



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 4,43 million at the beginning of 2009.¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 107.
- Link to Probation Service: -
- Links to websites:
 - www.Pravosudje.hr (Ministry of Justice);
 - www.uzs.pravosudje.hr (Directorate for Penitentiary System – Central Office);
 - www.pak.hr (Judicial Academy);
 - www.uzs.pravosudje.hr/czi (Training Centre of the Directorate for Penitentiary System);
 - www.dzs.hr (Republic of Croatia – Central Bureau of Statistics).
- Croatia is not yet CEP member.

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- At the moment the book was published (2008), a probation service system was not yet established in the Republic of Croatia. Several organizations share tasks, characterized by types and features, as probation service tasks but they are not integrated into one probation service.
- The Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and Law on the execution of prison sentences, Supervision of Suspended Sentence and Community Service Act, The Juvenile Courts Act, The Act on Social Care and Misdemeanours Act give legislative grounds for implementing activities comparative to probation work.
- The Criminal Code (1998) offers the possibility of pronouncing and executing alternative sanctions, suspended sentence with supervision and replacing prison sentence of up to six months with community service.
- The law on the execution of prison sentences (2001) established a party in probation, the executing judge. This judge decides on issues such as:
 - the serving of a prison sentence;
 - sending to prison;
 - postponing the sending to prison;

¹ International Centre for Prison Studies (2009), *Prison Brief for Croatia*. London: King's College. Available online at: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/worldbrief/

- supervision over the convict during the interruption of serving a prison sentence;
- supervision over the convict after conditional release (release on parole).
- The Juvenile Courts Act regulates the status of juveniles and young adult criminal offenders, provisions on juvenile courts, criminal proceedings and sanctions implementation as well as regulations on criminal protection of children and juveniles.
- The Social Care Act describes the role of social care centres in the course court proceedings, as well as tasks in preventing and suppressing unacceptable form of behaviour. The centres are for instance involved in preparing post penal reception and the supervision of conditionally released prisoners.
- The Misdemeanours Act prescribes conditions for replacing and collecting the fine by force; if the fine is not paid in full or in part by the criminal offender, the court will decide, with the consent of the perpetrator, to replace the fine with community service.

Tasks

At the moment the book was published (2008), there was not yet an organized probation system.

Number of staff

The Directorate for the Penitentiary System is employed by a Director General and 5 members of staff. About 300 contracted commissioners are in charge of the enforcement of alternative sanctions.

New developments

In the framework of a project within the Directorate for the Penitentiary System, financed by external fund, legislation was drafted for the future structuring of a probation system that would include the following areas:

- executing alternative sanctions;
- post penal reception;
- supervision of conditionally released inmates;
- treatment during carrying out of the sentence and during the execution of custody measures.

The project started in May 2007 and resulted in the establishment of the Directorate of Probation in November 2009. The new Act on Probation was adopted in December 2009.

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post Release Phase
Preparing a Social Enquiry report		x	
Mediation (only for juveniles)		x	
Supervising / organizing etc. community service		x	
Supervising/organizing training or learning projects		x	x
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programs		x	x
Supervising etc. other community sanctions, namely suspended sentence:		x	
Supervising etc. other community sanctions, namely unpaid work		x	
Pre - sentence report		x	
Supervising etc. special measures for drugs addicts		x	x
Assistance / support to prisoners in prison		x	
Supervising etc. conditional release/parole			x
Advisory report with respect to amnesty/pardon		x	
Aftercare activities		x	x
Preparation for home leave and support during home leave		x	
Preparation for conditional release		x	

This summary is based on the country chapter in the book *Probation in Europe*, the most comprehensive survey of probation systems and services in Europe today. If you wish to order it, please click [here](#).

