

**JIM / JAP Conference**  
**"Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Republic of Croatia"**

**JAP Conclusions**

**CONCLUSIONS – PLENARY PART**

***General Overview of the Economic Crisis and the Next Key Steps,***

***Ms. Tamara Obradović Mazal, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship (MELE)***

- a year ago, estimates of GDP growth amounted even to 4%, but at the end of the year, GDP was much lower
- economic crisis had impact on the labour market - there was a reduction in employment and increase in unemployment
- anti-recession measures of the Government of Croatia affected: the income side of the state budget, the support to employers, intervened in the wages of civil servants and public sector wages
- measures in 2010 – they are focused on the economic sector (with the support of the Croatian National Bank!)
- measures currently in place are aimed at entrepreneurs / companies; the success of these measures will be reflected in the impact on the preservation of jobs.

***Employment Promotion Measures Aimed at Vulnerable Groups,***

***Ms. Kristina Alerić, Croatian Employment Service (CES)***

- the employment promotion measures from the National Employment Promotion Plan 2009-2010, within the competence of Croatian Employment Service, are aimed at: employment promotion (employment co-financing), co-financing and financing of education/training, co-financing and financing of public works programs employment;
- with respect to the provided funds the plan has been realized (94.71%);
- the employment promotion measures have positive impact on long-term unemployed persons and other vulnerable groups by means of education and employment in public works;
- the measures continuity has been provided, as well as increased the amount of funds for education and public work in 2010.

***Position of the Roma minority in the Labour Market***

***Mr. Orhan Memedi, Association of Roma women in Croatia "Better Future"***

- the presentation of results of the survey "The lives of Roma Women in Croatia, with focus on the approach to education"

- the number of female respondents with no education is almost threefold lower if compared to their mothers;
- significant differences were identified with respect to education of male respondents if compared with the female respondents;
- apart of the fact that the Roma minority accounts for insignificant share of employed persons, the gender inequalities were registered in employment of persons of Roma minority;
- according to the opinion of both the male and female respondents of the said survey, some of the priority measures to be implemented by the schools and the government are the following: introducing of free of charge text books, organizing of remedial classes, better cooperation and contacts between the school and Roma children parents, as well as establishing of mixed classes comprising the Roma and non-Roma children;

- the survey data indicate that the Roma women, in contrast to the Roma men, are faced with additional gender discrimination, apart of the marginalization and discrimination commonly shared by all Roma national minority members.

### ***Study on the Position of Women of the Serb National Minority on the Labour Market Ms. Jasmina Papa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)***

- purpose of the study: describe the difficulties faced by the women members of the Serb national minority in context of employment and on the labour market, how they cope with the unemployment and which skills and knowledge they dispose of;
- anticipated completion of survey and preparing of the study – in the first quarter of 2010;
- instead of conclusions – the possible areas of activities:
  - to introduce statistic programmes for monitoring of the implementation of legal acts that assert minorities' rights and measures for their implementation;
  - to work on setting up trust;
  - to foster local employment action groups – multi-sectoral;
  - targeted co-financing of women entrepreneurship (national minority members)
  - to develop social entrepreneurship.

### ***Lifelong Learning***

*Ms. Mihaela Dubravac Šigir, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports,  
Ms. Maja Tomičić, Agency for Adult Education,*

- MSES, within its jurisdiction, together with professional bodies and institutions is conducting the education reform in accordance with the concept of lifelong learning, based on strategic and legislative framework and project activities;
- use and sharing of international experiences in developing lifelong learning strategies is important;
- similarities between the Croatian and international environment regarding strategic goals and priorities, adjustment obligations, processes, legislation and institutions, can be integrated in a strategy (the decision of the Government of Croatia).

## **CONCLUSIONS – JAP SESSION**

### ***An Analysis of the Impact of the Economic Crisis on Registered Employment and Unemployment in Croatia***

*Mr. Darko Oračić, Croatian Employment Service (CES)*

- in period 2001 to 2008 – significant growth of employment and reduction of unemployment, largely due to economic growth;
- in 2009 – deep recession, reduction of employment and increase of unemployment, particularly in the manufacturing industry, construction and trade;
- in the absolute number the largest increase in unemployment: male, people with secondary education and younger people;
- the largest increase in unemployment was recorded in the counties in the west of the country;
- an increase in unemployment occurred due to significantly higher inflows into unemployment, but also because of lower employment;
- it is expected further growth of unemployment in the first half of 2010, but somewhat slower than in the last quarter of 2009;
- it is expected significant recovery in economic growth during 2010 that will strongly influence the movement of unemployment during the 2011.

### ***Mobile Teams and Other Activities of CES in the Period of Economic Change and Crisis, Ms. Kristina Alerić, Croatian Employment Service (CES)***

Mobile teams:

- support to workers who lose their jobs and assistance in preparing for the labour market while they are still employed;
- assistance to employers: a) today – support in case of reduced economic activity; b) tomorrow – support in the restructuring process.

Services to be provided by the mobile teams:

- group and individual providing of information;
- individual counselling – assistance in defining the workers' working potential;
- group counselling – education aimed at acquiring job-seeking skills;
- assistance in self-employment and start-up of their own business;
- organizing of Internal Employment Service;
- employment mediation (with respect to job vacancies);
- employment co-financing.

### ***Mitigating the Negative Effects of the Crisis on the Economy through Partnership Ms. Sanja Smoljak, Croatian Employers' Association***

- indispensable role of social partners in the proposal, consultation and adoption of measures to combat crisis;
- must review, analysis and evaluation of the effects of making certain legislative proposals;
- establishment of social council as the first bipartitnih initiatives in specific industry sectors (forestry and timber industry, ...) that follow the situation and determine priorities in specific sectors;
- improve the bipartite social dialogue that has not reached the desired level;
- Social agreement - there are initiatives, but not concluded;
- involvement of social partners in preparing and monitoring the results of the implementation of Jap, received an active role with other actors, but also an opportunity to launch the initiative and assume responsibility for certain things (from a passive to an active partnership!).

### ***Employment Opportunities in New Sectors***

***Ms. Ana Miličević Pezelj, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia (SSSH)***

- The Republic of Croatia has to established adequate statistical follow up;
- The Republic of Croatia has to stimulate the conduct of surveys (in order to make projections and provide timely response);
- The Republic of Croatia has to provide for connecting/networking of strategies, policies institutions...;
- The Republic of Croatia has to provide timely education of required staff (as well as continuous education of the workers for the new technologies);
- The more active involvement of social partners is inevitable – social dialogue;
- The Republic of Croatia has to promote and implement new strategies harmonized with the perception of its own economic, social and environmental development, in consent with the rest of the world;
- The Republic of Croatia RH has to meet the assumed obligations, as well as the obligations which are likely to be assumed in line with the energy – climate package;
- The Republic of Croatia has to adjust its policies in the area of industry and research – to revise the production systems and norms;
- The more active role of the state is necessary (which has to provide the environment: legal framework, incentives...).