

Croatian IGF input to the initiative Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s):

- It is very important to have a national Broadband Strategy for the deployment of high speed networks as a base for the implementation of any other policy related to the use of Internet. Croatia has recently adopted a new national Broadband Development Strategy 2016-2020, in line with the European Digital Agenda goals. It aims at covering the whole country with the access speed of at least 30 Mbit/s, and additionally, to have at least 50% of households using the Internet access speed of 100 Mbit/s by the year 2020. The Strategy covers many aspects of the efficient deployment of the broadband networks, including the policy of sharing and policy of co-ordinating civil works. The Strategy is available here: <http://www.mppi.hr/UserDocImages/Strategija-sirokopojasni-pristup2016-2020-usvojeno%20na%20VRH.pdf> (Croatian language only)
- It is important to ensure that all citizens can get access to the Internet. In Croatia, the universal service obligation contains the data speed of at least 1 Mbit/s.
- 1. When it comes to usability and utilization of the broadband access, it is necessary to create an environment where market forces would promote competition among the developers of the applications that need broadband access. At the same time, government needs to promote the usage of e-services. In Croatia, the Ministry of Public Administration leads the efforts in the public e-services area. The Ministry of Public Administration has prepared the Strategy e-Croatia 2020: [https://uprava.gov.hr/UserDocImages//e-Hrvatska//e-Croatia%202020%20Strategy%20\(20.01.2016.\)pdf](https://uprava.gov.hr/UserDocImages//e-Hrvatska//e-Croatia%202020%20Strategy%20(20.01.2016.)pdf) Corresponding Action Plan is at the moment in the phase of adoption by the Government.
- Important policy when it comes to Internet is promoting safety and trust in the cyber world. Users need to be comfortable to use services offered via Internet. National cyber-security and protection of minors is the key element of it. In this regard, on 7 October 2015 Croatian Government adopted National for cyber security strategy and its implementation Action plan, that can be found among other documents here (courtesy translation in English): <http://www.uvns.hr/en/legislation/information-security-290>
- When it comes to the offers of the Internet Access Services and other services that demand broadband access, the best policy is to promote competition at the service level. This policy needs to be closely followed-up by the national regulation authority through the measures of symmetrical and asymmetrical regulation.
- Important additional element of the Internet related policy is the national IGF. Croatia had its first national IGF in 2015. The second IGF took place on 1 June 2016 and it showed the importance of having all the interested parties engaged in a discussion and knowledge sharing in the various aspects of the Internet governance and usage. The CRO-IGF 2016 event was especially successful in presenting and getting the industry and other parties engaged in the issue of open data and the re-use of data, an area that Croatia is currently lagging behind other EU members. The report from the CRO-IGF 2016 event is attached to this contribution.
- Finally, Croatian Governments will have the obligation of implementation of recently adopted UN sustainable development Agenda all the way till the year 2030. This includes various (17 in total) goals and (hundreds of) targets that many of which will depend on/require important IT support. At the same time, because of the complexity and inter-linkages of this Agenda, including its multistakeholder nature, it is expected that online services will both benefit as well as contribute from this activities. In this vein, we have high hopes from the WSIS process that should provide important support on the global level.
- We find it very useful to exchange the information and the experience in the Internet Governance issues with the neighbouring countries and within various broader activities like EuroDIG and SEEDIG.



http://www.carnet.hr/carnet_events/cro_igf