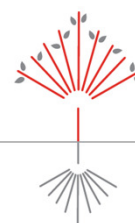




Agency for Vocational  
Education and Training  
and Adult Education

## Social Partnership in VET System in Croatia

Nino Buić, Head of Section for Projects Implementation  
Miločer, Crna Gora, 4 June 2012



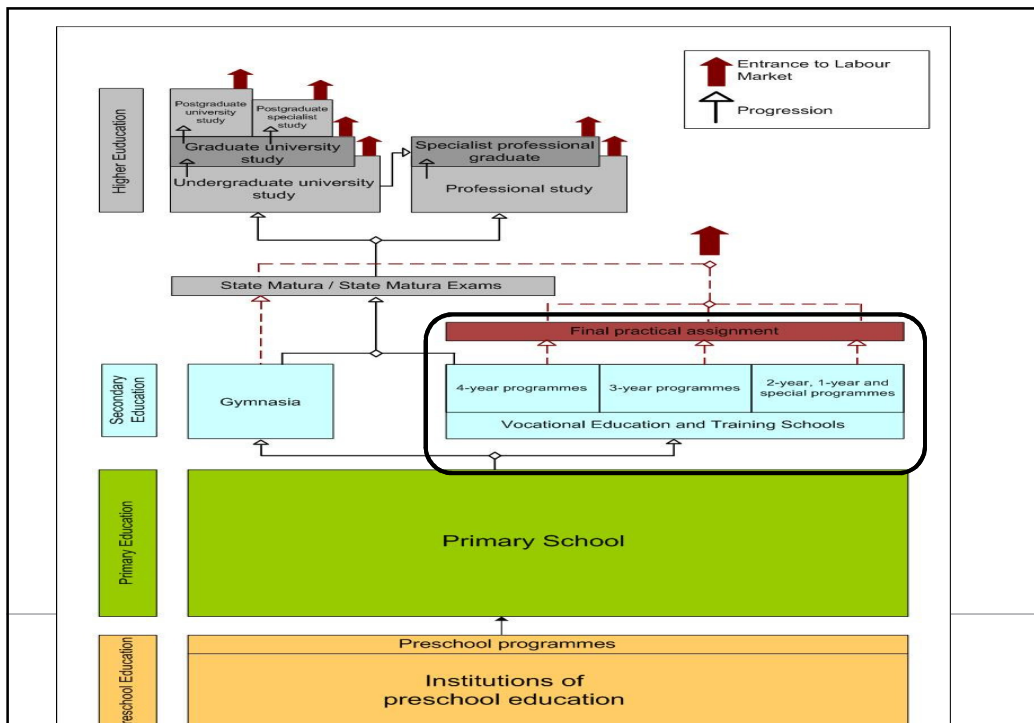
The tallest trees grow from the strongest roots.  
Our mission is to make education the strongest root of personal growth and success.

### Content

- Brief overview of VET in Croatia
- Agency for VET and AE
- Social partners in VET is Croatia
- Examples of cooperation mechanisms
- Future challenges

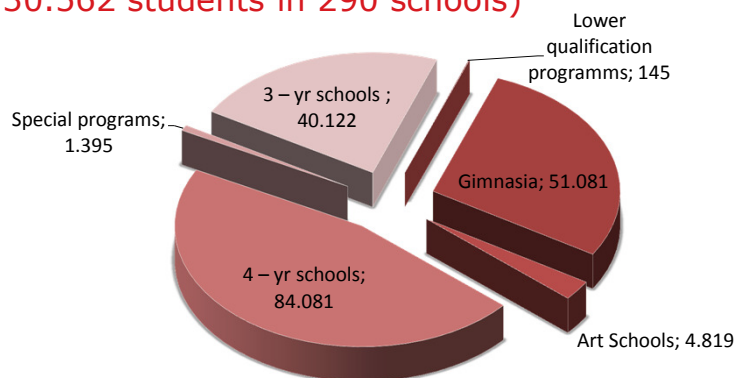


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### Overview of VET in Croatia:

**71,8% of Secondary Education Students  
(130.562 students in 290 schools)**



## About Agency

### History:

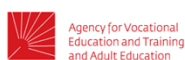
- February 2010 – new Agency established by merging Agency for VET and Adult Education

### Activities:

- Development of VET qualifications and curricula,
- Teacher Training and CPD in VET and AE,
- Linking VET and LM needs,
- Organisation of student skills competitions
- Preparation and implementation of programs and projects financed by EU and other donors
- Financing, procurement, contracting, payment and monitoring of projects co-financed by EU
- **co-operation with social partners and other stakeholders in VET system**



## Social Partnership in VET in Croatia



## Strategic and legal framework

- Law on Vocational Education and Training (2009)
- VET System Development Strategy 2008 – 2013 (2008)



## VET System Development Strategy 2008 – 2013

### Basic principles of VET in Croatia:

- accessibility;
- flexibility;
- relevance and rationality,
- **Partnership** - ensuring the inclusion of all the partners (the state and economic institutions, private sector and other interested subjects) in planning, financing and managing the modern system of vocational education and training;
- quality assurance,
- transparency of the system.

## Law on Vocational Education and Training

### Principles of VET:

- availability and establishment of gender balance of participants, flexibility, relevance and rationality, transparency and compliance with labour market needs and higher education,
- orientation on learning outcomes and development of competences,
- individual approach towards participants and different paths of acquirement of the same vocational qualifications,
- **partnership in the process of education**,
- same conditions of education according to standards of educational process and occupational demands,
- clear definition of occupational standards, vocational qualifications and curricula,
- permanent teacher training



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## Law on Vocational Education and Training

### Stakeholders in VET are:

- Line ministries, local and regional government, unions, employers associations, professional and other associations, chambers, higher education institutions, legal persons that intermediate in the process of employment and VET institutions.

### Through their representatives stakeholders:

- participate in VET Council and Sector Councils activities,
- discuss labour market needs,
- contribute to the alignment of VET qualifications and curricula to labour market needs,
- promote life-long VET learning,
- co-finance VET in line with their possibilities,
- contribute to the VET system quality assurance.



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## Agency for VET and AE

### Law on Vocational Education and Training:

- Activities of AVETAE include co-operation with social partners and other stakeholders in VET system.

### Agency Managing Board:

- Agency is governed by Managing Board, consisting of president and six members and which are appointed by the Government.
- President and 3 members proposed by Minister of Education
- 1 Agency employee
- Economy Social Council proposes 2 members: Croatian Association of Employers and Trade Unions

## Vocational Education and Training Council

### Law on Vocational Education and Training:

- Appointed by Minister of Education
- proposes educational sectors,
- co-ordinates activities of all stakeholders in VET area,
- gives initiatives for delivering new or changing existing curricula,
- proposes measures, activities and strategies for VET development.

### Members:

- Croatian Employers Association, Croatian Chambers of Economy and Crafts, Trade Unions, Ministry for Economy, National Alliance of Persons with Disabilities, Agency, Croatian Employment Service, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, representatives of VET institutions, representatives HE



## Sector Councils

- Composed in a partnership and are advisory and expert bodies that express needs of the LM, HE and all other components of Croatian society

### Members:

- employers, chambers, unions, professional associations, HE institutions, VET providers and other stakeholders.

### Tasks:

- defining necessary VET qualifications,
- analysing current and necessary competencies within sectors and sub-sectors,
- promoting the sector and possibilities of employment within the sector,
- giving proposals of the network of curricula and VET institutions to the founders of VET institutions,



## Working Groups

### Agency includes wide range of stakeholders in various WG's:

- *Methodology for development of OS; QS and curricula* foresees involvement of VET stakeholders (VET providers, employers, HE, etc.) in process of development of VET qualifications and curricula

### Sector Profiles:

- Innovative tool that provides relevant data on economy, labour market and educational provision to Sector Councils, Agency, Ministry, but also to other stakeholders for the purpose of planning of development of VET qualifications and VET that is responsive to LM needs (evidence based policy making).
- In process of development and dissemination social partners were involved and are using sector profiles

### IPA projects:

- Stakeholders involved on all levels: PSC, WG's, etc.



## IPA grant schemes

### Promotion of partnership:

- In the framework of the IPA OP HRD there were and will be several grant schemes (value > 26,5 M €) for VET schools that among other have goals of supporting a partnership on local/regional level between VET stakeholders (VET providers, employment service, employers, HE, NGO's, professional associations, etc.) with the purpose of development innovations in VET, new curricula, better links with local LM, promotion of social inclusion, targeting disadvantaged groups, etc.
- The emphasis on partnership and collaboration enables and promotes sharing expertise and resources to increase the overall quality and LM relevance of VET.



## Future challenges

### Challenges and opportunities:

- Intensify cooperation and dialogue
- New developments
  - Croatian Qualifications Framework
  - Wide range of social partners and stakeholders involved
  - New SC's – whole system
  - HRD Council – new national strategic body
- All stakeholders must take responsibility for development and investment in raising the quality of VET
- Use EU founded projects (structural and cohesion funds) for further promotion of partnership in VET



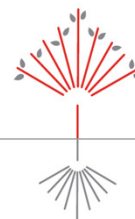
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Thank you!

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