence; a project of the *Mirta* Association in Split; a project of the Reception Centre for Victims of Abuse – Slavonski Brod; a project for adopting the Strategy of the Protection of Abused Family Members.

Projects for families with many children – in co-operation with social welfare centres, a list was made specifying families with 8 and more children (218 families and a total of 1,047 children) who are students in primary and secondary schools, so that free-of-charge school textbooks could be distributed to such families in the academic year 2004/2005.

Celebration of the International Family Day in 2004; relevant events and activities.

Total: HRK 167,482.76

Within the Department for Children and Adolescents

Continuation of the projects of the former State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents:

Projects and multiannual programmes for children (total: HRK 196,070.00)

- Longitudinal study of monitoring growth and development of pre-school children in the Counties of Varaždin and Međimurje in 2003 and 2004 (in co-operation with the Clinic for Children's Diseases, Zagreb),
- Counselling Centre for Children and Parents – *PRIJATELJ (FRIEND)* (in co-operation with the Association *Naša djeca*, Opatija),
- Towns and Municipalities – Friends of Children (in co-operation with the Association *Naša djeca*),
- Early education for civil society (in co-operation with the Association *Djeca prva (Children First)*)

Projects and multiannual programmes for adolescents (total: HRK 613,000.00)

- *Otok radosti (Island of Joy)* (in co-operation with the Centre for Creative Work),
- Transfer of Youth Clubs from the competence of the PRONI Centre into the scope of competence of local self-government units (in co-operation with PRONI Centre for Social Teaching),
- Empowerment of adolescents for active participation in the community (in co-operation with *Suncokret (Sunflower)* – Centre for Humanitarian Work),
- POP – Special Education Procedure (in co-operation with the NGO *MOST (BRIDGE)*),
- From a problem to an NGO (in co-operation with the Citizens Association of *Faust Vrančić*),
- Democracy through education (in co-operation with the European Parliament of the Youth of Croatia),
- *Lazareti Workshops* (in co-operation *Lazareti Art Workshop*),
- Benjamin – Educational therapy programme for young people with behaviour disturbances (in co-operation with the humanitarian organisation called *Zajednica Susret (Encounter Association)*),
- Youth and European integration processes (in co-operation with the Institute for Sociological Research in Zagreb).

New projects:

Projects for children (total: HRK 1,232,500.00)

- Series of programs entitled *Dorica* (in co-operation with *Dorica Association*),
- Round table on the Application of the Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence,
- The future of Croatia – the 44th International Children's Festival (in co-operation with Šibenik Theatre),
- Execution of a tendering procedure for the financial support for projects intended for children.

Projects for young people (total: HRK 1,221,550.00)

- the First Croatian Fair of Students' Entrepreneurship (in co-operation with the NGO *Uspjeh (Success)* – NGO for the promotion of entrepreneurship and education of young people),
- International conference “Fight Against Addiction – Fight for Healthy Family” (in co-operation with the Government Office of the Republic of Croatia for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse),
- Execution of a media campaign on the influence and harm of narcotic drugs (in co-operation with the Government Office of the Republic of Croatia for Combating Drug Abuse),
- Anti-drug line (in co-operation with the Government Office for Combating Drug Abuse),
- Execution of a tendering procedure for the financial support for the projects intended for young people.

Ongoing projects:

Projects for children (a total amount planned so far: HRK 300,000.00)

- implementation of measures and co-ordination of the implementation of the entire *Programme of Activities for the Prevention of Violence among Children and Adolescents*,
- Publishing of a tender for financial support for the projects intended for children in 2005.

Projects for young people (a total amount planned so far: HRK 1,170,800.00)

- Encouraging the establishment and functioning of youth clubs at the local level – 34 clubs,
- Analysis of the possibilities to establish youth centres in all macro-regional centres – Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek, Split,
- Publishing of a tender for financial support for the projects intended for young people for the year 2005.

Within the Department for Persons with Disabilities

Continuation of the projects of the former State Bureau for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Adolescents:

- Croatian Verbal- tonal Association – Training parents and pedagogues to work with children with slow language-speaking development,
- Association for the promotion of healthy development of children and adolescents – Project entitled “Rehabilitation and Education of Children with Disabilities.”

New projects:

- *KRILA (WINGS)* - Association for therapeutical horse-riding – Therapeutical horse-riding for persons with disabilities,
- Home for children, adolescents and adults with cerebral palsy – Participation of the users of the Home for children, adolescents and adults with cerebral palsy and other special needs – Pula at a meeting of international cultural and artistic groups in Zagreb (INKAZ) in April 2004,
- Union of Persons with Disabilities of Croatia – Publishing of the edition entitled *How to Succeed?*,

- Croatian Union of Associations of Persons Suffering from Dystrophy – Organisation of an international meeting of the International Alliance ALS/MND Associations,
- Children and Adolescent Education and Training Centre Dubrava – Organisation of international cultural and artistic groups of disabled persons (INKAZ), Zagreb, April 2004,
- Croatian Union of Associations Persons Suffering from Cerebral Palsy and Poliomyelitis – Organisation of an International Congress on Cerebral Palsy,
- EKUS - Association for education, culture and sport – “Famous Athletes for Athletes with Disabilities,”
- Croatian Association for the Training of Guide Dogs and Mobility – Educational workshop for users of guide dogs.

Total: HRK 429,574.80

Ongoing projects:

- OKO (EYE) - Association of parents with children with visual impairments and other disabilities – Experience of mothers with prematurely born children

Total: HRK 22,000.00

In the period from 2001 to 2003 the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare financed the following programmes:

YEAR 2001 (HRK 482,700.00)

- Open-type home for abused children and adults — *Rovinjsko sunce (The Sun of Rovinj)* run by the Civil Association of Women in Rovinj,
- Home for the reception of abused women with and without children, run by the Humanitarian organisation *Zajednica susret (Encounter Association) – Betanija*,
- Financing of the Activity Programme of Association *Skrb (Care Association)* for 2001 (children) in co-operation with the Association of foster families with children and elderly persons called *Skrb (Care)*,
- “With Spirit against Darkness” – programme of social integration of children and adolescents, and re-socialisation of visually impaired middle-aged and elderly persons implemented by *Homer - Croatian Association of the Friends of the White Cane*,
- 24-hour care of children with cerebral palsy aged 2-15 and young people aged up to 38 in co-operation with the Association of dystrophy sufferers, persons suffering from cerebral palsy and poliomyelitis and other persons with disabilities of the County of Dubrovačko-neretvanska,
- Programme entitled “Working with Young People” in association with the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing,
- Activities of the Counselling Centre for parents with children with impaired hearing in co-operation with the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing,
- Daily care programme for visually impaired children with additional disabilities, in co-operation with the Croatian Nambudo Institute – Vision of Hope,
- Life and work in housing communities of persons with disabilities and young people without adequate parental care in co-operation with Inclusion Association *Lastavice (Swallows)*,
- Integration of visually impaired young people in the modern society in co-operation with the Croatian Union of Persons with Visual Impairments.

YEAR 2002 (HRK 912,900.00)

- Home for the reception of abused women with and without children run by the Humanitarian organisation *Zajednica susret – Betanija*,
- Basic programme for education and rehabilitation intended for young persons and adults with impaired sight and hearing – “Touch more” implemented by *Dodir (Touch)*, the Croatian Association of Persons with Impaired Sight and Hearing,
- Housing analysis for children without parental care – revision of 500 cases for the purpose of providing more adequate placement and possible de-institutionalisation in association with BIOS Parents’ Association,
- Social integration of visually impaired children in association with Homer- the Croatian Association of Friends of the White Cane,
- Prevention of institutionalisation - working in families with young people without adequate parental care and persons with disabilities placed in housing communities with a view to providing care for them and helping them become independent in co-operation with the Inclusion Association *Lastavice*,
- Working with young people from the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing,
- Activities of the Counselling Centre for parents with children with impaired hearing in co-operation with the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing,
- *Sineki* - Socio-cultural Centre run by the Centre for Creative Work,
- *Big Sister – Big Brother* – a project in co-operation with the Association for Social Policy Initiatives,
- Support for the development of foster care in the Republic of Croatia in co-operation with the Association for Social Policy Initiatives,
- De-institutionalisation of children with mental retardation and additional multiple impairments in association with the Association for the Promotion of Inclusion,
- De-institutionalisation of children with mental retardation placed within specialised foster families in association with the Association for the Promotion of Inclusion,
- Shelter for abused women and children in co-operation with *Korak (Step)* – Karlovac Women’s Group,
- Reception Centre – shelter for women and children victims of violence in co-operation with the Association *Women’s Help Now (Ženska pomoć sada)* – SOS line for women and children victims of violence,
- Counselling Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence in co-operation with *Mirta* Association from Split,
- Shelter for victims of domestic violence in co-operation with *Mirta* Association from Split.

YEAR 2003 (HRK 869,990.00)

- Basic programme of education and rehabilitation intended for young persons and adults with impaired sight and hearing – *Touch more*, implemented by *Dodir*, Croatian Association of Persons with Impaired Sight and Hearing,
- School for parents in co-operation with the Association of Persons with Mental Retardation in Slavonski Brod,
- *Spona (Bond)* (socialisation of children with visual and/or hearing impairments) in co-operation with the Association *Grad sunca (The City of Sun)*,
- Integration of socially isolated mothers and children in co-operation with the Association *Djeca prva (Children First)*,

- Working with young people from the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing and Sight,
- Activities of the Counselling Centre for parents with children with impaired hearing in co-operation with the Croatian Union of Persons with Impaired Hearing,
- *Sineki* - Socio-cultural Centre run by the Centre for Creative Work,
- *Big Sister – Big Brother* – a project in co-operation with the Association for Social Policy Initiatives,
- Support for the development of foster care in the Republic of Croatia in co-operation with the Association for Social Policy Initiatives,
- De-institutionalisation of children with mental retardation and additional multiple impairments in co-operation with the Association for the Promotion of Inclusion,
- De-institutionalisation of children with mental retardation placed within specialised foster families in co-operation with the Association for the Promotion of Inclusion,
- Shelter for abused women and children in association with *Korak* - Karlovac Women's Group,
- Reception Centre – a shelter for women and children victims of violence in co-operation with the Association *Women's Help Now (Ženska pomoć sada)* – SOS line for women and children victims of violence,
- Counselling Centre for victims of domestic violence in co-operation with *Mirta* Association from Split,
- Shelter for victims of domestic violence in co-operation with *Mirta* Association from Split.
- Active involvement of young people in the social life of the communities of Kozari Bok and Kozari Put in co-operation with the Association *Prijatelj (Friend)*.