



# **Outline of higher education reforms in Croatia**

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Tomislav Vodicka  
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports



## Universities landscape

- **186,240 students**
- **Three “types” of universities in Croatia**
  - **UNI Zagreb around 76,000 students and over 30 constituents**
  - **3 mid-sized universities (Rijeka, Osijek, Split)**
  - **3 integrated universities (Dubrovnik, Zadar, Pula)**
  - **80% of students study at universities**
- **Overall more than 130 institutions (public and private)**



## Responsible/managing stakeholders

- **Higher Education Institutions**
  - Universities, faculties, academies, polytechnics, schools of professional higher education,
  - Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education (2003)
  - university autonomy - entrance quotas, tuition fees and tuition fees remissions, lump-sum decisions (within budgetary limits), strategies and priorities of development
  - high level of responsibility



## Responsible/managing stakeholders (2)

- **MSES – Directorate for Higher Education**
  - **Higher Education Development Department**
    - policy recommendations and developments, stocktaking reports, EU funds preparation
  - **Higher Education Management Department**
    - financial matters, study programmes, statistics on HE
  - **Student Standard Department**
    - state scholarships, students with disabilities, students ombudsman



## Responsible/managing stakeholders (3)

- **Directorate for International Cooperation and European Integration**
  - multilateral cooperation, mobility issues
- **Directorate for Science**
- **Directorate for Joint Programmes**
  - Validation of foreign qualifications for enrolling at a university
  - Human Rights Program and Equality Between Sexes Program
- **Directorate for National Minorities**
  - Information campaigns, Roma students

## Responsible/managing stakeholders (4)

- **Agency for Science and Higher Education**
  - professional and administrative support in the procedures of approving of new programmes and evaluating QA systems
  - National ENIC/NARIC office
- **Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes**
  - Mobility initiatives, EU LLP, Joint-programmes
- **Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education**
  - Currently being formed



# Recent legislation reforms

- **The Act on Academic and Professional Titles and Academic Degree (2007)**
  - Overarching system of titles for Bologna graduates
- **Act on Student Council and Other Student Organizations (2007)**
  - Student Ombudsman
- **Act on Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education (2009)**
- **National Guidelines for the Issuance of the Diploma Supplement Document (2008)**
  - all students receive DS free of charge in the EU/CoE/UNESCO format



## **Forthcoming legislation and policy initiatives**

- **Universities Act**
  - Integration of universities
  - Three-year funding agreements between government and universities (agreement will include both basic and performance-based budget; input and output factors taken into account)
- **Further development of IT and statistics system on national level (NISVOZ)**
- **Reform of tuition fees and overall coverage of costs of studying, including student support**
- **IPA and ESF funds**





# Thank you!



- Web: [www.mzos.hr](http://www.mzos.hr)
- Phone: 00385/1/4594-278
- E-mail: [tomislav.vodicka@mzos.hr](mailto:tomislav.vodicka@mzos.hr)
- Address: Donje Svetice 38  
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia