

# Multi(inter) cultural and minority education in Republic of Croatia – challenges for teacher education system

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# Outline :

- Facts and figures about Croatia
- Legislative basis for multicultural and minority education
- Implementation models of minority education
- Intercultural education in national curriculum
- Challenges for teacher education

# Facts and figures about Croatia

- 1991 independent state
- 1992 member of United Nations
- 2013 member of European union since 2013
- Number of inhabitants 4 284 889 (census 2011)
- 1538 schools (ISCED 1, 2, 3)
- 514 959 students (ISCED 1, 2, 3)
- 55 965 school teachers

# Ethnicity composition

	N	%
Croatia total (2011)	4284889	100
Croats	3874321	90,42
National Minorities	410 568	9, 58

# Minorities by ethnicity (Census, 2011)

Etnichity	Number	Share, %
Serbs	186 633	4,36
Bosniacs	31 479	0,73
Italians	17 807	0,42
Albanians	17 513	0,41
Roma	16 975	0,40
Hungarians	14 048	0,33
Slovenian	10 517	0,25
Czechs	9 641	0,22
Slovaks	4 753	0,11
Montenegrins	4 517	0,11
Macedonians	4 138	0,10
Others	18 769	0,45
Regional affiliation	27 225	0,64
Decleared religion	10 182	0,24
Not declared,not classified, unknown	36 371	0,81

# General legislative basis for multicultural and minority education

# The Constitution of Republic of Croatia (2001)

1. In the preamble of The Constitution it has been laid down that Croatia is established as a national state of Croatian nation and the state of the members of autochthonous national minorities ..... and they are guaranteed equality with the citizens of Croatian nationality.

# The Constitutional Act on the Rights of national Minorities (2002)

The Constitutional Law on the protection of national minorities promotes the integration of national minorities and not their assimilation into the Croatian society.



# Minority rights

- the use of their own language and script, privately, in public and official use
- education in the language and script they use
- the use of their signs and symbols
- cultural autonomy by way of preservation, development and expression of one's own culture and the preservation and protection of one's cultural assets and tradition
- the right to profess one's religion and to establish religious communities together with other members of that religion

# Minority rights (cont.)

- access to the media and the performance of activities of public information
- self-organizing and association for the purpose of exercising mutual interests
- representation in the representative bodies at the state and local level and in administration and judicial bodies
- participation of members of national minorities in the public life and in management of local affairs through the councils and through representatives of national minorities
- protection from any activity which endangers or may endanger their existence

# Law on Education in Languages and Letters of National Minorities

- The education of the members of a national minority is carried out in preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools and other school institutions in the language and script they use.
- School institutions with the education in the language and script of national minority may be established and education may be conducted for a smaller number of pupils than the number stipulated for school institutions with education in the Croatian language and Latin script.

# Models of schooling for national minorities

- MODEL A – classes in the language and script of the national minority (number of schools = 47)
- MODEL B – bilingual classes (number of schools = 4)
- MODEL C – nurturing language and culture (number of schools = 108)

# National curriculum framework – intercultural dimension

# Identity as Socio-Cultural and Educational Value

- Education fosters the strengthening of an individual's personal, cultural, and national identity. Nowadays, in the globalisation era, in which there is a steady and powerful mixing of cultures, world views, and religions, people need to become people of the world, while preserving their national identities - their cultural, social, moral and spiritual heritage. ... Education should arouse, encourage and develop one's personal identity while linking it to a respect for differences.

# Principles of National Curriculum Framework

- European dimension of education – training for co-existence in Europe
- Interculturalism – understanding and embracing cultural differences in order to reduce inequality and prejudice against members of other cultures.

# Open questions for teacher education system

- How are teachers prepared to promote intercultural values and develop intercultural competences of their students?
- How are they prepared to work in minority classes?
- How are they prepared to teach in multicultural classes?



# Challenges and open questions for teacher education system

- In initial teacher education the courses which support competence for intercultural education are usually electives
- In the obligatory part of the curriculum intercultural dimension is mainly part of preparation of future foreign language teachers
- intercultural dimension of teacher education has been only recently recognised as relevant research question



**Thank you for your attention!**