

BUILDRES Project**Project number: 2024-2-CY01-KA220-YOU-000295718****EU COUNTRIES DESK RESEARCH****Partner organisation: CCIF CYPRUS****Research on: Croatia****Country overview**

As of 1 January 2025, Croatia's population is about 3.874 million (3,874.4 thousand). In demographic terms, Croatia also sits well below replacement: Eurostat's TFR for 2023 is 1.47. This gives added policy pressure to expand childcare access, reduce the career penalty of parenthood, and improve affordability for families—especially outside major urban areas where service availability can vary.

Croatia's health coverage is built around compulsory health insurance, implemented by the Croatian Health Insurance Fund (HZZO), with legal entitlement to coverage for residents under national rules. For work-life balance, Croatia provides structured maternity/parental rights and benefits. Under the national framework, employed/self-employed parents can access parental leave typically totalling 8 months for the first/second child, and 30 months in cases such as twins or third (and subsequent) children (within defined conditions and time windows). This comparatively long leave architecture can support infant care at home, but it also makes the transition into formal childcare a key practical bottleneck.

On early childhood education and care (ECEC), kindergartens/preschool services operate under the education framework and are commonly established by municipalities (with private providers also present), which can lead to local differences in enrolment rules and fees. Parenting in Croatia
Importantly, the year before primary school is a mandatory preschool programme within the formal system. Eurydice Emergency assistance is available via 112.

Name of the organisation	Croatian Health Insurance Fund (HZZO / CHIF)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	National compulsory health insurance authority; information on coverage, rights, and access to healthcare within Croatia.
Country	Croatia
Mail	ncp-croatia@hzzo.h
Phone	85 1 644 90 90
Website	https://hzzo.hr/en/national-contact-point-ncp/health-insurance-republic-croatia



Address	Margaretska 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Name of the organisation	Hrvatski zavod za mirovinsko osiguranje (HZMO) — Child Allowance
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Public institution managing Croatia’s “doplatak za djecu” (child allowance): eligibility information and application guidance.
Country	Croatia
Mail	https://www.mirovinsko.hr/en/cesta-pitanja/444
Phone	+385 1 45 95 011
Website	https://www.mirovinsko.hr/
Address	A. Mihanovića 3 10000 Zagreb
Name of the organisation	Plavi Telefon (Blue Phone)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Psychological support line providing listening and support for people experiencing distress (including depression, addiction issues, and suicidal thoughts).
Country	Croatia
Mail	info@plavi-telefon.hr
Phone	(01) 4833-888
Website	plavi-telefon.hr
Address	Ilica 36 - 10000 Zagreb, Hrvatska
Name of the organisation	CESI — Center for Education, Counselling and Research
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Croatian NGO working on gender equality and women’s rights, with education and support initiatives relevant to SRHR, violence prevention, and policy advocacy.
Country	Croatia



Mail	cesi@cesi.hr
Phone	+385 1 24 22 800
Website	https://www.cesi.hr/
Address	Nova cesta 4, 10 000 Zagreb
Name of the organisation	KBC Zagreb (University Hospital Centre Zagreb) — Klinika za ženske bolesti i porode (Petrova) / medically assisted reproduction (IVF)
Short Description (Around 300 characters)	Public university hospital: the Clinic for Obstetrics and Gynecology at KBC Zagreb performs medically assisted reproduction (IVF) procedures, in addition to providing services for women's health, pregnancy, and childbirth.
Country	Croatia
Mail	predstojnik.gin@kbc-zagreb.hr
Phone	01 4604 646
Website	https://www.kbc-zagreb.hr/klinika-za-zenske-bolesti-i-porode.aspx
Address	Petrova ulica 13, 10000 Zagreb